

UPDATE **St. Lucie**



A monthly update from the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners

October 2020

Hurston Library Closed for Early Voting

The Zora Neale Hurston Branch Library will temporarily close Oct. 19 through Nov. 2 to provide additional space for early voting. The library will return to normal hours on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The St. Lucie County Library staff apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause patrons. All other branch libraries will remain open for normal hours of operation with the exception of the Paula A. Lewis Library, which will close on Election Day, Nov. 3, as the site will be used as a polling place. Early voting for the November General Election runs Monday, Oct. 19 through Saturday, Oct. 31 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 1 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the following locations:

- Orange Blossom Business Center, 4132 Okeechobee Road, Fort Pierce;
- Zora Neale Hurston Library, 3008 Avenue D, Fort Pierce;
- Port St. Lucie Community Center, 2195 SE Airosa Blvd., Port St. Lucie;
- Mid-Florida Credit Union Event Center (formerly the Port St. Lucie Civic Center), 9221 SE Civic Center Place, Port St. Lucie;
- Paula A. Lewis Library, 2950 SW Rosser Blvd., Port St. Lucie. (The Lewis Library will remain open during early voting, but be closed on Election Day, Nov. 3.)

Additionally, the Lakewood Park Branch Library will serve as a Voter-by-Mail drop off location Oct. 19 through Nov. 1 in the library parking lot; however, this will not impact library services. For election information visit: www.slcelections.com.

Vehicle Repair Assistance

The St. Lucie County Human Services Division is offering minor auto repair for those currently employed or seeking employment, attending school or with ongoing medical appointments. This program is available to St. Lucie County residents who are in need of small repairs such as batteries, tires, water hoses, brakes, engine belts, etc. Residents can receive up to \$500 toward repairs from a licensed auto shop. Applicants must be able to provide documentation of need, such as their work/school schedule or ongoing medical appointments. Individuals seeking employment must provide proof of receiving unemployment benefits on or after March 1, 2020. Proof of vehicle ownership, auto insurance, and a valid driver's license are required. Other restrictions apply. <https://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-services/a-z/community-services/minor-auto-repair-program-1485>

Outdoor Storytime

What if there was a way to encourage your child to read and be active and stay safe outside? Beginning Wednesday, Oct. 7 and running through Dec. 12, the St. Lucie County Library System will be presenting Pop-Up StoryWalks® at four locations throughout the county. This new outdoor storytime will take place Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. (unless canceled due to weather or holidays). In this 10-book series, titles will be rotated through the county and each location will have a different story every week. No library card or registration is required; just show up and walk through at your own pace. Depending on how fast you walk, each StoryWalk® should take approximately 25 minutes.

StoryWalk® will take place from 10 a.m. to noon:

- Wednesdays at the Oxbow, 5400 NE St. James Drive, Port St. Lucie;
- Thursdays at the Kilmer Library, 101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce (green space just to the north of the building);
- Fridays at the Morningside Library, 2410 SE Morningside Blvd., Port St. Lucie (southeast side of the building);
- Saturdays at the Lewis Library, 2950 Rosser Blvd., Port St. Lucie (green space, just south of the building).

QUICK STATS

Building Permits:

Overall building permit activity dropped by 11 percent in July compared to June with 1,021 total permits submitted. Revenue for that same timeframe was also down by 17%; generating more than \$272,245.

Home Sales:

According to the Florida Realtors Association, the median home sale price in St. Lucie County in July was \$250,000 up 8% from last year, while condo values slipped by nearly 36 percent with the median price at \$229,00.

Tourism Tax:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact tourism, bed tax revenue in July fell by 23% compared to the same time frame in 2019.

Unemployment Rate:

Unemployment ticked up slightly in July to 11 percent compared to June's 10 percent. Statewide the rate was 11.5%. Because of COVID-19, the Treasure Coast had a decrease of 4,200 jobs (or 2.8%) over the past year. The biggest impacts were to leisure and hospitality, education & health services and professional services. On a positive note – there were more than 1,100 additional jobs in the construction/trades industry.