



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

March 15, 2008

**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 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 Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will hold a Joint Meeting on the Taylor Creek Charrette Master Plan with the Board of County Commissioners, City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie Village on Monday, March 24, 2008 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Joint Meeting with the TCERDA on Friday, April 25, 2008, 1:30 p.m. in Room 219 at the University of Florida Building located at 2199 South Rock Road in Fort Pierce.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the April Informal Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room #3.

Clerk of Court

The Ribbon Cutting for the new Clerk of Court Building will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at 4 p.m. The new Clerk of Court Building is located at 201 South Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce. The event will be followed by Fort Pierce Main Street's Artwalk.

St. Lucie County Hosts 2008 Ag Tour Blue and Green

Learn about the significance of "Blue and Green" during St. Lucie County's Annual Ag Tour! On Friday, April 11, the St. Lucie County Agricultural Extension Advisory Council presents their Annual St. Lucie County Ag Tour. We invite you to experience this educational event as we tour and learn about exciting new water conservation advancements being made in today's agricultural industry. Our tour begins 7:30 a.m. at the USDA Horticulture Research Station located at 2001 S. Rock Road in Fort Pierce. Our tour includes: The famous Adams Ranch, where participants will learn about their advancements in water conservation and cattle production and Kraft Gardens and Dekker Family Farms where participants will learn about state-of-the-art techniques of growing vegetables and ornamental horticulture. The tour will be conducted on Friday, April 11 from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and will begin at the USDA Horticulture Research Station, 2001 S. Rock Road, Fort Pierce. USDA will be conducting their open house until 3 p.m. There is no cost for the Tour. Transportation and lunch will be provided thanks to our many sponsors. Casual attire is recommended, as we will be outdoors a large portion of the tour. Space is limited to the first 100 who register by calling Karen at (772) 462-1660 before March 28. Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, or national origin. Participants with disabilities are asked to indicate any necessary accommodations when registering.

St. Lucie Announces Closings for Easter

Several St. Lucie County facilities will be closed Sunday, March 23 in observance of Easter, including all county offices, libraries, the Oxbow Eco-Center, the St. Lucie County Historical Museum and the St. Lucie County Marine Center featuring the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit. The county-run Savannas Recreation Area and Fairwinds Golf Course will remain open on Sunday, March 23. For more details about these or other St. Lucie County facilities, visit www.stlucieco.gov.

Library Closings for Renovations

The Port St. Lucie Branch Library (including the book drop) on Prima Vista Boulevard will be temporarily closed March 17 – 21 for renovations. Additionally, the Fort Pierce Branch Library will close March 21 for internal maintenance. St. Lucie County's Central Services Department will install a new roof on the Port St. Lucie Branch Library, which had to be repaired several times since the 2004 hurricanes. The library is scheduled to reopen March 22. Staff is making arrangements to change the due dates of materials checked out during the upcoming weeks, so that nothing is due during the closure. Due to a staff shortage, the Fort Pierce Branch Library will close March 21 to allow librarians time to re-shelve books and materials that have been misplaced or borrowed from other county libraries. All other libraries in the county will remain open on their usual schedules. Port St. Lucie Branch Library patrons are encouraged to use the other branches for their library needs during the closure. The library apologizes for any inconvenience. The Port St. Lucie Branch of the St. Lucie County Library System is located at 180 S.W. Prima Vista Blvd. For questions before the closure, please call the Port St. Lucie Branch at (772) 871-5450. For questions while the branch is closed, please call the Morningside Branch Library (772) 337-5632. The Fort Pierce Branch of the St. Lucie County Library System is located 101 Melody Lane. For information about the Fort Pierce Branch Library call (772) 462-1615.

ZoraFest

Nationally-known scholars and researchers on the late Harlem Renaissance author Zora Neale Hurston, an encore presentation of "Zora! The Documentary" and a performance of a Zora drama will be among the many events and featured presentations of Zora Fest '08, The Harlem Renaissance. The 4th annual festival is scheduled for Saturday, March 29 from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. at Lincoln Park Academy in Fort Pierce. Pre-festival events and a post-festival author's brunch will be at several other venues in St. Lucie County. The festival itself is free and open to the public. Some events, which will be held earlier in the week, do have fees. Other festival activities include guided tours on the Hurston Dust Tracks Heritage Trail which includes stops at her former home and gravesite, a children's program by African-American storyteller Madafo, a distribution of free children's books, and music by Fort Pierce's own Ossie Wright and his band. Vendor booths are still available at the festival. Fees are \$50 for food booths, \$25 for arts, crafts and clothing booths and for \$10 non-profit organizations. For a complete list of events throughout the week, please contact the St. Lucie County Cultural Affairs Council at (772) 462-1767 or visit www.zorafest.com.

Water Safety Lessons with Parks and Recreation

Registration is underway for water safety lessons at the Port St. Lucie Community Pool with the spring session starting March 25. Offered by the St. Lucie County's Parks and Recreation Department, spring water safety lessons run through the end of May. Registration takes place Monday through Friday from 8 – 4 p.m. and on the weekends from noon – 4 p.m. Registration is on going until all the spots are filled. The cost is \$41 for eight lessons and scholarships are available. To apply for scholarships, please bring last year's tax return or your most recent pay stub. Due to the nearby construction, enrollment has been slow, but the pool is open. Do not miss your chance to get a spot this year. The Port St. Lucie Community Pool is located at 200 Ravenswood Lane, Port St. Lucie. For details call (772) 871-2183. Registration at the Lakewood Park Regional Park Pool starts April 14 and lessons start in May. More information will be posted in the near future. The Aquatic Division of the St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation Department is here for safety, education, enjoyment and health for all through programming that provides aquatic excellence by ensuring efficiency, consistency and professionalism.

Upcoming Events 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.

Joseph E. Smith, District 1 • Doug Coward, District 2 • Paula A. Lewis, District 3
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