

# Clerk of Courts Promotes Sunshine Week in Collier County

March 13 -19, 2011



## Press Release:

March 13 -19 is Sunshine Week in Collier County corresponding with the national initiative which underscores the importance of "open government" and serves as a reminder to all citizens of their right to access public records and public meetings.

To mark Sunshine Week, Dwight Brock, Clerk of Courts, has scheduled three seminars at various public libraries throughout Collier County designed to show people how easy it is to access public records using [www.CollierClerk.com](http://www.CollierClerk.com). The seminars are free and open to the public on a first come, first served basis, however, seating is limited.

### **Searching Public Records Using CollierClerk.com**

#### **Public Library Locations**

#### **Date**

#### **Time**

So. Regional on Lely Cultural Pkwy.	March 9 <sup>th</sup>	2-4 PM
Naples Regional on Central Avenue	March 14 <sup>th</sup>	3-5 PM
HQ. Regional on Orange Blossom Dr.	March 16 <sup>th</sup>	2-4 PM

Also, the Office of the Clerk of Courts will accept a Proclamation signed by the Board of County Commissioners declaring March 13 – 19, 2011, Sunshine Week in Collier County.

The [Florida Society of Newspaper Editors](#) (FSNE) launched Sunshine Sunday in 2002 in response to efforts by some Florida legislators to create scores of new exemptions to the state's public records law. FSNE estimates that some 300 exemptions to open government laws were defeated in the legislative sessions that followed its three Sunshine Sundays, because of the increased public and legislative awareness that resulted from their efforts.

Several states followed Florida's lead, and in June 2003, the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) hosted a Freedom of Information (FOI) Summit in Washington where the seeds for Sunshine Week were planted.

With an inaugural grant from Knight Foundation, the ASNE FOI Committee took up the challenge and launched Sunshine Week in March 2005. It continues to be celebrated each year in March, coinciding with [National FOI Day](#) and James Madison's birthday.

Sunshine Week is a truly national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include print, broadcast and online news media, civic groups, libraries, nonprofits, schools and others interested in the public's right to know.

Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing, and why. Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger.

Sunshine Week is a nonpartisan initiative whose supporters are conservative, liberal and everything in between. The only requirement is that you do something to engage in a discussion about the importance of open government. It could be a large public forum or a classroom discussion, an article or series of articles about access to important information, or an editorial. The extent to which you participate is up to you.

For a complete list of Sunshine Week information and activities visit [www.CollierClerk.com](http://www.CollierClerk.com) and click on the Government in the Sunshine icon.

For more information contact:

Robert D. St. Cyr, Director, Community Outreach,

Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court

Telephone: (239) 252 – 6879

Email: [Robert.StCyr@CollierClerk.com](mailto:Robert.StCyr@CollierClerk.com)

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