

St. Lucie County

January 15, 2004

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

In this Issue:

- Meeting Changes
- Workshops Scheduled
- North County Charrette Planned
- Adams Ranch Equestrian Center Ground Breaking Set
- Tallship Unicorn Arrives in St. Lucie County
- Lighthouse Presentation at Historical Museum
- Ag Extension Office Presents Lawn Class
- Sunland Gardens MSBU Approved
- Oxbow Eco-Center Events
- Marine Center Book Signing Event

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

Board of County Commission Meeting Change

The January 20, 2004 Board of County Commissioners meetings will be changed to 6:00 p.m.

Board of County Commission Workshop & Strategic Planning Session Scheduled

- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a workshop on Thursday, January 15, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room #3 to discuss Transportation Issues with The Reserve.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Strategic Planning Session on February 19, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with the location to be determined.

North County Charrette Planned

In an effort to work together with the citizens, property owners and business owners in northern St. Lucie County, the St. Lucie County Planning Department and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will host the North County Charrette on Saturday, February 7, 2004 through Friday, February 13, 2004. The primary public input session of the charrette will take place on Saturday, February 7, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Lakewood Park Elementary School cafeteria located at 7800 Indrio Road in Fort Pierce. The public is also invited to a presentation of the charrette report on Friday, February 13, 2004 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. also at the Lakewood Park Elementary School cafeteria. For more information, call (772) 462-1586.

Adams Ranch Equestrian Center Ground Breaking Ceremony Set

A ground breaking ceremony for the Adams Ranch Equestrian Center at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds has been scheduled for Friday, January 16, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. The fairgrounds are located at 15601 West Midway Road - at the intersection of Midway Road and Okeechobee Road - in Fort Pierce.

The new 75,000 square foot center will cost \$1.1 million with \$350,000 coming from Mr. Alto "Bud" Adams for naming rights, and the rest of the funding coming from Investment for the Future funds and loan proceeds. The contractor for the project is the Ahrens Company with a construction completion date of May 2004. The center will be available for equestrian events such as barrel racing, horse shows and rodeos and will also be available for other types of events such as concerts.

St. Lucie County Welcomes the Tallship Unicorn to Fort Pierce

St. Lucie County welcomes the arrival of the Tallship Unicorn to Fort Pierce this weekend. The schooner's new winter home is located on South Hutchinson Island at the Astor Summerlin Dock at 414 Seaway Drive on Museum Pointe. On Saturday, January 17 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., the Tallship Unicorn will offer free deck tours to the public in an effort to introduce themselves to the community.

The Unicorn, a 118-foot square-topsail, gaff-rigged schooner with a small crew will be based in Fort Pierce from January to May. The ship will be featured in a program of executive sail training and will also be available for sail training charters to the Bahamas. The Tallship will also host school children from the area for tours and educational programs. For more information, contact Dawn Santamaria at (908) 256-6758 or Linette Trabulsy, St. Lucie County Public Information Officer at (772) 462-1791.

Historical Museum to Host Lighthouse Experts

Discover the history of Florida's lighthouses when Lynn Homan and Thomas Reilly present a Florida lighthouses lecture on Sunday, January 25, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. at the St. Lucie County Historical Museum, 414 Seaway Drive, on Museum Pointe in Fort Pierce. Hear the stories of the brave men and women who ran the early lighthouses. Learn about their dedication to duty and explore their lighthouse living quarters. Explore what makes lighthouses so special and what is being done to save the 30 lighthouses that still remain in Florida. The lighthouse program is funded by the Florida Humanities Council and is free and open to the public. Following the program, visitors are welcome to visit the Historical Museum's exhibit "Luminous Lamps: Florida's Lighthouses." This lighthouse exhibit is featured at the museum from now through May. For further information, please contact Anne Sinnott, museum educator, at (772) 462-1891.

Agriculture Extension Office to Offer Lawn Class

In an effort to help the citizens of St. Lucie County with lawn care, the St. Lucie County Agriculture Extension Office will present the "Building a Better Lawn" program. In this program, instructors will discuss the basics of lawn care and many tips on how to have a healthy lawn, including fertilizing and lawn care. Classes will take place on Wednesday, January 28th at 9:30 a.m. at the Morningside Library located at 2410 S.E. Morningside Boulevard in Port St. Lucie; on Wednesday, February 4th at 9:30 a.m. at the Lakewood Park Library located at 7605 Santa Barbara Drive in Fort Pierce; on Wednesday, February 11th at 9:30 a.m. at the St. Lucie West Government Annex located at 250 N.W. Country Club Drive in Port St. Lucie; and on Wednesday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Downtown Fort Pierce Library located at 101 Melody Lane. For more information or to register for the class, call Susan Brodeur at (772) 462-1660.

Sunland Gardens MSBU Approved

The Board of County Commissioners approved the resolution to levy a non-ad valorem special assessment on the Sunland Gardens Municipal Services Benefit Unit to provide potable water improvements to the subdivision located in northwest Fort Pierce. Phase I assessment will begin November 2004.

January Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center

Guided Hike ~ January 17, 24, 31 at 10:00 a.m. ~ *Join an Oxbow naturalist for an interpretive hike along Oxbow's trails.*

Canoe and Kayak River Tour ~ January 17 at 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. ~ *Explore the North Fork of the St. Lucie River by canoe or kayak. An Oxbow naturalist will be your guide on this relaxing tour. Space is limited. Please call for reservations. \$10 fee per person.*

Eco-Friday Night Hikes ~ Friday, January 30 at 6:30-8:30 p.m. ~ *Follow your sense of adventure to Oxbow for a season of owl prowls, bat programs & amphibian adventures! Free!*

Audubon Birding Classes ~ January 20, 27 & February 3 ~ *The St. Lucie Audubon Society is hosting an introductory course in birding. Interested parties should Call Dottie Hull at 340-2226 for costs and information.*

For information on the events or the center, call (772) 785-5842.

Marine Ecosystem Exhibit to Host National Museum of Natural History Author for Book Signing Event

On Wednesday, January 21 at noon, join Dr. Carole Baldwin of the National Museum of Natural History at the Brown Bag Lecture and Book Signing at the St. Lucie County Marine Center located at 420 Seaway Drive on Museum Pointe in Fort Pierce. Dr. Baldwin, a marine biologist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and star of the IMAX film *Galapagos*, will be speaking about and signing her new book, "One Fish, Two Fish, Crawfish, Bluefish: The Smithsonian Sustainable Seafood Cookbook." Royalties received by the authors from sales of this book will support Smithsonian marine research and education. Books will be available at the Marine Center's Gift Shop. For more information, contact the Marine Center at (772) 462-3474.

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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