



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

August 15, 2003

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 Trabulsy Public Information Officer St. Lucie County 2300 Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, FL 34982 772.462.1791 772.462.2131 Fax Trabulsl@co.st-lucie.fl.us

Extension Office & Staff Honored

Each year, the Quad-County Tech Prep Consortium, a group composed of Indian River Community College and the St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee school districts, honors one organization as an outstanding partner. This year, Westwood High School's nomination of the St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension was selected by Consortium members to receive the Quad-County Tech Prep Consortium Business Partner of the Year Award.

Award recipients Anita Neal, Britt Reynolds, Susan Munyon, Debbie McManus, Jack Hebb and the staff of the St. Lucie County Extension provided students with hands-on career activities at the Agriscience Center. Working closely with Westwood High School staff, they revamped the curriculum to meet rigorous academic content and performance standards that include the Best Management Practices established by the Florida Department of Agriculture and the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Solid Waste Division Announces Contest

The Solid Waste Division of the Public Works Department, in conjunction with Bev Smith Toyota, will be hosting an environmental stewardship contest called The "Tag" Line. The purpose is to design a picture or slogan that conveys an environmentally conscience message. The contest is open to all students in St. Lucie County. The deadline for entries is October 17, 2003 and the winner will be notified by October 31. The winning entry will be placed on ornamental license plates similar to the "Don't Teach Your Trash To Swim" plates. The winner will receive a \$2,500 check from Bev Smith Toyota. For more information, contact Jacquie Burgess at (772) 462-1768.

New 16-Year Contract with the NY Mets Signed

On August 1, the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners approved a new 16 year contract with the New York Mets. The contract keeps the Mets' Spring Training in Port St. Lucie until December 2018 with two five year renewal options. Some highlights include: \$875,000 in rent from the Mets over 16 years, stadium renovation cost of \$8.75 million, the Mets will sell the stadium naming rights at a minimum of \$150,000 a year and the Mets will return the Gulf Coast League team to the facility. In addition, the Mets and the County will split revenue from the stadium.

Kiosks and Trail Markers for the Zora Heritage Trail Approved

Cultural Affairs and the Library recently were given approval to purchase kiosks and markers for the Zora Neale Hurston Dust Track Heritage Trail. This will help complete the entire Heritage Trail project by the end of the year.

Inmate Attorney to be Located at Jail

Commissioners approved the creation of the Inmate Attorney position to be located full-time at the jail. This individual will work to expedite the processing of inmates to alleviate the overcrowding population at the jail.

Ranger Construction Wins Bid for South Jenkins Road Extension

On August 1, 2003, St. Lucie County awarded the bid #03-068 to Ranger Construction Industries, Inc., the lowest complete bidder, for the South Jenkins Road Extension construction. The contract is in the amount of \$1,583,245.83 and this project will construct the entrance to the new Wal-Mart Distribution Center scheduled to open in the fall of 2004. Work will be completed concurrently with the Midway Road and Glades Cutoff Road intersection improvements and the Midway Road and Glades Cutoff Road utilities extension.

Special Exhibit Now Open at the Historical Museum

Since the beginning of time, humans have been fascinated, mystified and entertained by the idea of life in space. Blast Off!, an out-of-this-world special exhibit, opened Saturday, July 19, at the St. Lucie County Historical Museum and will run through October 3. Visitors to the exhibit will explore space "firsts," including the first creatures launched into space and Alan Shepard's historic flight of 1961. Blast Off! also features a Sputnik reproduction and tapes, DVD's and CD's of Shepard's flight and the Vanguard explosion. Rare images of the early NASA years are included on graphic and text panels and newspaper headlines. The St. Lucie County Historical Museum is located at 414 Seaway Drive, under the South Bridge in Fort Pierce. The museum's 16 permanent exhibits of local history and 1908 Gardner House provide a journey through the county's colorful history. Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. For further information call (772) 462-1795 or (772) 462-1891.

Board of County Commission Meeting Time Change

The St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' meeting for August 19 will begin at 6:00 p.m. to accommodate several public hearings.

Cultural Affairs Council Website Launched

The St. Lucie County Cultural Affairs Council announces its new website at www.co.st-lucie.fl.us/culturalaffairs/. St. Lucie County Information Technology Department hosts the site while Tom Reno was the designer. Events, programs and places of interest in St. Lucie County can be easily found on this site.

Port St. Lucie City Council Members to Host Workshop with Commissioners

The Port St. Lucie City Council Members will host a workshop with St. Lucie County Commissioners on Wednesday, August 27, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at Port St. Lucie City Hall located at 121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Boulevard.

Senator Ken Pruitt Honored

The Florida Association of Counties will present the FAC County Partner Award to Senator Ken Pruitt during the August 26, 2003 St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' meeting at 9:00 a.m. Sen. Pruitt was among 12 legislators that FAC is recognizing this year for their legislative efforts on behalf of counties.

St. Lucie County International Airport to Host Air Show in June 2004

On June 12 & 13, 2004, Victory Children's Home and The Vietnam Veterans of South Florida will host a St. Lucie Military Show, Air, Land and Sea at the St. Lucie County International Airport.

DEP Grant Awarded to St. Lucie County

The Parks and Recreation Department recently was awarded a Florida Department of Environmental Protection matching grant in the amount of \$200,000 for work on River Park Marina in Port St. Lucie. Work to be completed includes construction of a shoreline reventment, mooring dock, observation decks, fishing platform, picnic pavilions, canoe launch and trail connections.