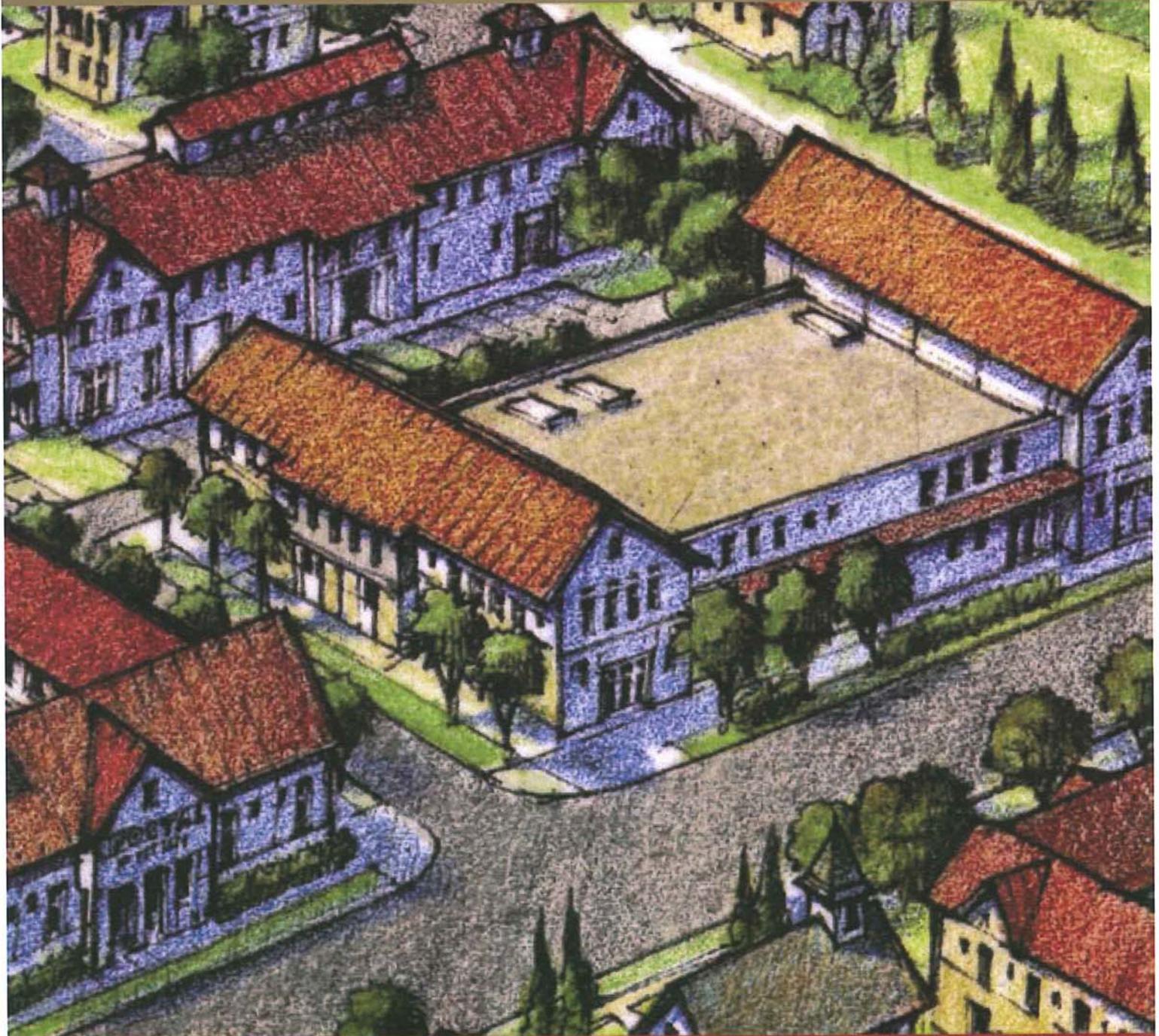


Moving forward...

ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA
2006 ANNUAL REPORT



....from Good to Great!

Message from the Commissioners

Dear Residents & Visitors of St. Lucie County,

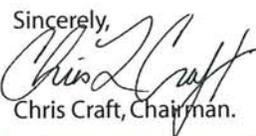
As chairman of the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, I'm pleased to present to you the 2006 St. Lucie County Annual Report, emphasizing this year's theme "Moving from Good to Great." While that's something that I believe the County staff and the elected officials do on an annual basis, 2006 was a significant year of forward progress for St. Lucie County.

St. Lucie County continues to lead by example on many fronts. The Solid Waste Department is embarking on a cutting-edge Plasma Arc Gasification facility that will reduce waste at the landfill. By securing the East Coast headquarters for the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Research, St. Lucie County is one step closer to transforming the Treasure Coast into the Research Coast, creating high-paying jobs and a positive economic future for our residents and children. Continued collaboration with Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Florida Atlantic University, the Smithsonian Marine Station, USDA, Indian River Community College and the University of Florida will only further propel St. Lucie County's economic engine and create higher education opportunities.

On the environmental side, St. Lucie County continues to lead the way by building new hybrid-use parks that mix recreational activities such as soccer fields and disc golf courses with passive recreation including interactive hiking trails such as those found at the new Weldon B. Lewis Park and St. Lucie Village Heritage Park as well as the soon-to-be completed Lakewood Park Regional Park. We've taken steps to restore the environment through our beach restoration projects near Blind Creak and through the artificial reef program, where we turned more than 100 tons of concrete, including part of the demolished Civic Center, into habitat for groupers, snappers, lobsters and other marine life. Additionally, in an effort to improve the environment through smarter growth management, St. Lucie County is finalizing alternative planning strategies such as the Towns, Villages and Countryside plan as well as the Rural Lands Stewardship program.

These are just a few "great" examples of the steps St. Lucie County as taken. Throughout this report you'll find many more "great" examples of the accomplishments the County's various departments have made in 2006.

So please be sure to join us as we continue "Moving from Good to Great."

Sincerely,

Chris Craft, Chairman.



ST. LUCIE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982
(772) 462-1100
www.stlucieco.gov

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.

COMMISSIONERS

** pictured left to right*

DOUG COWARD

District 2

JOSEPH E. SMITH

District 1

PAULA A. LEWIS

District 3

CHRIS CRAFT

District 5

CHARLES GRANDE

District 4





Douglas M. Anderson
County Administrator



Faye Outlaw
Assistant County Administrator



Ray Wazny
Assistant County Administrator

Message from the County Administrator

Dear Residents of St. Lucie County and Visitors:

2006 was a good year for St. Lucie County. For the first time in two years we had no hurricanes and had the largest property tax rate reduction in recorded history of 8.1 percent. Over the past three years the property tax rate has been reduced by 12.1 percent. We recognize that this is of little comfort to businesses and non-homesteaders, but we are limited on the local level by state law on the controlling of increased property values

Without having a hurricane this year, we were able to continue our financial recovery from the 2004 and 2005 storms and focus on bringing new jobs to the community, county capital projects and community planning. We were also able to host family recreation programs including the Zora Neal Hurston Festival, Family Campout at the Savannas Recreation Area and the National Biker's Roundup.

New Jobs:

Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Research - Through a collaborative effort between the State of Florida, City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County Economic Development Council, Core Communities, Florida Atlantic University and community leaders we were successful in bringing this world leader in molecular research to St. Lucie County and creating 185 jobs.
Allied Universal Corporation - This is a \$32 million expansion of an existing business that will create 60 new jobs with an average wage rate of \$20.50 per hour. This state-of-the-art plant will produce a high quality sodium hypochlorite used to treat drinking water and waste treatment water.

Remetronix, Inc. - This also is an expansion of an existing business that will add 10 new jobs with an average wage of \$22 per hour, specializing in the installation, de-installation and transport of medical imaging equipment and pharmaceutical devices.

Community Planning:

The Town's Village's and Countryside Comprehensive Plan Amendment was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners after conducting 132 public meetings. Winning numerous state and national awards, this plan set aside 18,000 acres within the urban service boundary in the north county that will allow for large open spaces within these future developments and will include connectivity of roads, waterways, utilities and parks. The developers of these projects will pay for these improvements.

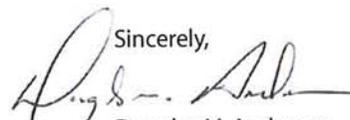
Capital Projects:

Roads and Sidewalks -The Board of County Commissioners took a major step towards funding roads and sidewalks during the 2006/2007 budget process. They authorized setting aside a portion of the capital millage rate over the next 20 years to fund \$43 million to design and/or construction of at least nine major road and sidewalk projects. This \$43 million will enable the County to obtain matching grants resulting in our ability to expedite construction of these projects at a savings to local residents.

Clerk of the Courts Building - This 57,000-square-foot office building is under construction in downtown Fort Pierce at a cost of \$11.5 million. Following the 2004 hurricanes, the County has been forced to rent office space for the Clerk's staff. When completed in 2007 the Clerk's staff will be once again located adjacent to the Courthouse.

The County has many other capital projects either underway or going under construction in 2007 such as a new special needs shelter/auditorium, a regional park in Lakewood Park, soccer fields, widening of South 25th Street, drainage improvements, utility expansion and a new emergency operations center.

As we grow, we will continue to strive to be the best and focus on new high paying jobs, infrastructure expansion and improvements, our environment, controlled growth and lowering the property tax rate to our residents. So join us, as we continue to move forward from good to great!

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Anderson,
County Administrator

Airport



A Gulfstream G-115B with a modified G-115 wing sits just outside the jet hanger at the St. Lucie County International Airport.

St. Lucie County International Airport, which covers 3,660 acres and is owned and operated by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, is managed and maintained by an Airport Department that includes five maintenance and operations staff and five administrative personnel. The mission of the Airport Department is to operate the St. Lucie County International Airport in a safe, efficient, and environmentally sensitive manner, while serving the airport tenants and the general aviation community, and the air transportation needs of the County. The Airport is committed to maintaining a positive relationship with our neighbors and users, while striving to become financially self-sustaining through the full use of airport owned properties for commercial and industrial businesses.

The Airport continues to seek federal and state funds to improve its airfield facilities to serve our customers. Accomplished this year is the rehabilitation of Taxiway Echo, installation of the first phase of a new security identification system, implementation of a new vehicle permit program, training of airport employees and tenants on security and airfield driving, the rehabilitation of the airfield lighting system, the completion of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program and training for tenants, FAA approval of the Federal Aviation Regulation Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study, development of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Plans for 2006 and 2007, and acquisition of a new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting truck using St. Lucie Fire District and FDOT funds. In addition, the infrastructure construction project for the Airport West Commerce Park is continuing, which will provide 150 acres of new industrial development within the Foreign Trade Zone at the Airport.

The Airport also had a Fly-In/Open House in April, in which the general aviation community and public were invited to see the facilities at the Airport, look at the aircraft on static display, and take an aerial tour of the County using pilots and aircraft from the Local Chapter of EAA. The event was also a fund-raising event for the Fort Pierce Exchange Club CASTLE. The two Fixed Based Operators, Fort Pierce Jet Center and Jet Service Center, served lunch and the proceeds along with other donations went to the Exchange Club CASTLE.

- Director Diana Lewis was elected to serve on the Florida Airports Council's Board of Directors. The Florida Airport Council (FAC) is the largest airport-specific organization in Florida. The nine-member board serves the association that is made up of 19 commercial service airports and 70 general aviation airports, as well as corporate, student and government members and aviation trades that support the airport industry throughout the state
- Installed the first phase of a new security identification system
- Received FAA approval of the Federal Aviation Regulation Part 150 Noise Compatibility study
- Developed the Disadvantaged Businesses Enterprise Plan for 2006 and 2007
- Acquired a new Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Truck using St. Lucie Fire District and Florida Department of Transportation funds
- Held the first annual Aviation Day where students were invited to learn more about careers in aviation and the businesses operating at the airport
- Worked with SLCTV staff and the Mayor of St. Lucie Village to produce an informational video regarding the Airport's Noise Abatement Program

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Civic Center-demolition of building following 2004 hurricanes
- Rock Road Jail:
Complete update on facilities security system
New roof on Pod A-1
Installation of sallyport doors
New maintenance storage building
Removal of EIFS system and the addition of water proofing on Pod B4
New roof on jail Chapel
- Weldon B. Lewis Park -
Construction of a new 53-acre park provided with assistance from grant funding
- Central Services - Complete renovation of Administration Office building
- Pepper Park-Installation of lift station
- Central Services - Installed two additional 12,000-gallon, diesel and gasoline storage tanks
- Purchased and installed six new lifeguard towers at Pepper Park, S. Beach Boardwalk and Frederick Douglas Beach
- Platt's Creek - Complete renovation of office and storage area
- Savannas Campground-New maintenance building
- New entrance sign for the Historical Museum/Marine Center
- Voting Precincts - Provided ADA accessibility/renovation to 79 precincts

Central Services

MISSION: While we maintain all County facilities, oversee remodeling and new construction, we will offer prompt professional service at the highest quality.

Central Services Department is made up of approximately 100 full and part-time employees and has seven divisions:

- Administration
- Construction/Renovation
- Administrative Judicial Maintenance
- Air Conditioning
- Rock Road Jail Maintenance
- Housekeeping
- Service Garage

Each of the employees that make up these divisions play a vital role within St. Lucie County by working together to provide high-quality service at the lowest cost to County Departments and County Agencies. St. Lucie County's growth has been phenomenal and Central Services strives to support that growth by upgrading many of the County facilities, as well as new construction, to better meet the needs of all County employees who serve the community.

2006-Fast Facts:

- This past year's operating budget was \$8.5 million, \$43 million for capital projects, and \$1.5 million for maintenance projects.
- We are responsible for more than 100 buildings; 28 of these are major public buildings. This works out to 1.6 million square feet of building space and approximately 4,500 tons of air conditioning.
- We currently manage \$2.6 million in grant-funded projects.
- Our department oversees all of the fleet for St. Lucie County employees, consisting of 325 light fleet and 101 light trucks and heavy equipment.
- Fuel: This past year we used 202,194 gallons of diesel fuel and 224,277 gallons of gasoline.



Central Services staff helps with the installation of the Art-in-Public Places/Community Transit Bench Project.



Central Services monitors all County construction projects including the new Clerk of the Court Building in downtown Fort Pierce.

Community Services



Transportation, including the Treasure Coast Connector, is just one of the division of Community Services

The Community Services Department is comprised of five divisions including the Housing Division, Treasure Coast Community Action Agency, Social Services Division, Grants/Contracts Division and Transportation Division. The services include down payment and closing cost assistance for income eligible families to purchase a home, assistance for emergency repairs to awarded homes, assistance with rent and utility bills, indigent cremation services and coordination of the transit system for St. Lucie County. The department has had a significant financial impact on the community by providing improved services to the citizens and improved cooperation between governmental entities.

- Coordinated 515,846 transportation trips for the demand response service funded through the State of Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.
- Received a \$40,000 grant for radio promotions for Community Transit to increase ridership.
- Placed decorative benches at Transit stops through a Florida Department of Transportation grant and local funds. These hurricane strong benches provide functional art throughout the community and feature the works of local artists.
- Assisted the Council on Aging of St. Lucie, Inc. to establish a trolley route for St. Lucie West and to increase ridership by 40 percent through a major marketing campaign.
- Received \$50,000 in grant funds for water conservation for the Fort Pierce Housing Authority.
- Assisted approximately 10 families using HOME Again funding and 15 families using Community Development Block Grant funding to correct life safety and/or code violations in their home. Many of these families suffered damage from the 2004 and/or 2005 hurricanes.
- Assisted six families with emergency home repairs using Hurricane Housing Recovery funding.
- Used 2004 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Initiative funding to support a Municipal Services Benefit Unit to eliminate drinking water contamination in the South 26th Street area in a partnership with the City of Fort Pierce.
- Committed \$125,000 toward a Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) for water and sewer service for 43 families in the Indian River Estates area.
- Supported the development of affordable housing by providing \$4 million to two developers for the construction of approximately 250 town homes and apartments.
- Applied and was awarded 2005 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Initiative funding in the amount of \$1,332,433 in a partnership with the Cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie as well as St. Lucie County.

- Administered contracts and grants to the community in excess of \$30,598,807 to provide services to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity; to assist with housing, mental health care, prenatal care and delivery, transportation, nutrition, after-school programs and elder care; to prevent drowning and child abuse; and to provide information, referral, telephone counseling, crisis intervention and suicide prevention services
- Worked in conjunction with the National Association of Counties to provide a no-cost discount prescription drug card to County residents. More than 90,000 cards were distributed and saved residents an average of 20 percent on each of their purchases
- Assisted 171 families toward self-sufficiency with funds received through a Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- Saved the County General Fund in excess of \$1 million by denying incorrect Medicaid billings and claims for persons who were not qualified to receive hospital cost reimbursement under the Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA)
- Handled over 32,000 telephone inquiries and walk-in clients requesting services and either provided service or referred to a partner agency for assistance
- Coordinated the efforts of the Affordable Attainable Housing Task Force to identify potential solutions for the housing crisis and obtain a consultant to provide further input and implementation assistance

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed a new video program hosted by Anita Neal called "I Need to Know" showcasing educational resources within the Department and throughout the community
- Provided training on site and through on-line resources for more than 1,200 professionals in pesticide application and pesticides
- Recycled more than 85 miles of fishing line collected from recycling bins
- Provided hurricane shutters for 19 Habitat for Humanity homes and 84 Fort Pierce Housing Authority senior units as well as providing training for recipients in proper installation and other hurricane protection measures
- Taught more than 60 Junior Master Gardeners about entomology, horticulture, and science project methodologies
- Trained 90 adult and teen residents to develop a budget and manage credit cards
- Opened a South County Office at the Walton Road County Annex Building to better meet the needs of Port St. Lucie residents
- Trained 245 people how to utilize biological control agents to manage invasive species and released 2,416 *Gratiana* beetles to control tropical soda apple beetles on nine ranches in St. Lucie County in addition to distributing 425 melaleuca weevils and 7,875 melaleuca psyllids to control melaleuca on infested sites

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, Financial Management, Growth Management, Windstorm Mitigation, 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, five full-time program specialists, one executive assistant, five staff assistants and a maintenance technician. The continued cooperative effort between the Extension Office and the St. Lucie County School Board includes an agriscience instructor/leader and a vocational agricultural technician. The Department has 75 Master Gardeners that volunteered 11,311 hours addressing homeowners' concerns and 2,065 adult volunteers that play a role in the St. Lucie County 4-H program reaching more than 24,500 youth in St. Lucie County.



Through the Cooperative Extension Department 75 Master Gardeners have volunteered nearly 12,000 hours, including spending time with school children teaching the importance of agriculture.



In addition to providing hurricane shutters, the Extension's "Hurricane House" also held numerous group and individual workshops on how to properly install shutters and prepare a home for a storm.

County Attorney



By adding a Criminal Justice Coordinator and support staff, the County Attorney's Office has been able to work with the Sheriff's Department and Court System to implement new programs to reduce inmate population at the Rock Road facility.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

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 coordinating the efforts of other attorneys representing 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.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION DIVISION

The Property Acquisition 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. Additionally, the Property Acquisition Division reviews Site Plans; process Petitions for Abandonments; review Right-of-Way permits for utility providers; reserve street names for the entire County for future developments; and prepare License Agreements.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR

In August 2005, the County Attorney was assigned the responsibility of supervising the Criminal Justice Coordinator. This new position has been implementing priorities established by the Public Safety Coordinating Council and the County. Additionally, the Criminal Justice Coordinator is responsible for implementing the criminal justice system assessment action plan, and carrying out the County's directives, which includes but is not limited to, gathering data, implementing initiatives and coordinating task forces. Furthermore, this position identifies areas that need improvement and develops strategies that impact the criminal justice system. The Coordinator's responsibilities include oversight of programs, such as Pre-trial/GPS Program, Criminal Case Manager Program, Juvenile Detention Center, Juvenile Assessment Center, Data Exchange Projects, and the Criminal Justice Information Systems Position.

- Drafted 46 Ordinances from Jan. 1, 2006 through Sept. 30, 2006; a total of 334 Resolutions consisting of 330 for the Board of County Commissioners, one for the Mosquito Control District, and three for the Erosion Control District
- Acquired three lots for the Indian River Estates Stormwater Pump Station
- Acquired 23 parcels for the Paradise Park Stormwater project
- Acquired the remaining 12 parcels for the Indrio North Savannahs Environmental Land project
- Acquired two of the most critical parcels (15 acres) in the Hackberry Hammock project (39.12 percent funded by Florida Communities Trust)
- Acquired a 250-acre Conservation Easement lying immediately North of the Bluefield Ranch Preserve (50 percent funded by St. Lucie River Issues Team)
- Processed nine Petitions for Abandonment of road rights-of-way and utility/drainage easements
- Received and processed 20 plus requests for License Agreements
- Processed roughly 215 Right-of-Way Permits

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed the installation of "In A Nutshell" sculpture created by artist Michael McLaughlin at the Walton Road County Annex Building in Port St. Lucie. This project was funded with funds dedicated from the construction of the Annex to the Art in Public Places Trust Fund
- The Art in Public Places (AiPP) committee assisted with the dedication of an interesting sculpture that promotes recycling of construction and demolition materials. The 19-foot tall sculpture produced by artist Brower Hatcher of Mid Ocean Studio, Inc. was funded through a Department of Environmental Protection Innovative Recycling grant and the AiPP Trust Fund, located at the County Administration building
- Completed the purchase and installation of "The Sapling's Canopy" sculpture produced by Jason Losko at Heathcote Botanical Gardens
- Artist Anita Prentice completed 100 mosaic transit art benches to be placed throughout the County
- Celebrated several weekend programs for the public at the Historical Museum including: Native American Heritage Day, Girl Scout Day, Women's History Day, International Museum Day, Polar Express December program and three weeks of themed summer history adventures
- Hosted more than 12,000 Treasure Coast school children at the Historical Museum and the Marine Center
- Hosted more than 10,000 visitors at the Historical Museum, 15,000 visitors at the Marine Center and 30,000 at the Navy UDT SEAL Museum

Cultural Affairs

The Cultural Affairs' dynamic role in the community includes:

- Promoting all aspects of art presented by 25 cultural organizations supported by the mini-grants program;
- Seeding the community with public sculptures and share the artist's knowledge with students through the education outreach program;
- Hosting family-oriented festivals for residents and tourists that celebrate great people like Zora Neale Hurston;
- Honoring and celebrating local artists at the Cultural Affairs Annual meeting, Lucie Awards, and through the ArtsView publication;
- Protecting and sharing our historic heritage through the active programming of the Historical Museum and Historical Commission;
- Partnering with the City of Fort Pierce on the rebirth of the Orange Avenue Post Office into a multicultural humanities center scheduled for opening in 2007;
- Partnering with the Smithsonian Institution to showcase the diversity of coastal ecosystems at the St. Lucie County Marine Center; and
- Partnering with the UDT-SEAL Museum Association, Inc. in attracting 30,000 visitors to our County to experience the "Birthplace of the Navy Frogman."



Photo Credit: Anne Sinnott

In addition to serving more than 10,000 students at the Historical Museum, the staff's education department provides traveling displays to more than 25 schools.



Standing 19-feet tall, Brower Hatcher's recycling sculpture was made from used construction and demolition materials.

Environmental Resources

Photo Credit: Misty Alderman



Environmental Lands Specialist Steve Fousek leads a guided educational hike on one of the County's Environmentally Significant Lands sites.

The Environmental Resources Department (ERD) has 22 employees in three divisions: Environmental Regulations, Environmental Lands and Environmental Education/ Outreach.

The Environmental Lands Division is responsible for the development, permitting, protection and enhancement of the natural resources of the properties acquired by 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 on the County's 7,000 plus acres of Environmentally Significant Lands.

The Environmental Education and Outreach Division (Oxbow Eco-Center) is responsible for education and outreach for children and adults. Programs are dedicated to educational programs that foster an awareness and appreciation of the natural world, an understanding of ecosystems and sustainability, and a sense of stewardship toward Florida and all its inhabitants.



More than 5,000 adults and school children participated in programs such as bird watching at the Oxbow Eco-Center in Port St. Lucie.

The Environmental Regulations Division is responsible for reviewing upcoming development proposals in St. Lucie County to ensure compliance with the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Code and for all permitting associated with vegetation removal in unincorporated St. Lucie County. In addition, they are responsible for making sure that all development on Hutchinson Island is compliant with the County's Sea Turtle Lighting Ordinance.

- Purchased a 220-acre conservation easement adjacent to the Bluefield Ranch Natural Area
- Designed and distributed 25,000 educational brochures
- Lead 20 programs on the County's natural areas with a total attendance of 100 people
- Processed more than 550 vegetation removal/exemption permits
- Sponsored three Community Planting Projects
- Saw nearly 20,000 visitors at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Over 5,000 youth and adults participated in the Oxbow's educational programs with a primary focus of 'Living in a Watershed'
- Over 60 volunteers donated more than 2,000 hours of community stewardship
- The Oxbow sponsored several new and continued programs, including graduating 20 students as Florida Master Naturalists, and sponsoring a Wake-Up Call Lecture Series
- The Oxbow Eco-Center and numerous organizations formed the Treasure Coast Environmental Education Cooperative to coordinate and promote environmental education throughout the region
- Received grants for the removal of exotic plant species on Bluefield Natural Area, Ancient Oaks, and St. Lucie Village Heritage Park. Also received a restoration grant for Paleo Hammock Addition
- Received a boat from the port and began aiding the Health Department in monthly water quality sampling
- Reviewed and processed more than 200 development projects within the County

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GRANTS

- \$500,000 for Restoration of Blind Creek
- \$122,000 for River Park Marina
- \$50,000 for low-income house plumbing improvements
- \$100,000 for Queens Island Trail
- \$400,000 for replacement of storm damaged trees in multiple parks

PURCHASING

- Bid and awarded the \$500 million Plasma Arc Gasification facility which will reduce landfill needs, create a new energy source and add 60 jobs to the community
- Bid and awarded the \$5 million Airport Earthwork Project as a preliminary to the airport runway expansion
- Bid and awarded the following continuing contracts to ensure faster and more efficient project delivery:
 - Landscape Architecture
 - Construction Management
 - Stormwater Management, Design and Permitting
 - Disaster Debris and Monitoring
 - Traffic and Transportation Engineering Services
 - Property Acquisition Services
 - Roadway and Intersection Design
- Upgraded and streamlined the Procurement Card Software System

Grants/Disaster Recover

For the seventh year in a row, County grant writers were able to increase grant funding by securing more than \$13 million in grants. This included funding for Angle Road sidewalks, hurricane protection for low-income housing, the Citizen Emergency Response Team, restoration of Blind Creek, the Special Needs Shelter, and Taylor Creek Dredging. During the past year, the Grants Department assumed responsibility for disaster recovery. In this new role, the department will be responsible for coordinating with FEMA and other federal / state agencies to secure funding for disaster recovery following emergency events. The County continues in its efforts to recover from Hurricanes Frances, Jeanne and Wilma.



Through the Grants Department, the County was able to rebuild hurricane-damaged boardwalks on nature preserves and get these areas re-opened to hikers and nature lovers.

Purchasing

The Purchasing Department serves as the County's central procurement arm for the acquisition of goods and services, capital equipment, plans, studies, and construction. We strive to obtain the best value for the County's dollar while insuring that all procurement activities are conducted in a legal, ethical, and professional manner. Central to the County's Purchasing philosophy is the concept of "Price with Value," while maintaining an "even playing field" for all bidders. The Purchasing Department accomplishes this goal by developing effective systems, methods and procedures for all County staff and vendors to follow, thereby ensuring maximum return to our residents.



The Purchasing staff oversees the bids and contract awarding to all County construction projects including the new Emergency Operations Center to be built at the Fairgrounds.

Growth Management



Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush welcomes the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies to St. Lucie County at a September press conference at the Tradition Town Hall.

Growth Management is comprised of three divisions: Administration, Planning and Tourism and Economic Development. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is part of the Administration Division.

With a staff of 25 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 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, 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 County-wide 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. In addition, the Planning Division provides support through the Environmental Resources Division for the County's continuing efforts at preserving the remaining unique native habitat in the community through the County's Environmentally Significant Lands program.

The Tourism and Economic Development Division is responsible for assisting existing businesses, attracting new businesses and industries, as well as tourists, to St. Lucie County. In conjunction with the Economic Development Council, the Economic Development side secures the available state and federal support programs and funds that can be used to promote economic development in the County. The Tourism side of the Division provides staff support to the St. Lucie County Tourist Development Council whose charge is to monitor the expenditure of the local Tourist Tax dollars and see that funds collected through these "Tourist Taxes" are used in order to attract additional visitors to the area.

The Administration Division of Growth Management oversees the day-to-day operations of the Department. In addition, the Administration Division provides staffing support for the St. Lucie County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) - a county-wide 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.

- Completed the 2030 Martin and St. Lucie Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP) Trend Plan
- Completed the MPO Park-and-Ride Study
- The Economic Development program facilitated the Torrey Pines corporate relocation decision that will provide provide nearly 190 new jobs in the life sciences research field
- Tourism revenues and short-term stays both continue to grow
- The adequate public facilities management system has been updated to provide improved accounting for development project impacts and to implement Florida's new "pay-as-you-grow" legislation
- A new section was created in the department to deal with Developments of Regional Impact and capital improvements planning and programming. Developments of Regional Impact are very large development projects that are governed by State Law. St. Lucie County is a leader in the number of Development of Regional Impact applications
- The department initiated an automated system that is being developed by the County Information Technology staff to meet programmatic standards and needs established by Growth Management Department
- The department initiated consultant work on a Fiscal Impact Analysis Model that will evaluate the money demands on the taxpayers, as well as the increased tax receipts, from proposed and planned land development
- Significantly closer communication and coordination was established with the staff of the City of Fort Pierce. The Assistant Director is tasked to ensure the success of our coordination and communication with the cities

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HUMAN RESOURCES

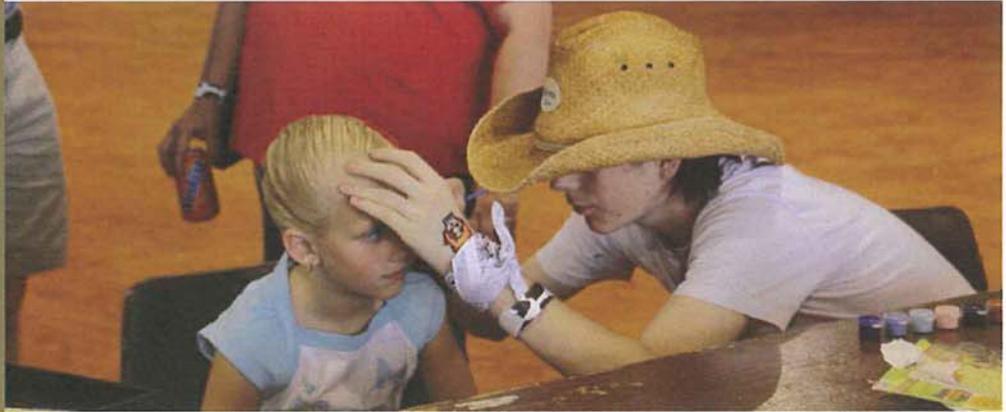
- Processed more than 2,890 applications from the public and hired 170 new employees
- Conducted personnel related training for staff in regards to employee discipline procedures and supervision
- Conducted a Health and Safety Fair to promote workplace safety and wellness awareness to employees and their families
- Provided workplace safety training for more than 300 employees
- Union negotiations, which resulted in a three-year contract
- Updated and distributed new Employee Handbooks
- Implemented new benefits for employees

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Completed more than 13,472 work order requests
- Installed 163 new desktop PC's under the fourth year of the PC Replacement Program
- Upgraded more than 249 desktop PC's under the fourth year of the PC Refresh program
- Upgraded key segments of the County's network to meet the expanding role of technology in serving the residents of St. Lucie County
- Replaced aging communications technologies with state-of-the-art equipment to provide a stable and robust Information Technology system
- Added Engineering, Finance, Road & Bridge and Mosquito Control departments to the County standard PBX (phone) system
- Provided computer training on various programs and applications to County employees and others for a total of more than 340 trained

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 more than 900 employees.



Children enjoy face painting and other activities at the St. Lucie County's Annual Employee Appreciation Day, which draws hundreds of county employees and their families.

Information Technology

The mission of the Information Technology Department is to provide the solution, tools and support that ensures the highest possible return on our customer's investment in information systems. The function of the Information Technology is to provide our customers with: a robust and stable network environment; innovative web research, design and support; dependable quality hardware, software, operations and customer service support; diverse application, database support, 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 60 positions to provide support to the County, covering more than 35 locations.

Charles Rosart, network technician, checks for a live signal on one of the County's data lines.



Network Supervisor Robert Valentino checks the status of an I.T. server.

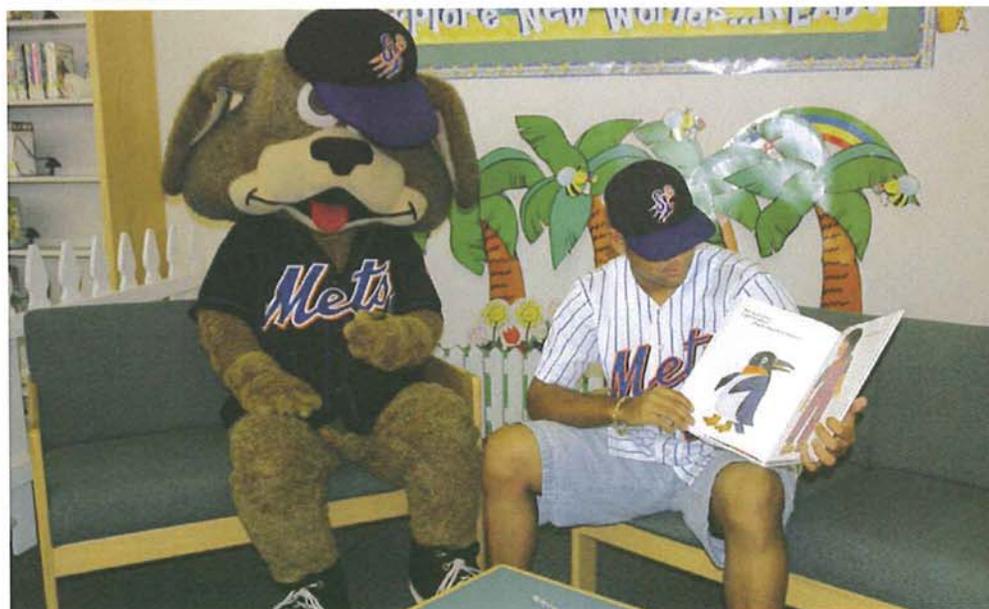


Library

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 and information service at all locations. The library provides programs for children from ages 0-17 throughout the year and programs for the adult population via outside speakers and authors on a regular basis. Library services are offered through five branch locations, one Bookmobile, Books-By-Mail program, nursing home rotating collections and through a Library Cooperative on the St. Lucie West campus of Indian River Community College/Florida Atlantic University. The library has 71 full-time employees, 12 part-time employees and 40 volunteers.



WPBF 25's award-winning weather specialist Mike Lyons talks about the hurricane predictions for 2006 at the Fort Pierce Branch Library.



"Slider" along with a member of the 2006 Florida State League Championship St. Lucie Mets baseball team takes a break from the game to enjoy storytime at the Morningside Library in Port St. Lucie.

- Expanded Waggin' Tales literacy program to three branch locations and added school sites
- Further expansion of Library's DVD and Spanish language collections
- Continued to provide staff support for the statewide Ask-A-Librarian online reference/chat service
- Provided children's outreach services to more than 50 day care centers, summer camps, school visits and community events
- Provided facilitation and books for four Adult and one Young Adult Book Clubs
- Provided rotating depository collections for eight nursing home sites
- Purchased a self-check material system for self check-out at Fort Pierce Branch
- Bookmobile services have resumed their regular schedule for all stops for the first time since the twin hurricanes in 2004
- Bookmobile now has wireless access to the Internet allowing staff access to the library's catalog through iBistro for better service while on-the-road
- Updated and revised the St. Lucie County Almanac
- Treasure Coast Genealogy Society provides bi-weekly genealogy assistance to the general public at the Fort Pierce Branch Library

- Received the Florida Public Relations Association Treasure Coast Chapter's 2006 Award of Distinction for Audio/Video Tools – "Postcards from Home" – a monthly show that highlights attractions in St. Lucie County
- Coordinated ground-breaking ceremonies, dedications and ribbon cutting ceremonies including several Art in Public Places unveilings, Weldon B. Lewis Park dedication and the new Clerk of the Court Building groundbreaking
- Published and distributed the Investment for the Future tabloid in January and July to more than 50,000 households throughout the County
- Premiered two new monthly original programs: "The Lecture Hall" and "I Need to Know"
- Provided live and taped broadcasts of the candidate forums for the 2006 elections
- Assisted the City of Fort Pierce with the creation and daily operations of FPTV – Channel 27, which televises City Commission meetings, as well as original SLCTV programs
- Made more than 100 copies of Board of County Commission, Code Enforcement and Planning & Zoning meetings and original programs for the general public
- Wrote and distributed 179 press releases to more than 2,000 media outlets and residents throughout the Treasure Coast
- Created more than 20 Public Services Announcements to air on SLCTV promoting County attractions and events

Media Relations



Technical Operations Manager Shane DeWitt sets up along side local media for the taping of the Torrey Pines announcement at Tradition Town Hall.

The Media Relations Division of the County's Administration Department is tasked with providing up-to-date information about all Board of County Commission happenings and events to both the residents of St. Lucie County and area media outlets. Through press releases, public service announcements, the County's website and government access channel (SLCTV – Comcast 21), the staff generates publicity for all departments from programs at the libraries to events at the Oxbow Eco-Center.

In addition to producing five monthly original programs, the SLCTV staff televises Board of County Commission meetings and workshops, as well as meetings for the Code Enforcement Board and Planning & Zoning Commission. These meetings are broadcast live on SLCTV and online via SLCTV's website (www.stlucieco.gov/slctv). All meetings and original programs are archived and available for purchase on DVD or for viewing online via the Video on Demand service through the SLCTV website.

The Media Relations Division consists of five employees: the Technical Operations Manager and two Media Specialists for SLCTV, the Public Information Officer and a Senior Staff Assistant. 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.



Technical Operations Manager Shane DeWitt switches cameras during a taping of "Inside St. Lucie" at the Media Relation's studio in Port St. Lucie.



Media Relations Specialist James Kraybill on location at the ground breaking for the new Clerk of the Court building in downtown Fort Pierce.

Mosquito Control District

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 23 full-time, 2 half-time and 14 part-time employees in the following four divisions: Administration, Inspection, Education and Impoundment Operations.



Improved impoundment areas such as this one at the DJ Wilcox site help to reduced nutrient overload in the Indian River Lagoon, and as a result there were no Red Tides all summer during 2006 in the watershed.



Boardwalks and piers along the County's Mosquito Impoundments are great recreational areas for hiking, fishing, bird watching or crabbing.



In addition to preserving and restoring native habitats, the Mosquito Control staff strives to education residents and tourist with informational displays throughout the impoundment areas.

- Continued success in maintaining effective control of vector and nuisance mosquitoes through Integrated Pest Management practices, with over 1.07 million acres controlled by ground chemical applications, and nearly 4,000 acres of coastal wetlands managed using 58 billion gallons of circulation enhancement for water quality maintenance (161,821 hours of pumping at 6,000 gallons per minute)
- Customer responsiveness at 100 percent level for 150 service requests
- Further expansion of vector control and sentinel monitoring efforts (addition of one sentinel flock in Port St. Lucie along the Saint Lucie River), making a total of seven, 6-bird flocks, and coordination with state (DOH and FMEL) and federal (CDC) health agencies, and adjacent counties, as part of the state-wide West Nile virus and Saint Louis Encephalitis Response Plans
- Continued meeting of all success criteria goals for the Bear Point Mitigation Bank, and brisk credit sales (annual sell-out taking place) and reservations into out-years
- No Red Tide all summer in the Lagoon, due to limited nutrient discharge from Lake Okeechobee, limited rainfall locally, lack of importation of the causative organism from the west coast of Florida (where it dominated the environmental news due to a severe outbreak), and high quality circulation in the impoundments

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ANIMAL CONTROL

- Handled 12,627 calls for service, 102 bite cases, 207 vicious animal complaints, and investigated 325 cruelty cases
- Transported 1,784 animals to the Humane Society
- During a STATE OF EMERGENCY, animal control officers assist persons in distress by distributing needed food and water for their pets
- Educated citizens through numerous presentations civic organizations, neighborhood associations and schools

RADICAL PLANNING

- Acted as chief meteorologist at the Emergency Operations Center during Tropical Storm Ernesto
- Assisted in coordinating transportation needs of St. Lucie County special needs residents prior to and after Tropical Storm Ernesto
- Provided radiological training to 1,025 personnel throughout the County
- Coordinated a federal evaluated, nuclear power plant exercise involving Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie County agencies, Martin, Palm Beach, Indian River, and Brevard Counties and State Division of Emergency Management
- Validated the Special Needs Registry during January and June
- Reviewed and updated the Nuclear Power Plant Safety Planning Booklet that is distributed to 136,500 addresses within the 10-mile emergency planning zone
- Completed the changes to the State of Florida Radiological Emergency Plan for the State Division of Emergency Management

Public Safety

The Public Safety Department consists of Animal Control, Radiological Planning, 911 Central Communications Center, Emergency Management, Marine Safety, and 800 MHz.

Animal Control

The Animal Control Division is responsible for enforcing the state statutes and the County ordinances pertaining to animals. Officers inform pet owners of their responsibilities and provide information regarding the spaying and neutering programs in the area. The personnel staff consists of one coordinator, three full-time officers and one part-time officer.

Radiological Planning

The Radiological Coordinator, with one clerical staff, coordinates disaster planning and mitigation involving Florida Power and 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 and 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 300 residents, is maintained on a daily basis. 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.



Staff from the Emergency Operations Center answers the Rumor Control hotline during Tropical Storm Ernesto, processing nearly 1,000 calls.



New lifeguard towers were added to beaches on both North and South Hutchinson Island to provide a safer environment for lifeguards and beachgoers.

911 Central Communications Center

The 911 Central Communications Center handles all the 911 calls for fire, rescue and law enforcement for the City of Fort Pierce, the City of Port St. Lucie and the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office which includes the unincorporated areas of the County. The Center also dispatches all calls to the County Animal Control Officers, Ft. Pierce Animal Control and Port St. Lucie Animal Control. The center employs 57 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 the incorporated and unincorporated local jurisdictions.

Marine Safety

Marine Safety consists of 10 full-time, three part-time and 10 summer-time temporary employees. All full-time employees are required to have an Emergency Medical Technician State Certification as a minimum. Supervisors train on all-terrain vehicles, personal watercraft as well as managerial training.

There are 11 lifeguard towers throughout St. Lucie County, six of which are manned all year round including Pepper Park, South Beach Boardwalk, Kimberly Bergalis, Surfside, Jaycee Park, Frederick Douglas and Waveland Beach. The remaining towers are occupied Memorial Day to Labor Day.

800 MHz:

The 800 MHz department consists of one Information Systems Coordinator and entails the entire 800 MHz communications system for all agencies within St. Lucie County. During Hurricane Wilma, this system allowed communications between all agencies when other systems were inadequate.

911 Central Communications Center

- Handled 848 administration calls and 1,431 "911" calls from August 29- 30 for Tropical Storm Ernesto
- Handled a total of 258,656 "911" calls from January 1 through October 31 of which 28,976 were for rescue and fire calls
- Handled 217,268 calls on the administration line of which 11,980 were alarm calls
- Upgraded the "911" operating system to handle Phase II, VoIP mapping for wireless calls coming into the center

EMERGENCY PLANNING

- Tracked eight named storms during the 2006 Hurricane Season
- Activated for one tropical storm landfall – Tropical Storm Ernesto
- Coordinate and responded to hazardous material spills, and other emergency incidents
- Attended terrorism training along with the National Hurricane Conference and the Governors Hurricane Conference
- Conducted disaster orientation for County department heads
- Assisted in developing a Community Emergency Response Team in St. Lucie County
- Participated in the Local Mitigation Strategy Program (LMS)
- Assisted in the development and annual review Emergency Plans for assisted living facilities, hospitals, nursing homes and group homes in St. Lucie County

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Completed design and permitting of Phase 2 & 3 of the Taylor Creek Dredging Project
- Established a Stormwater Coordinator Position to implement the County NPDES Program
- Established a Road Improvement Plan for the widening of major arterials in the County

CODE COMPLIANCE

- Code Enforcement cases increased by 972 cases while maintaining a 24-hour response time for complaints received
- The Division will add a new Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system in the upcoming year, allowing for real-time inspection results via facsimile
- The demand for Zoning services increased due to the large number of projects approved for construction within the County, including 90 lot splits, 170 non-conforming lots of record researches, and 160 letters for zoning approval issued for the fiscal year

ENGINEERING

- Completed construction of Platt's Creek Regional Stormwater Pond on Sunrise Boulevard
- Completed construction of Edwards Road and Selvitz Road Intersection expansion project
- Completed bridge repairs for Glades Cutoff Road over Canal 24 and Juanita Avenue over Whispering Creek Bridge
- Completed construction of \$30 million hurricane-related repairs to Indian River Drive
- Began the design for the four-laning of Midway Road from the Turnpike Bridge to 25th Street
- Completed the Prima Vista Baffle Box construction

Public Works

The Public Works Department consists of the following divisions: Administration, Code Compliance, Engineering, Erosion Control, and Road and Bridge.

Administration

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

Code Compliance

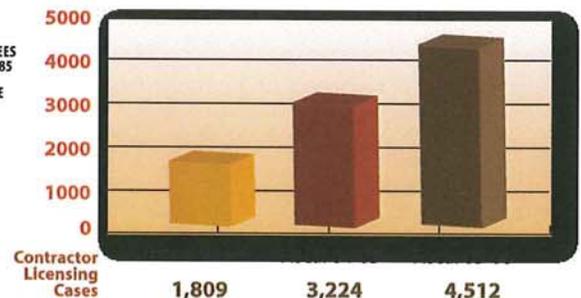
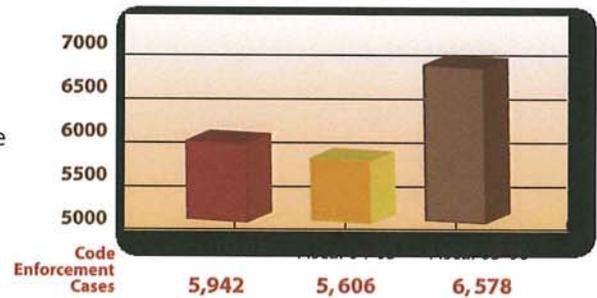
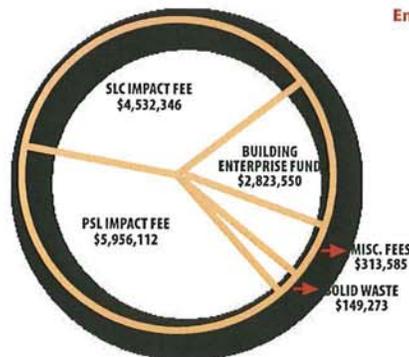
The Code Compliance Division consists of Zoning, Permitting, Plans Examining, Building Inspections, Contractor's Licensing, Code Enforcement, and Port St Lucie Impact Fee Collections.

The St. Lucie County Code Compliance Division continues to deal with the aftermath of Hurricanes Frances, Jeanne, and Wilma. 2004-2005 showed a doubling of permits issued. Permit totals for 2005-2006 are down and the division is now dealing with more than 7,000 expired permits that need to be renewed and inspections made.

With the influx of expired permits, Contractor Licensing increased its case load by an additional 1,288 cases as a result of rising complaints against licensed and un-licensed contractors. This case load is the result of work being performed without a permit and homeowner complaints against contractors for failure to perform the work. The Division has been working closely with the Sheriff's Department and the State Attorney's Office. This has resulted in unscrupulous contractors who have defrauded our residents, being arrested and convicted. Many homeowners have also received money back from contractors as a result of this department's interceding on their behalf.

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 and the Municipal Service Benefit Unit Program (MSBU).



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 Public Works Department – 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.

Road & Bridge

The Road and Bridge Division has four Operating Units - Maintenance, Traffic, Drainage and Stormwater - and is responsible for providing maintenance and reconstructing of County roadways and drainage facilities with 84 employees, plus 18 contract labor employees.

The Maintenance Section is responsible for maintaining 357 miles of paved roadways, 98 miles of rock/dirt roads, and 51 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 plus miles of roadway ditches/swales and 50 plus miles of primary drainways/canals. The unit includes two small construction crews 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.



Public Works' stormwater projects such as the Paradise Park project help to protect residents from excess water in their roads, yards and homes.

ENGINEERING (CONTINUED)

- Replaced the Sunrise Boulevard culvert at NSLRWCD Canal No. 10
- Replaced the River Place culvert at Merritt Ditch

EROSION DISTRICT

- Coordinated emergency beach restoration of Fort Pierce Beach
- Secured permits for artificial reef sites
- Coordinated emergency dune restoration along south St. Lucie County shoreline
- Completed two artificial deployments
- Initiated oyster reef enhancement in the Indian River lagoon
- Secured \$85,000 in grants for artificial reef program
- Assisted in securing \$150,000 and \$100,000 of federal funds for the Fort Pierce Beach and St. Lucie County feasibility projects
- Continued planning and coordinating a long term management plan for the 1.3 mile beach project
- Continued the comprehensive beach and inlet monitoring program
- Coordinated the feasibility phase of the southern St. Lucie County shoreline
- Received over \$4.9 million in emergency and grant funds from FDEP

ROAD & BRIDGE

- Installed 9,275 signs and posts (5,607 signs and 3,668 posts)
- Installed 130 feet of guardrail (in-house)
- Restriped .10 miles of roadway (in-house)
- Resurfaced 18.75 miles of roadway
- Issued 322 permits
- Completed 38,613 feet enhances swale maintenance

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

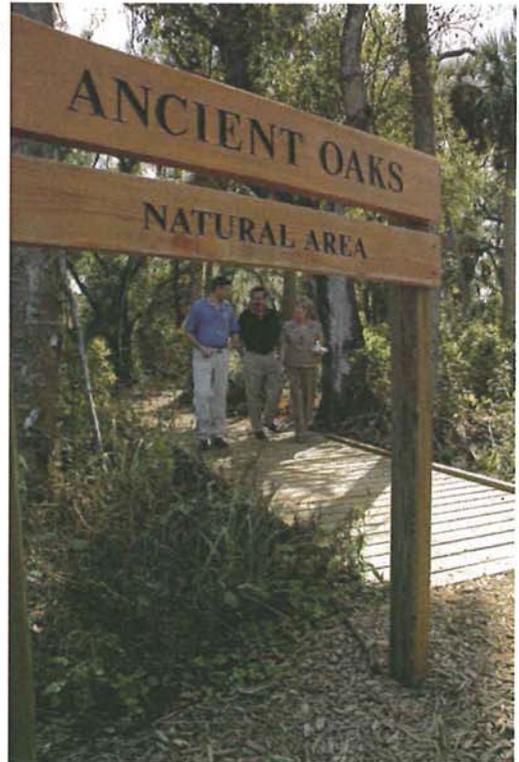
- Opened Weldon B Lewis Park, a 12.7-acre facility that includes a Bermuda soccer/football open field, restrooms, tot lot and environmental lands
- Provided support to Cultural Affairs Department for the UDT-Navy SEAL Muster, Zora Fest and Art in Public Places dedication ceremonies, and provided trash pickup biweekly for Mosquito Control at 11 impounds on Hutchinson Island
- Savannas Recreation Area provided summer camp programs in conjunction with Florida Indian Hobbyists Association and hosted a Halloween event and Easter Egg Hunt to capacity crowds
- A paved entrance road was installed at the Savannas and amenities were added to Palm Island
- More than 55 events were held at the Fairgrounds including the 29th National Bikers Roundup that brought 45,000 bikers from more than 37 states to our County
- Fairwinds Golf Course was ranked by Golf Digest as one of the "Best Places to Play," and received the Platinum Reader's Choice Award in the Ft. Pierce Tribune "Best Local Golf Courses" listing
- Tradition Field staff maintained the fields in support of a successful season for the New York Mets, who were the 2006 National League Division Champions, as well as the St. Lucie Mets, who were the 2006 Florida State League Champions

Parks & Recreation



More than 45,000 bikers rode to the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds for the 29th National Bikers Roundup, including family members such as this child, who found a way to beat the August heat.

The mission of the Parks & Recreation Department is to provide customer-focused parks and recreation services that meet the needs of St. Lucie County residents. The Parks & Recreation Department consists of six divisions including Parks, Recreation, Administration, Fairgrounds, Fairwinds Golf Course and Tradition Field Sports Complex. The department maintains, operates, programs and facilitates Lawnwood Sports Complex which consists of four baseball fields, three softball fields, 12 tennis courts, and a football stadium that hosts high school football and soccer, and the Fort Pierce Fire minor league football team, Elks Park, Ilous Ellis Park, South County Regional Sports Complex, three Aquatic facilities (Open Space, Ravenswood and Paradise Pools), the 550-acre Savannas Recreation Area, the 249-acre Fairgrounds & Equestrian Center, and seven watercraft launches. The department provides programs and services for beach and inland neighborhood parks, nature trails and recreation centers. Park & Recreation oversees a departmental budget of over \$14 million and employs 161 full-time employees, and 79 yearly and seasonal part-time employees.

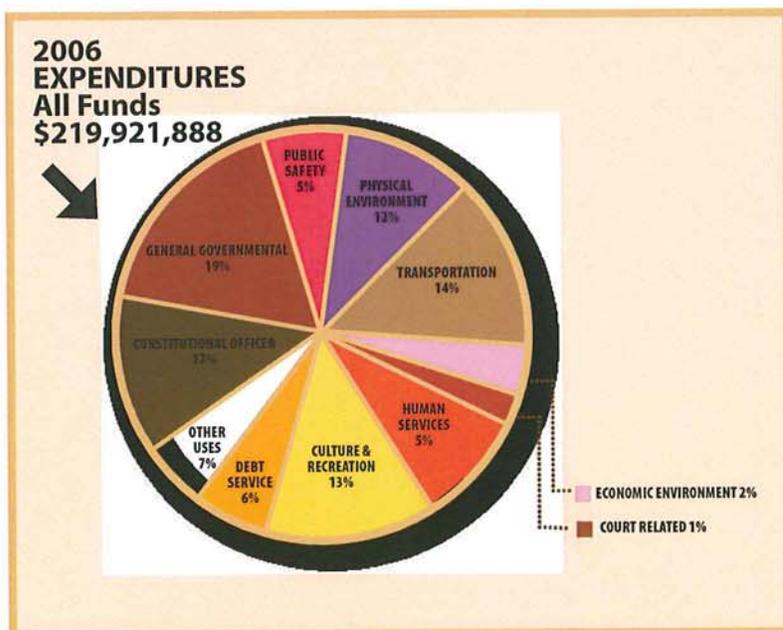
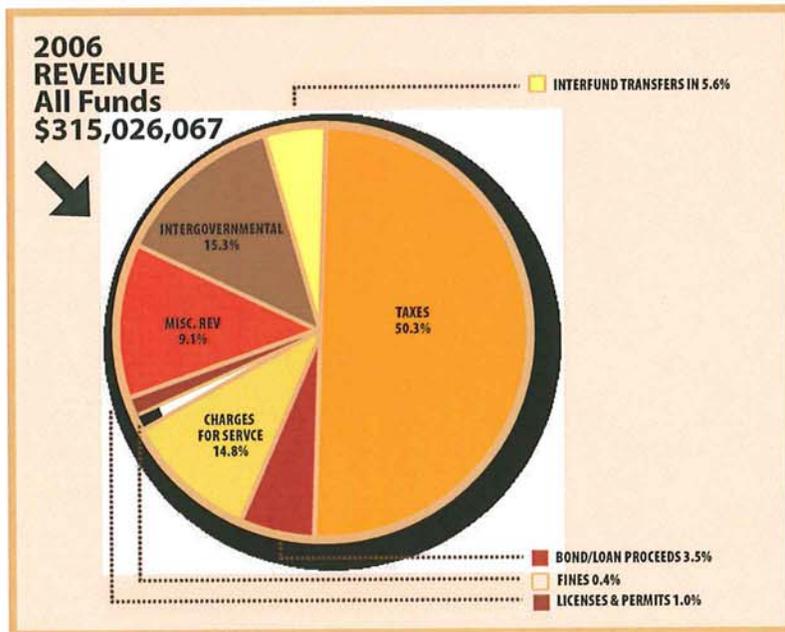


The new Weldon B. Lewis Park in White City, also features the mile-long Ancient Oaks nature trail, being visited by Commissioner Doug Coward and members of the Lewis family.

Management & Budget

The mission of the Office of Management and Budget is to provide information, analysis, and staff support sufficient for the County Administrator and the Board of County Commissioners to make well informed financial, program and management decisions. The department's responsibilities include being a point of contact for departmental budget issues, grants oversight, revenue and expenditure forecasting, monitoring the debt schedule and funds, estimating cash balances, conducting statistical analysis, developing pro forma models and preparing studies at the request of the County Administrator or the Board of County Commissioners. The department's staff of professionals includes a Director, Budget Manager, two Senior Analysts, three Budget Analysts, one Analyst Intern and an Executive Secretary.

- Managed the County's \$552 million 2006 fiscal year budget
- Received the Government Finance Officers Association's "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" for the eighth consecutive year
- Monitored 60 individual debt obligations issued by the Board and ensured the payments, totaling approximately \$17,031,198, were made in a timely manner
- Oversaw the management of 175 grants valued at \$81,415,271
- Processed 2,863 line-to-line transfers, which is 1,160 more transfers than fiscal year 2005



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Increased customer connections in the Utility Service Area by 243 connections
- Installed a 1-million-gallon water storage tank at the Holiday Pines Water Treatment Plant in the North County District
- Completed installation of a new odor control system at the South Hutchinson Island Water Reclamation Facility
- Completed the replacement of 179 regular water meters with Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) radio read meters in the Queens Cove Subdivision increasing the AMRs system-wide to 521
- Implementation of a Utility GIS for system maps is 80 percent complete
- Instituted quarterly meetings with our bulk Utility provider for better communication and coordination

Back Bone Infrastructure

- Completed the construction of, and placed into service 2.3 miles of 16-inch force main and water main in the North County District
- Completed the construction of, and placed into service 7 miles of 12-inch water main in the North County District
- Completed the installation of, and placed into service 1 mile of 12-inch water main, 4-inch force main, and 3-inch reuse main on the north end of North Hutchinson Island

Utilities

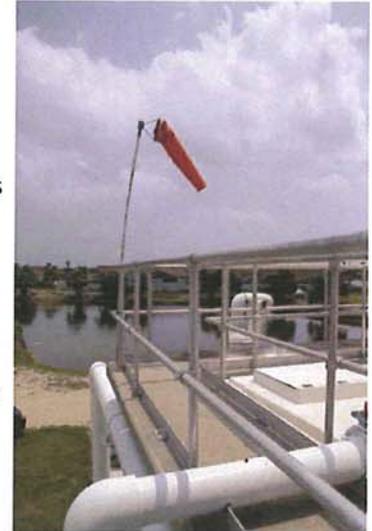
Established in 1994, The St. Lucie County Utility Department (SLCU) has undergone many improvements throughout all the systems as a result of continued customer growth. St. Lucie County Utilities Department has extended water, wastewater and reclaimed water service on North Hutchinson Island and in the North and Central County. The St. Lucie County Utility Department has also extended wastewater and reclaimed water service on South Hutchinson Island.

Developer Agreements

SLCU has executed the Standard Developer Agreement for water and wastewater services for the Creekside Subdivision Phase I (126 ERCs). SLCU has also drafted and provided to the developer the Standard Developer Agreement for water and/or wastewater services for the Oakland Lakes Subdivision (74 ERCs), the Lakeside Villages Subdivision (92 ERCs) and the Indrio Crossings Phase II Development (80 ERCs).

Utility Expertise Assistance

- SLCU has assisted the Airport in managing the Airport West Industrial Park project.
- SLCU has assisted the MSBU Department in preparing the Indian River Estates potable water MSBU and the Airport Industrial Park wastewater MSBU.
- SLCU has assisted the Parks and Recreation Department in managing the Pepper Park wastewater project, the fairgrounds water plant expansion and the Fair Grounds wastewater collection system project.
- Coordinated the Utility response to the Department of Community Affairs for the Towns, Villages and Countryside Area.



The North Hutchinson Island Utilities facility services residents on the island for water, wastewater and reclaimed water.

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.



The St. Lucie County Landfill could become a thing of the past, as the Solid Waste moves forward on the new Plasma Arc Gasification facility.



St. Lucie County's Solid Waste Department processes 650,000 tons of garbage a year and recycles 90,000 tons.

The Florida Association of Counties is just one of the many groups that have toured the County's Solid Waste Department to witness the latest technologies that the staff has adopted.



- Began negotiations with Geoplasma, LLC, based out of Atlanta, on a giant leap forward toward the ultimate solid waste solution (Plasma Arc Gasification – a \$500 million facility which will reduce landfill needs, create a new energy source and add 60 jobs to the community
- Received the Engineering of Engineering Excellence Grand Award "Getting Juiced with Landfill Gas"
- Recycled 176,000 tons of municipal solid waste

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Adoption of the Towns, Villages and the Countryside settlement pattern comprehensive plan amendment
- Adoption of a comprehensive plan amendment that creates a Rural Lands Stewardship Overlay Zone
- Assisted staff in the preparation of Development Agreements
- Coordinated the annual adjustment of the County's impact fee schedule
- Provided staff assistance in the adoption of the North County Transfer of Development Rights program

Strategy/Special Projects

A new department within St. Lucie County, the Strategy and Special Projects Director coordinates projects of special interest and priority for the Board of County Commissioners. Staff also prepares strategy options for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners, policy boards, and stakeholders relating to comprehensive planning, land development, and transportation planning. Additionally, this department will coordinate the creation of public meetings and workshops relating to long-term strategic development and project finance.



An artist rendering shows what northern St. Lucie County could look like once the Towns, Villages and Countryside plan is developed and built.



Property Appraiser Jeff Furst talks about the impact the Towns, Villages and Countryside plan could have to values in the north county during a public meeting.



Staff members from the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council assist the Strategy and Special Projects Director, along with Growth Management staff with a public workshop about the Towns, Villages and Countryside plan. More than 100 public meetings were held to discuss the proposed growth management plan.

Photos provided by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Veterans Affairs

The Veterans 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 and functions as a team to deliver the means of improving the quality of life to 40,000 plus 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. Increased outreach visits to homebound veterans as well as active participation with nursing homes, assisted living facilities and more than 68 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 member organizations meet monthly to discuss and share information that has a direct impact on the benefits and medical service for veterans.

The staff consists of eight full-time and four part-time positions. In the fall, re-location of the main office provided much needed additional space and the opportunity to be centrally located just off Highway U.S. 1 in Port St. Lucie. Two full-time Service Officers continue to staff the office in Ft. Pierce, giving the veteran

community convenience and easy access to both ends of the County. The Director and four Veterans Service Officers provided counseling to more than 15,000 veterans and their dependants. As a result, more than 7,000 clients filed claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs, leading to not only a monetary increase of income, but improved healthcare and a better quality of life for our veteran community.

Three full-time administrative support staff fielded more than 50,000 phone inquiries, ranging from answering questions on how to apply for VA health care to scheduling rides for transportation the VA Medical Center.

The medical van transportation unit consists of a Coordinator, four part-time drivers, and a roster of on-call drivers as needed. With as many as three multi-passenger vans on the road, five days a week, we have the capability of transporting 30 veterans a day from St. Lucie County to their medical appointments at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center.



The Veterans Affairs Department plays a vital role in the community, including participation in the annual Muster at the UDT-Navy SEAL Museum.



Veterans Affairs Director Paul Hiott (left) and his staff helped Corp. George Lynn (center) receive a Purple Heart nearly 30 years after for being wounded during his tour of duty in Vietnam.

- Counseled more than 15,000 veterans and/or their dependents
- Doubled the number of outreach visits to veterans not physically able to come into the office. Service Officers have the computer technology to complete the benefit claim process in one step during a home-based visit
- Submitted 7,245 veterans benefit claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Staff provided 26 benefits presentations to veterans and civic groups, as well as increasing the number of local radio broadcasts and television spots - all resulting in the dissemination of information regarding benefits that can improve the quality of life for a veteran or dependant
- Managed more than 16,000 in office client visits and fielded more than 59,000 phone inquiries
- Provided employment to four veterans while they attended local colleges as part of their education benefit through the Veterans Education Work Study Program
- Provided 6,000 medical transportation trips for disabled veterans

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

St. Lucie County Property Appraiser Jeff Furst

The Property Appraiser is responsible for placing fair, equitable and just values on real and tangible personal property in the county. The Property Appraiser's office is staffed with 59 professionals working in three locations throughout the county: Administration Building, Walton Road Annex and St. Lucie West Administration Annex.

Website: www.paslc.org
Phone: (772) 462-1100

Office Locations:
Administration Building
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982

Walton Road Annex
1664 S.E. Walton Road
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34952

St. Lucie West
Administration Annex
250 N.W. Country Club Drive
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986

St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara

The Sheriff's Office criminal justice services keeps all county residents safe by providing full law enforcement services and operating the County jail. The administrative center is on Midway Road and there are substations in Port St. Lucie, Fort Pierce and north-county. The Sheriff's Office has 600 employees.

Website: www.stluciesheriff.com
Phone: (772) 462-7300

Headquarters:
4700 West Midway Road
Fort Pierce, Florida 34981

St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections Gertrude Walker

The St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections is responsible for managing the electoral process for the Federal, State, County and Municipal Elections in accordance with the Florida Elections Code. Functional areas of responsibility include: voter registration, candidate qualifying, precinct planning, citizen outreach, petition processing, publication and distribution of voting instructions, voting tabulation and certification of elections results, procurement of polling places, recruitment and training for poll workers and preservation of voter registration and public election records.

Website: www.slcelections.com
Phone: (772) 462-1500

Office Locations:
Orange Blossom
Business Center
4132 Okeechobee Road
Fort Pierce, Florida 34947

St. Lucie West County
Administrative Annex
250 N.W. Country Club Drive
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986

Walton Road
Administration Annex
1664 S.E. Walton Road
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34952

St. Lucie County Tax Collector Bob Davis

The St. Lucie County Tax Collector bills property owners for millages levied by each taxing authority for real estate and personal property taxes, bills for special assessments, issues occupational licenses, collects tourist taxes, issues fishing and hunting licenses, issues license plates and titles for cars and vessels and sells tax certificates.

Website: www.taslc.com
Phone: (772) 462-1650

Office Locations:

Main Office
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982

Walton Road Administration Annex
1664 S.E. Walton Road
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34952

St. Lucie County Clerk of Court Edwin Fry, Jr.

The St. Lucie Clerk of Court acts as an accountant and auditor for the Board of County Commissioners, collector and distributor of statutory assessments and guardian of the public records, public funds and public property for County Government. Additionally, the Clerk ensures that the court's orders, judgments or directives are carried out within the parameters allowed by law, maintains the court's records, collects and disburses the court fines, fees and assessments and collects and disburses court ordered child support and alimony payments for the Court System.

Website: www.slclerkofcourt.com
Phone: (772) 462-6900

Office Locations:
Orange Blossom Business Center
4132 Okeechobee Road
Fort Pierce, Florida 34947
Main Courthouse
218 South 2nd Street
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

South County Annex
250 N.W. Country Club Drive
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986

Finance Department
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982

Juvenile Department
435 North 7th Street
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

Probate Department
415 South 2nd Street
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

Quick Facts

2006 ST. LUCIE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS & STATISTICS

Established: July 1, 1905

Area: 572 square miles; 21 miles of beaches

Population: 240,039 Countywide; 71,711 Unincorporated (2005 estimate) *

Ethnicity Non-Hispanic White 69%;
Non-Hispanic Black 15.7%;
Hispanic Origin 13.5% *

Percentage of population:
Women (2010 estimate): 51.1%
Over age 65 (2005 estimate): 21.7%
Under age 18 (2005 estimate): 22.2%

Municipalities:
Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie Village

Median Home Price (2005): \$254,000*

Countywide Millage/Property Tax Rate:
6.7314

Public Libraries: 5

Public Schools: 39;
Private Schools 16;
Colleges & Universities: 5

Fire Stations: 15

Solid Waste Processed Per Year: 650,000 tons household waste, 90,000 tons recycled waste

Acres of Parks: 2,300

Acres of Environmentally Significant Lands Preserved: 7,479

Public Buildings: 52

Beaches: 19; 11 guarded

Roads: 348 miles paved; 165 miles unpaved

Boat Ramps: 10

Average Temperature: 73.7°

*These numbers come strictly from BEBR
(Bureau of Economic & Business Research)



USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

St. Lucie County Numbers

Administration	462-1400
Ambulance Billing.....	621-3321
Animal Control	461-6177
Aquatics	871-2183
Attorney's Office.....	462-1441
Airport	462-1732
Building Permits	462-2167
Central Services.....	462-1432
Code Compliance.....	462-1553
Code Enforcement.....	462-1571
Community Services	462-1777
Contractor Licensing	462-1673
Cooperative Extension.....	462-1660
Cultural Affairs	462-1767
Emergency Management.....	462-1771
Engineering	462-1707
Environmental Resources	462-2526
Fairwinds Golf Course.....	462-2722
Fishing/Hunting Licenses	462-1650
Grants	462-1467
Growth Management.....	462-2822
Historical Museum	462-1795
Homestead Exemptions	462-1000
Human Resources.....	462-1546
Information Technology	462-1681
Library	462-1615
Management and Budget	462-1670
Marine Center	462-3474
Marine Safety.....	229-2850
Mosquito Control District	462-1692
Motor Vehicle Registration	462-1650
Parks and Recreation.....	462-1517
Public Information Office	462-1791
Public Safety	462-1736
Public Works.....	462-1485
Purchasing	462-1700
Radiological Planning	462-1831
Recycling.....	462-5678
Road and Bridge	462-2511
Savannas Recreation Area	464-7855

SLCTV	462-6421
Solid Waste	462-1768
Tourism	462-1539
Utilities	462-1150
Veterans Services	337-5670
Voter Registration	462-1500

Other Useful Numbers

School Board	429-3600
Chamber of Commerce.....	595-9999
Fire District.....	621-3311
Fort Pierce Police	461-3820
Port St. Lucie Police	871-5000
Fort Pierce City Hall	460-2200
Port St. Lucie City Hall	871-5225
Fort Pierce Utilities.....	466-1600
Port St. Lucie Utilities	871-5330
Florida Power & Light.....	287-5400
Comcast Cable (FP).....	461-5408
Adelphia Cable (PSL).....	692-1400
BellSouth	780-2355
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center	461-4000
St. Lucie Medical Center	335-4000
Health Department.....	462-3800
Children & Families	467-3131
One Stop Career Center	462-6100
Clerk of Court	462-6900
State Attorney.....	465-3000
Public Defender.....	462-2048
Fish & Wildlife	(561) 624-6935
Driver's Licenses	468-3956
Indian River Community College	462-4700
University of Florida/IFAS	468-3922
UDT Navy Seal Museum	462-3597
Backus Gallery & Museum.....	465-0630
Main Street Fort Pierce	466-3880
Sunrise Theatre	461-4224

A conceptual image of the Towns, Village and Countryside Plan provided by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council



"Moving Forward"
2006 St. Lucie County
Annual Report

St. Lucie County
Board of County Commissioners
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982
(772) 462.1100
www.st.lucieco.gov

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