



## Third Year's a Charm...

*He's rounding third and heading home!* 'Tis' the season where concepts about home begin to weave into our daily lives. In baseball, runners can't score until they make it home. In churches, high schools and universities across the country, the call to return for Homecoming has begun. Soon we will be celebrating the holidays with musical standards like, *I'll be Home for Christmas* and *Home for the Holidays*. What is it about home—or places that feel like home—that sometimes compel us to return?

Four years ago, I returned home to St. Lucie County because of something I had heard eight years before. At my high school graduation, the superintendent at that time challenged graduates to *go off, get your education and then return home and become part of your community*. Some headed that call, but our community continues to experience a "brain drain," or the loss of skilled workforce members who are educated in our schools.

As a community, each of us must be willing to invest in high-wage, high-skilled job opportunities to either retain young adults in our community upon graduation, or entice them to return home. If we are unsuccessful in this task, then all of the enhancements made within our educational system will be for naught. We will be paying to educate the workforce of other communities and not our own. Homecoming will remain a social event as it is in one sense of the word; and not a cause for celebration and more importantly, a catalyst for economic development, as it should be!

In this last year of my first term, I will be sprinting toward home plate to advance your issues, but please know that the issue of sustainability—not just as it relates to the built environment, but as it relates to our workforce and community—will be a key issue I hope to advance as well.

It remains my pleasure to represent you. Thank you for the privilege of doing so—



Commissioner Smith welcomes the crowd at the first Treasure Coast Green Conference in October.



## Three Years of Progress...

**Commissioner Smith has spent the past three years working to improve our community in many of ways. His travel has helped secure funding, as well as concepts like the Green Initiative and Kids at Hope to St. Lucie County. Read more below...**

## Bringing home the Bacon



What do trips to Tallahassee and Washington DC get you? If you play your cards right, money! The Board of County Commissioners has secured millions of dollars for projects in St. Lucie County, thanks to their lobbying efforts with state and federal legislators.



Construction crews erect a wall at St. Lucie County's new Special Needs Shelter on Virginia Avenue.

State funds are footing the majority of the \$15 million bill for a new 60,000 square foot Special Needs Shelter, which will double as a gym and auditorium. Federal money is also helping to pay for a new runway at the St. Lucie County International Airport, as well as a new federal courthouse in downtown Ft. Pierce.

## Kids at Hope

"All children can succeed, NO EXCEPTIONS!" That is the mantra of local Treasure Hunters who are working to make St. Lucie County a *Kids at Hope* community. The exciting new initiative, which concentrates on finding value in every single child, is being launched in a neighborhood near you! To find out more about how to get involved and become a Treasure Hunter, contact Carin at (772) 462-1410.



## Perking up the Parks

District One parks are looking better than ever. Construction has begun on covers for the basketball courts at Open Space Park, which are expected to be complete in the spring. The pool at Open Space has also undergone recent renovation.

The highly utilized Dan McCarty Middle School track now has a brand new parking lot and soccer fields in the center. Lawnwood Stadium is also home to new soccer fields, and has been refurbished along with the Elks Baseball fields on Delaware.

Sheraton Plaza Park now has a Nature Trail and observation deck, as well as improved lighting.



Work is under way on the long-awaited basketball court cover at Ilous Ellis Open Space Park.

## The Future is GREEN!



It's a fact...if we do not start conserving our resources, our planet will continue to suffer irreparable damage. "Think globally, act locally" is the catch phrase in the world of green. Each person can make a contribution to the movement (could be as simple as changing to energy-conserving light bulbs, or better yet, turning off lights when you leave a room). Those combined efforts can create systemic change. Commissioner Smith has been a leader in the local green movement, and has challenged the county to "Lead By Example." Last year, the Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee was formed to provide guidance and advice on Green Issues. In October, 440 people participated in the first Treasure Coast Green Conference. Stay tuned for more on St. Lucie County Going Green!

# Graffiti Abatement Team Effort

Graffiti is called "The Newspaper of Gangs"...and unfortunately, it is popping up all over St. Lucie County, specifically District One. Fed up with the nuisance, Commissioner Smith decided to take action against the very public spray-painted war of words. His tactic—fight paint with paint.

With the help of his Executive Aide, Carin Smith, and county summer intern, Israel Ross, the Graffiti Abatement Team Effort, or GATE, was created.

On Saturday, September 8, 2007, roughly 80 volunteers were sent to twenty locations within District One.



*It took volunteers from the PACE Center for Girls over an hour and 3 gallons of paint to cover gang graffiti on a wall on West Booth Drive.*

## Important Numbers

### Commissioner Joe Smith

(772) 462-1410

[carins@stlucieco.gov](mailto:carins@stlucieco.gov)

### Ft. Pierce City Hall

(772) 460-2200

### Port St. Lucie City Hall

(772) 871-5159

### SLC School Board Office

(772) 429-3600

### State Representative

**Richard Machek**

(772) 595-1391

### State Senator

**Ken Pruitt**

(772) 344-1140

### Governor Charlie Crist

(850) 488-7146

### US Representative

**Alcee Hastings**

(202) 225-1313

### US Senator

**Bill Nelson**

(202) 224-5274

### US Senator

**Mel Martinez**

(202) 224-3041

### The White House

(202) 456-1414

## Questions or comments about our newsletter?

Do you have an issue you'd like for us to discuss in the next newsletter?

Maybe an event you would like announced to the community?

Call or email Carin:

462-1410 or

[carins@stlucieco.gov](mailto:carins@stlucieco.gov)

They were armed with paint and supplies donated from local businesses, and provided their own elbow grease to restore graffiti-ridden walls, signs, poles, streets and sidewalks.

Paint and supplies were donated by Sherwin Williams, Walmart Distribution Center and Home Depot, and food and beverages were donated by Orchid Island and Publix. Special thanks to the Kiwanis, PACE Center for Girls, the Boys and Girls Club Infinity Teen Center, the Ft. Pierce Police Department, Teen Court, the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office and everyone who donated their time and resources to help to make GATE a success.



*The entrance to Pine Valley Subdivision in Orange Blossom Estates was cleaned up by volunteers from the Boys and Girls Club Infinity Youth Center.*



*James Smith (Commissioner Smith's Dad) and Israel Ross paint over graffiti at 41st and Angle Road.*

## Meeting Schedules

### County Commission:

6pm—1st/3rd Tues of every month

9am - 2nd/4th Tues of every month

Administration Bldg.

3rd Floor

2300 Virginia Ave

(Comcast Cable Channel 21)

### Ft. Pierce City Commission:

7pm - 1st/3rd Mon of every month

City Hall

100 North US 1

(Comcast Cable Channel 27)

### School Board:

6pm - 2nd/4th Tues of every month

School Board Office

4204 Okeechobee Rd.

### Lincoln Park Business Assoc.:

7pm - 2nd Wed of every month

Willie B. Ellis Police Substation

1220 Avenue D



*Volunteers from Teen Court tackle a graffiti-covered building at the corner of Avenue K and 13th Street.*

## SLC Welcomes Lee Ann Lowery

St. Lucie County has a new Assistant County Administrator. Lee Ann Lowery replaced former Assistant County Administrator Ray Wazny. Lowery comes to us from the City of Gainesville, and boasts 20 years of county-related experience. We are happy to have her on board!