



# U P D A T E

## St. Lucie County

January 15, 2008

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

*In this Issue:*

- Special Meetings & Workshops Scheduled
- Parks and Recreation
- Library Events
- Environmental Resources
- Oxbow Events

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 January Informal Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 3.
- The Board of County Commissioners Evaluation and Appraisal Report Major Issues Workshop will be on Friday, January 25, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
- The Tuesday, February 5, 2008, Board of County Commissioners Meeting has been canceled due to the Board of County Commission trip to Washington, D.C.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the February Informal Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 3.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the Strategic Planning Session on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Thursday, March 13, 2008, from 8 a.m. to Noon at Tradition Town Hall.

### Space Class

St. Lucie County's Parks and Recreation Department will be offering two sessions of the Space Discovery Class, starting in February. The Space Discovery Class is for any child, ages 9-12, who is interested in space exploration. The six-week class teaches about the wonders of space and how space is explored through a number of hands-on activities, while preparing for a simulated shuttle mission. The class is scheduled to take a field trip to Kennedy Space Center. Two sessions are available. The evening session starts on Tuesday, Feb. 5, and meets from 7 - 8:30 p.m. A Wednesday morning session is offered starting Wednesday, Feb. 6, and will meet from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Classes will meet at the Civil Air Patrol Headquarters, St. Lucie County International Airport, 2856 Curtis King Blvd, Fort Pierce. Registration is underway now. The cost of the class is \$90, which includes class materials and field trip. A three ring binder is needed to hold class materials. Pre-registration and payment is required. For more information, please call (772) 462-1792.

### Fort Pierce Library Hosts Lecture About Orphan Trains of the 1850s

The story of the orphan trains and their riders from 1856-1930 is the story of homeless children in New York and the beginning of the American social system. Historian Patti Kirk of the Family History and Genealogical Research Group will present a program on the Orphan Trains at the Fort Pierce Branch Library on Thursday, Jan. 31 at 1 p.m. The Orphan Train movement occurred in the late 19<sup>th</sup>, early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, when approximately 200,000 orphans from New York were placed out West by railroad to rural towns and farm communities. In some states, children found homes, in others; they served as farm and domestic labor. The estimated 30,000 children ranged in age from about 6 to 18 and were homeless or neglected, living in New York City's streets and slums. Many were not orphans but were abandoned or were illegitimate or destitute. In 1853, the founder of the New York Children's Aid Society, Charles Loring Brace, was determined to give children gainful work, education, and good families by placing them with families in the West through use of the Orphan Trains. In 1923, the Children's Aid Society created a formalized foster care department, which included permanent adoption services. It instituted its current policy of placing foster children with families locally. Come join Patti Kirk as she recounts this fascinating story of homeless children in New York and their journey to survive. These events are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. The Fort Pierce Library is located at 101 Melody Lane. For more information, call Vicki Cooke at (772) 462-2787.

## Lack of Participation Closes Two County Pools for Winter

Due to the lack of participation, St. Lucie County's Parks and Recreation Department will be closing two pools for the winter months, effective Saturday, Dec. 22 at 5 p.m. The newly opened Lakewood Regional Park Pool on Emerson Avenue is scheduled to reopen April 1, while the Open Space Pool on Avenue M is slated to reopen May 24. St. Lucie County's Parks and Recreation Department attempted to keep three of its pools open year round. However, public participation at two of the pools didn't justify keeping them open during the winter months. The Port St. Lucie Pool, located at 200 Ravenswood Lane, will continue to remain open year round. All outstanding passes issued for Lakewood Regional Park and the Open Space Pool will be honored at the Port St. Lucie Pool. For more information about the hours of operation for the Port St. Lucie Pool, call (772) 871-2183.

## Morningside Library Presents January Walls of Art

St. Lucie County's Morningside Branch Library is pleased to present paintings by four area artists as part of the library's "Walls of Art" program. Throughout January, library visitors can enjoy oil and pastels by Judy Coffman, photography and fine art by Barbara Brissette, watercolors and mixed media art by Christine Trevethan and photographs by Bernie Trevethan. The "Walls of Art" display is ongoing and will change monthly featuring different local artists. If you are interested in displaying your handicrafts or artwork, please call (772) 337-5632 or stop by the Morningside Branch Library to sign up. The Morningside Branch Library is located at 2410 Morningside Blvd., Port St Lucie.

## St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department announces January Nature Series Topics

The St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department continues its weekly Nature Series this January with topics ranging from disc golf to animal tracks. Held each Saturday at various Environmentally Significant Land sites throughout the county, this series runs through April.

- Saturday, Jan. 19 from 9 – 10:30 a.m. – Paleo Hammock Archeological Walk. Learn about the early peoples of Florida with a walk back in time as we discuss the life histories of the Paleo-Indians and other early inhabitants of this area.
- Saturday, Jan. 26 from 9 – 11 a.m. – Pinelands Animal Signs Trek. Tracks, scat and other things that animals leave behind are valuable clues that we can learn from. Put on your sleuthing cap and become an "animal detective" trying to identify who and what has been on the trail recently.

Anyone wishing to participate in these unique nature programs needs to register at least one day in advance. Programs are free, but limited to the first 15 people. To register or for more details, call the St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department at (772) 462-2525 or visit: [www.stlucieco.gov/erd](http://www.stlucieco.gov/erd).

## Upcoming Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center

The Oxbow Eco-Center, St. Lucie County's environmental learning center, has several events scheduled for January, including the return of Nature at Night, weekly hikes and the Oxbow's Naturalist Training.

- Become a trained "naturalist" at the Oxbow's two-part training session Jan. 27 and Feb. 3 from 1 – 5 p.m. Balancing classroom discussion with field experiences, the program will cover general ecological principles, watershed issues, species identification and conservation efforts. The program cost is \$30 for the general public. This fee is waived for current volunteers who commit to a minimum number of naturalist-related volunteer hours at the Oxbow Eco-Center.
- Guided hikes continue at the Oxbow 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.

In addition to the various scheduled events, the Oxbow's trails are open every day from dawn until dusk, while the education center is open Tuesday through Friday from 1-5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon - 5 p.m. Situated on a 225-acre preserve on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, the Oxbow offers a rare glimpse of "the real Florida" with nature trails, boardwalks, observation towers and an interactive environmental learning center. The Oxbow is located at 5400 N.E. St. James Drive, Port St. Lucie (across from the Publix Shopping Center). For more information call the staff at (772) 785-5833 or visit [www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow](http://www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow).

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

St. Lucie County Public Information Office • 2300 Virginia Avenue • Fort Pierce, FL 34982  
772.462.1453 • [pentzj@stlucieco.gov](mailto:pentzj@stlucieco.gov)

