



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

June 15, 2004

**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 Trabulsi, Public Information Officer, St. Lucie County, 2300 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34982, 772.462.1791, 772.462.2131 Fax, Trabulsi@co.st-lucie.fl.us

Board of County Commission Meeting Changes & Special Meetings Scheduled

- Notice: All evening Board of County Commission meetings will now be held at 6:00 p.m.
- The July 6, 2004 Board of County Commissioners meeting has been canceled.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Mining Educational Presentation on local regulations and procedures and to receive technical information on the status of materials regarding mining operations in the county. This Presentation will take place on June 29, 2004 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.

Florida Police and Fire Games 2004 on the Treasure Coast

More than 4,000 firefighters and law enforcement officers are expected to arrive on the Treasure Coast June 20 – 26 to compete in the Florida Police & Fire Games. This is the second consecutive year this area has hosted the event. This is the first time since the Olympic-style games started in 1985 that the firefighters have been eligible to participate. Contestants from more than 130 agencies will compete in close to 50 events including arm wrestling, horseback riding, kayaking, softball and volleyball. The games will be held at various in Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties. St. Lucie County venues include the Tradition Field, the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds, Fort Pierce Central High School, Indian River Community College and more. For more information about the games visit www.lawgames.org.

St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Office Offers 4-H Camp Fishing Contest

The University of Florida/St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension office (4-H) will be conducting its 10th Annual 4-H Indian River Lagoon Exploration Camp Fishing Contest on Tuesday, June 22 at the Fort Pierce South Jetty from 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. The main objectives of this contest are to teach campers fishing skills and sportsmanship. Skills such as baiting a hook and unhooking a catch can prove challenging for nearly all campers. Award categories include biggest fish, most unusual catch, most caught and prettiest fish. The fishing contest is one of many activities the 4-H campers will be participating in during the week of June 21–25. Other camp highlights include seining at Jaycee Park on June 21st from 10:30 a.m.–noon; canoeing to a spoil island and mosquitoes lesson at the Florida Medical Entomology Lab on June 23rd from 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.; snakes on June 23rd from 3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.; and air boating on Lake Okeechobee on June 25th from 10:30 a.m.–noon. For additional information, please call Ken Gioeli, Natural Resources Agent, or Leroy Creswell, Sea Grant Agent, at the St. Lucie County Extension office at (772) 462-1660.

Weldon B. Lewis Ancient Oaks Park Contractor Hired

In May, the Board of County Commissioners hired H & J Contractors, Inc. as the contractors for the Weldon B. Lewis Ancient Oaks Park in White City. They were the lowest bidder at \$573,677. Funding comes from the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant and park impact fees. The 48 acre park, located north of Midway Road off Oleander Avenue, will consist of 43.17 acres nature preserve with a hiking trail through some of the most mature oak hammocks in the County and 4.88 acres active recreation area with a playground, picnic pavilion and athletic fields for soccer, baseball and softball.

Open Space Pool Contractor Hired

In May, the Board of County Commissioners hired Recreation Design & Construction, Inc. (RDC) as the contractor for the reconstruction of the Open Space Pool in Fort Pierce. They were the lowest bidder at \$595,000. Funding for the project comes from Investment for the Future funds, general fund and park impact fees.

Ranger Construction Industries, Inc. Hired for Intersection Improvements

In early June, the Board of County Commissioners hired Ranger Construction Industries, Inc. as the contractor for the Weatherbee Road and U.S. 1 intersection improvements. They were the lowest bidder at \$310,174. Funding for the project comes from Transportation Trust Funds, Impact Fees and Road Impact Fees..

National Geographic Channel International Films at the Navy SEAL Museum

In May, the Navy SEAL Museum was the site of filming for a new television series titled "Marine Machines" which will explore the ocean through stories about technology and the people who bring it into being and put it to work. The series will air on the History Channel Canada and National Geographic Channels internationally in over 130 countries and 26 languages. The premiere date for the series is set for the second quarter of 2005 and will be repeated throughout 2005 and 2006. The series will contain fourteen one-hour segments. The outdoor and indoor museum displays were of interest to the film crew. Chuck Thiess, a Korean War era UDT and museum board member, Frank Winget, commanding officer of the Florida SEAL reservists and a museum board member, and Bill Siebe, the museum facilities director and a SEAL from 1987-1990 were interviewed on camera for the series.

For more information on the Navy SEAL Museum, visit the website at www.navysealmuseum.com or call (772)595-5845. The museum is located at 3300 N. A1A in Fort Pierce. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10-4 and Sunday 12-4 and admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 6-12.

St. Lucie County Area Named Third in Nation's Hottest Housing Markets

It's no secret here in St. Lucie County, but now the nation is finding out that the Fort Pierce-Port St. Lucie housing market is "hot." According to a June 2nd MSN Money/CNBC story, "The Nation's Hottest Housing Markets," (by Richard Leong, Reuters) the Fort Pierce-Port St. Lucie housing market is ranked 3rd behind Fresno and Riverside-San Bernardino, California metro areas. The list names the top 220 places based on the metropolitan statistical area rankings for house-price appreciation from the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO) published on June 1, 2004. According to the article, "OFHEO's housing price index is published on a quarterly basis and tracks average house price changes in repeat sales or refinancings of the same single-family properties." To read the article in its entirety, go to <http://moneycentral.msn.com/content/Banking/Homebuyingguide/P85323.asp>.

June Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center

St. Lucie Regional Herpetological Society ~ Wednesday, June 16 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. ~ Join the members of St. Lucie's premier herp society to learn about snakes, lizards, frogs and more.

St. Lucie River Tour Guided Canoe/Kayak Tours ~ Saturday, June 19 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. ~ Come on out and enjoy the beautiful St. Lucie River. Cost is \$10 per person. Pre-payment is required. Children ages 5-7 are free.

Sea Turtle Talk ~ Friday, June 25 ~ 12:00-1:00 p.m. ~ The Turtle Mother, Grace Kedizora, will share her vast sea turtle knowledge and experiences with us. Bring your lunch and join us for "Those Amazing Turtles."

June Events at the Library

The St. Lucie County Library System will be working with the Treasure Coast American Red Cross by providing the following Babysitting Classes at the indicated times and locations. Registration forms are available through the library and should be returned to the Red Cross office on 25th Street.

- Morningside Library, Saturday, June 19, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Fort Pierce Branch, Saturday, July 10, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The Great Expectations Book Club meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club located at 700 North Indian River Drive and is facilitated by the Library and the Parks and Recreation Department. The book discussion group schedule is:

- Wednesday, June 16th, 10:00 a.m., *Notes on a Scandal* by Zoe Heller
- Wednesday, July 7th, 10:00 a.m., *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

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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