



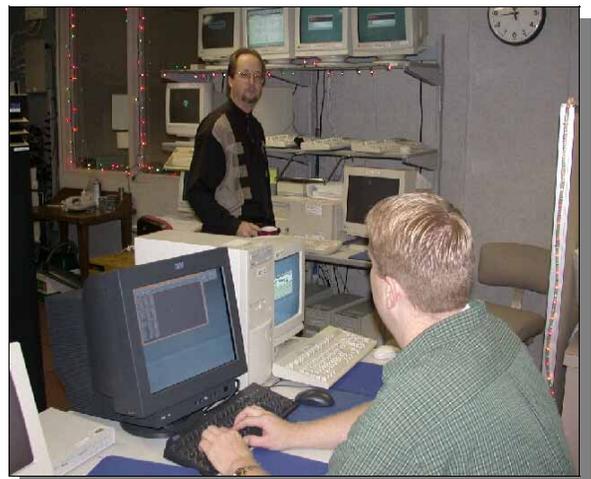
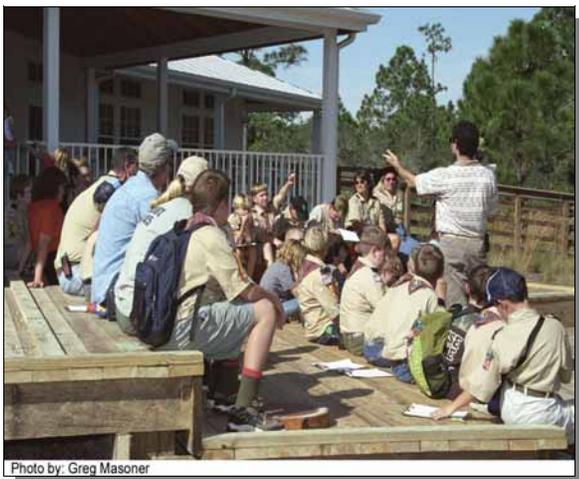
St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners

2001

Annual Report



Moving Forward In The New Millennium



Grand Opening of the St. Lucie County Balefill and Recycling Facility



Grand Opening of the St. Lucie County Marine Center, Featuring the Smithsonian Marine Eco-Systems Exhibit



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Board of County Commissioners



St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners:
(Left to Right) Cliff Barnes, Paula A. Lewis, Doug Coward,
Frannie Hutchinson and John D. Bruhn.

District 1– Commissioner John D. Bruhn

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, have dramatically changed life for all Americans. During these trying times the residents of St. Lucie County have risen to the challenge while county leadership has focused on projects that will enhance quality of life for its residents.

The county funded numerous capital projects; opened tourist and educational attractions such as the Oxbow Eco-Center, the St. Lucie County Marine Center Featuring the Smithsonian Marine Eco-Systems Exhibit, and the South County Regional Sports Complex. The commission remains committed to promoting eco-tourism and education on environmental issues.

St. Lucie County also had the lowest unemployment rate in 2001 that it has had in years. Economic growth remained strong. Existing businesses expanded their workforce, while new businesses continued to express an interest in St. Lucie County.

The coming year will be a challenge for all of the elected officials in our county, but I am sure with cooperation and team work we can make 2002 the best year ever for St. Lucie County. I feel privileged to be part of this wonderful community and look forward to my next three years.

District 2– Commissioner Doug Coward

Over the last several years, St. Lucie County has established a new philosophy that not only promotes economic development but also strives to improve the overall quality of life in the community, address long-term growth management issues, and support important environmental and social programs.

During this time, the County has created nearly 3,000 jobs through business expansion and recruitment, the budget has been stabilized, unemployment has been reduced, the average wage has been increased, and many needed capital improvement projects have been completed with more on the way. These improvements include transportation and infrastructure, parks and recreation, health and education, preservation and restoration of natural areas, and a variety of other important projects.

Despite the many challenges that we face as one of the fastest growing areas in the Nation, I remain optimistic about our future and the many opportunities available to the community. If we continue to work together, we can promote smart growth, a more sustainable tax base, and a more livable community. I am committed to this challenge and look forward to another exciting year.

District 3– Commissioner Paula A. Lewis

The challenges to provide for current needs and future growth are still with us in St. Lucie County. We’ve met them and kept pace this past year, as we’ve seen businesses expanding and relocating, purchases along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River being brought forward and the new Marine Center opening. These activities and others show that the momentum is still building for the County with economic development, environmental preservation and capital projects all moving forward.

Once again I find myself proud of this community and feel honored to be a part of its leadership.

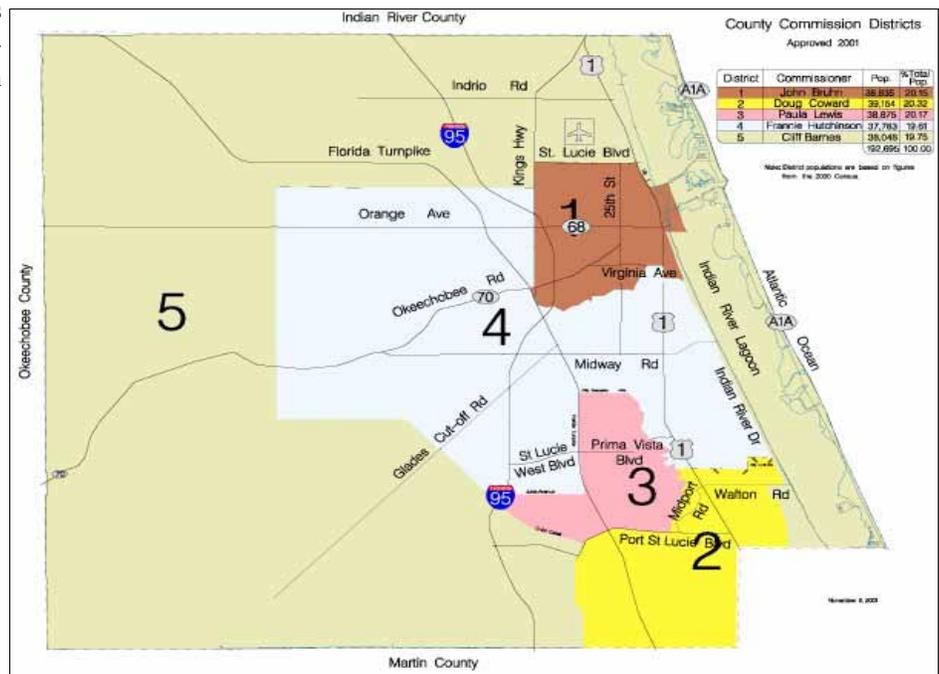
District 4– Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson

One of the most important responsibilities that the Board of County Commissioners have is to plan for tomorrow. The challenge is to establish goals and priorities that benefit the entire county. In the coming year we will put the finishing touches on the Comprehensive Plan, updating of the Airport Master Plan, Park Master Plan and the Stormwater Master Plan. As our population continues to increase, our responsibility is to protect and support a superior quality of life for our citizens. We are working to maintain a strong working relationship with our business community and expand our economic tax base as dollars get tighter and demands for services increase. We need to diversify our tax base so that the burden does not fall predominately on the property owners. I am proud to serve as your County Commissioner and invite each of you to join with me in a working partnership to keep St. Lucie County viable.

District 5– Commissioner Cliff Barnes

As I start the second year of my third term, I reflect on the positive changes that the people of St. Lucie County have brought about. The residents have approved referendums to buy beachfront property, establish tax incentives for new and expanding businesses, buy environmentally sensitive lands, improve our school system and preserve land in the harbor for public access and mixed use development. In November of this year, in response to the public’s request for more and improved active recreation areas, we will be putting on the ballot the opportunity to vote a small tax increase to take care of those needs. Our residents have also supported our efforts to establish an effective stormwater utility, and begin clean up of area waterways and expand our cultural and economic development programs. Perhaps the most exciting progress our community is making, however, is reflected by our rapidly growing national reputation as a marine and agricultural research hub. St. Lucie County is definitely heading in the right direction and I am honored to have been chosen to help lead the way.

2001 New District Boundaries: In an odd year when there has been significant changes in the population, the County redraws the Commission boundaries to keep the districts in proportion with the County’s population.





Douglas M. Anderson,
County Administrator

County Administrator

Dear Citizens of St. Lucie County:

It doesn't seem possible that another year has gone by. Although it was an extremely difficult year nationally and internationally, it was a year of progress, innovation and efficiency in St. Lucie County. The Board of County Commissioners were extremely busy acting on 1267 agenda items. The dollar value of County building permits issued in the unincorporated area of the County increased from \$113,361,000 in 2000 to \$145,712,000 this year.

In 2001, we completed several major projects. The South County Regional Football/Soccer Stadium opened. Also, the Oxbow Environmental Learning Center and the St. Lucie County Marine Station featuring the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystem Exhibit were opened to the public. County staff renovated the old jail on 7th Street into a Juvenile Courthouse and County Record Storage Facility at a savings of \$963,000 to the taxpayers. The County also opened its debt free \$9,800,000 garbage baling facility at the County owned landfill which will extend the life of the landfill 20 years until 2040.

Our financial situation stabilized in 2001 and the Commissioners and staff were able to begin addressing long term capital needs. Because of tight budgeting and controlled spending, our *Investment for the Future* program, successful grant writing, and an increased tax base, we were able to apply \$2,300,000 toward the County's outstanding capital projects' list. We expect the current outstanding projects' list to be fully funded in 5 years, providing current trends continue.

We are planning on starting and/or completing several major projects in 2002. Some of these projects include construction of a new County office building in the Port St. Lucie Community Redevelopment Area and the ground breaking for a District Cooling Utility System in Ft. Pierce. Bike paths are to be constructed in Lakewood Park and on South Hutchinson Island. The erosion problems on the South Causeway Island will be addressed. Phase II of the South County Regional Football/Soccer Stadium will be constructed. The engineering and permitting for Airport Industrial Park West should be completed. Also the construction of an addition to the County Administration Complex

to house the Utility and Community Development departments will begin. We plan on completing the Port Master Plan the 1st quarter of 2002, enabling us to proceed with various port projects. Finally, we plan on taking the funding for a regional park system and a continuation of the tax abatement incentive program to the voters in November 2002.

We continue to meet our challenges through careful planning, enabling us to move forward, to make us even a better community in which to live and raise our families.

Sincerely,
Douglas M. Anderson
County Administrator



Robert Bradshaw,
Assistant County
Administrator



St. Lucie County Marine Center featuring the Smithsonian Marine Eco-Systems Exhibit opened its doors on August 28, 2001. By the end of December, 7,952 visitors passed through the facility.

County Attorney and Property Acquisitions

The primary function of the County Attorney's Office is to provide legal representation and advice to the Board of County Commissioners and its staff. Other functions include attendance at meetings of the Board and Board Advisory Committee Meetings and various other meetings of various bodies as directed by the Board of County Commissioners; providing legal service for several constitutional officers and other governmental bodies as required.

Additionally, the County Attorney's Office initiates, presents and conducts litigation brought on behalf of the Board and defends or actively participates in the defense of actions brought against the County at both the trial and appellate levels in State and Federal Courts.

The Property Acquisitions Division is also part of the County Attorney's Office. They review site plans; process petitions for abandonments; review utility permits; reserve street names for the entire County for future development; process street name changes within the unincorporated area of the County; and prepare license agreements. Significant time is spent responding to questions from the public, other governmental entities, as well as other county departments regarding county owned properties and right of way. The Acquisitions Division continues to acquire property as part of the Environmental Significant Lands Program.

Accomplishments:

- Drafted 22 Ordinances for January 1, 2001, through September 30, 2001
- Prepared 243 Resolutions; 235 for the Board of County Commissioners; for Mosquito Control; and 4 for Erosion Control
- 221 Tax Deed applications were processed by Property Acquisitions this year on parcels owned by NCNB, which had been in bankruptcy
- Acquisition of right-of-way and easements for several Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) projects
- The following projects were completed this year:
 - Ancient Oaks (Economys Property)
 - Heathcote Botanical Gardens Addition
 - Hidden River Estates
 - Drainage Retrofit
 - IFAS Site
 - Indian River Estates Stormwater Retention,
 - Paleo Hammock
 - Pepper Park Addition
 - Picos Road Right-of-Way
 - Jones & Neuburger Parcels on the North Fork
 - Midway Road/Glades Cut-Off Intersection Improvements



Savannas Buffer Preserve is one of the most recently acquired projects for the Environmental Lands Program.

Airport

The St. Lucie County International Airport employs six staff members and oversees aircraft and pilot safety at the 3,660 acre airport located North of St. Lucie Boulevard. Their mission is to serve general aviation, the air transportation needs of the community, by generating full use of county owned properties for commercial and industrial businesses.

Proposed Airport Industrial Park West

A proposed 155 acre industrial park is currently under design with the following amenities:

- all utilities - water, sewer, w/ road connection to Kings Highway
- approximately 14 lots ranging in size from 5 - 25 acres
- building sites available for 100,000 to 500,000 square feet buildings
- potential to create over 2,500 jobs for the region
- construction to begin fall 2002 and complete by 2004
- Airport owned property available for lease

The infrastructure improvements will cost approximately \$3.4 million dollars. To date, the Florida Department of Transportation Aviation Department has programmed 50% of the costs toward design and construction of this project.

Benchmarks:

- 165 based aircraft, 196,000 operations per year
- Aircraft painting, avionics, engine repair, aircraft storage and fueling facilities
- Three full service restaurants, including The 19th Hole at Fairwinds Golf Course
- Air emergency ambulance, Sheriff's Department aviation unit, air cargo, air charter and flight instruction
- Currently, approximately 100 acres of aviation property under lease
- Existing Airport jobs: 40 businesses / 600 jobs / \$8.3 million annual payroll
 - 3 flight schools: over 120 jobs
 - Aircraft Paint Center: 35 jobs
 - FAA Tower: 14 jobs
- Current Community Impact of all tenants

Annual Payroll	\$8.3 million
Annual Maintenance Budget	\$2.5 million
Annual Capital Investment	\$1.5 million
Flight Training	\$8.8 million
Fuel Sales Profit	\$0.5 million
Hangar Income	\$0.2 million
Total Direct Impact	\$21.7 million



The airport control tower.



The "Wings of Freedom" tour is one of the many events held at the airport each year. This World War Two Bomber provides tours and flights to visitors during their annual three day stay.

Central Services

At the beginning of this budget year Central Services added a number of new positions. By bringing all of the housekeeping responsibilities in-house, 32 part-time custodians were added. Along with, 7 general maintenance positions and 4 project managers, bringing the total number of Central Services employees to 93.

We are responsible for overseeing the maintenance, air conditioning, cleaning and general operations of more than 1.4 million square feet of buildings throughout St. Lucie County. The Civic Center, Administration Building, Jail, Court House, South County Annex, 7th Street Juvenile facility are among the many buildings serviced by the Central Services staff. Additionally, Central Services provides maintenance for and replacement of the light fleet and heavy equipment. There are more than 170 vehicles currently in the light fleet. The role of the project managers is to overseeing construction projects, grant projects and major renovations to County facilities.

The ability to do much of the work in-house versus contracting it out is major cost savings and time saver for the County. One example is the 7th Street Juvenile Court facility where renovations we were able to save over \$900,000. The building maintenance staff is able to quickly respond to needs as they arise and plan for larger construction, maintenance and repair projects.

Accomplishments:

Listed are a few of the projects we're proud to have completed this year.

- Juvenile Courtroom on North 7th Street
- Document Storage Area on North 7th Street
- Ocean Bay Preserve
- Renovations of the Prima Vista Library
- St Lucie County Marine Center, Featuring the Smithsonian Marine Eco-Systems Exhibit
- Boardwalk replacement at Herman's Bay
- 26 new vehicles added to the fleet

The following projects are currently underway:

- Little Jim Bridge Boat Ramps
- Rasmussen House Renovations at the Savannas Campground
- Summerlin Dock Parking Lot
- Civic Center meeting room renovations and air conditioning replacement
- Indrio School House Restrooms



Jail Maintenance Staff



Building Maintenance Staff



Central Services Administration Staff

Community Development



Convergys is one of several companies that has relocated to St. Lucie County and continued to expand its current operations.

The Department of Community Development is comprised of four divisions, Planning, Economic Development, Tourist Development and Geographic Information Systems. The Department is staffed by 26 people. Community Development provides support and advice on property, land use and development related matters to not only the Board of County Commissioners, but also the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and various other Board appointed committees and task forces.

The Planning Division is responsible for all short and long term community planning efforts and activities. Short term planning activities include the review of all proposed development activities for compliance with County regulations, for assessing and monitoring the impacts of those proposals on infrastructure and environmental resources. Long term planning involves the development of the County Comprehensive Plan and other policy documents and directives to define the future of St. Lucie County.

The Planning Division provides support for the County's continuing efforts at preserving native habitat in the community through the County's Environmental Land Preservation Program. Since the early 1990's, the County has successfully leveraged 20 million dollars in local bond proceeds into approximately 60 million dollars on actual land purchases by partnering with the State of Florida to preserve of approximately 6,000 acres of unique natural habitat.

The Economic Development Division is responsible for assisting existing businesses, encouraging new businesses and industries to locate in St. Lucie County, and to facilitate the available state and federal support programs that can be used for economic development activities. With the creation of the independent St. Lucie County Economic Development Council, the Economic Development Division of this Department is able to focus on assisting existing businesses in our community.

The Tourist Development Division is responsible for the marketing and advertising of St. Lucie County throughout the Eastern United States and Western Europe. The Tourist Development Division provides staff support to the St. Lucie County Tourist Development Council whose charge is to monitor the expenditure the Local Tourist Tax dollars and see that funds collected through these "Tourist Taxes" are reinvested back into the community in order to attract additional tourists to the area.

The Geographic Information System Division of the Department is responsible for all mapping and technical support for the many automated programs that the Department uses. In coordination with the St. Lucie County Property Appraiser and The County's Information Technology Department, the GIS Division maintains up to date County base maps that depict land use and physical feature information for the County. One of the primary objectives of the Department is to be able to make available in real time, WEB based property and land use information for the entire County.

Over the past year, and under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners and the County Administrator, these individual Divisions have worked to complete many complex and involved community betterment projects. A partial listing of these projects includes:

- Completion of a general revision to the County's Comprehensive Plan.
- Submission of applications, six of which were funded, for State assistance funding for the protection and preservation of approximately 600 acres of unique and threatened environmental habitat in the community.
- The distribution of \$15,000 in program assistance funds for seven different tourist development projects, including the Amistad visit and the attraction of the 2003 and 2004 State of Florida Law Enforcement Games to our area.

Community Services

The Community Services Division is comprised of seven staff members and has a Veteran Services Officer located within the office. Community Services administers the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program, which provides funding for down payment and closing cost assistance to purchase a home, and also a repair program for owner occupied homes. Staff serves as the Community Transportation Coordinator administering transportation grants that enable Community Transit to provide transit services for our County. Community Services receives grant funding for the Treasure Coast Community Action Agency and implements programs to assist low-income citizens toward self-sufficiency. Staff is liaison with various community agencies, and serves on the Board of Directors of the St. Lucie County Federal Emergency Management Agency, and on the United Way Budget Review Committee. This Division is a First Stop Center for referral services throughout the area.

Accomplishments:

- Assisted 43 families either to purchase a new home or repair their existing home which increased the property values by \$1,691,538.
- Coordinated 563,645 transportation trips with Community Transit for the Transportation Disadvantaged, public transit, Medicaid and employment transportation programs.
- Assisted with a program that distributes Christmas toys to over 700 needy children and coordinated the Adopt-A-Family Program for 15 families.
- Distributed the County Thanksgiving food baskets.
- Assisted 140 families with various areas of emergency needs: rent/mortgage payments, utility payments/deposits and prescription medication and processed 66 requests for pauper burials and 61 requests for out of county hospital bills.
- Saved the County \$687,994 through careful auditing of Medicaid Hospital, Nursing Home and Health Care Responsibility Act billings.
- Worked with the Florida Association of Counties to monitor legislative initiatives that impact the County fiscally or with loss of state funding for programs.



One of the many homes where assistance was provided to make the necessary repairs.

Cooperative Extension

The St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Office helps St. Lucie County in several major areas: Agribusiness, 4-H, Natural Resources and Energy Conservation, Family and Consumer Sciences, Marine Science, Horticulture and Commercial Citrus Production. Our staff consists of six Extension Agents, one Multi-County Agent housed in Martin County, one Horticulture Specialist, three full-time Program Assistants, one Executive Secretary, four Office Assistant III's, one Office Assistant I and a Maintenance Technician IV. All staff contributed to the many successes Extension experienced in 2001.



Ed Skvarch, Horticulture Specialist, tours students from Rivers Edge Elementary School through the agricultural facility.

Accomplishments

- Staff and volunteers working with the grant funded Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program certified 35 St. Lucie County homeowner's yards and offered 78 educational programs at various locations around the County. The FYN program focuses on pollution reduction within the community. The grant supports one Multi-county Agent and a Program Assistant.
- More than 800 people visited the Hurricane House this year to receive information on Hurricane Preparedness and building construction. Programs in these areas are in demand and will continue to be offered. This year, we were able to connect staff at the Hurricane House to the computer network already in place in the main Complex.
- The first group of Junior Master Gardeners in the State of Florida were trained by Extension staff and graduated from the program in May.
- Program Assistants helped Agents by delivering 721 School Enrichment Programs in the elementary and secondary schools on topics such as wetlands preservation, insect identification, ocean life, livestock and farming awareness, plant propagation, nutrition, and seat belt safety, reaching 18,425 students.
- More than 440 county youth were involved in 4-H clubs and camps.
- Pesticide applicators can still depend on the assistance of the Cooperative Extension Office in obtaining applicator certification and continued education credits in order to retain their pesticide licenses. There were 1,365 participants attending the courses offered last year.
- Records kept throughout the year indicate that agents received 19,212 telephone requests, visited 2,433 clients, and had more than 1,734 customers visit the Extension office. There were more than 10,080 participants attending the 288 programs and seminars offered by Extension Agents in 2001. Extension created almost 200 items of educational information and distributed those as well as existing information to more than 19,300 interested county residents.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Department (HR) is comprised of five employees for Employee & Labor Relations, three employees for the Risk Management Division and two part-time employees for the mailroom to serve a workforce of over 800 employees.



The fall management training class, 2001.

Accomplishments:

- Provided management training for 26 department heads and division managers
- Provided supervisory training for 28 employees
- Provided time management training for 112 employees
- Provided administrative support training for 29 employees
- Provided customer service training for 126 employees
- Provided diversity training for 97 employees
- Provided teamwork training for 120 employees
- Headed collection of school supplies for underprivileged children
- Headed collection of food for the less fortunate for Thanksgiving
- Headed collection of Christmas toys for underprivileged children
- Completed the second year of the implementation of the pay and classification study
- Processed for new employment 83 full-time employees, 33 part-time employees with limited benefits and 29 temporary employees
- Organized Employee Awards Breakfast where over 51 Board of County Commission employees and 33 employees from Constitutional Offices were awarded plaques for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service to St. Lucie County
- Processed over 2, 500 applications from the public
- Converted all employee files to a numeric system
- In the process of scanning all employee files to allow viewing on department computers
- Conducted County building fire and safety code inspections
- Maintained Property Casualty Risk Program for County assets



A sampling of the school supplies collected for children in St. Lucie County for the 2001-2002 school year.

Information Technology

The mission of the Information Technology Department is to provide the solutions, tools and support that ensures the highest possible return on our customer's investment in information systems. The function of Information Technology is to provide our customers with:

1. A robust and stable network environment.
2. Innovative web research, design and support.
3. Timely and quality hardware, software, operations and customer service support.
4. Diverse application and database support
5. Advanced and cost effective technology solutions.

While maintaining the existing infrastructure, Information Technology also recommends and implements new technology to meet the needs of our customers for the future. The department has 48 positions to provide support to the County organization, covering over thirty-five locations and the J19C Judicial Courts System which includes the local four-County Treasure Coast area.

As the County grows, so does the importance of the utilization of information technology which has become a cost effective means of meeting the needs of the future. Information Technology will provide a means for sharing resources, reducing operating costs and implementing improvements in the quality and efficiency of services rendered to the public.

Accomplishments:

- Banner Server Replacement project
- Communications Assessment Study
- Customer Service system upgrade
- Computer Training program
- File & Print Server consolidation project
- Internet Bandwidth upgrade
- Intranet Server implementation
- Laser fiche system upgrade
- PC Replacement Program
- Phone Survey
- Public Safety system upgrade
- Purchase Order application upgrade
- Sheriffs Audit and Assessment Report
- Sirsi Library system upgrade
- Sniffer system upgrade



Mike Pio and Erik Pentz, Network Administrators, review the file and print server consolidation.



Tiphany Marotta, IT Training Coordinator, is responsible for computer training.

Library

The Library Department is responsible for providing access to high-interest and popular reading materials at all public libraries. The Library is responsible for providing accurate and up-to-date reference/information service at all public libraries. The library provides programs for children from ages 0-12 throughout the year; the library provides programs for the adult population via outside speakers and authors. The library offers these services through five (5) branch locations, one Bookmobile, books-by-mail program, Nursing Home rotating collection and through a library cooperative on IRCC/St. Lucie West campus.



Central Services employees diligently finish renovation work at the Port St. Lucie Branch Library. This location was closed from May 27, 2001 to October 7, 2001, while Central Services installed new carpeting, lighting, door cabinets, an air conditioning ventilation system and much more.

The Library has 64 full time employees, seven (7) part-time employees and 60 volunteers throughout the six county locations:

Ft. Pierce Branch Library	101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce	462-1615
Morningside Branch Library	2410 S.E. Morningside Blvd., PSL	337-5632
St. Lucie West Library	520 N.W. California Blvd., PSL	873-3309
Zora Neale Hurston Branch	3008 Avenue D., Fort Pierce,	462-2154
Lakewood Park Branch Library	7605 Santa Barbara Drive, Fort Pierce,	462-6870
Port St. Lucie Branch Library	180 SW Prima Vista Blvd., PSL	871-5450

Accomplishments:

- Weekly computer training classes at four (4) locations
- Renovation of Port St. Lucie Branch Library
- Publication of St. Lucie County Almanac by Ft. Pierce Branch Reference Department
- Publication of *Miley's Memos Index* by Library volunteer (2+ year project)
- 954 children's programs conducted with 28,250 children in attendance
- Established DAR Essay Contest/Assignment link to library's website with links which allowed students to conduct research from home on this topic as well as the library
- \$12,000 raised via Morningside Branch Library book sale for Friends of the St. Lucie County Library



Library Director, Susan Kilmer, hands out appreciation gifts to volunteers at the Annual Friends of the Library Luncheon.

Mosquito Control District

The Mosquito Control District uses a variety of tools to monitor and control the mosquito population. Most people are familiar with the mosquito trucks that are used for spraying mosquitoes but the service of the Mosquito control district also includes monitoring programs, trapping, analysis of environmental information and use of impoundments. The mosquito control district encompasses 289 square miles within St. Lucie County. The District employs 20 full-time and 10-14 part-time/temporary positions in the following four divisions; administration, biology, ground adulticiding and impoundment operations.



This is part of the Salt Marsh Restoration Project. It was a joint venture with the St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District, Indian River Lagoon Swim and the South Florida Water Management District

Accomplishments:

- Success in maintaining effective control of both nuisance and vector potential mosquitoes.
- West Nile Virus began to dominate the mosquito news. The District responded to the perceived threat of WNV by initiating a public education program in association with the St. Lucie County Health Unit and by instituting a District-wide spraying program.
- The Impoundments were operated successfully in 2001, with mosquito production only occurring in un-managed wetland-fringing areas.
- With help from the Indian River Lagoon Surface Water Improvement and Management Program, and the Indian River Lagoon License Plate Grant Program, improvements targeting public access, improved management, and restoration were accomplished. Improvements Included: a web cam for ADA-related use, a boardwalk, two fishing piers, multiple pump station installations, and eradication of all remaining Brazilian pepper on the managed mosquito control impoundment dikes.
- A breakthrough in Tarpon fishery, recruitment and water quality improvement was achieved by operating the impoundments with open culverts.
- Mitigation Banking at the Bear Point Impoundment is also proceeding.
- The District is also nearing completion of a successful effort to acquire lands in the Indian River Lagoon Blueway project area. Joint-Federal (USFWS), State (CARL), County (ESL) and District acquisition initiatives at: Bear Point (Phase III), Queens Island (Phase I & II) and Pepper Park Addition Jack Island and Avalon Addition III, are currently underway.
- The result of successful acquisitions will be; improved impoundment management, restoration, water quality improvements, and increased public recreational access to nearly 54 % of the land area of the barrier island in St. Lucie County.

Did you know

only female mosquitoes bite. We collected, counted and identified approximately 336,660 female mosquitoes in our New Jersey Light Traps this year, belonging to 44 different species or genera.

Office of Management and Budget

The Office of Management & Budget (OMB) assists the County Administrator in preparing the budget proposal for the Board of County Commissioners' consideration. For Fiscal Year 2002, the County budget is \$281.6 million. The entire process typically takes eight months culminating in the approval of a document of 978 pages containing nearly 15,000 individual entries.



Strategic Planning Session, July 2001, at the Oxbow Eco-Center

The OMB staff members also oversee the implementation of the budget, monitor the revenues and expenditures for both the operations and the capital improvements budgets as well as numerous other related tasks such as: fiscal reporting, performance measurement, strategic planning, financial modeling, grants management/coordination, and a multitude of special projects designed to enable the county leadership to make informed decisions about the future of St. Lucie County.

OMB's main goals are: To work in concert with the Board, Administration, Directors and financial consultants to enhance the County's fiscal management; To increase the knowledge of county staff and the citizens on fiscal issues as they relate to the County; As revenues improve, to encourage placing more emphasis on 'fiscal conservatism' - prudently spending the public's money and getting our money's worth - rather than on the control of spending; To continue improving the budget procedures, documents, reports and enhancing communications with the departments.

Accomplishments:

- St. Lucie County's budget has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" for the past three years.
- In Fiscal Year 2001, OMB managed a \$261.6 million dollar budget.
- Processing 63 budget resolutions
- 90 budget amendments
- 1,544 line item transfers
- The office also coordinated the management of 132 active grants totaling over \$23,930,278.
- This year, TaWonna Davis received recognition for her 10-year commitment to St. Lucie County.



TaWonna Davis (right), Budget Analyst Intern with Marie Gouin, OMB Director

Parks and Recreation

The Parks Division has undertaken a number of new projects this year in addition to maintaining 38 parks with 1,450 acres, 19 beach access sites, 12 beachfront parks, the maintenance of 22 landscaped government sites, 13 boat ramps, the preparation of 23 ball fields and 3 football stadiums. All facilities are managed using the Integrated Pest Management concept. Only those areas affected are treated which reduces costs and more importantly lessens the impact on our environment.

The most visible project undertaken this year was the South County Regional Stadium. The Public Works Department managed construction and then the project was taken over by Parks and Recreation. This field is touted by many as the best one south of the "Swamp" at the University of Florida. Other items include the construction of the new lighting system for Open Space Baseball & Football field, new batting tunnels at Lawnwood; two at Elks Park and one at Horatio Grisby Field. A new pump station was installed to service both the South County Regional Stadium and Thomas J. White Stadium.



The Lawnwood Recreation Area has a full-service tennis facilities with lessons for both adults and children.

The project with the greatest environmental impact was the shore restoration and park beautification effort at River Park Marina in Port St. Lucie. The eastern bank had been gradually eroding due to river pressure, making it necessary for control measures to be taken as rapidly as possible. The effort included the shoring up of the East bank with fill and sod; planting of 26 Bald Cypress, 15 Red Maple, 8 Live Oak and 1 Pond Apple. The cost of the project was only \$8,779.50.

Aquatics

The Recreation Division's Aquatics program provides fun, training and therapeutic benefits to the residents of St. Lucie County. Three pools are operated throughout the year and are booked solid in the summertime with summer camps, swimming lessons, swim teams and open swim. The Port St. Lucie pool has a loyal following of adult residents who value their morning swim session in order to maintain their mobility. Installation of a new chlorine system at the Port St. Lucie pool keeps it chemically balanced and has allowed it to be open more of the time. This past summer, 155 children were taught how to swim, thanks to the generosity of the WPSL/WIRA Christmas Kids organization. Our Open Space and Paradise Park pools also hosted summer camps and were open for area residents to enjoy. Additional staff is going to result in more programming and offerings for county residents.

Civic Center

The Civic Center continues to serve as the only venue of its type in a three county area. This past year, a wide variety of events were held and many local groups used the facility to raise funds. Others provided entertainment and enrichment for county residents. Sixty-two events were booked, which resulted in 248 days of occupancy. Renters and County staff have used the newly remodeled Room 101 extensively. It is suitable for meetings, training sessions and social events. Additional repairs and upgrades in the auditorium are planned for the near future including lighting systems, air conditioning and acoustical material replacement. The staff at the Civic Center takes pride in their maintenance efforts and the customer service they provide to renters.

Savannas Recreation Area

2001 was a good year for the Savannas. The campground's electrical hookups have been upgraded and restored. The bathrooms have been cleaned, painted and had new toilet paper and soap dispensers installed. The work shed and chemical storage areas have been upgraded and painted. The old bathrooms in the camper club area have been demolished for the new addition of The Rasmussen House. We have replaced and water sealed all of the campground picnic tables and purchased two handicapped accessible picnic tables. The canoes have all been replaced with new ones, which have racks where they are stored upside down and out of the water.

In 2001, the Savannas was awarded a State of Florida FRDAP Grant. The plan has already been approved by the

County Commission and implementation will begin soon. The Rasmussen House will be remodeled for offices and refurbished to resemble its original construction.

Since March of 2001, we have accommodated over 2500 campers. For the first time since 1977, the Savannas has met its projected revenue for 2001. If the early part of the Travel season is any indication 2002 should be even more profitable.

Sports and Athletics

Dedicated in continuing to provide quality programs for the citizens of St. Lucie County, the Recreation Division hosted our Annual Baseball Classic, which showcased some of the top caliber teams from throughout the State of Florida. Lawnwood Baseball Complex is home to a number of recognized groups and organizations. In addition, there is the Florida Baseball School that arrives in February with baseball and softball teams from around the country. Also, we are very proud of our Fall Baseball League, made up of local high school talent. Our Spring, Summer, and Fall Basketball Leagues, which were played at various high school locations throughout the County was an enormous success, being revitalized after four years. We provide year-round Softball leagues for the whole family to come out and enjoy. Start up programs include, Men’s Soccer and Ultimate Frisbee.



Thomas J. White Stadium is the spring training home of the New York Mets. Every year they take time to spend with some very special children through the American Cancer Society.

St. Lucie County Marine Center Featuring the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit

The St. Lucie County Marine Center opened the doors to the public on August 28, 2001 after a successful ribbon cutting the evening before. The building houses a coral reef exhibit from the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History as well as ecosystems of the Indian River Lagoon, A mangrove ecosystem, Sea Grass and Near and offshore reefs of east central Florida. In the first two weeks 2,723 visitors viewed the ecosystems exhibits. By the end of December 7,952 people visited the center. The Marine Center also has a gift shop stocked with items related to the exhibits. The prices range from \$.25 to \$90.00 for books, t-shirts and educational materials.

Fort Pierce Community Center

The Ft. Pierce Community Center continued to work toward fulfilling its mission of providing St. Lucie County residents with a variety of programs. Youth programs are the most obvious and offer a variety of activities including: holiday and summer camps, trips, Underwater Easter Egg Hunt, Red, White and Boom, Little Miss Jingle Bell Pageant and the Shuttle Simulator Program. Adult programs are offered at the Community Center including Slimnastics, Jazzercise, shuffleboard, bus trips, dog obedience, craft activities, acrylic painting, bridge and adult chorus.

Lincoln Park Community Center

The Lincoln Park Community Center has on-going programs to service the entire community. Programs include an adult and youth exercise, lunch book club, flag football, adult tennis, and 3 on 3 basketball league. Special programs for holiday and special events such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Basketball Tournament, Tiny Tots Olympics, HIV Workshop with the Health Department, Black Arts Festival Basketball Tournament, Hershey Track Meet and “Care Baskets” for the holiday season.

Public Safety

In September 1998, the County signed a contract with Motorola to install an 800MHz Public Safety Radio System. March 2001, the system was activated. Cost for the system was 11 million dollars and includes 4 sites, 21 channel simulcast system, with 2,900 radios. System users are the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department, St. Lucie County Fire District, Port Saint Lucie Police Department, Fort Pierce Police Department, St. Lucie County School Board, St. Lucie County Animal Control, Ft. Pierce City Government, Port Saint Lucie City Government and St. Lucie County Government. In September of 2001, the E-911 Central Communication Center was completely renovated with new ceiling, floor, articulating desk modulars and chairs at a cost of \$250,000.00



Recently renovated 911 Communications Center.

The Public Safety Department has five (5) divisions listed below:

E-911 Central Communication

St. Lucie County Public Safety/E911 handles all 911 calls for fire, rescue and law enforcement for the City of Ft. Pierce, the City of Port St. Lucie and the unincorporated area of the County. The Center employs 42 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees. As of November 30, 2001, the 911 Center handled 289,165 calls on the 14 E-911 trunks and approximately 95,000 calls on the 6 administration lines of which 14,065 were alarm calls. The Center dispatched 44,975 calls to the Fort Pierce Police Department and handled 15,812 Officer initiated calls. 63,882 calls were dispatched to the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office along with 160,134 Deputy initiated calls. 43,712 calls were dispatched to the Port St. Lucie Police Department along with 9,507 Officer initiated calls. These totals do not include dispatches of back-up officers. 25,454 Rescue and Fire runs were also dispatched.

St. Lucie County Animal Control

Animal Control is operated with one coordinator, two full-time and 2 part-time employees. Animal Control officers are responsible for enforcing the state statutes and local ordinances regarding animals. Animal control officers are dispatched through 911 communication. The calls for service are mainly in the unincorporated sections of St. Lucie County. Assistance is given to the cities and the town of St. Lucie Village on an emergency basis. In 2001, Animal Control received 8,101 complaints, handled 118 bite cases, and investigated 295 cruelty cases. 2,139 animals were transported to the Humane Society by Animal Control and 20 public presentations were given to neighborhood associations and schools.

Emergency Management

Is operated with an Emergency Management Coordinator, one clerical staff. Emergency Management handles and coordinates all major emergencies within incorporated and unincorporated local jurisdictions, working with local, state and federal agencies. Money was recently acquired to provide shutters for a school that serves as a hurricane shelter and to retrofit County owned buildings with shutters.

Works closely with all emergency response, as well as human service and non profit agencies in preparation for disasters. Conducted various exercises including, nuclear power plant and hurricane involving local, state and federal officials. Helped sponsor and attended Terrorism training for Treasure Coast agencies. Conducted disaster orientation for county department heads. During the 2001 Tropical Storm Season, Emergency Management tracked a total of 15 named tropical storms. We have responded to over 40 call outs in-

cluding hazardous material spills, fires and other emergency incidents. Approximately 50 public presentations were made to neighborhood associations and medical care groups along with numerous radio and TV appearances for public education. Printed and distributed several thousand brochures and assorted disaster preparedness literature.

Marine Safety

Consists of 9 full-time, 3 part-time, and 10 summer time temporaries. All full-time employees are required to have a Emergency Medical Technician State Certification as a minimum. Part-time employees must obtain a First Responder Certification through Red Cross as a minimum. Renewed yearly for both positions is the CPR Certification for the Professional Rescuer and the Lifeguard Certification is renewed every three years. Daily physical and mental training is required for all employees. Supervisors are sent to training seminars periodically throughout the year, (for all terrain vehicles, personal water craft as well as managerial training). We have a total of 12 lifeguard towers throughout St. Lucie County. Six (6) are manned all year. The remaining towers are occupied from Memorial Day to Labor Day. They are Pepper Park, South Jetty, South Beach Boardwalk, Kimberly Bergalis, Surfside, Jaycee Park, Fredrick Douglas and Waveland Beach. For the fiscal year 00-01, we had an estimated 500,000 visitors to our guarded beaches. Preventative actions totaling 5,323 first aid 108, lost patrons two (2), which were all found and 23 total water rescues.

Radiological Planning

The Radiological Coordinator with one clerical staff, coordinates disaster planning and mitigation, involving Florida Power & Light's Nuclear Power Plant located on South Hutchinson Island. Local and State Plans are reviewed annually, changes are coordinated with the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida Power & Light Emergency Planning as well as affected counties within a 50 mile radius of the plant site. Local plans for transport of special needs individuals, registered with the Division of Emergency Management, are reviewed annually, required changes are coordinated with local transit authority and ambulance services. The Special Needs Registry, averaging about 600 county residents, is maintained on a daily basis. The registry is also updated semi-annually by mailing out registration confirmation forms to those registered. Radiological training is planned and conducted annually for all law enforcement, fire/rescue personnel, school bus drivers, local ambulance services, transit authorities, county and municipal agencies. Annual nuclear power plant exercises and medical transport drills are planned and coordinated with federal, state and local agencies.

For the year 2001, 430 personnel were given annual training. A nuclear power plant exercise involving Ft. Pierce, Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie County agencies, was coordinated and conducted with the State Division of Emergency Management in July. The Special Needs Registry was validated during January and June. Review of and changes made to the Nuclear Power Plant Safety Planning Booklet was completed in August. Mail-out of the booklet (149,000) was done in November. Radiological monitoring equipment (1200 dosimeters, 45 geiger counters) were checked for operability each calendar quarter. Participated in St. Lucie County Disaster Day held in May at the Civic Center. Also, participated in the Port St. Lucie Town Meeting held in November at St. Lucie West Centennial High School.



Dispatchers respond to emergency calls for Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services and Fire Needs.

Public Works

Engineering Division

The Engineering Division has 23 employees, including a field surveying crew, “in-house” design department, project management, and field inspection staff. The Engineering Division is responsible for managing the surveying, design, permitting, construction and fiscal control of capital projects for improvement and maintenance of our County infrastructure.

The Division manages and administers several programs, including the Public Works Capital Improvements Program, Stormwater Management Program, Erosion District Beach Renourishment Program, and Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Special Assessment Program.

The types of capital projects handled by the Engineering Division include Bridge Repair and Replacement, Large Culvert Replacement, Roadway Widening and Roadway Reconstruction, Intersection Expansion, Storm Drainage System Improvements, Water and Sewer Systems, and Beach Renourishment Projects.

Accomplishments

Orange Avenue over Header Canal Bridge	\$ 500,000
Keen Road over C25 Canal Bridge	\$ 500,000
Taylor Dairy Road over C25 Canal Bridge	\$ 120,000
S. 25 th Street over Ten Mile Creek Bridge	\$ 95,000
53 rd Street over C25 Canal Bridge	\$ 150,000
Orange Avenue over C57 Canal Bridge	\$ 290,000
Juanita Avenue Bike Path	\$ 100,000
Rouse Road Paving and Drainage MSBU	\$ 175,000
Briargate Watermain MSBU	\$ 30,000



Road and Bridge crews on the Rouse Road Reconstruction Municipal Services Benefit Unit.

Road and Bridge

The Road & Bridge Division has 78 employees plus 14 contract labor employees. The Division has four (4) Operating Units and is responsible for providing maintenance and reconstructing of County roadways and drainage facilities.

The Maintenance Unit - is responsible for 350 miles of paved roadways, 134 miles of rock/dirt roads, and 31 miles of asphalt milled roads accepted by the Board for maintenance. Road maintenance includes right-of-way mowing, surface patching, shoulder repair, grading of dirt roads and miscellaneous drainage work including culvert repair.

The Traffic Operations Unit - is responsible for the design of new signals; the maintenance, repair and operation of existing signals, and flashers; the fabrication of regulation, warning and street signs; the installation of signs; the application annually of roadway thermoplastic stripping and marking of paved roadways; conducting traffic counts and traffic operation studies; maintaining the County’s accident data base.

- 2220 Signs & Posts Installed
- 377 Feet of Guardrail Installed
- 22 Miles of Roadway Restriped

The Drainage Unit - is responsible for the mechanical cleaning of 1100+ miles of roadway ditches/swales and 50+ miles of primary drainways/canals. The unit includes a small construction crew utilized for MSBU related roadway/drainage construction, as well as drop inlet, culvert, and similar drainage construction projects. This section manages the roadway resurfacing program and the Driveway Permit Inspections for the County.

Completed Rouse Road MSBU Construction

Completed Administration Building Parking Lot
Underdrain Construction
Resurfaced 49 Miles of Roadway
Issued 194 Driveway Permits

The Stormwater Unit (MSTU) - Oversees swale/canal maintenance throughout the Unincorporated County. During 2001, our swale/canal maintenance crews completed the Airport Industrial Park, and Sandalwood Estates. Routine swale maintenance of 50,000+ L.F. was completed in various locations all over the County. We use our crews and manage contract crews to accomplish this.

Re-established by contract 8.5 Miles of Roadside Swales/Ditches
Cleaned and Maintained 50 Miles of Side & Rear lot Ditches
Replaced 54 Culverts to Re-establish proper drainage

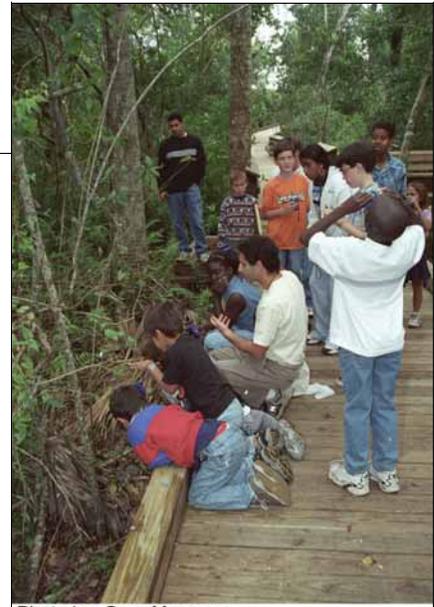


Photo by: Greg Masoner

The Oxbow is a living laboratory offering year round “in field” opportunities

Environmental Resources Division

Newly formed in 2001, the Environmental Resources Division has eleven employees and is responsible for the development, permitting, protection and enhancement of the natural resources of the properties acquired by St. Lucie County.

The Oxbow Eco-Center, a St. Lucie County Environmental Learning Center, situated on a 220-acre preserve of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, officially opened. The Oxbow provides educational programs for schools, enabling teachers to take their classroom outside. The Oxbow is a living laboratory offering year round “in the field” opportunities to youth groups, adults, and families on a variety of nature related subjects.

The Environmental Lands Section manages 13 sites totaling approximately 5, 000 acres. Two of these sites were opened for public use during 2001, totaling approximately 1,470 acres: Pinelands and Indrio North Savannahs. Site improvements included: observation towers, boardwalks, bridges, kiosks, pamphlets and trails. Improvements were also completed on the Ocean Bay, Paleo Hammock, Walton Scrub, Platt’s Creek and Bluefield Ranch sites for future use. Improvements were also made on several existing sites: Spruce Bluff, Coon Island, John Brooks Park and Ft. Pierce Inlet Boat Launch.

Nature programs were initiated at each of the Environmental Lands. These programs include Owl Prowls, Meteor Watches, Nature Hikes and Birding Walks. Additionally, the Ecosystems Section manages several acres of “coastal” property and is responsible for the development of the Manatee Protection Plan in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The Resource Protection Section is responsible for the review of County site and landscaping plans, conducting site visits to verify environmental reports and tree surveys, review of vegetation and permits and conducting pre and post land clearing inspections as well as final landscape inspections. This year, an important partnership was formed with the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office. The St. Lucie County Jail’s work farm is now being used as a holding area for trees and other native plants being rescued from development sites.

Solid Waste Division

The Solid Waste Division disposes of waste collected from unincorporated St. Lucie County and the City of Port St. Lucie. This includes household garbage, yard waste, commercial waste, construction and demolition materials waste tires, appliances and household hazardous waste.

Public Works

In August of 2001, the new Baling and Recycling Facility was opened. With its 31 employees, the Baling Facility has the responsibility of managing all Class 1 waste, vegetative waste, waste tires, household hazardous waste, construction and demolition debris, and white goods delivered to the facility in



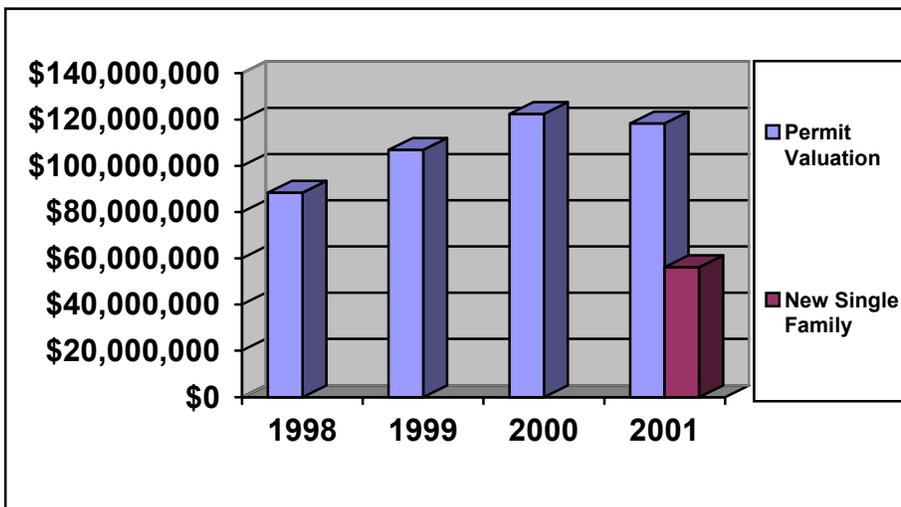
The three story operation is 87,000 square feet and will provide access to the commercial garbage haulers and the local citizens. Trash and recyclable products will be sorted with the trash being compacted into blocks and transported to the landfill. Through this process, the life of the landfill will be extended an additional 15-20 years and recycling efforts are maximized.

Building and Zoning

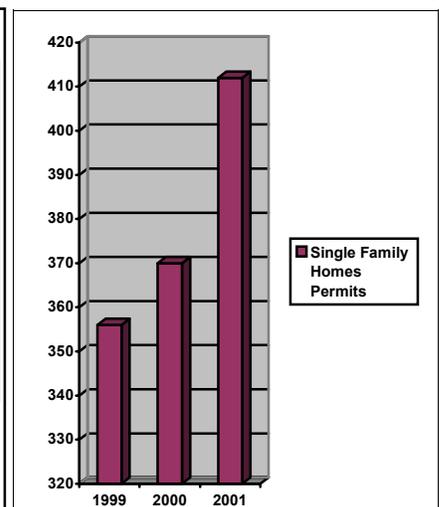
St. Lucie County Building and Zoning Division in 2001 issued 8,349 building permits, 343 more than 2000, and 1,644 more than 1999. The value of construction was over \$118 million, a decrease of \$4 million over 2000 but an increase of \$16 million over 1999. Single Family homes had a 9% increase to total 412. There were also 56 Multi-family dwelling units permitted. As a result, there were 26,409 inspections made in 2001.

A number of changes that have been implemented to serve the customer are working efficiently. With the same number of staff, we have been able to increase the number of permits issued in less time. To better serve the public, the department has been renovated with the help of our own staff members. Two Plans Examiners were relocated in the permitting area to allow direct contact with the public and team with the Zoning Techs to process and issue permits while the customers wait. To make the department more efficient in serving the public, three new service windows were installed and staff relocated to make the permitting and inspection process as smooth as possible. The department has received many positive comments on the direction that the division is going. In the coming year, we are working towards making it

Permit Value



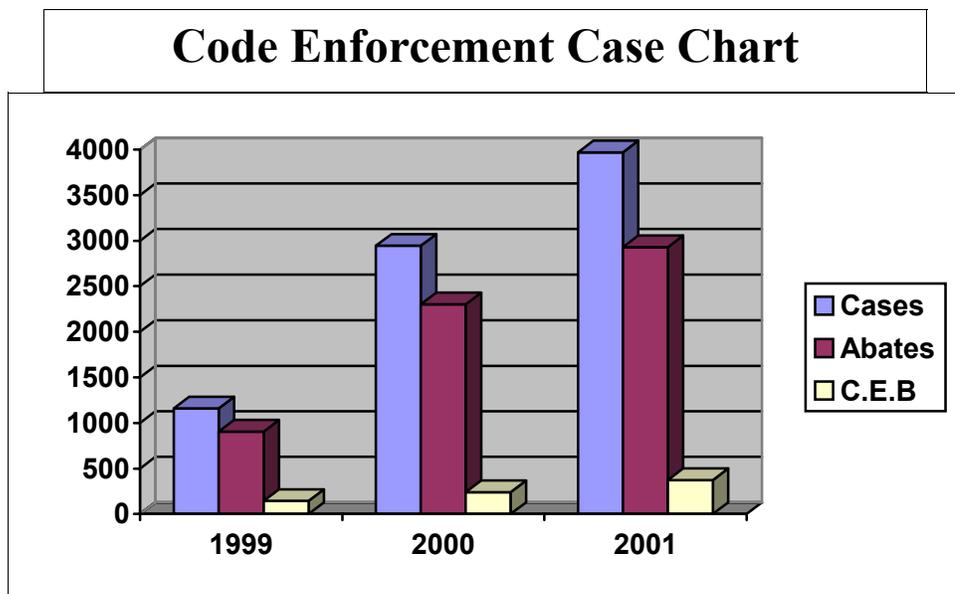
Single Family Homes



possible for our division to receive permit applications and fees via the internet, allowing a person to obtain a permit without leaving their home or office. Restructuring of the division has been nearly completed to provide more efficient and user-friendly customer service.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement continues to make an impact on the community. There have been 3970 individual cases that have been processed in 2001; 1025 more than 2000 and 2818 more than 1999. Out of these 3970 cases, 2930 were abated prior to a Code Enforcement Board hearing; 374 of these cases went to the Code Enforcement Board for review and fines resulted in the collection of over \$16,000 in fine revenue. Code Enforcement has been actively pursuing and removing illegal signs from the right of ways, over 500 signs have been removed this passed year. Commercial vehicles in residential zone cases have tripled over this same time period as a pro-active approach has been implemented.



Contractor Licensing

Contractor licensing has a new addition for 2002. A Contractor Licensing Officer has been added to the staff. This officer will be taking a pro-active approach to make sure that all contractors working in the county are licensed through the County or State and have the proper insurance and worker's compensation. As we move forward into 2002, we will continue towards the goal of making St Lucie County Building & Zoning a division that others throughout the state will emulate. We are proud of the direction we are heading.

You can check out our website at: www.stlucieco.gov and click on to "The Permit Shop".

Purchasing Department

The Purchasing Department performs the following functions to serve the Department of the County.

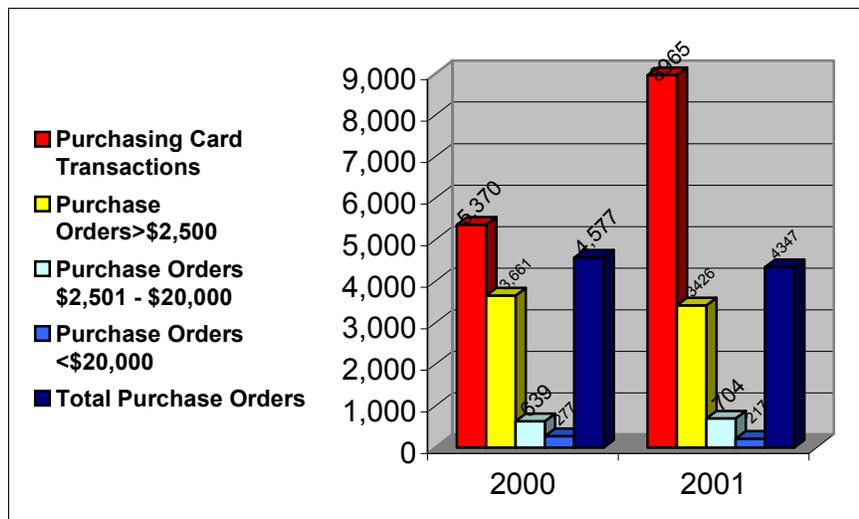
1. Purchasing provides goods and services to the using departments at the best overall quality and price, in accordance with all laws and regulations.
2. Purchasing maintains an inventory of the County's Capital Assets.
3. Purchasing's Material Center provides Printing, Duplicating and Document Preparation services for the using departments.
4. Purchasing provides Records Management Services, reducing records storage space, maintaining document retention and disposition of records.

Eight (8) full-time employees and one (1) part-time employee currently staff the Purchasing Department.

Accomplishments

In keeping with the Purchasing Department's mission to provide cost savings to our County citizens while ensuring integrity, quality and efficiency in the Procurement process, the Purchasing Department has initiated the following process improvements:

- Raised the Formal Bid Limit to provide for a more cost efficient and effective method of purchasing lower dollar materials and services.
- Raised the transaction limit of the Purchasing Credit Card to increase the usage and provide additional revenue through rebates from the card issuer.
- Established procedures for the Debarment of Vendors to insure that the County utilizes the services of competent suppliers.
- Formulated standard Bid, Request for Proposal and Request for Qualifications documents to provide consistency and ease of submittal by prospective suppliers.
- Amended internal procedures and provided training to improve vendor payments.
- Digital scanning of archived records to reduce storage space and ease of retrieval.
- Enhancement of Material Center equipment to provide quicker turn-around time and additional services for printed materials.



Utilities



North Hutchinson Island Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Utilities continues to realize growth in all systems that we operate and maintain. As a result, the Utility Department is underway with various capital improvements. We are currently working on improvements of the collection and conveyance system on North Hutchinson Island and completing plans for improvements at the waste-

water treatment facility that will include new reclaimed water distribution pumping and controls, modifications to the head works and digesters that will improve air quality, domestic water ground storage tank and additional office space and storage. The monies for these improvements will be available in 2002 as a result of a \$ 1.75 million dollar Bond Issue.

The South Hutchinson Island system is currently underway with a feasibility study for supplemental wells for our reclaimed water system. The fresh water lens has been identified in the vicinity of the wastewater treatment plant and a test well has been installed to analyze the quality and quantity of the existing ground water. Once this project is completed, the system will have the ability to subsidize the reclaimed water in the summer months, when our population decreases, causing our wastewater flows to decrease, resulting in a lesser amount of reclaimed water for our customers. Also, staff is continuing to work on the design and specifications for a dry storage building at the site and expect to advertise for bids in March 2002.

The North County System (Holiday Pines) is performing as expected and continued interest from developers in the immediate service area seem to indicate the system will recognize significant growth in the next year. Staff is currently working with our engineer to complete specific projects identified at the time of purchase and to establish a footprint for future capital improvements. The new customer base will allow the utility the ability to produce reclaimed water at this facility to further protect our environment in the County. A feasibility study is currently underway to possibly facilitate the expansion of the system, consistent with our Master Plan for utilities in the North County area.

Over the past year, staff has continued to research all grant options that may be available. Utilities was awarded a grant from the South Florida Water Management District, through the Alternative Water Source Program, for the extension of reclaimed water lines on North Hutchinson Island. Staff has also worked closely with our legislators and our lobbyists and as a result have obtained a partial grant for our existing Airport Industrial Park. The grant will allow for construction of a gravity collection and force main conveyance system, Phase 1, for the existing industrial area. The partial funding will also allow for future funding possibilities to facilitate the construction of additional phases of the project.

Completion of wastewater collection and conveyance system in the industrial park will allow the existing property owners to connect to a centralized sewer system and eliminate their septic systems. Elimination of these drain fields will allow the existing owners the ability to expand their buildings and use of the property, providing improved economic development.

As we move ahead, we look forward to a new year and strive to provide our customers with the highest level of service and satisfaction possible. We would like to extend special thanks to all the County Departments that provide the Utility Department assistance throughout the year, our Board of County Commissioners for their continuing support, and especially our customers.

Veterans Services

The Veteran Services Department mission is to serve St. Lucie County's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive medical care, benefits, and social support. Our professional staff is customer-focused, functioning as a team to deliver the means of improving the quality of life to more than 37,000 veterans living in St. Lucie County.

Our close involvement with the staff from the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center remains a productive tool in bringing more medical benefits to veterans in the county. Active participation with the Council of Social Agencies, Transportation Disadvantaged Board, Va Medical Center Volunteer Services and the County Veteran Services Association enable the staff to provide the support necessary to promote the health, welfare, and dignity of veterans and their families.

Our staff works closely with the St. Lucie County Veterans Advisory Council. The Council acts as a collection agency for all veterans groups within St. Lucie County, making recommendations to the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners concerning veteran affairs.

Accomplishments:

- Veteran Service Officers counseled 8,946 veterans and their dependents.
- Benefit claims processed totaled 3,929.
- Medical transportation was provided to 4,155 disabled veterans.
- Administrative support team fielded 32,529 phone inquiries.
- Provided employment to 9 veterans attending college via the Veterans Education Work Study Program.



Veteran Service Officers Mike Seniuk, Donna Carlsen and Helen Simpson, review new VA claim forms.

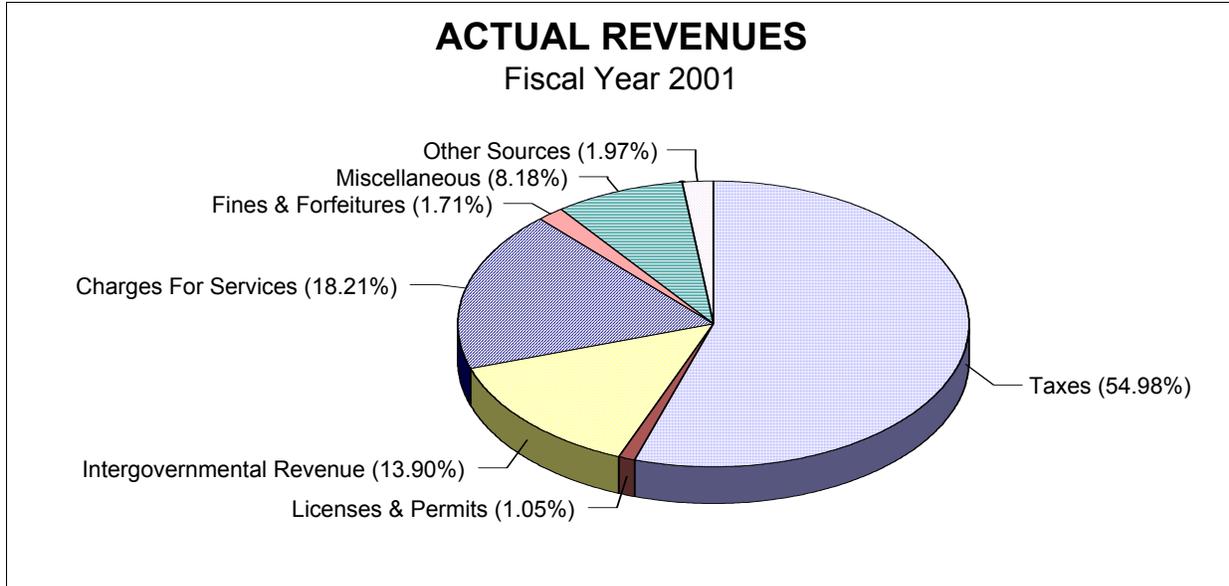


Jim Magee, Medical Trans. Coordinator assists a disabled veteran upon return from WPB VA Medical Center.



Veterans sign in to meet with Service Officer for assistance with VA claim work.

Budget Appropriation Summary (unaudited)

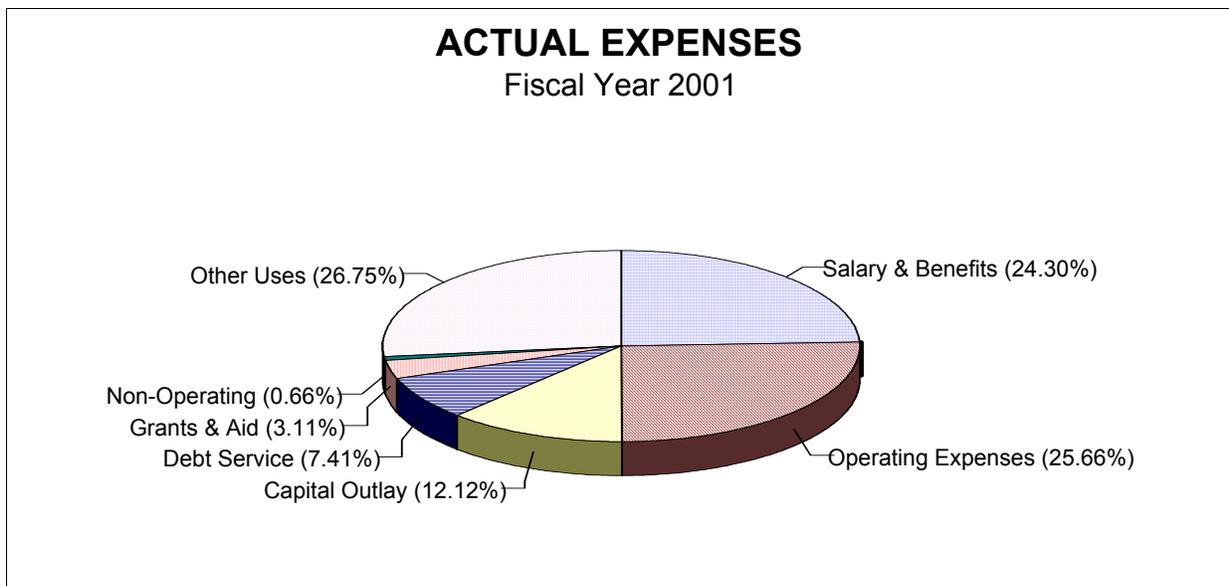


ACTUAL REVENUES FISCAL YEAR 2001

Taxes	80,527,538
Licenses & Permits	1,542,386
Intergovernmental Revenue	20,353,170
Charges For Services	26,675,038
Fines & Forfeitures	2,500,699
Miscellaneous	11,987,506
Other Sources	<u>2,386,724</u>
Total	145,973,061

ACTUAL EXPENSES FISCAL YEAR 2001

Salary & Benefits	34,362,279
Operating Expenses	36,285,820
Capital Outlay	17,142,168
Debt Service	10,476,525
Grants & Aid	4,394,960
Non-Operating	929,889
Other Uses	37,820,953
Reserves	<u>4,560,467</u>
Total	145,973,061





St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners

Doug Anderson
County Administrator

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Public Information Officer

St. Lucie County

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