

## St. Lucie County

**April 22, 2004**

**A Monthly Update of  
Current Events and  
Happenings within  
St. Lucie County**

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This update is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' Public Information Office. Direct inquiries to Linette Trabulsi, Public Information Officer, St. Lucie County, 2300 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34982, 772.462.1791, 772.462.2131 Fax, [Trabulsi@co.st-lucie.fl.us](mailto:Trabulsi@co.st-lucie.fl.us)

### **Board of County Commission Meeting Changes & Special Meetings Scheduled**

- A Public Meeting will be held on May 6, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. in Room #101, to accept public comment on the Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 150 Noise Study for St. Lucie County International Airport.
- The County's annual auction for surplus vehicles has been scheduled for May 15, 2004 and will be held at 3071 Oleander Avenue in Fort Pierce. The auction begins at 10:00 a.m., but the gates open for a preview at 9:00 a.m.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a mining workshop on June 29, 2004 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the County Commission Chambers.

### **Taylor Creek Dredging Project Started**

St. Lucie County "broke ground" on a project that is nearly seven years "in the making." On Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, the County held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Taylor Creek Dredging Project at Harbour Pointe in Fort Pierce. Phase I of the \$3.5 million project will take place with the assistance of the South Florida Water Management District, the St. John's River Water Management District, the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, the Florida Inland Navigation District and the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council as funding partners. For more information, contact Don West, Public Works Director, at (772) 462-1707.

### **Fairwinds Golf Course Named in Golf Digest's List of "Best Places to Play"**

In the May 2004 issue of Golf Digest, the biennial list of "Best Places to Play" lists St. Lucie County owned Fairwinds Golf Course in Fort Pierce as second "Best Place to Play for Top Courses Averaging 50,000 Rounds a Year or More" – second only to Pebble Beach Golf Links in California. The Golf Digest list is a comprehensive survey of golfers who send in comments and feedback on public-access courses. The ratings include more than 3,500 public-access courses throughout North America, Mexico and the Islands. Last year, Fairwinds Golf Course was listed as a "3-Star" course and their rating this year was "4½ Stars" out of five. A 5-Star rating is "Golf at its Absolute Best" and a 4-Star rating is "Outstanding." The Jim Fazio-designed Fairwinds Golf Course opened in 1991 and continues to earn accolades and praise. Fairwinds is known for its excellent condition and spectacular greens. The course management strives for perfection and boasts 20 new greens this year – including two new practice greens – all with "Tifdwarf Bermuda" grass. Fairwinds also has a new 1,300 square foot tournament pavilion.

### **Cooperative Extension Office Hosts the "Spring Into Gardening Festival" on Saturday, April 24**

The Cooperative Extension Office will host the "Spring Into Gardening Festival" this Saturday, April 24, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This free event will be held at the St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Office located at 8400 Picos Road in Fort Pierce. Activities planned for the event include Master Gardener Plant Sale and Plant Clinic, Plant Fashion Show, Presentations, Children's Activities and the Taste of the Tropics. For more information about this event, call (772) 462-1660.

## **April at the Library ~ April 19 through April 23 is National Library Week**

**Saturday, April 24 ~ 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** ~ Chess Tournament sponsored by the Fort Pierce Farmer's Market and the Fort Pierce Library. For further information, call 462-2787.

## **Zora Live! Presented by the St. Lucie County Library System**

The St. Lucie County Library System, in partnership with the Florida Humanities Council and the Florida Department of State, will present *Zora Live!* on Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hurston Branch Library located at 3008 Avenue D in Fort Pierce. This lively presentation by actress and scholar Phyllis McEwen brings to life the author, anthropologist and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston. This free event is presented in conjunction with the Governor's Family Literacy Initiative, "Read Together, Florida!" For more information, contact Beverly Klemenc at (772) 462-2787.

## **April Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center**

**Guided Hike ~ April 24** at 10:00 a.m. ~ *Join an Oxbow naturalist for an interpretive hike along Oxbow's trails.*

**Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series ~ April 30** at noon ~ Don Ducharme of the Treasure Coast Archeological Society

**Eco-Friday Night Hikes ~ April 30** at 6:30-8:30 p.m. ~ *Last one of the season, so come on out. Enjoy bat programs, amphibian excursions, and stargazing activities! Free!*

## **Countywide Law Enforcement Impact Fee Approved**

The Board of County Commissioners approved a Countywide Law Enforcement Impact Fee that will become effective July 1, 2004. The fee will be \$169 for an average single family home and is intended to assist the community in meeting its law enforcement needs in response to the rapid rates of growth in the County and the expanding need to serve that new growth. The fees collected will be used for capital improvements including site planning, land acquisition, site improvements, buildings, motor vehicles, personal equipment and communications facilities. The fee will be collected by the County and distributed to the Sheriff's Department and city police departments.

## **Research and Education Park Land Purchase Approved**

The Board of County Commissioners approved to select SunTrust Bank as the successful bidder for a \$10 million line of credit to provide financing for the acquisition of land in St. Lucie County for a new Research and Education Park. Funds will be made available through the General Fund for the payment of the debt service. The Board previously approved the allocation of funding to perform appraisals and due diligence as the first step in acquiring properties for the Research and Education Park and the preparation of a conceptual campus site plan. In addition, the Board previously approved a contract for sale and purchase of approximately 138 acres. The Research and Education Park will be located west of Fort Pierce near the USDA Laboratory and the University of Florida Campus.

## **Agreement between Tropicana Products, Inc. and St. Lucie County Signed**

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Memorandum of Understanding between St. Lucie County and Tropicana Products, Inc. for the acquisition of landfill gas. The landfill methane gas is created as a by-product of the decomposing solid waste which must be removed or released from the landfill as part of proper operation. Tropicana will use this gas and, in return, pay a monthly royalty to the County based on 36% of the monthly avoided cost experienced by Tropicana as a result of receipt and use of the landfill gas.

## **Harmony Heights MSBU Initial Public Hearing Scheduled**

An initial public hearing for the Harmony Heights Municipal Services Benefits Unit for the Potable Water Improvements through Fort Pierce Utility Authority is scheduled for the evening of May 4, 2004. Residents of the Harmony Heights subdivision in Fort Pierce received ballots surveying their interest in receiving potable water service via FPUA with 82% of the ballots returned in favor of supporting creating an MSBU for the service. A previous informational meeting was held with residents to discuss conceptual water design, MSBU process, annexation issues and estimated costs.

John Bruhn, District 1 • Doug Coward, District 2 • Paula A. Lewis, District 3 • Frannie Hutchinson, District 4 • Cliff Barnes, District 5

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