

→ **"HIGH PERFORMANCE"**  
2003 St. Lucie County  
Annual Report



# Message from the Commissioners



## County Commissioners:

Cliff Barnes  
District 5

Paula A. Lewis  
District 3

Doug Coward  
District 2

Frannie Hutchinson  
District 4

John D. Bruhn  
District 1



## Mission Statement:

To provide service, infrastructure and leadership necessary to advance a safe community, maintain a high quality of life, and protect the natural environment for all our citizens.

It was another productive year for St. Lucie County. We have worked diligently to enhance economic development, recreation, transportation, public safety, environmental preservation and cultural programs. The County has established a strong financial base and is in a position not only to be recognized throughout the state, but also throughout the Country. With this positive recognition, individuals from every aspect of the world are investing in our community.

Our goals in 2004 include the beginning of the widening of South 25th Street from Midway Road to Edwards Road; the restoration of Taylor Creek; Phase I utility expansion of the County Utility System; new jail pods; construction of Phase I of the Lakewood Park Regional Park; the rehabilitation of Lawnwood Stadium and the establishment of a State recognized Research and Development Park.

We continue to focus on the economic development of the County and the creation of high paying jobs for our residents. We will continue to aid local businesses, as well as expand our horizons in bringing in new businesses to the County.

The Mission of St. Lucie County is to provide service, infrastructure and leadership necessary to advance a safe community, maintain a high quality of life, and protect the natural environment for all our citizens. With the continued help of the residents of St. Lucie County and with the continued support from other elected officials, St. Lucie County will continue to flourish.



# Message from the County Administrator

Dear Citizens of St. Lucie County and Visitors:

*High Performance!* Those are the two words used to describe our county government and the performance of our employees. Over the past several years, we have worked long and hard hours to establish a strong financial base and to position the county to be recognized as not only a leader in the State but also the Country. With this recognition, people from far and wide are investing in our community. For us to continue to provide the quality of services that have made us so successful and spawned quality development in our community county staff is in a "high performance" mode. Everywhere you look you see staff hustling and bustling and putting in an extra effort to serve the public.

Some of the soon to be recognized immediate results of this effort will be the opening in 2004 of the \$45 million Scripps Treasure Coast Publishing Company's facility; the \$55 million Wal-Mart Corporation's distribution facility; the \$25 million expansion of Tropicana Products, Inc.; the \$3.8 million Walton Road County Government Annex Building; the \$2.1 million addition to the Virginia Avenue County Government Complex; the \$10 million improvements and additions to the Tradition Field and the \$1.1 million Adam's Ranch Equestrian Center.

Our goals in 2004 include the beginning of the \$10.8 million widening of South 25th Street from Midway Road to Edwards Road; the \$3.0 restoration of Taylor Creek; the \$16 construction of two new jail pods; the \$1.7 million construction of Phase I of the Lakewood Park Regional Park and the \$3.5 million rehabilitation of Lawnwood Stadium.

Other goals include the establishment of a State recognized Research and Development Park in the vicinity of the University of Florida's Research and Education Center and the USDA Horticulture Lab.

We continue to focus on economic development and the creation of new high paying jobs for our community. We are focused on both assisting local existing businesses to expand and bringing new businesses to the county. We are optimistic that we will continue to be successful in this area.

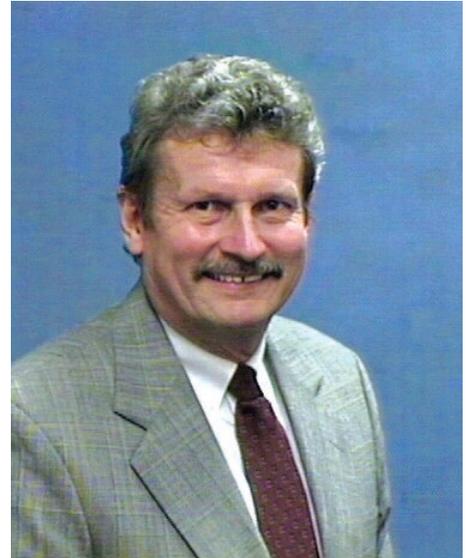
Finally, we must not forget our natural resources and continue to protect them with all of our efforts. We must also use smart growth techniques to maintain our quality of life and control unbridled growth commonly referred to as "urban sprawl."

As we continue to make progress and serve our citizens we must continue our "high performance" efforts and are committed to doing so. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Douglas M. Anderson,  
County Administrator



## → Media Relations



The Media Relations Department consists of three employees, one Technical Operations Manager and one Media Specialist Assistant for SLCTV and the Public Information Officer. The mission of the department is to promote and enhance St. Lucie County through consistent, professional high quality imagery via television (SLCTV), publications and media relations.

### ↘ 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Began 24-hour programming on SLCTV
- \* Aired live broadcasts of Board of County Commission meetings and Metropolitan Planning Organization meetings
- \* Created two new SLCTV programs called: "Operation: Progress St. Lucie," the highlight show of St. Lucie County's capital projects program, and "A Cultural Affair," a highlight show of St. Lucie County's cultural assets
- \* Developed "Update St. Lucie" a monthly newsletter provided to citizens via e-mail
- \* Distributed the County employee newsletter electronically saving over \$750 month in printing costs
- \* Published and distributed the Investment for the Future tabloid in January and July to 29,825 households throughout the County
- \* Coordinated ground breaking ceremonies, dedications and ribbon cutting ceremonies for the Stan Blum Memorial Boat Ramp, the Walton Road Annex Building, the Art in Public Places Project "Monumental Sailfish," and the Astor Summerlin Parking Lot at Museum Pointe

## → Grants

St. Lucie County's Grant Writers were directly responsible for securing more than \$8.3 million in increased funding for a wide variety of County projects. An additional \$3.5 million in grant applications, which were written during the 2002-2003 fiscal year, remain pending.



### ↘ 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Received two Florida Communities Trust Acquisition grants: one for the Ten Mile Creek West in the amount of \$2,469,000 and one for the Capron Trail Park in amount of \$1,185,486
- \* Received Florida Inland Navigation District grant for \$800,000 for Taylor Creek dredging and restoration
- \* Obtained a Florida Department of Transportation Urban Transit Capital Grant for \$470,000
- \* Received a United States Department of Agriculture Wetland Reserve Program grant in the amount of \$260,000 for the Indrio Blueway Buffer restoration
- \* Obtained a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for River Park Marina Park improvements in the amount of \$200,000

## → *County Attorney*

### ↘ 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Assisted in drafting and negotiating New York Mets contract
- \* Resolved lawsuits filed by East Coast Recycling, Inc. and Allstate in County's favor
- \* Completed transfer of files to a Laser Fiche System
- \* Processed 998 contracts including amendments, addendums, extensions and work authorizations
- \* Purchased the Lakewood Park Regional Park (157.133 acres), various parcels along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River (93.49 acres), the Sheraton Plaza Preserve (65.12 acres), the St. Lucie Village Heritage Park (71.95 acre parcel) and the Indrio Scrub Preserve (13.351 acres)

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.

The County Attorney's Office consists of eight staff members.

The Property Acquisitions Division, under the County Attorney, maintains original deeds and documents of properties acquired by the County for subdivisions, roads, easements, environmental lands and various projects that take place in the County.

The Property Acquisitions Division consists of three staff members.

## *Purchasing*

The Purchasing Department is responsible for the procurement of goods and services used by all County Departments. It is the objective of the County to purchase the necessary supplies, equipment and services at the lowest possible cost consistent with the quality needed to meet its requirement and to ensure that our County citizens receive the maximum value for each dollar expended.

### ↘ 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Replaced analog printer in the Materials Center with a new state-of-the-art digital printer with online printing capabilities
- \* Completed Phase I of the online surplus property notification on the Intranet
- \* Enhanced the Purchasing Card payment function with online signature approval
- \* Produced savings to the County through a reduction in mailing and printing cost of purchase orders with an increase in purchasing card transactions
- \* Archived records through digital scanning to reduce storage space and ease of retrieval



# Central Services

The Central Services Department is responsible for more than 1.4 million square feet of buildings throughout St. Lucie County. The department has 54 full-time and 34 part-time employees and is comprised of seven divisions.

## Central Services Divisions:

*Administration*

*Administrative Judicial Maintenance*

*General Maintenance*

*Air-Conditioning*

*Rock Road Jail Maintenance*

*Housekeeping*

*Service Garage*



South County Stadium Concession and Restroom Facility

## 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Completed Astor Summerlin Dock parking lot
- \* Extended the Black Pearl Boat Ramp dock and refurbished the parking lot
- \* Installed hurricane shutters on 27 county facilities
- \* Completed the Stan Blum Memorial Boat Ramp facility on North Hutchinson Island
- \* Built two new tennis courts at Lawnwood Recreation Complex and added new lighting at the Lakewood Park tennis courts
- \* Completed observation tower and dock at North Indrio Savannas
- \* Built restrooms and concession facility at the South County Regional Stadium in Port St. Lucie
- \* Built a juvenile dorm at St. Lucie County jail
- \* Renovated the Savannas Campground and Recreation Area including two pedestrian bridges, playground, eight shelter/pavilions, observation tower, restrooms and roadway millings
- \* Renovated the South Causeway Island area including five shelter/pavilions and a new sign for Museum Pointe
- \* Replaced roofs at the Navy SEAL Museum, Walton Community Center, Mosquito Control Division building, Lincoln Park Community Center, Gardner House at the Historical Museum, State Attorney's Office/Empire I and II, Administration Building and the St. Lucie County jail

## → *Community Development*

### ↘ **2003 Accomplishments:**

- \* Approved the \$55 million Wal-Mart Regional Distribution Center
- \* Recruited the \$45 million Scripps Regional Printing Facility
- \* Recruited the \$25 million expansion to Tropicana's Fort Pierce Facility
- \* Updated the Port Master Plan
- \* Initiated the Historic Preservation Regulations
- \* Initiated Countywide Commercial Architectural Standards
- \* Initiated a Community Pride Neighborhood Enhancement Program
- \* Initiated Urban Service Boundary Review  
Began an enhanced permit and tracking program



The Department of Community Development is comprised of four divisions: Planning, Economic Development, Tourist Development and Geographic Information Systems. With a staff of 26 people in professional, technical and clerical positions, the Department provides guidance, technical support and administrative services for tourism promotion, economic development incentives, property, land use and development related matters.

The Planning Division is responsible for all short and long term community planning efforts and activities, including assessing and monitoring the impacts of development proposals on the community's infrastructure and environmental resources. The Planning Division also provides staffing support for the St. Lucie County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – a Countywide transportation planning organization responsible for working with State and Federal agencies in order to ensure that the primary transportation network in the community operates efficiently.

The Economic Development Division is responsible for assisting existing businesses, attracting new businesses and industries to locate in St. Lucie County and to facilitate, in cooperation with the Economic Development Council, the available state and federal support programs that can be used for economic development activities.

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 visitors to the area.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) Division of the Department is responsible for all mapping and technical support for the many automated programs that Community Development and other departments use.





# Cultural Affairs

Cultural Affairs administers the Cultural Affairs Council, Historical Commission, Art in Public Places program and the County's museum assets including the Historical Museum, Marine Center and the Navy SEAL Museum.

Cultural Affairs envisions and develops future sustainable cultural assets such as the planned Orange Avenue Post Office History and Humanities Center. Cultural Affairs works closely with staff at the cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, as well as the County's Parks and Recreation, Library and Grants departments to coordinate beneficial projects for the community.



The Monumental Sailfish

## 2003 Accomplishments:

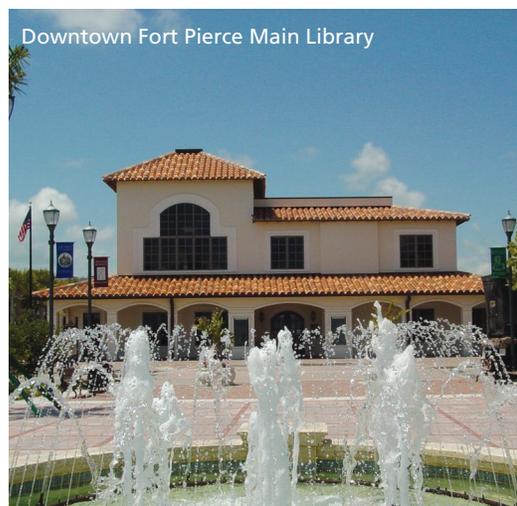
- \* Dedicated "The Monumental Sailfish," the County's first piece of sculpture under the Art in Public Places program, in partnership with the City of Fort Pierce
- \* Sponsored Alfred Hair and the Highwaymen for induction into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame, the state's highest cultural honor, and restored Alfred Hair's neglected gravesite into a heritage cultural site
- \* Presented the first annual Zora Fest at the Zora Neale Hurston Branch Library with the assistance of St. Lucie County Library, Parks and Recreation, Community Services, U.S. Post Office, St. Lucie County School District, City of Fort Pierce and community residents
- \* Sponsored first annual San Juan Hispanic festival in Port St. Lucie, as well as many other cultural programs through the Cultural Affairs mini-grant program for local non-profits
- \* Acquired a Florida Humanities Council grant to produce a touring program, "Net Loss" focusing on the socioeconomic changes in the lives of local commercial fishermen, presented in eight cities around Florida – the first cultural outreach programming exported by this community
- \* Produced "ArtsView" publication for Art in Public Places communication

# Library ←

## 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Replaced all public Internet PCs with powerful Howard PCs that have the Microsoft Office Suite and enhanced security with Deep Freeze
- \* Joined the "Ask a Librarian Project" with eight staff members being trained as "virtual reference librarians" to provide live 'chat' reference service along with some 60 other libraries across the state, as the first phase of implementation of the statewide Florida Electronic Library initiative
- \* Designed and installed the Zora Neale Hurston Dust Tracks Heritage Trail in cooperation with the Cultural Affairs Council and the City of Fort Pierce
- \* Changed the age level for children to age 4 to receive a library card, in response to local day care centers and the Lifelong Literacy Coalition
- \* Expanded the notary services and website to include Spanish
- \* Held 1,191 programs, up 6.5% from 2002 and noted a 12% in program attendance to 34,258 people
- \* Changed the audiocassettes and compact disc collection from numbers to a Dewey Classification

The Library Department is responsible for providing access to high-interest and popular reading materials at all public libraries, as well as providing accurate and up-to-date reference/information service at all locations. The library provides programs for children from ages 0-12 throughout the year and programs for the adult population via outside speakers and authors. Library services are offered through five branch locations, one Book-mobile, Books-by-mail program, Nursing Home rotating collection and through a library cooperative on the Indian River Community College / St. Lucie West campus. The Library has 77 employees and 55 volunteers.



Downtown Fort Pierce Main Library



# Community Services



The Community Services Department is comprised of five divisions: Housing, Treasure Coast Community Action Agency, Social Services, Grants/Contracts and Transportation.

The services include down payment and closing cost assistance for income eligible families to purchase a home, assistance for emergency repairs to owner occupied homes, assistance with rent and utility bills to assist low income families to become self-sufficient, indigent cremation services, referrals for services with other agencies, administration of grants and coordination of the transit system for St. Lucie County.

Accomplishments by the Community Services Department have been in a variety of service-oriented areas and have had a positive financial impact on the community, as well as providing improved services to the citizens and improved cooperation between governmental entities.

## 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Worked with the City of Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie, Township of St. Lucie Village and St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners to enact a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) for public transit
- \* Administered contracts and grants that provided many needed services to our residents in the amount of \$ 6,067,559
- \* Coordinated 523,097 transportation trips for demand response service
- \* Assisted 11 families with a down payment to purchase a home under the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP)
- \* Increased the St. Lucie County property values by \$961,869 due to SHIP closings
- \* Completed 20 contracts to rehabilitate owner occupied homes with emergency repairs
- \* Committed \$250,000 toward Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) for water and sewer service for income eligible clients
- \* Assisted 188 families toward self-sufficiency with funds received through a Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- \* Saved the County General Fund \$1,003,449 by processing and denying incorrect Medicaid billings and by processing and denying claims for persons who were not qualified to receive hospital cost reimbursement under the Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA)
- \* Handled over 15,000 telephone inquiries and walk-in clients requesting services and either provided service or referred to a partner agency for assistance

## → Veterans Services

### ▾ 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Counseled 10,825 veterans and/or their dependents, a 10% increase over 2002
- \* Visited 49 facilities, including assisted living facilities, nursing homes and private residences, to process benefit requests to veterans not able to visit the office
- \* Submitted 4,754 veterans benefit claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs
- \* Aided veterans living in the County in receiving more than \$13,000,000 in monetary benefits
- \* Provided 5,027 medical transportation trips for disabled veterans
- \* Managed more than 9,000 client files, bringing them into compliance with recent changes in HIPPA (health insurance portability and accountability act) laws
- \* Fielded 39,360 phone inquires
- \* Provided employment to five veterans while attending local colleges as part of their education benefit through the Veterans Education Work Study Program
- \* Coordinated efforts with the United Veterans of St. Lucie County to raise and distribute \$7,000 in donated grocery store food certificates to more than 150 veterans in need living in County

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.

Veterans Services 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. The close involvement with the staff from the West Palm Beach Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center remains a productive tool in bringing more medical benefits to veterans in the county. Active participation with nursing homes, assisted living facilities and more than 60 social agencies throughout the County enable the staff to provide a network of support necessary to promote the health, welfare and dignity of veterans and their families. The St. Lucie County Veterans Advisory Council plays an important role in the day-to-day operations. Thirty-two member organizations meet monthly to discuss and share information that has a direct impact on the benefits and medical service for veterans.

Veterans Services Department consists of six full-time staff, one part-time employee and 12 on-call Veterans Medical Transportation Drivers.





# Cooperative Extension



The St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension office provides assistance in St. Lucie County in several areas: Agribusiness, 4-H, Natural Resources and Energy Conservation, Family and Consumer Sciences, Marine Science, Commercial and Homeowner Horticulture and Commercial Citrus Production.

The staff consists of seven Extension Agents, one Multi-County Agent housed in Martin County, three full-time Program Assistants, one executive secretary, five office assistants and a maintenance technician. Because of the newly established cooperative effort between the Agriculture office and the St. Lucie County School Board for implementation of the Agriscience Education Program, staff now also includes an Agriscience Instructor/Leader and a Vocational Agricultural Technician. The Department has 64 Master Gardeners that volunteered 9,400 hours assisting homeowners' concerns and 2,050 adult volunteers that play a role in the St. Lucie County 4-H program reaching over 24,000 youth in St. Lucie County.

## 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Received the Business Partnership Recognition Award for extraordinary commitment to the Quad-County Tech Prep Consortium for fostering partnerships with the Agriscience Center
- \* Developed an educational program for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Storm Water Phase II Final Rule for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for St. Lucie County
- \* Developed curriculum for a nutrition and fitness program "Food on the Run" focusing on obesity in children
- \* Provided training for over 700 professionals in pesticide application, invasive plant management, pesticides and biological control of invasive species
- \* Developed a Science Fair Project "Guide for Families," in response to requests from parents and students
- \* Created and implemented the Monofilament Fishing Line Recycling Program in St. Lucie County
- \* Trained and certified 1,681 citrus production workers and managers on Best Management Practices (BMP)

St. Lucie County International Airport employs a staff of eight, five maintenance and three administrative personnel and maintains the safety and security of 3,660 acres in North County. The mission is to operate and manage St. Lucie County International Airport in a safe and efficient manner, to serve general aviation and the air transportation needs of the community, by promoting a positive relationship with our neighbors and users, while maintaining a financially self-sustaining basis, generating full use of airport owned properties for commercial and industrial business.



## 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Completed the design of the Airport West Commerce Park and received \$1.5 million in Economic Development Agency (EDA) funds – bringing the total funding available to \$5.5 million of the \$5.9 million needed to construct the 150 acre commerce park
- \* Updated the St. Lucie County International Airport Business and Marketing Plan to identify ways to diversify the airport's present revenue base and to determine the actions necessary to increase that base to achieve the mission of financial independence
- \* Completed Phase III of the fencing security projects
- \* Prepared an Environmental Assessment for the construction of a parallel runway
- \* Scheduled the first air show for the airport for June of 2004 with two full days of static displays, attractions and re-enactments
- \* Recruited, along with the Economic Development Council, LanShe Aerospace (an aircraft manufacturer) to the Airport creating 70 new jobs



## → Human Resources



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

### ▾ 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Provided 17 Indian River Community College training classes with a total of 1,006 attendees
- \* Processed over 3,086 applications from the public and hired 180 new employees
- \* Provided Medicare Supplement with prescription care to retirees
- \* Provided new priority badges for all Board of County Commissioners employees and Constitutional Officers
- \* Completed the conversion of all employee files onto the laser fiche system
- \* Trained employees on the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) life-saving device – to date, a total of 100 employees are trained
- \* Revised the County ordinance to establish a central Safety Committee to look at accident and incident prevention and to establish a comprehensive safety training program
- \* Reduced total workers compensation payments by a third
- \* Conducted a Health and Safety Fair to promote workplace safety and wellness awareness to employees

## → Information Technology

The mission of the Information Technology Department is to provide the solutions, tools and support that ensures the highest possible return on the County's investment in information systems. The function of Information Technology is to provide a robust and stable network environment; innovative web research, design and support; dependable quality hardware, software, operations and customer service support; diverse application and database support; and advanced and cost effective technology solutions. The department has 55 positions to provide support to the County organization, covering over 35 locations and the 19th Judicial Courts System that includes the local four-County Treasure Coast area.

### ▾ 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Upgraded security and implemented a Citrix server that allows secure remote access to the County network
- \* Converted Banner system to web-based application
- \* Processed 12,606 work order requests
- \* Installed 317 new PCs
- \* Installed three Private Branch Exchange (PBX) telephone systems
- \* Opened 21 seat state-of-the-art computer lab

# → Mosquito Control

## ↘ 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Completed 793 service requests
- \* Developed and refined vector control and sentinel monitoring efforts – including the addition of one sentinel flock in Port St. Lucie
- \* Improved coordination with Florida Department of Health and Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory and the Centers for Disease Control health agencies as part of the statewide West Nile virus and Saint Louis Encephalitis response plans
- \* Initiated Malarial vector monitoring
- \* Completed spraying fleet conversion to computer-assisted, Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) mapping systems
- \* Continued Brazilian pepper/exotic plant eradication and maintenance program for 30 miles of mosquito impoundment dikes
- \* Completed Phase I of public access construction activities at Vitolo Family Park at Middle Cove Park (Riverside)
- \* Coordinated with the Fairgrounds development and planning effort, and purchased and used 34 Mosquito Magnets at 2003 County Fair, capturing over 40,000 mosquitoes



The Mosquito Control District is a dependent taxing district, overseen by its own Board and the State of Florida, Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control, Mosquito Control Section.

The 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 301 square miles within St. Lucie County. The District employs 22 full-time and 14 part-time positions within four divisions: Administration, Biology, Ground Adulticiding and Impoundment Operations.

# → Utilities

The current St. Lucie County Utilities organized in 1994. St. Lucie County Utilities has established water and wastewater utility service areas on North and South Hutchinson Island and in the Mainland North County areas.

## ↘ 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Implemented tier rates to promote water conservation at the districts
- \* Installed security cameras at the Customer Service area
- \* Completed the South Hutchinson Island District's four lift stations and built an additional lift station that includes a force main extension to the Martin County line to allow for future engineering interconnects
- \* Completed the North Hutchinson Island District's extension of the reclaimed water line under a grant from the South Florida Water Management District
- \* Improved the wastewater treatment facility on North Hutchinson Island including a new office/maintenance storage building, modifications to the head works, digesters and new air quality system
- \* Implemented the Airport District that included installation of over 50 meters on airport property and a sewer line extension at the Airport Industrial Park
- \* Completed construction of a surge tank and reinstallation of the clarifier at the North County district (Holiday Pines) wastewater plant



# Public Works

The Public Works Department consists of the following divisions: Administration, Code Compliance, Engineering, Solid Waste, Environmental Resources, Road and Bridge, Erosion District.

## Administration

Public Works Administration provides support to the various Public Works Divisions and to the general public

### 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Obtained National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program permits for the county stormwater system and for county-owned facilities
- \* Built Fairgrounds Water Treatment Plant

## Code Compliance

St. Lucie County continues to grow at a rapid pace and the Code Compliance Division is meeting the challenge with an increase in personnel and implementing new software to meet the ever-increasing demand from permits to inspections.

The new Wal-Mart Distribution Center has pushed construction value over the \$200 million mark, the highest in the history of the County, resulting in \$210,013,688 of total construction value. Single family home has increased 55.6% over 2002 with a total of 701 homes being permitted.

The Code Compliance Division consists of the Permitting Division, Building Inspections Division, Contractor's Licensing Division and Code Enforcement Division. With all the new construction happening in St. Lucie County, the Contractor Licensing section has been very busy. The licensing investigator covers the entire county, which is 620 square miles. Code Enforcement's caseload will dramatically rise now that new codes have been implemented. Code Enforcement uses the new Exterior Maintenance Code, is handling noise complaints and has also started a more proactive approach towards condemnations.

### 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Obtained National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program permits for the county stormwater system and for county-owned facilities
- \* Issued 11,449 permits, an 11.8% increase over 2002
- \* Performed 62,807 inspections, an increase of 24.8% over 2002
- \* Increased the Insurance Service Organization's audit Building Code Effectiveness Grading Classification overall score from a 77.9 in 1998 to a 83.97 in 2003
- \* Maintained a 48-hour response time to all code complaints and 24 hour response time to any life safety complaint
- \* Handled 1,000 cases per officer and are expected to handle up to 1,200 each during 2004
- \* Handled a total of 6,301 cases with 424 cases going before the Code Enforcement Board

## Engineering



The Engineering Division proposes, designs, and implements projects in stormwater management, transportation system enhancements and infrastructure maintenance. The Engineering Division implements the Stormwater Management Program, the Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) and the Erosion District Program.



Midway Road & Glades Cutoff Road Intersection Improvements

## Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Baling and Recycling Facility is a 331 acre site that receives and processes solid waste products from residents and commercial properties in St. Lucie County.

### 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Baled 155,000 tons of garbage and saved a total of 2,565,000 cubic feet of space at the landfill
- \* Began construction on the Construction and Demolition Recycling Facility to be completed by October 2004
- \* Provided 100,000 cubic yards of dredge material to the Wal-Mart Distribution Center project
- \* Toured representatives of nine South American countries at the Solid Waste Baling and Recycling Facility
- \* Installed the second phase of the methane gas collection system to eliminate odor

### 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Completed designs and implemented construction of Wal-Mart Distribution Center – related projects: Midway Road & Glades Cutoff Road Intersection Improvements, Midway/Glades Cutoff Road Utilities Expansion, South Jenkins Road Extension
- \* Completed the construction of: Rehabilitation improvements to the Edwards Road bridge over 5-Mile Creek, Camino Court culvert replacement project, Phase II and Phase III construction of the Lakewood Park Recreational Path, Bay Street Baffle Box
- \* Completed the design and implemented construction of the Picos Road reconstruction project between Rock Road and Kings Highway
- \* Completed the design and successfully bid the Starr Farms culvert replacement project
- \* Completed the design for: Expansion of 25th Street from two lanes to four lanes between Midway Road and Edwards Road, Master Stormwater Plan for Paradise Park, Improvements and signalization of Edwards Road and Selvitz Road intersection, Bridge rehabilitation improvements to the Glades Cutoff Road bridge over South Florida Water Management District's C-24 canal, Stormwater treatment pond at Sunrise Boulevard and Platt's Branch, Intersection improvements at Weatherbee Road and U.S. 1, Culvert carrying Carlton-Adams Road over Header Canal



Wal-Mart Distribution Center

## Environmental Resources

The Environmental Resources Division (ERD) has fifteen employees and is responsible for the development, permitting, protection and enhancement of the natural resources of the properties acquired the County. This includes habitat restoration, land management and public access on environmental lands in accordance with approved management plans that will provide passive educational programs to the public through guided and self-guided tour programs. In addition, the ERD is responsible for education and outreach for children and adults and for reviewing upcoming development proposals in St. Lucie County to ensure compliance with the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Code. The ERD has more than 100 volunteers that contributed approximately 2,500 hours over the past year

### 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Opened Sweetwater Hammock, a 15 acre nature preserve off of 25th Street and Wildcat Cove, a 114 acre site on North Hutchinson Island for public use
- \* Completed boardwalks at Spruce Bluff opening the AIS trail for public use
- \* Designed and distributed 30,000 informational inserts designed to highlight the County's natural areas
- \* Lead 24 programs on the County's natural areas with a total attendance of 250 people
- \* Processed over 300 vegetation removal/exemption permits (an increase of 10% over 2002)
- \* Saw over 10,000 visitors at the Oxbow Eco-Center to hike the trails, attend guided tours and programs or visit the centers' exhibits and attracted over 2,000 participants to special events
- \* Trained 63 teachers through In-Service Workshops including the Watershed Program, Project WET and Envirothon



## Road and Bridge

The Road and Bridge Division has 83 employees, plus 16 contract labor employees. The Division has four Operating Units – Maintenance, Traffic, Drainage and Stormwater – and is responsible for providing maintenance and reconstructing of County roadways and drainage facilities.

The Maintenance Section is responsible for maintaining 348 miles of paved roadways, 119 miles of rock/dirt roads, and 46 miles of asphalt milled roads. Road maintenance includes right-of-way mowing, surface patching, shoulder repair, and grading of dirt roads.

The Traffic Section is responsible for designing 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.

The Drainage Unit is responsible for the mechanical cleaning of 1,100+ 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.

### 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Installed 1,306 signs and posts
- \* Installed 143 feet of guardrail
- \* Restriped 51 miles of roadway
- \* Resurfaced 16 miles of roadway
- \* Issued 261 permits
- \* Completed construction at the new fairgrounds

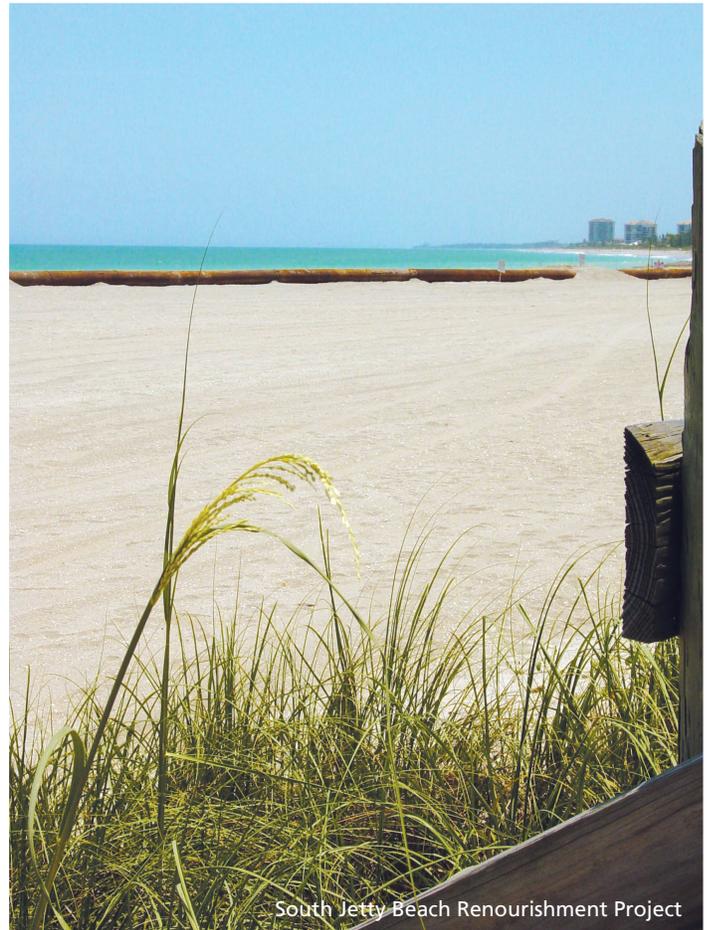


## ***Erosion District***

The St. Lucie County Erosion District was created in 1967 by a special act of the Florida Legislature with the intent and purpose to provide a means to manage beach erosion problems in St. Lucie County.

The Erosion District provides information, analysis and staff support sufficient for the County Administrator and the Erosion District Board to make well-informed decisions. The Erosion District is dedicated to providing technical expertise and sound engineering judgment in evaluating beach erosion and inlet management issues. The District is primarily responsible for planning and coordinating beach, environmental and coastal issues with local, state and federal agencies.

Additional duties include management of the artificial reef program. The District is also responsible for preparation of a fiscal budget, project administration and management, overseeing consultant contracts, and seeking funding assistance.



South Jetty Beach Renourishment Project

### **▾ 2003 Accomplishments:**

- \* Coordinated renourishment (300,000 cubic yards) of a segment of shoreline immediately south of the Fort Pierce Inlet with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- \* Secured grant funds (\$200,000) from Florida Inland Navigation District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to complete the North Causeway Island Shoreline Stabilization project
- \* Received \$974,000 in grant funds from the Florida Department of Environment Protection for various activities associated with the Fort Pierce Beach project
- \* Coordinated the construction of a five-acre artificial reef with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for mitigation of the beach nourishment project
- \* Completed comprehensive beach and inlet monitoring program

# Public Safety ←

The Public Safety Department consists of Animal Control, Radiological Planning, 911 Central Communications Center, Emergency Management, Marine Safety.



## *Animal Control*

The Animal Control division is responsible for enforcing the state statutes and the local ordinances regarding animals. The personnel staff consists of one coordinator, two full-time officers and two part-time officers.

### ▾ *2003 Accomplishments:*

- \* Handled 9,447 complaints: 177 vicious animal reports, 105 bite cases and investigated 245 cruelty cases
- \* Transported 2,049 animals to the Humane Society
- \* Educated citizens through numerous presentations at neighborhood associations and schools

## *Radiological Planning*

The Radiological Coordinator, with one clerical staff, coordinates disaster planning and mitigation involving Florida Power & Lights 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. The Special Needs Registry, averaging about 500 county residents, is maintained on a daily basis and is updated semi-annually.

Radiological training is planned and conducted annually for all law enforcement, fire/rescue personnel, school bus drivers and is available to local ambulance services, transit authorities, county and municipal agencies.

### ▾ *2003 Accomplishments:*

- \* Trained 866 personnel from throughout the Treasure Coast area
- \* Completed final coordination for a nuclear power plant non-evaluated exercise that involved Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie County agencies, Martin, Palm Beach, Indian River Counties and State Division of Emergency Management
- \* Planned and coordinated a medical transport drill with the St. Lucie County Fire District, St. Lucie Power Plant and Lawnwood Regional Medical Center
- \* Distributed Nuclear Power Plant Safety Planning Booklets to 117,019 addresses within a 10-mile emergency planning zone
- \* Conducted quarterly tests on the St. Lucie Siren System to maintain public awareness of its function and ensure operability

## 911 Communications Center

The 911 Central Communications Center handles all 911 calls for fire, rescue and law enforcement for the City of Fort Pierce, the City of Port St. Lucie and the unincorporated areas of the County. The Center employs 51 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees



## Emergency Management

A coordinator and one administrative employee operate Emergency Management. The Emergency Management Division handles and coordinates all major emergencies within incorporated and unincorporated local jurisdictions, working with local, state and federal agencies.

## Marine Safety

Marine Safety consists of nine full-time, three part-time and ten summer time temporary employees. All full-time employees are required to have an Emergency Medical Technician State Certification and the CPR Certification for the Professional Rescuer is renewed yearly. There are 11 lifeguard towers throughout St. Lucie County, six of which are manned all year round. They are located at Pepper Park, South Beach Boardwalk, Kimberly Bergalis Park, Surfside Park, Jaycee Park, Frederick Douglass Memorial Park and Waveland Beach. The remaining towers are occupied Memorial Day to Labor Day.

### 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Handled 324,376 calls on the 16 E-911 trunks and over 200,000 calls on the administration lines of which 28,437 were alarm calls, 26,289 were rescue calls and 4,132 were fire calls.
- \* Upgraded the Dictaphone Freedom System used for recording incoming 911 lines and radios, and Installed an enhanced 911 phone system for the 22 positions
- \* Purchased a redundancy machine for the Central Communication's mainframe computer to backup the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system

### 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Tracked 16 named tropical storms during the 2003 Tropical Storm Season
- \* Responded to over 40 call-outs including hazardous material spills, fires and other emergency incidents
- \* Conducted various exercises including nuclear power plant and hurricane involving local, state and federal officials
- \* Conducted site visits for approximately 45 facilities with hazardous substances and compiled data to be used for emergency response
- \* Assisted sponsoring and attended terrorism training
- \* Conducted disaster orientation for County department heads

### 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Saw approximately 445,663 visitors to the guarded beaches
- \* Took over 7,000 preventative actions including 97 first-aid, six lost patrons (all found), 24 water rescues and zero fatalities
- \* Took 24 enforcement actions and 28 boat and personal watercraft warnings
- \* Educated citizens on beach safety at area clubs, elementary schools and middle schools



# Parks and Recreation

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide customer-focused park and recreation services that meet the needs of St. Lucie County residents.

The Parks and Recreation Department is divided into several divisions including: Parks, Recreation, Administration, Fairgrounds and the Golf Course.

The divisions maintain, operate, program and facilitate the following venues: 25 baseball fields, 10 outdoor basketball courts, three outdoor bocce ball courts, one mobile sound stage, five sets of transportable bleachers, 12 batting cages, one campground, 24 outdoor shuffleboard courts, two outdoor racquetball courts, three soccer fields, six softball fields, three swimming pools, 24 tennis courts, six outdoor volleyball courts, three outdoor walking tracks, one bicycling trail, two equestrian trails, one fitness course/trail, one nature trail, one 18-hole golf course, one sports complex with seven professional baseball fields, one Civic Center/Convention Center, one Fairground and seven watercraft launching areas.

Parks and Recreation maintains a departmental budget of over \$11,500,000 and employs 135 full-time employees and 33 yearly and seasonal part-time employees.

## 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Began the \$10 million improvements and renovations to Tradition Field
- \* Negotiated for transfer of Lawnwood Stadium ownership from the St. Lucie County School Board to the County
- \* Worked with the St. Lucie County School Board, United Way and Children's Services Council to teach 125 children in the 21st Century Learning Centers Program how to swim at no cost to the children
- \* Implemented a successful teen mentor program at Lincoln Park Community Center and introduced a teen summer camp
- \* Organized the Lincoln Park Community Center Community Choir for children
- \* Installed new playground equipment at Open Space Park, Collins Park and Sheraton Plaza and installed domino/checkers tables at Open Space Park
- \* Coordinated, researched and implemented a dog park at Walton Rocks Beach
- \* Completed construction of a 1,600 square foot pavilion, built new practice green at clubhouse and built a new tee on the #10 hole at the Fairwinds Golf Course
- \* Ranked in the top five statewide from the Sport Turf Managers at the Fairwinds Golf Course



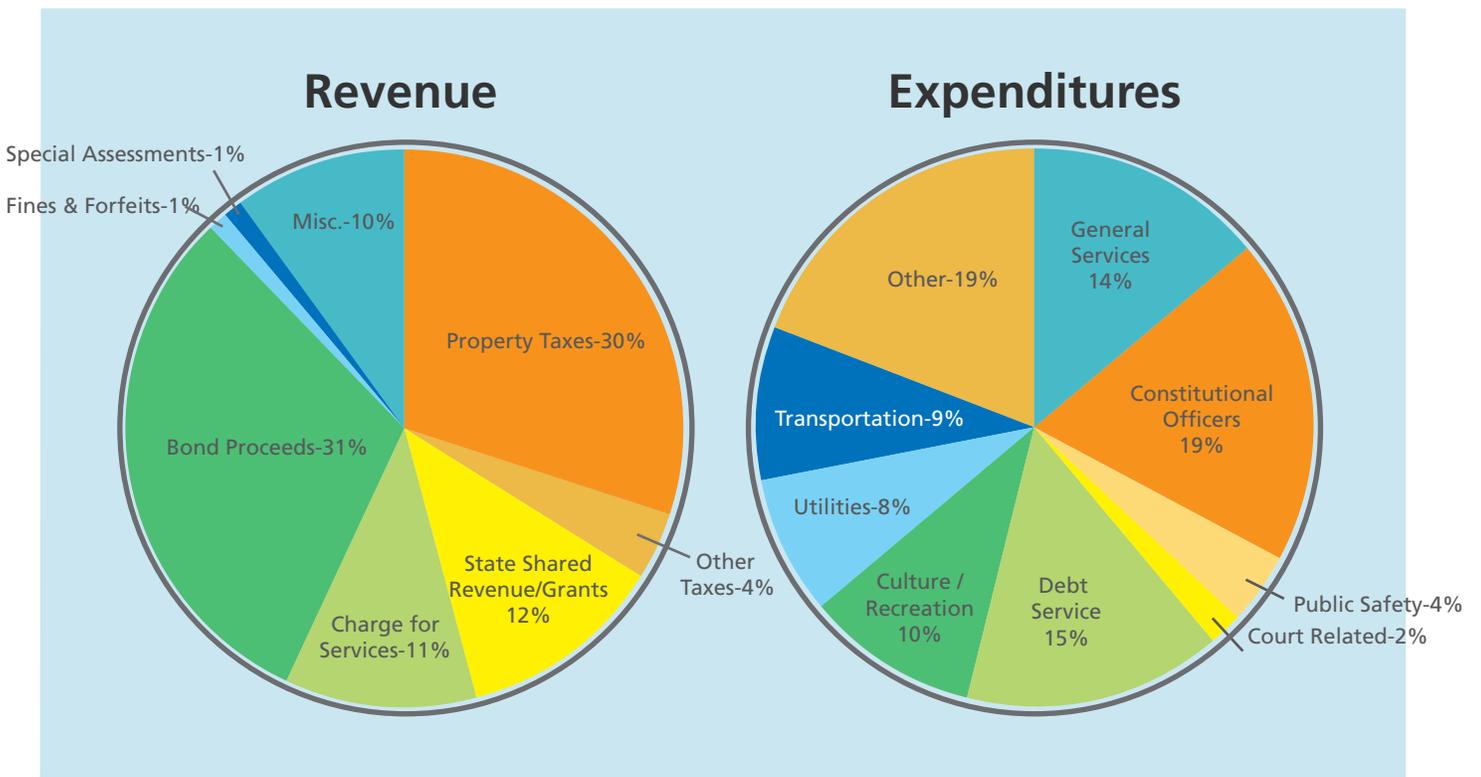
# Management and Budget

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) staff of professionals include four Analysts, one Analyst Intern and an Executive Secretary. Responsibilities include being point of contact for departmental budget issues, grants oversight, revenue and/or expenditure forecasting, monitoring the Board's debt schedule, monitoring funds and estimating cash balances, conducting statistical analysis, developing pro forma models and preparing studies at the request of the County Administrator or Board.

## 2003 Accomplishments:

- \* Managed the \$426.5 million 2003 fiscal year budget
- \* Received the Government Finance Officers Association's "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" for the fifth consecutive year
- \* Posted the budget on the County's web page enabling anyone with Internet access to view the entire document
- \* Posted the Budget Prepbook to the County's Intranet to assist departmental budget coordinators in preparation of their individual annual budgets
- \* Monitored 44 individual debt obligations issued by the Board and ensured the payments, totaling approximately \$11.7 million, were made in a timely manner
- \* Oversaw the management of 85 grants valued at \$24,233,005
- \* Processed 2,824 line-to-line transfers, 164 budget amendments and 67 budget resolutions

## 2003 Fiscal Year Actual Revenue and Expenditures





***"HIGH PERFORMANCE"***  
***2003 St. Lucie County***  
***Annual Report***

St. Lucie County  
Board of County Commissioners  
2300 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982  
(772) 462-1100  
[www.co.st-lucie.fl.us](http://www.co.st-lucie.fl.us)