

St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners

Quarterly Review

ST. LUCIE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Second Quarter 2020



Clover Park Renovations

Plus...

PRODUCED BY
St. Lucie County
COMMUNICATIONS
DIVISION



COVID-19 RECOVERY UNDERWAY



CITIZENS ACADEMY SUCCESS



BEACH RENOURISHMENT



AWARD-WINNING GOVERNMENT



ST. LUCIE COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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



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



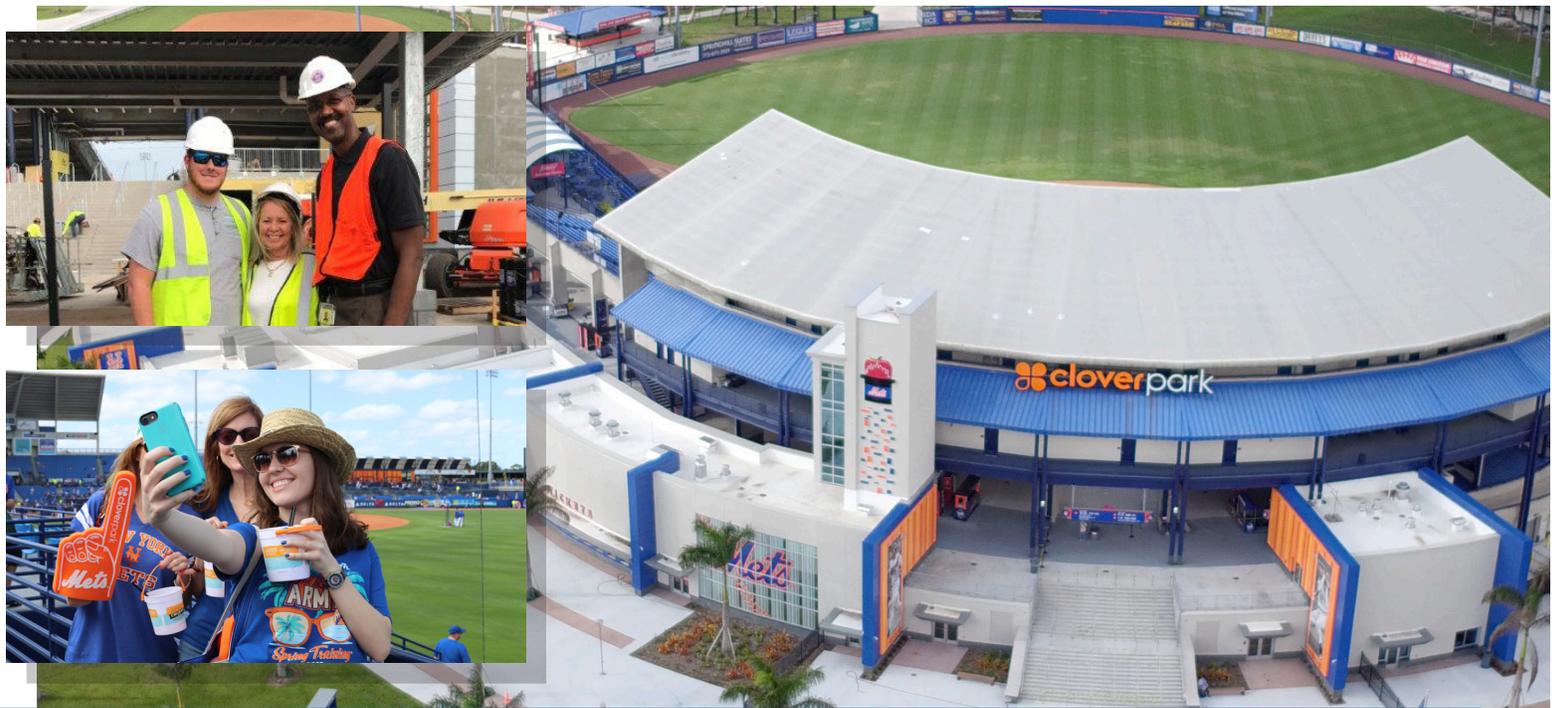
Sean Mitchell
DISTRICT 2
✉ mitchells@stlucieco.org



Linda Bartz
DISTRICT 3
✉ bartzl@stlucieco.org



Frannie Hutchinson
DISTRICT 4
✉ hutchinsonf@stlucieco.org



Clover Park Renovations Hit Home Run

Before COVID Strikes Out Spring Training

It was a close call at the plate, but the renovations to Clover Park (formerly known as Tradition Field, and often called "Mets Stadium" by locals) did not delay opening day of the 2020 New York Mets Spring Training season on Saturday, Feb. 22. However, a few weeks later COVID-19 sidelined the rest of the baseball season, canceling the remaining six home games in Port St. Lucie.

But fans and players were thrilled with the \$57 million worth of improvements to the 32-year-old complex. Funded through the St. Lucie County hotel/bed tax (5 percent charged on short-term rentals less than six months, including hotels, RVs and condos), renovations included the replacement of all 7,000 seats, an expanded entrance, team store and ticket office, concourse enhancements that make for perfect fan photo ops, new restrooms and concession areas, wider entrances into the stands, elevators and the new Jim Beam Party Terrace that overlooks left field as well as the newly improved practice fields and batting cages. Additional improvements include maintenance areas for Parks & Recreation grounds crews, new locker rooms for major and minor league players as well as administration offices for the Mets, county staff and the Treasure Coast Sports Commission.

St. Lucie County received a \$20 million grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to help cover the costs of these improvements. A \$60 million bond was secured by the county to cover the renovations with \$5 million being used to pay off the existing debt on the facility. The bond will be paid off using the tourism tax and not general fund tax dollars.

Discussions with the New York Mets began back in 2016 with the official Facilities Use Agreement being signed on Jan. 24, 2017. In addition to the stadium improvements, the agreement ensures that the Mets would play baseball in St. Lucie County for another 25 years, continuing through Dec. 31, 2042. The stadium construction phase lasted 469 calendar days with substantial completion just in time for opening day. The facility originally began as Thomas J. White Stadium after Mr. White donated it along with the property to St. Lucie County in 1988 at a value of \$11 million. The stadium has changed names numerous times, since then - from Tradition Field two times, Digital Domain, First Data Field and now Clover Park. The New York Mets handle the naming rights. The reasoning behind the most recent change had to do with corporate

mergers. The only constant over the past three decades has been that St. Lucie County has remained as the spring training grounds for the New York Mets and the summer home for the St. Lucie Mets.

Before, during, and after the construction was complete St. Lucie Parks & Recreation staff worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure everything was ready for opening day. The county was 100 percent responsible for replacing the seating inside the stadium, while Parks & Stadium Manager Willie Redden and his staff went the extra yard to see that every one of the seats and cup holders in the 7,100 seat stadium were installed properly, and within budget.

Clover Park is located at 31 Piazza Drive in Port St. Lucie. In January, St. Lucie County, the City of Port St. Lucie and the New York Mets held a dedication ceremony naming the newly created road that runs through the complex after the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame Catcher Mike Piazza, who played for the Mets and the Los Angeles Dodgers. Piazza holds the major league record for home runs by a catcher (396). He's a 12-time all-star and 10-time Silver Slugger Award winner with 427 home runs and 1,335 RBIs.

Why waste all that money on beach renourishment when the sand just washes away?

That's a question the Erosion District hears a lot. And it's understandable given the millions of dollars regularly required to protect St. Lucie County shorelines. Beaches are routinely pounded by raging -- and now, rising seas. That is especially true for Fort Pierce Beach, just south of the Fort Pierce Inlet. Ocean forces generated by the inlet and storms that have become more frequent scour the beaches with such frequency that renourishment projects are needed every one to two years.

But St. Lucie County has some good news: Not all of that "lost" sand is truly lost. Because sand movement along our shores is largely north to south, much of the sand pulled off Fort Pierce Beach shifts along South Hutchinson Island to Ocean Village, or John Brooks Beach, or Blind Creek Park, or even as far south as the Martin County line. Twenty years ago the seas were lapping at Ocean Village's restaurant. Fast forward to 2020 and there is more than 200 feet of beautiful beach now fronting that shoreline.

This spring, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was scheduled to perform another renourishment at Fort Pierce Beach, per its longstanding agreement with St. Lucie County and the Erosion District. The Corps generally picks up most of the cost, but for the third time in nine years, funds were not provided (even though most of the erosion is caused by the federally-managed inlet). With seas getting dangerously close to South Jetty Park's structures, neighboring buildings and properties, the Erosion District and the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners stepped up to confront the threat. The District paid entirely for a \$2.4 million emergency truck-haul project completed in May that placed 75,000 cubic yards of sand on the beach, staving off the impending destruction the seas would have caused.



Continued on next page.



Continued from Page 4

How could the District afford to do this on its own? Because the Board of County Commissioners last year slightly increased the millage rate for the Erosion District so it would be able to pay for the project just in case federal agencies didn't step up (which is exactly what happened). The beach, however, is again packed with beachgoers and resuming its place as one of St. Lucie County's finest recreational areas. Since the Erosion District is funded by St. Lucie County taxpayers, it's fair to say it was actually the taxpayers, who saved the day.

Why can't we collect sand that fills the channel in the Fort Pierce Inlet and put that on Fort Pierce Beach?

This is another excellent question. The Erosion District has started a project to do just that. A sand "trap" – essentially, a large hole – will be dug in the inlet just south of the North Jetty. The trap will fill up with sand over time. Then the beach-quality sand will be scooped out and placed on Fort Pierce Beach, reducing the amount of renourishment needed there. This could amount to millions of tax dollars in savings.

Permitting for the project including the construction of an artificial reef that offsets the impacts of the trap's construction. Approximately 1,500 tons of limestone rock boulders were placed in an area west of the sand trap location, near the shore of Raccoon Island in May. The reef will become a habitat for a multitude of marine species that live in the Indian River Lagoon before moving offshore to natural and artificial reefs where they will spend their adult lives. Boaters that visit Raccoon Island should be advised that the reef is in roughly 10 feet of water close to the shoreline.

The sand-trap project is currently being bid and is expected to be finished by the end of this year. While it's still unknown just how much sand will be collected, it's a safe bet that it will be enough to prompt consideration of an expansion of the trap's capacity in future years as a way of capturing more sediment to help with the beach renourishment effort.



Draining the Bayhead Swamp

New filter cleans water going from D.J. Wilcox Preserve to Indian River Lagoon

An old drainage system at a nature preserve was sending unwanted elements into the Indian River Lagoon. That was until early 2020, when a filtration system retrofit was completed by St. Lucie County's Environmental Resource Department (ERD) at D.J. Wilcox Preserve, located at 300 Michigan St. in northern St. Lucie County, just south of FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute.

In the early 1970s the former landowner dug a man-made pond and ditch system near what is now the parking area. This was built to drain freshwater from the bayhead swamp that runs along the railroad track and the Indian River Lagoon. Untreated surface water runoff from nearby roads made its way into the Indian River Lagoon via the property's mosquito control impoundment – which is a dam within a salt marsh or mangrove that regulates water levels to control the mosquito breeding population.

The original drainage system disrupted the area's natural hydrology with artificially-low seasonal water levels in the surrounding wetlands. The retrofit involved plugging the ditch in strategic areas. The water has been redirected into the pond where the polluted runoff water is treated. This allows the wetlands to retain their natural function and hydrology.

The restoration project began in 2011 as part of a Coastal Partnership Initiative grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). At that time, the project was conceptually designed by staff as part of the trailhead boardwalk project that now showcases the pond at the preserve. The pond retrofit was permitted in 2012 as part of the boardwalk construction project but was

soon shelved due to a lack of funds.

The ERD staff resurrected the project in 2018 through a St. Lucie River Issues Team grant to finalize the design, complete the necessary permit modifications and construct the project. Staff worked with local contractors such as Environmental Land Development and Engineering Design and Construction, Inc. The project was completed despite the COVID-19 shutdown. The restoration consisted of three major changes: Plugging the ditch, reshaping the pond and installing a pipe. Workers plugged the main ditch that collects groundwater and untreated runoff pollution from the road. The water is treated in the pond and subsequently rehydrates freshwater wetlands north of the boardwalk. This restores forested wetlands on the south side of the natural area.

The pond was re-contoured and replanted with native plants to encourage wading bird foraging, roosting, and nesting. A littoral zone or nearshore slope was added to the pond to mimic natural conditions and improve habitat function for fish, wading birds and the American alligator.

A "bleeder pipe" was installed at the low end of the pond to create an outfall structure that ensures runoff and excess nutrients are filtered out of the incoming surface water before reaching the Indian River Lagoon. The outfall functions similar to a check-valve in a household plumbing system. It holds water back at a specified elevation and allows the water to bleed off into the Indian River Lagoon at a slow, controlled rate.

The new system will capture up to 50 percent of runoff nutrients like nitrogen and

phosphorus before they reach the Indian River Lagoon. The 32.4-acre drainage basin contains runoff from Old Dixie Highway, Indrio Road, U.S. 1 and the FEC Railroad.

ERD staff got creative to stay within the budget by working with volunteers, contractors and members of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Staff borrowed dump trucks from the Road and Bridge Department to save costs on hauling more than 135 loads of spoil from the site (equal to nearly 4,000 tons of material). FWC also stepped in by providing funding for replanting the project footprint – including the pond littoral zone – with more than 4,500 native plants valued at \$17,000.

The project was completed in a final burst when staff and volunteers put 400 more plants in place in less than 10 hours. The final stages occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding partners included the FWC's Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Section (\$17,000), the St. Lucie River Issues Team (SLRIT) (\$38,000), and St. Lucie County (\$45,000). The total cost was \$100,000. Four signs are set to be installed along the adjacent boardwalk by the end of June to showcase the project and its funding partners.

Purchased through a voter-approved bond referendum, St. Lucie County manages more than two dozen preserves that are open to the public for passive recreation. For more information about St. Lucie County's Environmentally Significant Lands visit: www.stluciepreserves.com



Copas Veterans' Nursing Home Nears Completion

It has taken a couple tours of duty, but the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs (FDVA) is putting the final touches on the state's seventh veterans nursing home: The Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home, located off SW Tradition Parkway in Port St. Lucie. Because of COVID-19 an official grand opening has yet to be scheduled, but state officials believe the facility should have a soft opening later this summer.

St. Lucie County Commissioners' campaign to convince the state to build the 120-bed facility in the Tradition area began in the spring of 2014. With support from local veterans groups, residents and the City of Port St. Lucie, the Florida Governor and Cabinet voted unanimously for the Tradition property as the No. 1 site on Sept. 23, 2014.

Tradition Land Company donated the 28 acres for the project, which broke ground in the spring of 2018, after state and federal agencies spent a few years working out differences in the design details and construction costs.

In 2015, the Governor's Cabinet voted to name the 121,000-square-foot facility in recognition of Medal of Honor recipient Ardie Ray Copas, a Fort Pierce resident who died in 1970 during the Vietnam War. During his tour of duty, the 19-year-old Copas returned fire but was knocked to the ground when his armored car was hit and four

other Americans were wounded. In spite of his injuries, Copas climbed back into the burning vehicle and fired his machine gun until the four wounded men were safely evacuated. Copas continued fighting until he died.

While construction has been on schedule, the COVID-19 pandemic has been problematic in hiring the necessary health care professionals as well as for ordering furniture and other items to open the facility. Additional COVID-19 precautions and protective equipment such as Plexiglas barriers are being added to the facility as it nears completion.

Architect Rogers, Lovelock & Fritz, Inc. of Orlando designed this LEED-certified Silver Construction facility, which is being built by OHL-Arellano of Miami. A total of 120 beds will be housed inside two neighborhoods each consisting of three houses of 20 beds. One neighborhood of 60 beds will be devoted to residents with Alzheimer's/Dementia. Most residences are two-person semi-private rooms, with separate living areas and a shared bathroom. Included in the overall design are six bariatric rooms and six private rooms. The two 60-bed neighborhoods will flank a main building known as the "Heroes Center," containing the lobby and admissions area, administrative offices, physical therapy, beauty

and barbershop, café, chapel, and kitchen and dining facilities. An office for a veterans' claims examiner is also included in the design. The veterans' home will feature a multipurpose room aptly named the "St. Lucie Room," which FDVA hopes to adorn with art/artifacts relevant to the area.

The estimated \$50 million construction project along with the annual budget of more than \$7 million in operations will provide an enormous economic benefit to the region. The Copas Nursing Home will employ a total of 175 health care, food service, maintenance and administrative staff designed for 24/7 operation.

The 75-mile service area for the Treasure Coast currently houses an estimated 279,971 veterans; nearly half of whom are over the age of 65. The closest State Veterans Homes are more than two hours away in all directions.

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs operates six veterans' nursing homes in Daytona Beach, Land O' Lakes, Pembroke Pines, Panama City, Port Charlotte and St. Augustine and one veterans' assisted living facility in Lake City.

For more information on the State Veterans' Homes Program, visit www.FloridaVets.org.

Inaugural St. Lucie Citizens Academy Fills Up In Days

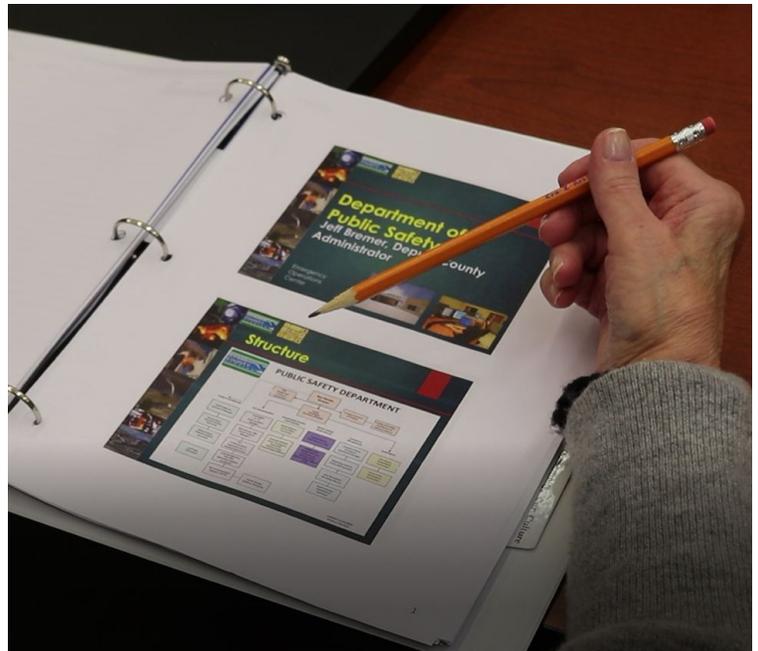
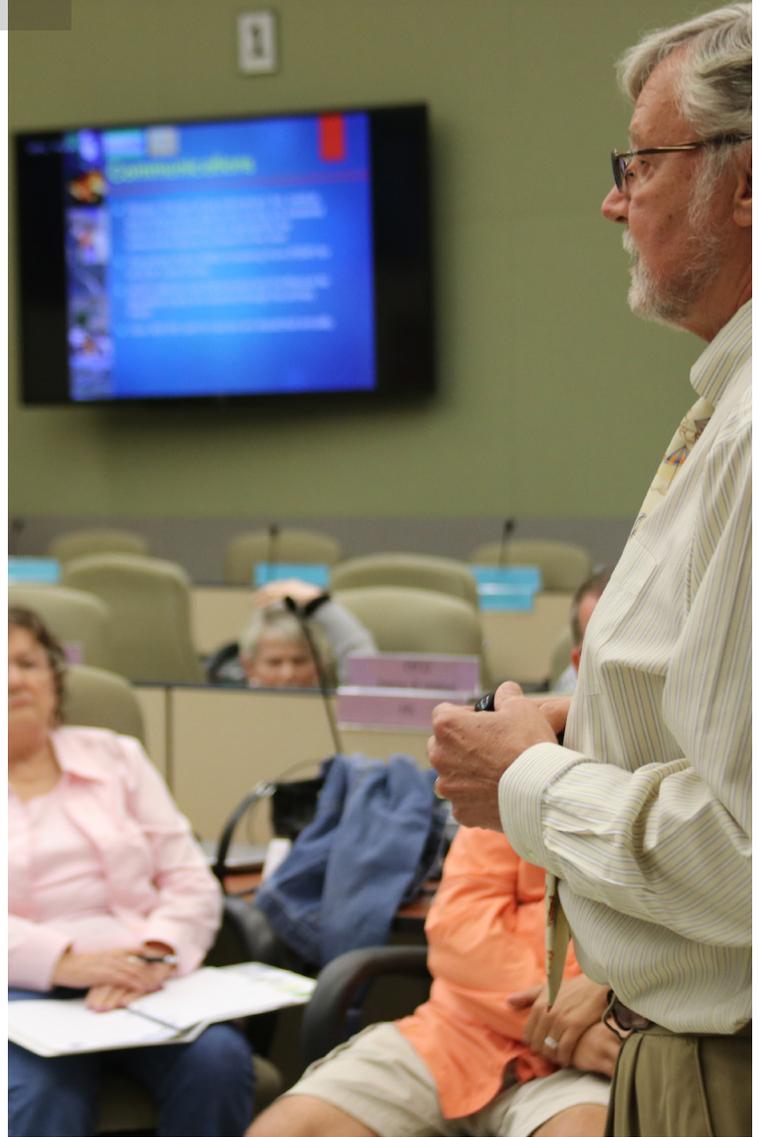
St. Lucie County started off 2020 with an exciting new program – the Citizens Academy - designed to engage and educate residents about how local government works. The inaugural program was in high demand. Within three days of sending out a press release and posting the registration information on the county's social media channels, more than 80 residents had registered for the 20 available spots.

Designed to take place over a six-week period, the Citizens Academy provided residents with a behind-the-scenes look at how county government functions from an overview with County Administration and the Board of County Commission Chair Cathy Townsend to tours of the Emergency Operations Center and the Treasure Coast International Airport and Port of Fort Pierce. Refreshments each week were provided by Bonner's Mobile Bar and the Rusty Putter Grill.

From the first class, one of the most common theme from the "students" was that most residents don't understand the difference between the two cities' jurisdictions and the county's responsibility. One question that was repeated often was: "Who's responsible for Prima Vista Boulevard or Midway Road." And that answer to that question – like most governmental answers - "Well, that depends:" Parts of each roadway are maintained by either St. Lucie County, the City of Port St. Lucie or the Florida Department of Transportation.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic cut the program short by one season, the 20 residents that participated supplied the county staff with excellent feedback for the inaugural run. Most of the participants rated the sessions with 4 out 5 stars and provided comments such as "extremely relevant," "Thank you for this opportunity," "Makes me appreciate more that the county workers do" and "All the information provided to date has interesting and relevant to me."

Because of the success of the program, St. Lucie County is planning on hosting another Citizens Academy later this year, provided that we still aren't under COVID-19 restrictions. So if you are interested, please check our website and social media channels for updates. (www.stlucieco.gov or @StLucieGov on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor and LinkedIn).





St. Lucie County, The Economic Development County and the Cities Of Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce Launch

Virtual Recovery Centers

The viral pandemic Coronavirus (COVID-19) has challenged St. Lucie County just as it has our federal, state and local government's conventional disaster management processes. More specifically, disaster response and recovery. A viral pandemic poses challenges to all communities. This pandemic incident is unprecedented and unique in that recovery planning and implementation is occurring while emergency response measures are still very much active and ongoing. As our community is reopening and beginning to recover, County Health officials are still monitoring COVID-19 cases, conducting contact tracing and engaged in continued testing. Additionally, our emergency management personnel will be required, as increased testing occurs, to manage the incident and the requests for items such as personal protective equipment for our first responders and health care personnel.

St. Lucie County residents are no strangers to responding to natural disasters, we are a resilient community. County and cities are well versed on the conventional emergency management process of mitigation, preparation, response and recovery. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic disaster, what does recovery look like, do we fully know all the impacts and how long will recovery take. Recovery may last several months or it may linger longer until such time the virus is contained, vaccines are developed and residents are vaccinated.

Addressing public health and economic hardship to our residents and business community are central to recovering from this pandemic event is critical to our recovery. A disaster of this magnitude, one which has

impacted all 50 states, all 67 Florida counties and more than 400 Florida cities, towns and villages, leave local government officials to fundamentally rethink disaster management and recovery. Traditionally, disaster recovery centers (DRCs) are set up and staffed by local, state and federal officials offering assistance in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Unfortunately, considering the resource constraints in our state and nation, it is safe to assume DRCs will not exist to provide relief to our residents and businesses as they seek to recover.

Thus, during these challenging times of social distancing, face coverings and environmental controls to protect our employees and those impacted by COVID-19, we must consider disaster recovery specific to the challenges this viral pandemic poses. St. Lucie County is committed to resuming service and reopening our facilities where we can both protect members of the public as well as our employees.

Considering the logistical and public health challenges of setting up a physical Disaster Recovery Center, a critical component of our recovery efforts is St. Lucie County working collaboratively with the cities of Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce to develop an operational plan to create a virtual disaster recovery center, or as we call it, the Community Resource Center (CRC). The CRC is a virtual hub of recovery related information for individuals and businesses that includes all identified local, state, federal and non-profit recovery resources as well as other pertinent COVID-19 information. A resident or business owner of St. Lucie County can access the CRC at www.recoverstlucie.org. Additionally, the CRC

includes specific tabs for our municipal partners as well as links to Port St. Lucie's and Fort Pierce's websites. Our business community can also access the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County's Virtual Business Recovery Center (VBRC) at yourEDC.com/VBRC which includes business specific recovery resources, business assistance services, webinars, virtual business roundtables, consulting and training services.

Unique to both the CRC and VBRC websites are the plans which provide for the ability to set up a physical recovery center if the demand arises. The CRC is also a vital resource recovery tool for our staff managing and taking calls through our public information line. Residents unable to access the CRC online may call the public information line at (772) 460-HELP (or 4357) for assistance. Businesses may call the Economic Development Council Business Assistance Call Line at (772) 336-6258 for assistance.

Based on the demands and needs of our residents and businesses, we stand ready to set up physical recovery center locations. Website traffic data and tracking calls to either our public information line or the EDC business assistance line will guide the decision process on whether physical recovery centers are warranted, and what needs are most paramount. Equally important is St. Lucie County and the cities of Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce (and the EDC) will continually update the CRC and VBRC as additional recovery resources and information are identified. A virtual solution in recovering from COVID-19 enables us to immediately provide access to recovery services while protecting the public and reducing the workload demand on staff.



Award-Winning Government

In June, the Florida City and County Management Association (FCCMA) recognized two St. Lucie County staff members for their hard work and dedication to their profession. St. Lucie County Administrator Howard Tipton was presented with the "Lifesaver Award," which recognizes managers who assisted managers-in-transition with obtaining permanent or temporary employment. St. Lucie County Human Resources Director Doug Baber received the "If You Care, You Do! Award," given by the board of directors to an FCCMA member for going above and beyond on a project or program.

This was the second consecutive year St. Lucie County was honored with FCCMA Awards. In 2019, Tipton earned the prestigious Richard (Dick) Simmons Lifetime Achievement Award, which is given to an exemplary member who has served the profession or the association with steadfast dedication, innovation and the highest standard of excellence.

FCCMA is a member-driven, ethical, inclusive organization committed to the council-manager form of government, dedicated to effective partnerships with elected officials, devoted to the advancement of excellence in professional management of local government in the State of Florida and determined to provide quality of service to its members and the cities it serves.





Award-Winning Government (continued)



For the second consecutive year, St. Lucie County's Communications Division earned recognition from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals' (AMCP) annual 2020 AVA Digital Awards competition.

St. Lucie County was awarded:

- A Platinum Award in the Video Production/Commercials/Tourism category for the Mr. Met Visits St. Lucie spot created for the Tourism Office's partnership with the New York Mets at Citi Field in New York;
- A Gold Award in the Video Production/Government Access category for the weekly Monday Music Minute series, produced with St. Lucie County Library staff to promote the Freegal online music database.
- Two Honorable Mention Awards:
 - Instagram (@Stluciegov) in the Web-Based Production/Social Media/Instagram category;
 - St. Lucie County PSA Grant Program: The Inner Truth Project in the Pro Bono Category.

AMCP is the industry's preeminent third-party evaluator of creative work. The organization has judged over 200,000 entries since its formation in 1994. AVA Digital Awards is sponsored and judged by industry professionals with the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals (AMCP).

This spring St. Lucie County Commissioners and staff were recognized by several state and national organizations for their work in everything from communications to public service.

For the 11th consecutive year, the National Association of Counties (NACo) awarded the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners with multiple awards for its programs and efforts to serve the community.

St. Lucie County received 2020 Achievement Awards for:

- The "Spark Mentoring Program" in the category of Personnel Management, Employment and Training;
- The "Fare Free Program" in the category of Transportation;
- The "Direct Connect" program in the category of Transportation;
- The "Florida Atala Butterfly Conservation Extension Program" in the category of County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy & Sustainability; and
- The "911 Internship Program" in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

Overall, St. Lucie County has received nearly 30 NACo Achievement Awards in past 11 years for its various programs and services. Minute series, produced with St. Lucie County Library staff to promote the Freegal online music database.



Award-Winning Government (continued)

The Institute for County Government (ICG) presented St. Lucie County Commissioner Cathy Townsend with the Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) designation following completion of a comprehensive study program developed by ICG. Commissioner Townsend received the designation along with three other county commissioners during the Florida Association of Counties virtual Annual Business Meeting.

Launched in 2006, the Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) education program is an advanced leadership program designed for graduates of the Certified County Commissioners (CCC) program.

The course content focuses on leadership with an emphasis on the future of Florida. Participants are tasked with preparing for the future by thinking and acting anew and asserting skillful leadership in times of daunting challenges and rapid change.

St. Lucie County has had eight commissioners that have received their Certified County Commissioner (CCC) designation and four commissioners who have received their Advanced Certified County Commissioner (ACC) designation. Current Commissioners Chris Dzadovsky, Townsend and Frannie Hutchinson earned their Certified County Commissioner certification in 2010, 2018 and 2001 respectively, while Commissioner Dzadovsky earned his Advanced Certified County Commissioner designation in 2011.

Additionally, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) recognized St. Lucie County Commissioners Cathy Townsend (Chair), Linda Bartz and Frannie Hutchinson as Presidential Advocates for their work during the 2020 Legislative Session. Commissioners received the designation during the Association's virtual Annual Business Meeting.

The FAC Presidential Advocate recognition is given to county commissioners who have shown exceptional leadership in advocating with FAC during the 2020 session to advance the counties' legislative agenda.



**BETTER ROADS,
MORE SIDEWALKS,
AND CLEANER RIVERS.**



Paving the Way: Prima Vista Boulevard Resurfacing Substantially Complete

The long-awaited resurfacing of Prima Vista Project is substantially complete as the contractor, CWR Contracting, Inc. (formerly Mancil's Tractor Service, Inc.), has finished the resurfacing from U.S. 1 to Airoso Boulevard.

Funded by the voter-approved, half-cent sales tax ballot measure in 2018, this \$3.3 million project included resurfacing, ADA improvements along the sidewalk and drainage improvements, such as the removal and replacement of culverts. Additionally, an existing loop detection system (for traffic signals) was replaced with a video vehicle detection system.

While this project was originally slated to begin in the summer of 2019, St. Lucie County's Public Work staff coordinated the timing of the project with the City of Port St. Lucie's opening of the Crosstown Parkway to help alleviate traffic congestion since there is a limited number of east-west corridors in that area. Once the Crosstown Parkway Bridge was finished, St. Lucie County began working on Prima Vista Boulevard in October 2019. Most of repaving occurred at night to help reduce traffic congestion.

This project was originally anticipated to be complete in September of 2020 and staff is very pleased that it was completed early.



WORD ON THE STREET

Thank you for being so knowledgeable; you seem to have the answer to all the residents' questions. And I really admire you keeping your cool! Congratulations to all who were responsible for receiving the Award!!

Joyce V.



I got in line 4:25pm and swab done at 5:01pm and on my way! Smooth, coordinated. Testers had proper PPE. Masks, face shields, gowns and gloves. Gloves were changed between each person being tested. CDC guidelines followed. Per card results will be called to you within 4 to 7 days by FL department of health or you can go online to Quest diagnostics or download the quest app to get results. I personally use the quest app and like it. There were 2 lines.. one for vehicles with just one person being tested and. another for those with more than one occupant being tested. Great job!

Maureen O.



Wow! You amaze! Answering these questions at all hours instead of the regular 9 to 5 Thanks very much. Your dedication as a municipal employee really challenges my common assumption that 6 workers are needed to change a lightbulb. And it is an overtime job...

Steve A.



My husband and I participated in the COVID-19 testing, which took place at Clover Park Monday, June 8 thru Wednesday, June 10. John and I chose to do testing on Tuesday.

We had heard horror stories about the lengthy wait down in Miami for testing and were apprehensive about the possible wait here in Port St. Lucie. To our positive amazement and delight, the process was efficient, the state polite and pleasant, and the test itself, thought not comfortable, was not something that should cause anyone to lose sleep.

Our sincerest THANK YOU for a job WELL DONE!!! We arrived at 3:35 p.m. We were nestled in line at 3:40 pm. We exited the park at 4:12 p.m. Kudos to your entire team.

While we are expecting "non-detected" results from our tests, we are grateful for the opportunity to be tested, with or without symptoms.

We understand that the event was a coordinated effort between city, county, private, etc. groups. Please share our gratitude with all.

Kind Regards,



John and Grace Mario

Ms. Nola from 142 Jardain Road called to thank Barbara Miller, Eric Heilfurth and Shannon Mieras (Road & Bridge staff) for finally getting the sidewalk issue started. She appreciated all the hard work staff is doing.

Ms. Haygood from 418 N 38th Street called to thank Barbara Miller, Eric Heilfurth, Ernest Jackson and especially Nelson Jules (Road & Bridge) for resolving drainage issues in her neighborhood. Nelson was there for three hours digging out a pipe. She is very happy and grateful

A resident left a voice mail message with the Road & Bridge staff thanking staff member Ed Almodovar for cleaning the Merritt Ditch. "It looks so much better."



On behalf of the residents of Queens Cove, we would like to express our appreciation for the efforts of the personnel of the St Lucie County Mosquito Control Department. We realize the battle against those little pests poses a real challenge that for the most part your Mosquito Control people have met. Our community has always tried to foster a great relationship with county employees and your personnel have responded in kind.

We take note of the fine job members of Mosquito Control have done maintaining and improving the three impoundments which surround Queens Cov.e.. Specific thanks go to Supervisor James Beames and his fine team made up of good people like Jacob Lovewell and Dan Wheeler. Again, we appreciate the efforts of the entire department and the results that effort has produced.



Sincerely,
Kag Cagnoni