

## Curmudgeons call town hall meeting

### STAFF REPORT

PORT CHARLOTTE — When government leaders can hear directly from their constituents, they can do their jobs better. And when people ask questions of those in charge, they are likely to get more informed answers.

Those are some of the philosophies behind the Curmudgeon Club's town hall meeting, set for 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County, 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte.

The Curmudgeons have lined up many government representatives who will answer questions from the public. The list includes Charlotte County commissioners, Punta Gorda city officials, constitutional officers, members of the School Board of Charlotte County, county staff, and representatives from the state and **county health departments**.

"The Curmudgeons strongly believe in a 'government of the people, by the people and for the people,'" said club president Dale Watson. "Unless citizens get out and make a concerted effort to be in the forefront and take charge of our county, the officials that we have elected to care for our county have no clue what we want or don't want. We believe it's imperative for all of us to ask questions, seek information and then let our representatives act for us."

The Curmudgeons have suggested topics such as local government budgets, taxes, water, Sheriff and fire/EMS budgets, parks and recreation, economic development, schools and education, and transportation and public works.

"We believe there is much disinformation floating around the county," Watson said. "Here is a chance to ask questions directly of the officials in charge ... no rumors to befuddle the stories."

The meeting is open to the public and free, with light refreshments to be served at the midway point.

For more information, call Watson at 941-743-5577 or e-mail him at [curclub@embarqmail.com](mailto:curclub@embarqmail.com).

## OFFICIALS

- Don Root, Economic development director
- Frank Desguin, Property Appraiser
- Tricia Duffy, Charlotte County commission chair
- Dick Loftus, Charlotte County commissioner
- Bob Starr, Charlotte County commissioner
- Adam Cummings, Charlotte County commissioner
- Roger Baltz, county administrator
- Terri Kesner, interim director CCU
- Robert Halfhill, director Public Works
- Raymond Sandrock, assistant county administrator
- Lee Swift, Charlotte County School Board member
- Bill Cameron, Charlotte County Sheriff
- Herman Velasco, Environmental Administrator for the State Health Department
- John Jackson, director Parks and Rec
- Howard Kunik, Punta Gorda city manager
- Harvey Goldberg, Punta Gorda vice mayor
- Paul Stamoulis, Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections. (The Elections Office will also have a table set up for people who would like to register to vote or update their registration.)