

St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners

# Quarterly Review



First Quarter, 2020



## Derecktor Shipyards

A Message to Megayachts and Sailing Yachts Everywhere:  
*Prepare to Alter Course*



Plus...

PRODUCED BY  
St. Lucie County  
COMMUNICATIONS  
DIVISION



IRSC WILDLAND FIRE  
TRAINING DAY



THANK YOU'S &  
SHOUT OUTS



SLC-BOCC EMPLOYEE  
SERVICE REGONITION



SEA TURTLE  
CONSERVATION



ST. LUCIE COUNTY  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



**Cathy Townsend**  
CHAIR, DISTRICT 5  
✉ townsendc@stlucieco.org



**Chris Dzadovsky**  
VICE-CHAIR, DISTRICT 1  
✉ dzadovskyc@stlucieco.org



**Sean Mitchell**  
DISTRICT 2  
✉ mitchells@stlucieco.org



**Linda Bartz**  
DISTRICT 3  
✉ bartzl@stlucieco.org



**Frannie Hutchinson**  
DISTRICT 4  
✉ hutchinsonf@stlucieco.org



Over the last half-century, South Florida has become the undisputed capital of megayacht service, repair and refit. There is no doubt Derecktor Shipyards has been one of the driving forces behind this phenomenon.

Derecktor Dania, located in Dania Beach, is widely recognized as the most complete megayacht facility on the East Coast of the U.S., regularly handling multiple vessels of up to 220 LOA. Derecktor has continually upgraded and improved this shipyard to lead the market and recently opened a new yard at the Port of Fort Pierce.

Fort Pierce is America's first repair and refit yard designed and built with the 200 ft., 900-ton and up megayacht and sailing yacht fleet in mind. Derecktor Ft. Pierce will match the world's great refit yards in both facility and ability. Situated directly inside Fort Pierce Inlet, 3 nm from the Atlantic Ocean, DFP provides deep water (28 ft./ 8m) access with no overhead obstructions.

Eight acres of level concrete apron give ample storage and repair space, with a newly refitted building housing machine, wood, electrical and pipe shops along with offices and other support services. The world's largest mobile hoist - 1,500 tons - along with a planned 5,000-ton drydock will give unmatched flexibility and hauling capacity.

Founded in 1947, Derecktor Shipyards has since become a worldwide leader for excellence in the construction, repair and refit of yachts, commercial and military vessels. Today, four Derecktor facilities span the East coast of the U.S. from Maine to South Florida, offering vessel owners and operators everything from marina space to megayacht construction.

Since the start of 2020, the Derecktor has been busy as its entire working waterfront has been docked with vessels. The majority of the vessels arrived before the COVID-19 pandemic hit our area. Regardless, the staff has implemented strict quarantine measures for the Port personal and out-of-town crew members.

For more information about Derecktor Shipyards, visit [www.derecktor.com](http://www.derecktor.com) or call 772-595-9326.



# ERD Completes Successful Training Of IRSC Fire Academy Students

Indian River State College (IRSC) and the Environmental Resources Department (ERD) completed a successful day of training IRSC Fire Academy cadets at George LeStrange Preserve during their annual IRSC Wildland Fire Training Day. ERD staff simulated large-scale wildland fire training incidents for students to gain real life exposure to situations they may face as professionals.

During the active day of training exercises, cadets received instruction and operated simulation stations that included Engine Operations & Fire Hose Lay, Fire Shelter Deployment, Ignition Operations and more. While participating in each station, cadets learn about wildland engines, roles and capabilities of the equipment and equipment deployment techniques.

These training exercises also display a strong partnership between IRSC Fire Academy and St. Lucie County ERD. Cadets also participate in practical testing and application components of training, where upon satisfactory completion, can earn a S-130/S-190 Wildland Fire Certification. These certifications can help set cadets apart when the time comes to apply for careers in the fire safety industry. Besides advanced training for cadets, the county also benefits by getting assistance with the County's fire management responsibilities. These "live fire" training sessions check a number of management requirements that ERD is responsible for.



St. Lucie County  
and COVID-19

# Times Like These



The first quarter of 2020 started out strong and ended with some unprecedented actions. As the COVID-19 pandemic worked its way into the United States and Florida, the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners were forced to make swift decisions all aimed at slowing the spread of the virus in an effort to not overwhelm our local hospitals.

By the third week in March, St. Lucie County closed libraries, beaches and attractions such as the Oxbow Eco-Center, the St. Lucie County Aquarium and Regional History Center. Playgrounds and athletic fields were roped off. Schools were closed and shifted to online distance learning programs. Florida Gov. DeSantis issued orders to closed restaurants, bars, hair and nail salons and other businesses. County-managed buildings including the Clerk of the Court, Courthouse, Administration Complex were closed entirely or open with only limited access to the public.

Public meetings and events in March and April were canceled, while May is still being sorted out. St. Lucie County offices were closed on Fridays in April to lessen the employees footprint in the community and allow for Facilities staff to increase sanitization efforts. Information Technology staff deployed work-from-home options and set up tele-conferencing abilities for County staff to continue to provide essential services and allow for public comment and transparency.

By the end of April, St. Lucie County issued 23 different executive orders through the local state of emergency relating to COVID-19 and have been tracking hundreds of requests to the state

Department of Emergency Management. As we slowly move into the recovery phase of this pandemic, St. Lucie County appreciates everyone's patience and understanding as we know this incident will carry on into the second, third and fourth quarters of this year.

As of press time, St. Lucie County experienced 22 deaths from COVID-19 and hundreds more affected. Our condolences go out to those families that have lost loved ones or have been put out of work because of this pandemic. However, Public Safety officials feel that the sacrifices that were made have saved hundreds more lives and kept our hospitals from being overwhelmed. Please continue to vigilant in slowing the spread of the virus.

## Serving the Community

Librarians know all about stocking shelves with books, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many librarians and other county staff soon learned how to stock shelves with food to help feed our community. As a result of closing facilities, St. Lucie County quickly re-assigned roughly 100 employees to other duties, including answering the Public Information Lines to cleaning public facilities to helping sort food at the Treasure Coast Food Bank. Another 200 employees began working from home to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Even before the first library closed its doors, St. Lucie County's Library staff reached out to the Communications Division asking about setting up virtual storytimes on the county's social media channels. The Oxbow Eco-Center staff canceled its annual Earth Day Celebration event, but staff soon

began working on an ongoing virtual celebration (more details to come).

While St. Lucie County's staff continued to find ways to provide its services to the public, staff always quickly reacted to community needs. The Legislative Affairs Division secured a \$100,000 grant from the Morgridge Family Foundation to create a temporary daycare program in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County. The Boys & Girls Clubs was able to use its youth development staff and facilities to provide child care services for those having to work during this global pandemic including fire fighters, law enforcement officers and medical professionals. More than 70 children have been enrolled in these emergency child care sites for essential employees at no cost, providing meals to children and families in need. This program, which has become a model for other Boys & Girls Clubs around the nation during this pandemic, allows first responders and healthcare professionals to focus their attention on serving the needs of our residents; while knowing that their children are being cared for.

In addition to working with the Treasure Coast Food Bank and the Boys & Girls Club, St. Lucie County organized a blood drive. On April 13, OneBlood have five bloodmobiles at the Fenn Center collecting 28 whole blood units and 6 platelet units, potentially saving more than 100 lives.

As we continue to transition from the response to the recovery phases of this crisis, St. Lucie County wants to reassure residents and businesses that staff is working to provide the services and support that the community needs.

# WORD ON THE STREET



**Alexis Farinacci** @AlexisFarinacci · 6d  
Really impressed by the renovations to #CloverPark in @CityPortStLucie . A job very well done by the county & all those involved. This has become one of the nicest Spring Training facilities & it's in my backyard. Be sure to go check it out!

@stluciemets  
@Mets  
@StLucieGOV – at Clover Park



**Tasha**  
@TashaL\_416

#FunFact #Florida has one of the most diverse population of fireflies nearly 50 species. Blue ones are rare, they are cold blooded and live near low lying water. @StLucieGOV thank you for two amazing hikes today w/ Gary and Eva!!

Hello Rebecca [Olsen, Solid Waste Manage]:

Just to drop a line and thanking you and your "crew" in setting up and having such a great tour for the members of Nettles Island Green Team. I wish you could hear the super comments I have received about the tour from the group.

Thanks again to you and the Ladies.



Images Courtesy of TCPALM.com © 2020

Employees of the St. Lucie County Library System were recently highlighted in a featured photo gallery by Treasure Coast Newspaper Visuals Producer Leah Voss because of their work at the Treasure Coast Food Bank. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Lucie County Libraries have been closed and some employees volunteered to be reassigned to prepare food bags that will be distributed to the public by staff of the Treasure Coast Food Bank. See more photos from Leah Voss' gallery here:

<https://www.tcpalm.com/picture-gallery/news/local/st-lucie-county/2020/04/09/st-lucie-county-library-employees-work-shifts-treasure-coast-food-bank/2973233001/>

Dear Chairman and County Administrator,

Bravo! This made me feel good about our community and county. Thank you.

Gregory J. Oravec  
Mayor,  
City of Port St. Lucie



Images Courtesy of TCPALM.com © 2020



Images Courtesy of TCPALM.com © 2020

# SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION



St. Lucie County has always been home to 21 miles of critical sea turtle nesting beaches. Three species of sea turtles that use County beaches for nesting are listed as either threatened or endangered: Loggerhead; Green and Leatherback turtles. Through conservation, outreach and education work by sea turtle friendly conservation groups, research groups have observed a dramatic increase in sea turtle nests during the 2019 nesting season. Let's keep the trend going by following the turtle tips below.

St. Lucie County takes marine turtle protection seriously. Please do not handle marine turtles, their hatchlings or their eggs. Disturbing marine turtles or their nests is a violation of State and Federal laws and carries criminal penalties. To report marine turtle nest poaching, hatchling disorientations, harassment or dead marine turtles, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife hotline at 1-888-404-FWCC.

## TURTLE TIPS

Residents, businesses and visitors can help sea turtles by taking a few important steps:

- **Turn off the Lights** Turn off any light sources (from buildings or flashlights) that are directly visible from the beach or seaward of the primary dune between sunset and sunrise.
- **Put your Stuff Away** – Remove all unattended beach furniture and other items from the shoreline at night. This ensures that hatchlings don't get caught up on their way to the ocean and your possessions aren't taken out to sea.
- **All garbage should be picked up and removed from the beaches.**
- **Avoid buying helium balloons.** The intentional and unintentional releasing of balloons often means this items end up in the ocean, where turtles mistake them for jellyfish, eating them and often dying because they can't digest the latex or suffocating.
- **Flashlights and bonfires are discouraged during nesting season (March 1 – November 15)**
- **Tear Down the Sand Castles and Fill in the Holes** – Sand castles are fun to build, but can become deadly traps for sea turtle hatchlings. Be sure to tear them down and fill in any holes before leaving the beach, including holes dug by dogs at Walton Rocks Beach: St. Lucie County's only dog-friendly beach, located at 6700 South Ocean Drive.

### Sea Turtle Nesting Activity By Month – 2019 St. Lucie County Sea Turtle Monitoring And Nest Protection Zones T-Ys, Hutchinson Island, Florida

	Loggerhead		Green Turtle		Leatherback	
	Nests	False Crawls	Nests	False Crawls	Nests	False Crawls
March	0	0	0	0	2	0
April	21	12	0	0	11	2
May	603	408	2	3	11	1
June	1012	1146	143	187	4	2
July	824	1049	284	496	1	0
August	158	88	162	95	0	0
September	1	1	2	10	0	0
October	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,619</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>

### Number of Nests Marked and Fated

	Loggerhead		Green Turtle		Leatherback	
	Nests	False Crawls	Nests	False Crawls	Nests	False Crawls
March	0	0	0	0	2	0
April	1	0	0	0	6	0
May	25	0	1	0	7	2
June	42	6	9	0	2	1
July	35	28	21	1	1	11
August	7	45	11	12	0	3
0	30	1	28	0	1	0
October	0	30	1	28	0	1
November	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>