



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

April 15, 2007

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

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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

Board of County Commissioners Special Meetings & Workshops Scheduled

- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Workshop on Homeland Security on Monday, April 30, 2007 at 2 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Workshop with the St. Lucie County Fair Association on Friday, May 23, 2007 at 9 a.m. in the Commission Chambers.
- 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 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.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY ISSUES MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS

Despite the rainfall earlier in the week, St. Lucie County is still experiencing extremely high drought levels with a recent drought index of 613. In an effort to conserve water and protect that resource, St. Lucie County Utilities is imposing mandatory water restrictions for the unincorporated St. Lucie County effective Friday, April 13. This mandatory 3-day-a-week irrigation restriction applies to users, whether they irrigate their lawns with water from public utilities, private wells, canals, rivers, ponds or lakes. In conjunction with water restrictions being issued by the South Florida Water Management District, 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 Mondays, 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 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Residents with more than five acres and odd number addresses can irrigate their lawns Mondays, 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 Tuesdays, 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. 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. St. Lucie County Code Enforcement officers will be monitoring and enforcing these water restrictions along with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's deputies. Residents caught violating the water restrictions will be issued a written warning. Second-time offenders will be issued a \$25 fine, while third-time offenders will be issued a \$500 fine and/or jail time not to exceed 60 days. 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. For more details about SFWMD water restrictions visit: 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.

“Water in the Urban Environment”

Learn about “Water in the Urban Environment” during St. Lucie County’s Annual Ag Tour! On Friday, April 20, the St. Lucie County Agriculture Extension Advisory Council presents their Annual St. Lucie County Ag Tour. Collaborating agencies include USDA, University of Florida Indian River Research & Education Center, South Florida Water Management District and the St. Lucie West Services District. You are invited to experience this exciting and educational event as locations are toured which highlight one of St. Lucie County’s most precious resources: Water.

ZoraFest 2007

ZoraFest 2007, the third annual event celebrating the life of Zora Neale Hurston, is scheduled for April 26 through April 29. Festivities will take place at Lincoln Park Academy, 1806 Avenue I in Fort Pierce, and other facilities such as the Sunrise Theatre. For more information regarding ZoraFest, please contact the St. Lucie County Cultural Affairs Department at (772) 462-2548 or email Jody Bonet at bonetj@stlucieco.gov.

16th Annual United Veterans Golf Classic

The St. Lucie County Veterans Services Department and the United Veterans will hold the 16th Annual United Veterans Golf Classic on April 21, 2007 at Fairwinds Golf Course. For more information, please contact Veterans Services at 337-5670.

“Spring Into Gardening Festival”

The St. Lucie County Master Gardeners are holding their “Spring Into Gardening Festival” on Saturday, April 28, 2007 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the St. Lucie County Extension Office on Picos Road. For more information, please contact the Extension Office at 462-1660.

Annual Earth Day Celebration

The Oxbow Eco-Center will host their 7th Annual Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 21, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This family event includes live animals, music, food, crafts, environmental booths and a wildlife parade through the forest.

Environmental Resources Department Special Events

Stargazing at Bluefield ~ Saturday, April 21 from 8 p.m. until 12 a.m. ~ Calling all stargazers. Fix your eyes on the sky, miles from the city lights, with the expertise of the local astronomy club members to help guide viewing through professional telescopes.

Upcoming Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center

“Inconvenient Truth” ~ April 26 at 7 p.m. The St. Lucie Audubon Society will be presenting an “Inconvenient Truth,” Al Gore’s Academy Award-Winning film on global warming. This event is free to the public.

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.

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

St. Lucie County Public Information Office • 2300 Virginia Avenue • Fort Pierce, FL 34982
772.462.1453 • pentzj@stlucieco.gov

