



CITY MANAGER'S

# BI-WEEKLY

July 26, 2019

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 13

A magazine-style report released every other week, highlighting the City of Port St. Lucie's latest news, project updates and events.



[CITYOFPSL.COM](http://CITYOFPSL.COM)



# CITY OFFICIALS



The City is led by a five-member elected Council, which sets policy and determines the long-term vision for the City. The Council appoints a City Manager to handle the daily business affairs, and a City Attorney to provide legal advice. This system is called a Council-Manager form of local government. Each Council member has one vote, including the Mayor, so legislative authority is equally spread among all five members.



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*"Port St. Lucie is a safe, beautiful, and prosperous City for all people. — Your hometown"*

## CONTACT THE CITY

 772-871-5225

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## **CITY COUNCIL SUMMER RETREAT**

Port St. Lucie City Council was at work on many high-interest issues during its annual summer retreat which began on Wednesday, July 24. The budget for the next fiscal year and tentative millage rate was the primary topic of discussion on Thursday and Friday, July 25 & 26. Watch the live recording on the City's website:

- [Day 1 - Wednesday, July 24](#)
- [Day 2 - Thursday, July 25](#)
- [Day 3 - Friday, July 26](#)



### **ON THE COVER:**

PARKS & RECREATION  
2019 SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

## about crosstown

The Crosstown Parkway Extension Project will provide a new bridge crossing over the North Fork of the St. Lucie River in the City of Port St. Lucie, connecting the existing Crosstown Parkway from Manth Lane to U.S. 1. The project extends along the existing West Virginia Drive, crossing over the North Fork of the St. Lucie River and connecting into U.S. 1 at Village Green Drive. The project is approximately two miles with the bridge being approximately 4,000 feet. The six-lane divided highway and bridge will serve as a multi-modal transportation alternative to include accommodations for automobile, bicycle, pedestrian and public transit.

# PROJECT UPDATES

AS OF JULY 26, 2019

- » Work continues on Village Green Dr. and U.S. 1:
  - Traffic shift on Village Green. Eastbound and westbound traffic shifted to the north side of Village Green for reconstruction of the south side of Village Green.
  - One of two southbound left turn lanes are closed on U.S. 1.
  - One southbound lane and one northbound lane closed on U.S. 1 from Savanna Road to Village Green Drive Intersection both daytime and evening hours for roadway activities.
- » Traffic will be placed in a new configuration (reduced conflict intersection with signalized u-turns) starting August 7 at the Floresta and Crosstown intersection. This will allow the contractor to construct the raised median in the intersection.
- » Southbound U.S. 1 traffic was shifted to the outside to provide space to construct the median widening on U.S. 1.
- » Irrigation installation continues, including installation of valve boxes and electrical conduit.
- » Landscaping to continue to be delivered and installed throughout the project.
- » Guy Harvey tile installation on the bridge towers.
- » Installation of Minnesota rail.
- » Painting median barrier wall.
- » Activities continue at pond 5 including excavation.

*First Tower Complete*



*Asphalt on the bridge approaching east side of the project.*





# BUILDING DEPARTMENT

IT STARTS WITH A GOOD FOUNDATION.

## BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

- The Building Department hosted building departments from Palm Beach County, Grant-Valkaria and Boynton Beach for best practices training, customer service and various online initiatives. There were 23 people who attended.
- The total number of online permits has reached 38,000 since online permitting began in 2017.
- A window and door contractor stakeholder meeting was held on July 8. There were 15 contractors who attended.
- The next stakeholder meeting will be August 5 with Residential Contractors.



**BUILDING B DRIVE THRU**

## ARDIE R. COPAS VETERANS' NURSING HOME - NEW PHOTOS!



### HISTORY

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs held the official Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home in Port St. Lucie on March 20, 2018. The new 120-bed state veterans' home will be located near 10700 SW Tradition Parkway in the Port St. Lucie community of Tradition. The facility began construction in the summer of 2018 with an estimated completion date of 20 to 24 months.

St. Lucie County began the process of having the state's seventh Veterans Nursing Home located in the Tradition area back in 2014 after Tradition Land Company donated the 28 acres for the project. Once completed, officials estimate that the facility will employ 190 people annually. The 75-mile service area for the Treasure Coast currently houses an estimated 279,971 veterans; 118,617 of whom are over age 65. The closest existing State Veterans Homes are more than two hours away in all directions.



ACTIVITY	7/5-7/18	2019 YTD	2018	2017
Permits Issued	1,900	23,342	39,899	32,020
Single-Family Permits Issued	134	1,508	2,200	1,518
Certificates of Occupancy Issued (SFR)	95	1,364	1,824	1,382
Inspections Completed	5,116	73,007	115,073	84,510
Plans Reviewed	612	7,597	13,559	10,352
Online Permits	796	10,359	13,421	8,346



### COMMERCIAL PERMITS

Orthotic & Prosthetic Center – tenant improvement – 171 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd

Checkers – restaurant – 1298 SW Gatlin Blvd.

Farrell Storage – Building 2 – 10198 SW Village Pkwy



### COMMERCIAL CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY

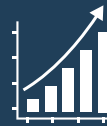
Edward D Jones – 832 SE Becker Road

Superset Sports Nutrition – 1399 NW St Lucie West Blvd

United Refrigeration – 671 NW Enterprise Drive

# CIVIC CENTER

A FULL SERVICE EVENT VENUE.



FY 18/19 STATISTICS THRU 7/20/19

- » Event attendance: 79,078
- » Events: 315

## EVENT SUMMARY

### BABE RUTH LEAGUE MEDIA DAY EVENT - JULY 15 & 16



Monica Abbott, pitcher for Team USA Softball and 2018 WBSC World Champion Gold Medalist, was the keynote speaker during the 2019 Babe Ruth League Media Day held at the Civic Center. Team photos were taken before the Babe Ruth Softball World Series being held on the Treasure Coast.

## DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES



### ST. LUCIE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPELLING BEE

Spelling Bee team members: Civic Center Director, Linda McCarthy; Sales Manager, Mendy Solorzano; and Facilities Superintendent, Jaelyn Ackland. Congratulations to the Civic Center team for winning 3rd place in the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce Adult Spelling Bee.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7/27 & 8/3: Talent Show Auditions
- 13 Private Events



# COMMUNICATIONS

TELLING PSL'S STORY & ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY.

## PRESS RELEASES

- » 7/16: [2 PSL Building Dept. employees honored](#)
- » 7/17: [Prepare Your Pup! New McChesney Dog Park to open](#)
- » 7/22: [PSL to sell 2 lots via online auction](#)

NEWS

## VIDEOS



[The Agenda Episode 16 \(July - August\)](#)



[Coffee in PSL - July 12](#)



[PSL Living - Keep PSL Beautiful](#)



[PSL Living - Health, Beauty & Wellness Expo](#)

## GOOD NEWS UPDATE



### PSL FEATURED IN 11 BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN FL BY MARKETWATCH

Known as the Sunshine State, Florida is the third most populous state in the U.S. and has a population nearing 22 million. The state is broken into four geographical areas - the Panhandle, Uplands, the Everglades and the Keys. Here's a look at the best places to live in the "Sunshine State."

[READ MORE](#)

# NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

PRESERVING & REVITALIZING NEIGHBORHOODS WHILE HELPING RESIDENTS ACCESS PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.

## CITY UNIVERSITY: CLASS #8

The next City University Class #8 will begin on September 4, 2019 with registration on August 7, 2019. Space is limited! Registration will become available on the webpage: [www.cityofpsl.com/cityuniversity](http://www.cityofpsl.com/cityuniversity).

The City of Port St. Lucie's City University is a free, nine week program designed to help residents learn about their City government. Participants will learn about a wide variety of topics like how decisions are made, how City funds are allocated, how departments operate and the status of future plans for PSL's development projects.



- SW Heather Street: Permitting will begin in August.
- SE Faculty Court: Lot prepared.



NE Surfside Ave: Closed on 7/12/19



SE Faculty Court: Dedication Ceremony 7/9; Closed 7/24.



NW Sherbrooke Ave: Ready for drywall and exterior finish after June's SLC School's Vocational Program Students.



SE Asbury Lane: Construction has begun.

# PARKS & RECREATION

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE ONE EVENT, CLASS, AND PROGRAM AT A TIME.

Community Center  
772-878-2277

Civic Center - Recreation  
772-807-4499

Robert E. Minsky Gym  
772-344-4142

The Saints Golf Course  
772-398-2901

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PLAY BALL - AUG. 1

The City of Port St. Lucie has teamed up with the Treasure Coast Sports Commission and the St. Lucie Mets for a one-day event that will encourage kids to get outside and enjoy America's pastime.

The free pre-game activities at First Data Field will include radar gun, pitching and running the bases, a DJ, face painting and an autograph session with the St. Lucie Mets. At 6 p.m., participants also will be able to participate in a pre-game parade, followed by the baseball game at 6:30 p.m.



JUL  
27-28

**RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT**  
*at the Civic Center*

AUG  
1

**TALENT SHOW AUDITIONS**  
*Scheduled time slots at the Civic Center*

AUG  
3

**MCCHESNEY DOG PARK GRAND OPENING**

AUG  
7

**PRETTY PRINCESS TEA PARTY**  
*10 a.m. at the Community Center*



## DID YOU KNOW?

The next issue of Leisure Time is underway and will include events, programs, and classes from November 2019 through April 2020. Leisure Time is a free bi-annual catalog that can be found at any of the City's facilities or online: [www.cityofpsl.com/leisuretime](http://www.cityofpsl.com/leisuretime).

## SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

MAY-  
AUG

**ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES**  
[www.cityofpsl.com/leagues](http://www.cityofpsl.com/leagues)

JUN-  
AUG

**YOUTH & TEEN SUMMER CAMPS**  
[www.cityofpsl.com/summercamp](http://www.cityofpsl.com/summercamp)



## PROJECTS

The Garland Company will be addressing the issues with the Roof Restoration project at the Community Center. Project will be completed after the roof has been re-painted.

## SUMMER CAMP WRAP-UP!



The City served approximately 2,720 youth and their families with safe, fun and educational exercises this summer. The Parks & Recreation Department wants to extend a sincere thank you to the parents of our campers for choosing the City's 2019 Summer Camp Program.



Campers engaged in several educational components, some of which were new programs and some existing:

- At the Botanical Gardens, our Tot campers learned about the life cycle of the ladybug and released the ladybugs into their natural environment. Our Youth Campers from both Minsky Gym and the Civic Center attended the Botanical Gardens for a hands-on educational tour as well.
- PSLPD Officers shared with youth campers how officers train K-9's as police officers. Police Officers taught campers how they build the canine's agility and discipline so that the K-9's act on demand.
- The PSLPD's CSI Unit taught our teens, through hands-on learning, about magnetic fingerprint dusting, several levels of fingerprinting, and how genetics affect finger-dusting for prints. They also touched on some aspects of crime scene investigating.



A representative from the Public Works Department taught teens about water towers, allowing the teens to construct their own water towers. The teens also visited the water plant for a tour and instructional learning.



Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful staff taught the kids about the effects of littering and how almost any material could be reused and/or repurposed.

[MORE PHOTOS »](#)



Jenny Tomes from the Utility Systems Department taught youth campers about clean water and how materials dissolve while some materials can cause damage to pipes and to the water supply.



A representative from the FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute taught the campers about coastal ecosystems, marine life and conservation of natural resources. The campers also learned about the important issues of waterways and how littering affects marine life.



ANDRETTI THRILL PARK

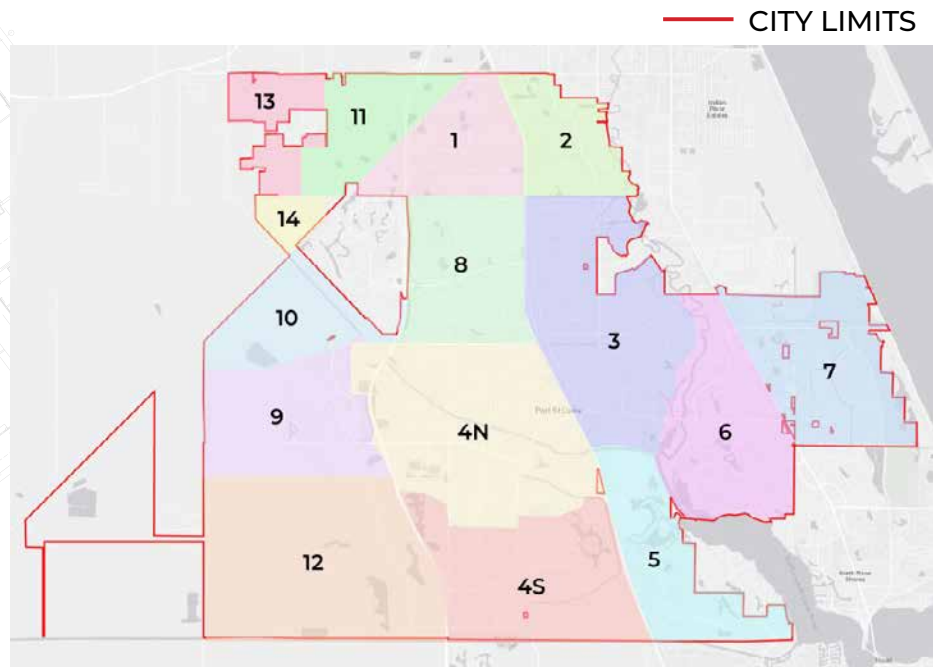


FUN DEPOT

# PLANNING & ZONING

ENCOURAGING QUALITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

## DWELLING UNITS



NOTE: The U.S. Census estimated the City's population to be 189,344 as of 8/1/17.

PLANNING AREA	SINGLE-FAMILY UNITS	MULTIPLE FAMILY UNITS	TOTAL UNITS	APPROVED UNITS	REMAINING UNITS TO BUILD
1	3,257	675	3,932	5,817	1,885
2	2,617	462	3,079	3,998	919
3	16,536	1	16,537	20,210	3,673
4N	15,627	529	16,156	22,416	6,260
4S	10,129	26	10,155	15,294	5,139
5	2,007	12	2,019	2,739	720
6	4,540	1,214	5,754	6,237	483
7	5,453	2,267	7,720	9,532	1,812
8	5,320	1,653	6,973	7,523	550
9	3,237	1,417	4,654	11,092	6,438
10	629	170	799	7,200	6,401
11	0	0	0	4,000	4,000
12	174	18	192	22,410	22,236
13	0	0	0	0	-
14	175	0	175	579	404
<b>CITY TOTAL</b>	<b>69,701</b>	<b>8,444</b>	<b>78,145</b>	<b>139,047</b>	<b>60,920</b>

As of June 2019



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO PROTECT AND SERVE WITH COURAGE, KNOWLEDGE AND INTEGRITY.

## POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

### PAL'S STAR WARS NIGHT FUNDRAISER AT FIRST DATA FIELD

Held on Thursday, July 18 at 5:30 p.m. Spencer Wilding, better known as Darth Vader, made a special appearance for very excited Star Wars fans! All proceeds collected benefit the Port St. Lucie Police Athletic League.



**ON THE ROAD OR THE WATER,  
YOU'RE HEADED NOWHERE FAST**

**WHILE IMPAIRED.**

### OPERATION DRYWATER: NATIONAL BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE CAMPAIGN

The Marine Unit participated in Operation Drywater, a national boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign on July 5-7, 2019. Units patrolled common complaint areas of C-24 Canal and Long Creek and issued three citations for Manatee Zone violations, one citation for safety violation, and ten written warnings for Manatee Zone violations. They completed numerous vessel inspections and provided six safety inspection decals to those in compliance. Additionally, four sizeable submerged palm trees were observed floating in the main channel, posing a severe threat to boaters. All four logs were towed to a safe location along the shore until they can be removed during the next river cleanup event.

### PUT IT DOWN: FOCUS ON DRIVING

The Port St. Lucie Police Department, Florida Department of Highways Safety and Motor Vehicles, and the Florida Department of Transportation are partnering to educate Floridians on the changes to distracted driving law with the Put It Down: Focus on Driving campaign. Effective July 1, 2019, motorists may be stopped and cited by a law enforcement officer in Florida for texting and driving.

Effective **July 1, 2019**, motorists may be stopped and cited by a law enforcement officer in Florida for texting and driving.

**PUT IT DOWN**  
Focus on driving.

FLHSMV FDOT

## PSL PD PARTNERS WITH RING

The Port St. Lucie Police Department is teaming up with Ring, Inc., a mobile application that can aid law enforcement to find criminals in our area by providing police explicit videos and pictures of individuals suspected in a crime. This portal has been established to help keep our crime rates low throughout the City.



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: AUGUST 6

On August 6, 2019, the Port St. Lucie Police Department will be hosting block parties to celebrate National Night Out Against Crime. Celebrate PSL being Florida's safest large city with a population of over 100,000. Enjoy kid-friendly activities all evening at our neighborhood park block party. Light refreshments will be served at each location:

**Lyngate Park** (Police District 1) | K-9 Unit  
1301 S.E. Lyngate Drive

**Whispering Pines Park** (Police District 3) | S.W.A.T. Unit  
800 S.W. Darwin Boulevard

**C-24 Canal Park** (Police District 2) | Marine Unit  
500 S.E. Oakridge Drive

**McChesney Park** (Police District 4) | Motorcycle Unit  
1585 SW Cashmere Boulevard

## DISTRICT 2

- On June 19, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., Police responded to a home store for reports of a retail theft, where a white male loaded up a plastic storage container with power tools and left the store without paying. Further investigation leads to the arrest of a male suspect from Vero Beach. The man faces charges of Third-Degree Grand Theft and Organized Fraud over \$20,000. He is currently housed at the St. Lucie County Jail. Great job, Detective, and special thank you to St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office for their assistance.
- On June 11, 2019, at around 2:40 p.m., Port St. Lucie Police received a report about a theft at the United States Post Office on NW Peacock Boulevard. The victim reported that he entered the Post Office around 1:45 p.m. and set all his envelopes and boxes directly in front of him. An envelope containing two money orders was taken while he was at the location. Video surveillance revealed a female picking up the envelope when it fell as the victim was placing his items on the counter. The suspect put the envelope in her purse, conducted her business at the counter, and left the Post Office. The envelope contained two money orders valued at \$910 and \$880. If anyone has information relating to the incident or suspect, please contact Officer Aubert 772-871-5000. You can be anonymous, call Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers 800-273-TIPS (8477).

## DISTRICT 3

- On July 8, 2019, in the evening hours, the Police were called to a cell phone carrier's store on SW Gatlin Boulevard regarding a male who entered the establishment with a small-caliber handgun. The male suspect forced the employee at gunpoint to the back of the store and ordered her to open the safe. The suspect took an undisclosed amount of money, as well as several cell phones. The suspect left the store and entered the rear passenger side of a black sedan waiting in the parking lot.



## PSL ATHLETIC LEAGUE (P.A.L.)

- **Boxing Program:** Mon., Tues., & Wed., from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Karate Program:** Mon., Wed., & Fri., from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Drum Line Practices:** July 14-28, from 3 to 5 p.m.
- **Baton Clinic:** July 20-27, noon to 5 p.m.
- **Radkids (Resist Aggression Defensively) Program:** July 15-26



# PUBLIC WORKS

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

## SIDEWALK PROGRAM

- **Paar Drive** – Savona Boulevard to Port St. Lucie Boulevard (0.8 miles) – FY 18/19 – City Funded, construction underway.
- **Paar Drive** – Port St. Lucie Boulevard to Darwin Boulevard (1.0 miles) – FY 18/19 – LAP Funded, construction underway.
- **Southbend Blvd.** – Oakridge to Eagle (0.2 miles over bridge) – FY 18/19 – CDBG Funded - Construction underway.
- **Floresta Drive** – Prima Vista Blvd. to Airoso Blvd. (missing links/curb ramps) – FY 18/19 – CDBG Funded – Construction underway.
- **Macedo Blvd.** – Selvitz Road to St. James Drive (1.0 miles) – FY 19/20 – LAP Funded - LAP Agreement is in the Legal Department for review.

Sidewalk Program: [www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks](http://www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks).



*Southbend Blvd.*

## REPAVING PROGRAM

The street repaving goal for FY 18/19 is 34.6 miles. To date, 33.4 miles are complete. Repaving Program: [www.cityofpsl.com/repaving](http://www.cityofpsl.com/repaving).

- **Morningside Boulevard:** Westmoreland to PSL Blvd. - Repaving began July 15 and is ongoing.



## CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



**CITY ELECTRIC SUPPLY** - Contractor has begun roadway subgrade work at the western project limits and is working eastward, installing fill material on northern limits of Phase 2 in preparation of subgrade work on northern limits. The water main is anticipated to be completed by end of week and the force main by early next week.



## CITY HALL PARKING LOT

Roundabout construction and final cleanup have been completed. Following the completion of the new Building Department drive-thru, the contractor will remobilize to complete the remaining site work.

## PSL BLVD. & GATLIN BLVD. INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Final walk-thru was completed. The contractor is currently awaiting delivery of the product that will be applied to the median. The project is scheduled for completion in August.



## KEEP PORT ST. LUCIE BEAUTIFUL (KPSLB)

## LITTER COLLECTION TOTAL & TRENDS

Year	2018			2019					
	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
<b>Monthly Total LBS.</b>	15,335	11,005	8,480	15,595	10,605	13,960	15,020	14,995	12,775
<b>Year-to-Date Total LBS.</b>	15,335	26,340	34,820	50,415	61,020	74,980	90,000	104,995	117,770

## RECYCLING WRAP PROJECT

The City is partnering together on a new initiative pertaining to recycling plastic wraps with the St. Lucie County Solid Waste Baling and Recycling Facility.

We are working to be able to collect plastic bags, wraps, and films in St. Lucie County and the City of Port St. Lucie (much like the grocery stores do). Since we cannot collect these in curbside carts, we are in the process of implementing a pilot program with four collection sites:

1. St. Lucie County Solid Waste Facility
2. Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
3. Port St. Lucie Community Center
4. Morningside Library

If this pilot program is successful, plans will be made to expand the program. Please visit the website for more information: [www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org).



## ADOPT-A-STREET PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We are so excited to see this program growing! Thank you to all the groups who are dedicating their time to help the City of Port St Lucie stay beautiful. Please welcome our newest groups:

- Del Webb at Tradition
- Francesca's Pizza
- Democratic Club of SLC
- In Memory of Heather Milne

This week, Del Webb at Traditions sent us a photo of one of their group members hard at work, keeping their area clean! Remember to send your group's photos to: [KPSLB@cityofpsl.com](mailto:KPSLB@cityofpsl.com).



# BETTER ROADS, MORE SIDEWALKS, AND CLEANER RIVERS



## SALES TAX PROJECTS

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### » St. Lucie West Blvd. Intersection Improvements:

- Cashmere Blvd. - Design is complete. Construction is anticipated to commence in September 2019.
- Peacock Blvd. - Design is complete. Construction is anticipated to commence in September 2019.
- Bayshore Blvd. - Design is complete. Construction is anticipated to commence in September 2019.
- California Blvd. - Construction starts in FY 25/26.

### » California Blvd. Widening from St. Lucie West Blvd. to Crosstown Pkwy:

- Construction starts in FY 25/26.

### » Sidewalk Projects:

- Hillmoor Dr.: Lennard Rd. to Playground – Project is complete.
- Hillmoor Dr.: St. Lucie Medical Center to Woodstork Trail – Project is complete.
- Tiffany Ave.: School Site to Grand Dr. – Construction is underway.
- Morningside Blvd.: Treasure Island Rd. to Cambridge Dr. – Construction is underway.
- Torino Blvd.: California Blvd. to Cashmere Blvd. – Design work has started.
- Torino Blvd.: Villa Vizcaya to Midway Rd. – Design work has started.
- Delwood Dr.: Torino Blvd. to Winterlakes Park – Design work has started.

### » Repaving Projects:

- Thornhill Dr.: Airoso Blvd. to Sandia Ave. – Repaving begins in October following the opening of the Crosstown Parkway Extension.

### » Gatlin Blvd. Repaving starts in FY 26/27.

### » Traffic Signal Coordination

- Port St. Lucie Blvd. starts in FY 27/28
- Crosstown Parkway starts in FY 27/28

### • Floresta Blvd. Widening

- Southbend Blvd. to Elkcarn Waterway - Design work has started.
- Elkcarn Waterway to Crosstown Parkway - Construction starts in FY 20/21.
- Crosstown Parkway to Prima Vista Blvd. - Construction starts in FY 22/23.

### » Torino Blvd. Intersection Improvements:

- California Blvd. Roundabout – Design work is complete and project is out to bid for construction.
- Cashmere Blvd. Roundabout – Design work is complete and project is out to bid for construction.

### » U.S. Highway 1 Beautification with Landscaping starts in FY 20/21.



*Morningside Blvd. at  
Treasure Island Rd.*



*Tiffany Ave.*

# UTILITY SYSTEMS

DEDICATED TO LEADING THE WATER QUALITY INDUSTRY.

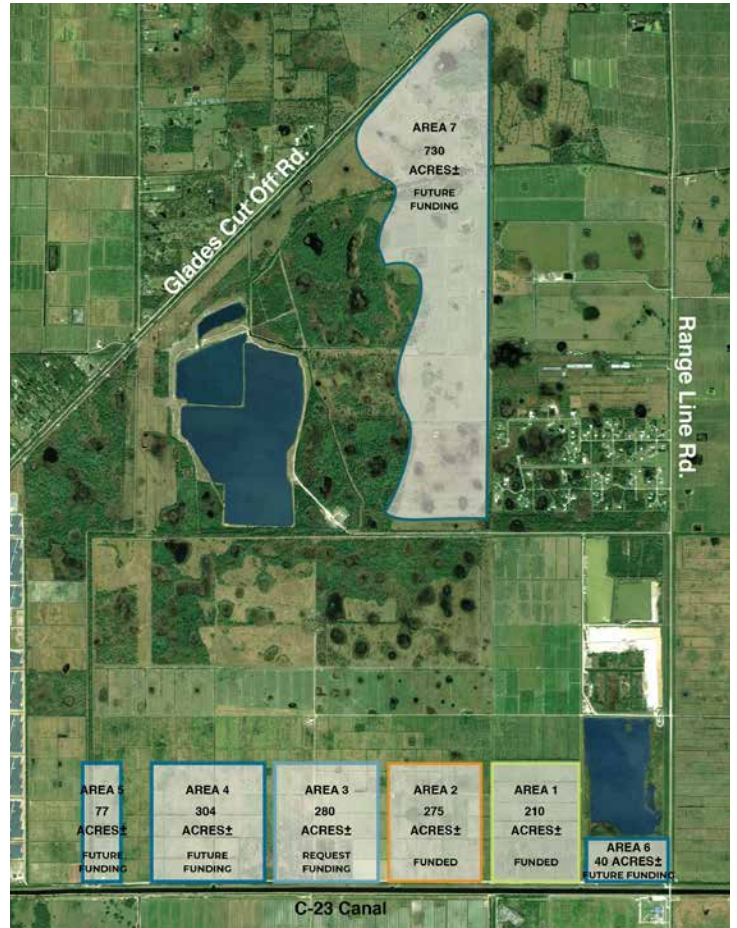
## AREA 1 IS PUMPING UP THE VOLUME

Utility Systems is pleased to announce the completion of Area 1 of the [McCarty Ranch Extension Water Quality Project!](#)

When the water level in the C-23 reaches 22.8 feet or South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) opens the downstream S97 gate to discharge, water from the C-23 Canal can be pumped into Area 1. The S97 gate was opened on Sunday, July 7, so the first official pump took place on July 8—a huge victory for this project.

Since January 1, Area 1 has captured 15.5 inches (8,843,027 gallons) of rainfall and pumped 15,960,000 gallons in from the C-23 Canal. SFWMD opened the gate again last night after we received large amounts of rainfall, which means the pumping can continue. Staff continuously monitors the C-23 levels and when the S97 gate is opened on the SFWMD website.

Once complete, this project is anticipated to keep 21% of excess freshwater C-23 Canal discharges from entering the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. The excess freshwater carries with it added phosphorus and nitrogen which throw off the natural balance of our waterways and cause algal blooms.



## CAMPERS CONSTRUCT MODEL WATER TOWERS



The kids attending the City's Xtreme Teen Summer Camp put their engineering hats on to build and design model water towers. This is the first time this STEM-focused project has been facilitated by Utility Systems in partnership with Parks & Recreation. Utility Systems Senior Civil Engineer Rich Schoenborn and Utility Marketing Coordinator Jenny Tomes discussed the purpose of water towers and how they function. The campers saw lots of visuals of existing water towers, plus a water pressure demonstration.

Campers paired up and received a materials kit and written and visual instructions to assemble the 3-ft. tall tower. The model includes a reservoir made from a 2-liter bottle and a base made from PVC pipe, fittings, and recycled pallets. After assembly, the campers were challenged to think of a location, either real or imaginary, where their water tower would stand as a land mark and decorate it according to their theme.

The completed models will be showcased at the end of the summer and will be judged on their structural integrity, their ability to hold and drain water, and their theme.

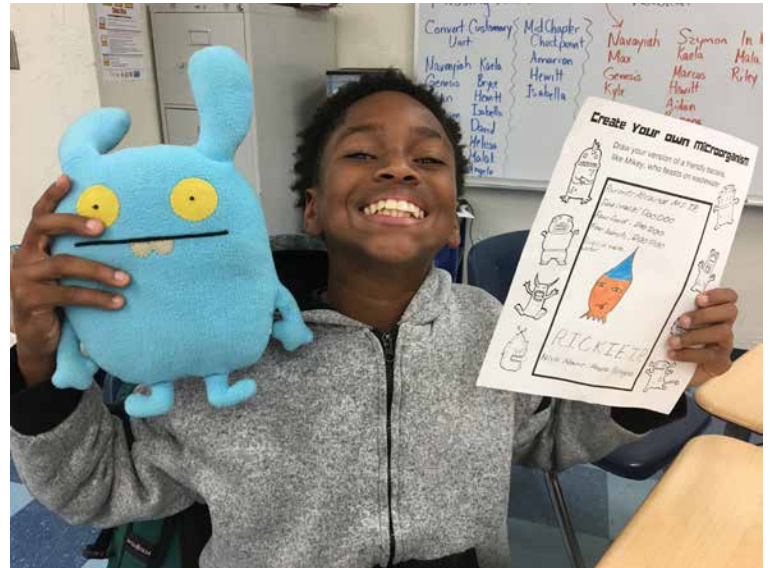
## EDUCATION PROGRAM IS BENCHMARK-ALIGNED

The [Utility Systems education program](#) content, materials, and activities are now aligned with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSS) Science Benchmarks for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. This collaboration with St. Lucie Public Schools gives teachers the opportunity to incorporate Utility Systems-related information into their lesson plans. Water and sewer systems and treatment processes offer a number of practical applications for the things students are already learning, like the water cycle.

The education program includes a number of hands-on activities, all of which include Big Idea components such as collaborating with a partner to collect information and inference based on observation. Creating a model to explain the water cycle is a student favorite benchmark.

Since its inception in January 2017, the Utility Systems education program has reached more than 3,700 children. The program continues to grow each year as new content is added and more opportunities are made available, such as facility tours.

Utility Systems is excited to start this upcoming school year with the benchmark-aligned education program and support of St. Lucie Public Schools.



# FEATURE STORY



## MCCHESNEY DOG PARK GRAND OPENING - 8/3

The City of Port St. Lucie's four-legged residents will have a new place to run and play when the City's third dog park opens on Saturday, August 3, at McChesney Park.

"We are excited to offer the City's third dog park and serve our furry, four-legged friends and their owners with a park in the western sector of the City," said Sherman Conrad, Parks & Recreation Director.

The new dog park will be similar in size and design to the one within Lyngate Park, at three-quarters of an acre. McChesney Dog Park, at 1585 SW Cashmere Blvd., will consist of three separate fenced-in compounds; one each for small, medium and large dogs. It will include benches, water fountains, shade structures and an obstacle course for the dogs.

McChesney Dog Park will be open between 8 a.m. until sunset seven days a week. The City will hold a small opening ceremony at 8:30 a.m. on August 3 to commemorate this exciting enhancement to McChesney Park.

All dogs who visit must have current licenses and vaccinations. Dogs that are aggressive or in heat are not allowed. There are no lights for nighttime use. Pet owners are responsible for picking up after their pets. Doggie waste stations with bags and disposal containers will be provided. Admission and parking are free.

The City of Port St. Lucie was recently certified a BETTER CITY FOR PETS™, showcasing its commitment to creating a pet-friendly community. In January, Mars Petcare launched the BETTER CITY FOR PETS™ certification, an extension of the BETTER CITIES FOR PETS™ program, which works with local government, businesses and non-profits to help communities make four-legged friends welcome.



