



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

September 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 Board of County Commissioners will hold the Final Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 18 at 6 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold an Informal Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, September 23 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 3.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold an Informal Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, October 28 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 3.
- The Tuesday, November 4 Regular Board of County Commissioners Meeting has been canceled due to the General Election.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the Annual Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday, November 18 at 9 a.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold an Informal Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, November 25 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 3.
- The Tuesday, December 23 Regular Board of County Commissioners Meeting has been canceled.

Havert L. Fenn Center Ribbon Cutting

The Board of County Commissioners would like to invite the public to attend a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, October 16 at 1:30 p.m. Following the Ribbon Cutting there will be an Open House until 9 p.m. For more information, please call 462-1517.

2nd Annual Treasure Coast Green Conference

St. Lucie County will host the 2nd Annual Treasure Coast Green Conference, which is set for Thursday, Oct. 23 from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the new Havert L. Fenn Center in Fort Pierce. Co-hosted by the U.S. Green Building Council - South Florida Chapter Treasure Coast and Palm Beach Branch, this conference works to inspire businesses and government to take a creative, comprehensive approach to development that works with the natural environment, enhances regional economies, and results in healthy, resource-efficient communities. St. Lucie County is committed to taking the lead on creating a green Treasure Coast, and this year's conference promises to raise the bar by:

- bringing a fresh line-up of high-impact speakers with new and innovative ideas,
- focusing on creative, practical projects that are green and profitable, and
- providing more meaningful networking opportunities.

The new location at the brand new Havert L. Fenn Center, located at 2000 Virginia Ave., incorporates numerous green features which will be highlighted. The green facility also provides for a greater number of participants and room for exhibit booths to showcase green products and services. Exhibitors and sponsors who are interested in promoting green products, green services, and/or your company's/organization's commitment to "green" are needed. Anyone interested in sponsorship or exhibit opportunities can call Sandra Bogan at (772) 785-5833. Last year's conference in Port St. Lucie sold out, so participants need to register now and save money. The cost to participate is \$65 per person prior to Sept. 25 and \$80 after Sept. 25 (lunch is included). For more information about the Treasure Coast Green Conference, or to register securely on-line, visit www.treasurecoastgreen.com.

St. Lucie County Creates Two New Artificial Reefs

Even as the peak of hurricane season closes in, St. Lucie County was able to sneak past the storms and deploy two new artificial reefs on two permitted sites last week. Funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and through a generous donation by Bob Herbst, these new reefs range in depths from 54 to 90 feet. In all more than 2,000 tons of materials, including concrete piling cutoffs, light poles, culverts and large chunks of reinforced slab, were used to create these new artificial reefs. Over the past few years, St. Lucie County has found that these reefs attract more than 90 species of fish including aggregates of Goliath Grouper, permit, red snapper, snook, and Warsaw grouper plus juvenile fishes in the snapper-grouper complex. County staff is making plans to study and monitor how the various marine life utilizes these reefs. St. Lucie County has an additional 1,000 tons of artificial reef material, primarily concrete culverts, which it hopes to deploy soon. However, the cost to deploy an artificial reef is roughly \$20,000 per barge. Any resident or business interested in pursuing the naming rights for future artificial reefs should contact Jim Oppenborn at (772) 462-1713. For additional information about the St. Lucie County's Artificial Reef Program, including GPS locations of all the sites, visit: www.stlucieco.gov/public_works/reefs.htm.

St. Lucie County Residents With Flood Damage Are Reminded to Register with FEMA

St. Lucie County residents and businesses that experienced flood damage from Tropical Storm Fay are reminded to register with FEMA either by phone or at the Disaster Recovery Center at the St. Lucie County Logistics Center. Local, state and federal officials are stationed at the Disaster Recovery Center at the St. Lucie County Logistics Center, 3855 South U.S. 1 (site of the old Sam's Club) daily (Monday - Sunday) from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. until further notice. For more information residents can call toll-free (800) 621-FEMA (3362) or visit www.fema.gov. Officials from a variety of agencies will be on hand at the Disaster Recovery Center to assist with registration for individual assistance, obtaining replacement food stamps, securing a small business loan, offering crisis counseling, finding employment opportunities, obtaining a replacement driver's license or identification card and more. In addition to federal funds, residents and businesses may be eligible for local assistance from the St. Lucie County Community Services Department, but they must first register with FEMA.

St. Lucie County Looking to Assist Non-Profits with Grants for Disaster Recovery

St. Lucie County's Grants and Disaster Recovery Department is looking for area non-profit organizations that need recovery assistance due to Tropical Storm Fay. Certain non-profit facilities that sustained storm damage from Tropical Storm Fay may be eligible for Public Assistance from FEMA. FEMA Public Assistance potentially can reimburse 75 percent of disaster response and disaster recovery expenses. Non-profit facilities that are eligible for Public Assistance must meet a specific definition. FEMA defines an eligible private non-profit facility as: "... any private non-profit educational, utility, emergency, medical or custodial care facility, including a facility for the aged or disabled, and other facility providing essential governmental type services to the general public, and such facilities on Indian reservations." "Other essential governmental service facility" means museums, zoos, community centers, libraries, homeless shelters, senior citizen centers, rehabilitation facilities, shelter workshops and facilities which provide health and safety services of a governmental nature. All such facilities must be open to the general public. To apply for Public Assistance, it is required that a Request for Public Assistance be submitted. The applicants' briefing meeting will be scheduled in the near future. To submit a Request for Public Assistance and to be notified of the date and location of the applicants' briefing meeting, please contact St. Lucie County Director of Grants and Disaster Recovery Bill Hoeffner at (772) 462-1467 or at hoeffner@stlucieco.gov. Applicants must register by Tuesday, Sept. 23. Additionally, if you have not sustained storm damage as a result of Tropical Storm Fay, but would like your organization to be included on a notification list in the event of a future disaster, please contact Mr. Hoeffner.

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

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