



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

January 15, 2006

**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 Trabulsl@co.st-lucie.fl.us

Board of County Commission Special Meetings & Workshops Scheduled

- St. Lucie County staff will hold a work session with State and National experts to discuss alternatives to the types of organizations that will be needed to implement the open space component of the Towns, Villages and Countryside (TVC) Plan. The work session will be held on January 23, 2006 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners Chambers. For more information, contact the Environmental Resources Department at (772) 462-2526.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Strategic Planning Workshop on January 30 and 31 at the Panther Woods Country Club, 9425 Meadowood Drive in Fort Pierce.
- The Board of County Commissioners, City of Fort Pierce and the City of Port St. Lucie will hold a joint meeting on Friday, February 3, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will hold a TVC Land Development Code Revisions Workshop on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the New Port St. Lucie Downtown Trolley and Transit Route

The Board of County Commissioners, the City of Port St. Lucie and Community Transit will hold a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Port St. Lucie Downtown Trolley and Transit Route on Friday, January 27th at 10 a.m. at the Veteran's Memorial Park, located at 2100 S.E. Midport Road, in Port St. Lucie. The Trolley will run from 7 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and have two connection points with the Treasure Coast Connector U.S. 1 route. The route runs along Midport Road to Villas of Village Green, Rivergate Plaza, Lyngate park and around the Morningside Library. The route has 21 stops and can assist residents in getting to a job or shopping at Staples Plaza on U.S. 1, Market Place and East Port Plaza. Medical appointments to the hospital and adjacent medical offices can now be reached by the trolley. The \$1 fare allows riders to travel stress-free to many Port St. Lucie destinations or get to the Connector Route to ride the Treasure Coast Mall in Jensen Beach or Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce. The trolley operations are funded through a Federal Transit Administration grant and fares. The yearly cost to operate the trolley is \$232,053.

Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit at the St. Lucie County Marine Center Offers Children's Program

Join Smithsonian education staff on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 from 8:30 – 10 am and discover nature's underwater nursery – the seagrass community! This hands-on program is for children 3–5 years old and one accompanying adult – daddies, grandmas and grandpas are welcome, too! Participants will explore the seagrass community through story time, craft making and a visit to the Seagrass exhibit. Cost is \$10 per adult/child pair. Advance registration is required as space is limited. Call Laura at (772) 465-3271 to sign up!

Indian River Drive and AIA Designated Part of the Florida Scenic Highway

The Florida Department of Transportation recently announced that portions of Indian River Drive and State Road AIA has been designated part of the Florida Scenic Highway. The Indian River Lagoon-Treasure Coast Scenic Highway corridor is approximately 42 miles in length and travels along SR AIA from the Indian River/St. Lucie County line, south along North Hutchinson Island, crossing over the Indian River Lagoon to U.S. 1. The scenic highway continues south on U.S. 1 to South AIA (Seaway Drive) to the St. Lucie County/Martin County line. Indian River Drive (SR 707) is also part of the scenic highway, beginning at the Martin/St. Lucie County line continuing north to downtown Fort Pierce, ending at Seaway Drive. Highways meet the "scenic highway designation" based on their natural, recreational, and/or scenic value to the State of Florida. The Indian River Lagoon—Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Corridor Advocacy Group worked closely with St. Lucie County, the Cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, the Marine Resources Council, the Presidents Council of North Hutchinson Island, private citizens and public entities to apply for this special designation that will preserve and sustain important resources for future generations to enjoy.

Upcoming Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center

"Florida Master Naturalist Training Freshwater Wetlands Module" ~ Friday, January 20, 27 and February 10 ~ 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, January 21, & 28 ~ 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ~ Want to learn more about Florida's ecosystems? Students learn about ecology, habitats, vegetation, wildlife and conservation issues. This event is sponsored by the Oxbow Eco-Center and St. Lucie Cooperative Extension Service. Cost is \$200 per person. Register directly on-line at www.masternaturalist.org.

Nature Poetry ~ Saturday, January 14 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. ~ Feel the soft breeze in your hair, watch the lizards dance and listen to the music of birds and insects....then learn how to express your experience in the form of poetry. Oxbow "poets" will guide you. It's easy and fun! Appropriate for ages 6 & up. Program is free. Please RSVP by calling (772) 785-5833.

Guided Hikes ~ Every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. ~ Join a naturalist and take a hike through the Oxbow forest. Free. No reservations are needed.

St. Lucie Audubon Society ~ 1st Thursday of each month ~ 7- 9 p.m.

Lakela's Mint Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society ~ 2nd Tuesday of each month ~ 6-8 p.m.

Photography Club ~ 1st Wednesday of each month ~ 6:30 p.m. ~ If you are interested in learning the art of photography or improving upon your skills, join other enthusiasts. Bring your camera and some of your work and share your secrets and techniques with others. Everyone is welcome.

St. Lucie Regional Herpetological Society ~ 3rd Wednesday of each month ~ 7 p.m. ~ Join the members of St. Lucie's premier herp society to learn about snakes, lizards, frogs and more. Free.

Annual Party in the Park Scheduled

The annual Party in the Park event sponsored by the Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County in cooperation with the Fort Pierce Inlet State Park will be held on January 21, 2006 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Fort Pierce Inlet State Park. This year's theme is "Nature Needs You." For more information, call (772) 468-3985.

St. Lucie County Fair Scheduled

The 41st Annual St. Lucie County Fair will begin on Friday, February 24 and run through Sunday, March 5, 2006 at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds. Visit the website at www.stluciecountyfair.org or call (772) 464-2910 for more information.

New York Mets Spring Training Opening Day Set

The opening day for spring training home games for the New York Mets at the Tradition Field will be on Friday, March 3, 2006 at 7:10 p.m. versus the St. Louis Cardinals. For more information or for tickets, visit the website at www.traditionfield.com or call (772) 871-2115.

Joseph E. Smith, District 1 • Doug Coward, District 2 • Paula A. Lewis, District 3
Frannie Hutchinson, District 4 • Chris Craft, District 5

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