



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Oakland Park Celebrates Successful Spanish Heritage Month with Free Citizenship Classes and Library Programs**



### **Citizenship Classes Provided Free at Collins Community Center**

The City's Parks and Leisure Services Department with support from the BSO/Oakland Park District has partnered with the Hispanic Unity of Florida to provide weekly citizenship classes in Oakland Park.

The classes are held free of charge at Collins Community Center (3900 NE Third Avenue) on Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Class instructors Karin Diaz and Maria Sagues are working with approximately 12 participants in each class. BSO/Oakland Park District Deputy Elmer Rivera volunteers his time at the classes to provide law enforcement information to the citizenship class

For more information on the citizenship classes, please call Hispanic Unity of Florida at **954-964-8884**.

Oakland Park provides the community center at no charge due to the City's partnership with the Hispanic Unity of Florida to offer the free citizenship classes to the community.

## **Oakland Park Library Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month**

The Oakland Park Library assembled an education display at City Hall display in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and storyteller “Miss Jo” has been telling Hispanic tales at her outreach programs.

Miss Jo shared “Martina Josephina Cucarachita Muey Linda” and “The Story of Ferdinand” on October 12 at North Andrews Gardens Afterschool Care and Spier Center.

These stories were also told on September 16 in two assemblies at North Andrews Gardens Elementary School.

Any Oakland Park area school who would like to have Miss Jo visit to share these traditional Spanish tales is invited to call **954-630-4372** for booking information. This program is free of charge and is an outreach of Oakland Park Library.

The Oakland Park Library provides a collection of materials in Spanish for Hispanic Patrons. These materials are provided year-round.

## **Florida Hispanic Heritage Facts**

**Día de la Raza**, or Columbus Day is a holiday marking the arrival of navigator Christopher Columbus in the Americas on October 12, 1492. Columbus' voyage was funded by Queen Isabella I of Castile and led to the Spanish colonization of the New World.

U.S Hispanic Chamber of Commerce estimates more than **266,000 Hispanic businesses** operating in Florida, ranking the Sunshine State third behind California and Texas.