



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

December 15, 2008

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 Ja' Net Pentz, Executive Assistant St. Lucie County 2300 Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, FL 34982 772.462.1453 pentzj@stlucieco.org

Board of County Commissioners Special Meetings & Workshops Scheduled

- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Joint Meeting with the Treasure Coast Education and Research Development Authority on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the University of Florida / IFAS Center located at 2199 S. Rock Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34945
- The December 23, 2008 Regular Board of County Commissioners Meeting has been canceled.
- The December 23, 2008 BOCC Monthly Informal Meeting has been canceled.
- County offices will be closed on Thursday, December 25, 2008 and Friday, December 26, 2008 to observe Christmas.
- County offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2009 to observe New Year's Day.
- The Board of County Commissioners and the City of Fort Pierce will hold a Joint Meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Commissioners Chambers.

Grand Bahama Island Signs Memorandum of Understanding

A team from St. Lucie County visited Grand Bahama Island last week, seeking to create an economic partnership that could potentially be beneficial for both parties. The team included St. Lucie County Commissioner Doug Coward and St. Lucie Assistant County Administrator Faye Outlaw. The visit was hosted by Grand Bahama Ministry of Tourism and Grand Bahama Tourism Board. This was a reciprocal visit, as representatives from Grand Bahama Tourism Board had recently visited the County to start the process of exploring an economic partnership with tourism as one facet of the agreement. George Byfield, CEO of Comet Creative, the marketing agency for St. Lucie County Tourism Development Council, and the initiator of the partnership, explained that the idea of a partnership with Grand Bahama Island has been in the works for over nine months.

St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation Offers Holiday Camp

St. Lucie County's Parks and Recreation staff will be offering a holiday camp for ages 5-11 on Dec. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31 and Jan. 2 at the Havert L. Fenn Center. Campers will make holiday ornaments, play indoor and outdoor games, spend the day at the park, have lunch at CiCi's Pizza, enjoy a movie at Sabal Palm Theater, celebrate the New Year with a big party and more. The cost to participate in the holiday camp is \$15 per day or \$75 for the entire session. There are additional costs for the field trips, and lunches and snacks are not provided. Pre-registration is required. The camp takes place from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. each day. The Havert L. Fenn Center is located at 2000 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce. For more information call the St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation staff at (772) 462-1521.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

St. Lucie County and the City of Fort Pierce will be receiving approximately \$6 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Grant funds from the Department of Community Affairs to respond to the rising foreclosures and the declining property values in St. Lucie County. A joint meeting will be held to explain the program and get insight into the foreclosure process and needs of the community on Thursday, Dec. 18 from 3-5 p.m. in the St. Lucie County Commission Chambers, 2300 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce. Please note that these funds cannot be utilized to assist with foreclosure prevention. For more information visit the Department of Community Affairs website at www.floridacommunitydevelopment.org/cdbg/nsp.cfm. If you any questions or would like to contribute comments and cannot attend the meeting please contact Jessica Parrish at the St. Lucie County Community Services Department at (772) 462-2375.

Breakfast and Phone Calls with Santa Claus

St. Lucie County's Parks and Recreation Department is offering area children plenty of ways to communicate with Santa Claus this holiday season, including "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 20. Additionally, the county has opened the Santa Hotline, allowing parents the opportunity to register to have Santa Claus personally call their child on the evenings of Dec. 16, 18 and 23. Parents are required to provide some basic information that will assist Santa with his calls. For more information call Santa's No. 1 Elf, Yenta, at (772) 462-1521. There is \$3 charge for each household. Those looking to meet Santa in person can have "Breakfast with Santa Claus" on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 9 – 11 a.m. at the Havert L. Fenn Center, 2000 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce. This program allows children to sit down with Santa and enjoy a continental breakfast. There is no age restriction to enjoy breakfast with Santa. Participants will also make a holiday craft and receive a goodie bag to take home with them. Cost for the breakfast is \$5 per participant. Sign up early to reserve your seat in this popular program. For more information about both programs call Joe Lane at (772) 462-1792.

Educational Boat Tours

The St. Lucie County Marine Center is partnering with Capt. Chop Legé on a new program, offering educational boat tours of the Indian River Lagoon on the first and third Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. The next boat tour will be Saturday, Dec. 20. For only \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth, guests will enjoy an hour-and-half boat tour on the lagoon and two visits to the Marine Center, where they can see what lies beneath the water's surface. The Marine Center features the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit, which showcases a coral reef exhibit that was once housed in Washington D.C., along with a touch tank and other aquariums that are home to more than 3,000 species of marine life. Guests can use their visits to the Marine Center before or after their boat tour or they can return at a later date to view the lush marine aquariums that accurately reflect the habitats found in local waters. Boat tours are limited to 34 people, so tickets are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Tickets must be purchased in advance of the boat trips at the Marine Center. The boat tours will leave from the Summerlin Boat Dock, a short walk from the Marine Center on the north side of the Historical Museum. To find out more information about the boat tours or the St. Lucie County Marine Center and its gift shop, please call (772) 462-3474 or visit: www.sms.si.edu/SMEE. The St. Lucie County Marine Center is located at 420 Seaway Drive, just at the eastern base of the south AIA bridge, and is open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Chris Dzadovsky, District 1 • Doug Coward, District 2 • Paula A. Lewis, District 3
Charles Grande, District 4 • Chris Craft, District 5

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772.462.1453 • pentzj@stlucieco.org

