



# U P D A T E

## St. Lucie County

May 15, 2007

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

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### Board of County Commissioners Special Meetings & Workshops Scheduled

- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Workshop with the St. Lucie County Fair Association on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 9 a.m. in the Commission Chambers.
- There will be a Treasure Coast Legislative Delegation Meeting on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the St. Lucie County Commission Chambers to discuss the proposed property tax reform.
- The Board of County Commissioners and the City of Fort Pierce will hold a Joint Budget Meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2007 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the City of Fort Pierce Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold an informal meeting on Friday, May 25, 2007 from 9 a.m. until Noon in Conference Room 3.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold an informal meeting on Friday, June 8, 2007 from 9 a.m. until Noon in Conference Room 3.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the Lakewood Park Regional Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 5 p.m.
- The Regular County Commission Meetings on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 and Tuesday, July 17, 2007 have been canceled due to lack of quorum.
- The Board of County Commissioners 2008 Budget Workshops will begin Thursday, July 19, 2007 and run through Wednesday, July 25, 2007 in Conference Room 3.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Budget Millage Adoption Meeting on Tuesday, July 31, 2007 at 9 a.m.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Preliminary Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 6 p.m.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Final Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 6 p.m.

### Historical Museum Closure

The St. Lucie County Historical Museum is closed to the public through June 4 for renovations and repairs. The museum will temporarily close for the month to make renovations to the existing restrooms as well as repairs to the air conditioning system. The upgrades to the air conditioning system will not only improve the experience for visitors, but they will also help protect the Historical Museum's artifacts – some of which date back to the early 1900s. The Historical Museum staff will continue to work during this time on an exciting new exhibit that will highlight St. Lucie County's early pioneer days once the museum reopens. For more details about the St. Lucie County Historical Museum, call the staff at (772) 462-1891.

### Trauma Center

After a 3-2 vote last month, St. Lucie County Commissioners agreed to a June 26 referendum asking voters to create an increase in the property tax to help fund a trauma center at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute. The tax, which would be up to a quarter-mill property tax -- or 25 cents on each \$1,000 of taxable property value -- would fund up to \$7 million a year for doctors' salaries to staff the trauma center. (A homeowner in St. Lucie County with an assessed value of \$250,000 and a standard \$25,000 homestead exemption would pay \$56.25 annually for the trauma center.) There also will be a 10-year sunset or expiration on the tax, but Lawnwood can ask for an extension. If the referendum is approved, the hospital could accept its first trauma patient on Oct. 1. For more information about polling places in St. Lucie County or early and absentee voting visit: [www.slcelections.com](http://www.slcelections.com) or call 772-462-1500.

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

## St. Lucie County Moves to Phase II Watering Restrictions

As water managers in South Florida implement Phase II water restrictions, St. Lucie County's code enforcement officers will begin issuing \$25 fines for those property owners who violate the mandatory water restrictions on the first offense. The South Florida Water Management District will begin restricting irrigation to two days a week Wednesday, May 16 for both Martin and St. Lucie County residents. A burn ban is in effect for all of St. Lucie County whenever the drought index exceeds 550. That burn ban, which includes all open fires and fireworks, has been in effect since February. The new mandatory two-day-a-week irrigation restriction applies to all water users, whether they irrigate their lawns with water from public utilities, private wells, canals, rivers, ponds or lakes. Residents with less than five acres in the unincorporated areas of St. Lucie County and addresses ending in odd numbers may only irrigate their lawns Wednesdays and Saturdays between 4 a.m. – 8 a.m. Hand watering is permitted on those days between 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Residences with less than five acres and addresses ending in even number may water during those times on Thursdays and Sundays. Residents with more than five acres and odd number addresses can irrigate their lawns Wednesdays and Fridays between 12:01 a.m. – 8 a.m. Those with more than five acres and even number addresses may water during those times on Thursdays and Sundays. Property owners with new landscaping (less than 30 days planted) on less than five acres may water between 2 a.m. – 8 a.m. Monday through Friday. New landscaping on more than five acres may irrigated between 12:01 a.m. – 8 a.m. Monday through Friday. Hand watering may be done at anytime for new landscaping. However, please keep receipts to prove that the plantings are less than 30 days old. Residents should also refrain from using water to pressure wash homes, sidewalk and other paved surfaces. Boats, vehicles and other equipment maybe washed between 4 a.m. – 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. -7 p.m. on the same days that your property is allowed to be irrigated. Vehicles and boats should be washed on non-paved surfaces. Boats may be rinsed after use for 15 minutes per day. Additionally effective today, all North and South Hutchinson Island reclaim water customers will only have three watering days: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 p.m. – 8 a.m. St. Lucie County Utilities is no longer going to supplement the reuse with potable water. The demand for reclaimed water is more than the department can make. St. Lucie County Code Enforcement officers will be enforcing these water restrictions in the unincorporated areas of the county. No further warnings will be issued. Residents caught violating for the first time will be issued a \$25 fine, while second-time offenders will be issued a \$500 fine and/or jail time not to exceed 60 days. These restrictions will remain in effect until sufficient rainfall is received. The county will be monitoring the situation and continue to coordinate with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). St. Lucie County and SFWMD continue to encourage both residential and agricultural water users throughout the county to reduce their water consumption and observe more aggressive water conservation practices. For more information about the county's water restrictions, contact the St. Lucie County Utilities Department at (772) 462-1150 or visit [www.stlucieco.gov](http://www.stlucieco.gov). For more details about SFWMD water restrictions visit: [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov) or call (800) 250-4100 ext. 3630. For water conservation tips call SFWMD Water Conservation Hotline at (800) 662-8876. To report water violations in the unincorporated part of St. Lucie County contact the county's Code Enforcement Hotline at (772) 370-2545.

## Upcoming Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center

**Junior Naturalist Summer Camp** ~ June 4 - June 8 from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ~ Young nature-lovers and budding biologists will thrive at the Oxbow Eco-Center's Junior Naturalist Summer Camp. This day camp focuses on nature study and artistic expression. For children ages 9 - 11. Cost for the camp is \$150. For more information, please contact Heidi Vestrem at 772-785-5842.

**Art In Nature Camp** ~ July 9 - July 13 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. ~ For the artistic nature lover, the Oxbow is offering an Art in Nature 1/2 day camp for ages 11 - 14. Students will learn to observe, see and then express themselves through sketching, painting and 3-dimensional "junk" art. Cost is \$100. For more information, please contact Heidi Vestrem at 772-785-5842.

**Guided Hikes** ~ 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. For more information about all Oxbow Eco-Center events 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  
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