A monthly update from the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners  
February 2020

6th Annual Local Author Book Fair Feb. 29
More than 35 Treasure Coast authors are scheduled to take part in St. Lucie County Library’s 6th Annual Local Author Book Fair on Saturday, Feb. 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., being held at two branch libraries (Kilmer and Lewis Branches). Authors will promote their books, showing memoirs, novels, poetry and everything in between. The event is free and open to the public. Weather permitting, authors will set up their displays inside and outside the two branch libraries. The Local Author Book Fair features a mix of new and returning authors. The event provides local writers with the opportunity to promote their work and talk with new and established fans. Designed to showcase the talent of local writers, some authors are self-published, while others have book deals with commercial publishers. Participants will be able to talk one-on-one with the authors, purchase books and have them signed. Visit: www.stlucieco.gov/library.

Pardon Our Dust During Spring Training
If you are planning to watch the New York Mets get ready for the regular season or catch a spring training game at Clover Park (formerly First Data Field), please pardon our dust. The New York Mets spring training facility is undergoing a $57 million renovation, including new-and-improved amenities for the players and fans. While the renovations will be ongoing through May, the majority of the fan-based improvements will be ready by opening day. These renovations aren’t expected to negatively impact any of the fans experience. Most concessions, restrooms and seats, including the new section along the left outfield and scoreboard, will be ready and available for opening day on Saturday, Feb. 22 with a with a split squad opener vs. Miami at 1:10 p.m. The ongoing construction will impact some of the parking available inside Clover Park, so fans are encouraged to arrive early and carpool when possible.

The renovations are being overseen by Sterling Facilities Services (the New York Mets ownership) with Barton Malow being the general contractor. Funding for these renovations comes from a $20 million grant the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, a $2 million contribution from the New York Mets and the Tourist Development Tax (also known as the Bed Tax), which is a 5 percent tax charged to hotel, condo and RV/campgrounds stays less than six months.

Owned and operated by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, Clover Park seats 7,000 fans and is located at 31 Piazza Drive in Port St. Lucie. The Mets, City of Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie County recently created a new road, re-numbering the address of the facility, in honor of former New York Met and Hall of Famer Catcher Mike Piazza. For tickets visit www.StLucieMets.com or call 772-871-2115.

Holiday Closures & Events
• St. Lucie County offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 17 in observance of Presidents Day.

• The 55th Annual St. Lucie County Fair runs Feb. 29-March 8 at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds, 15601 W. Midway Road, Fort Pierce. Daily activities include live music, carnival rides, livestock exhibits, tasty treats and more. For tickets or details visit: www.stluciecountyfair.org.

QUICK STATS

Building Permits:
Overall building permit activity decreased by 25 percent in November compared to October with 628 permits issued, while revenue for that same timeframe decreased by 31 percent, generating roughly $147,000.

Home Sales:
• According to the Florida Realtors Association, the median home sale price in St. Lucie County in November was $241,500 – up nearly 10 percent from last year, while condo values rose slightly by 3 percent with the median price at $162,250.

Tourism Tax:
For the second consecutive month, tourism revenue increased from last year with November’s bed tax figures coming in 11.5 percent higher than last year.

Unemployment Rate:
St. Lucie’s unemployment rate dropped again in November to 3.4 percent compared to October’s 3.6 percent. Statewide the unemployment rate rose slightly to 3.1 percent. There were 5,000+ additional jobs on the Treasure Coast compared to last year with the largest gains in Leisure & Hospitality and Education & Health Services tied for first with 1,500 jobs; Construction with 900 and Government with 500.