



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

August 15, 2007

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

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This update is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' Public Information Office. Direct inquiries to Ja' Net Pentz, Executive Assistant St. Lucie County 2300 Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, FL 34982 772.462.1453 pentzj@co.st-lucie.fl.us

Board of County Commissioners Special Meetings & Workshops Scheduled

- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the August Informal Monthly Meeting on Friday, August 24 at 9 a.m. in Conference Room #3.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Preliminary Budget Public Hearing on Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 6 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Final Budget Public Hearing on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 6 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the Affordable Attainable Workforce Housing for Essential Services in St. Lucie County Workshop in Friday, September 14 at 2 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the Annual Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday, November 13 at 9 a.m. in the Commission Chambers.

Local Treasure Expert to Give Talk and Sign Books at Fort Pierce Library

Tommy Gore, author of "The Rainbow Chasers In the Great Florida Treasure Hunt," will be at the Fort Pierce Branch Library on Tuesday, Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. for a book talk and signing. Registration is not required. A native of Fort Pierce, Gore was a marine agent of Florida's State Board of History and Archives, now the Bureau of Archaeological Research. He was the most widely recognized field authority known to all the treasure salvagers in Florida during the last three decades of the 20th Century. The author's book is his addition to Florida's rich collection of historic documentation. Tommy Gore was a treasure hunter, bottle hunter, gator hunter and grassroots historian. During his tenure with the state, Gore was an eyewitness to the three biggest treasure recoveries in Florida's history. Hear his first-hand, true account of the glory days in the '60s and '70s when Spanish treasure was being recovered by the hundreds of pounds each day. Learn about his discovery of a bonanza of bottle glass at a deserted leper colony in the Bahamas and about treasure hunters along the forgotten Mosquito Lagoon. "The Rainbow Chasers In the Great Florida Treasure Hunt" includes wonderful color and black and white photographs, maps, and daily log sheets. The Fort Pierce Branch Library is located at 101 Melody Lane. For more information, call Vicki at (772) 462-2787 or email cookev@stlucieco.gov

St. Lucie Extension Office Offers New Homeowner Workshop

Staff members from St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Office and the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences will conduct a free workshop for new homebuyers Friday, Aug. 24 from 1 – 4 p.m. at the South County Annex, 1664 S.E. Walton Road, Port St. Lucie. To combat the alarming increase in foreclosures on the Treasure Coast, extension agents are offering this free seminar to help new and potential homebuyers. The workshop will address mortgage options, estimate property taxes, examine insurance cost, offer cost-saving energy reduction strategies and more. This workshop is designed to help renters find a home and neighborhood that meets their needs and their budget, while helping new homeowners protect their investments. The workshop is free, but space is limited, so please register early by calling (772) 462-1660.

Disaster Recovery Workshop

St. Lucie County Community Services, United Way of St. Lucie and Indian River Community College will offer an interactive workshop on surviving and serving after a disaster on Thursday, Aug. 23 from 1 – 5 p.m. at the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies. In partnership with Volunteer Florida, the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Services, this workshop is geared toward community and faith-based organizations to help them operate in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Titled "Keep on Keepin' On," this workshop will help groups anticipate and meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs; share limited resources and collaborate on ways to help the community recover through scenario-based discussions. Representatives from St. Lucie County's Emergency Operations Center, Indian River Community College's Citizens Emergency Response Team and Volunteer Florida will be on-hand to lead discussions and answer questions. This workshop is free, but registration is required. To register visit: www.regonline.com/143732 before Aug. 17. Seating is limited, so please register early. The workshop is geared toward community groups, faith-based organizations, civic clubs and government agencies. "Keep on Keepin' On" will take place Thursday, Aug. 23 from 1 – 5 p.m. in the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies on the main campus of Indian River Community College, 3209 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce.

Smithsonian Staff Offers Program on Marine Center

Cristin Ryan, a marine biology educator with the Smithsonian Marine Station in Fort Pierce, will present a program on the St. Lucie County Marine Center at the Fort Pierce Branch Library on Wednesday, Aug. 15 at 1 p.m. The Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit is located in the St. Lucie County Marine Center at 420 Seaway Drive on South Hutchinson Island in Fort Pierce. The Smithsonian Marine Station has teamed with St. Lucie County and other community partners to create this unique educational facility. The Ecosystems Exhibit is an outreach effort of the Smithsonian Marine Station, a branch of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, featuring more than 8,000 gallons of marine life. A fixture in the Fort Pierce community for more than 30 years, the Smithsonian staff is dedicated to understanding the character and diversity of the marine and estuarine habitats of Florida. Ryan's talk will cover a brief history of the Smithsonian in Florida; marine research of Smithsonian scientists; an overview of the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit with information on each of the six model ecosystems; and information on school and public programs offered through the St. Lucie County Marine Center. Registration is not required. For more information, call Vicki at (772) 462-2787 or email cookev@stlucieco.gov.

"Café Kulture"

In partnership with Hispanics In Action, the Morningside Branch Library presents a new monthly program: "Café Kulture," featuring local entertainers on the fourth Friday of each month. "Café Kulture" begins Aug. 31 from 7 – 10 p.m. with special guest Xavier Alejandro, singer and guitarist. Additional artists that evening include: Renaissance singer of Madrigals, Kate Smith; violinist Frank Tomaszewski; and vocalist Cydney Zapata, who has performed at the Lyric Theater in Stuart. These monthly events are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. If you are interested in performing at future "Café Kulture" events, please call Marybeth at (772) 337-5632 or stop by the Morningside Branch Library to sign up. These events will be held every fourth Friday of the month, excluding holidays. The Morningside Branch Library is located at 2410 Morningside Blvd., Port St Lucie.

Upcoming Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center

Guided Hikes ~ Every Saturday at 10 a.m. Join an Oxbow naturalist as they lead visitors along a series of trails, discussing the plants and wildlife that live in the different habitats along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. For more information about all Oxbow Eco-Center events call the staff at (772) 785-5833 or visit www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow.

Joseph E. Smith, District 1 • Doug Coward, District 2 • Paula A. Lewis, District 3
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