



City Manager's **Bi-Weekly Report**

February 5, 2021 • Vol. 5 • Issue 2



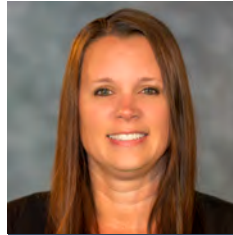
City Officials

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.



Mayor

Gregory J. Oravec



*Vice Mayor,
District 3
Councilwoman*

Shannon M. Martin



*District 1
Councilwoman*

Stephanie Morgan



*District 2
Councilman*

David Pickett



*District 4
Councilwoman*

Jolien Caraballo



City Manager

Russ Blackburn

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***Port St. Lucie is a safe, beautiful and prosperous
City for all people – your hometown.***

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ON THE COVER

*Winterlakes Park
Grand Opening*



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Receive regular updates
of the City Manager's
Bi-Weekly Report, a digital
publication released every
two weeks, highlighting the
City of Port St. Lucie's latest
news, events and projects.

Strategic Goals

The City's Strategic Plan is the guiding document that the City Council and staff use to fulfill a strategic vision to be a safe, beautiful and prosperous City for all people. The entire organization is focused on carrying out the strategic plan, which is updated every year based on citizen input through the annual Citizen Survey and Citizen Summit.



An essential part of bringing the plan to life is measuring performance through objective indicators and reporting those results back to citizens.

In the City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report, we will highlight projects specifically prioritized in the strategic plan that have achieved milestones, or where changes have occurred in our effort to remain transparent and proactive.

In addition, strategic plan "badges" will indicate the strategic goal that each project, program or event advances, as everything that we do at the City of Port St. Lucie aligns with our Strategic Plan.



Safe, Clean & Beautiful



Vibrant Neighborhoods



Quality Education for All Residents



Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities



High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities



Culture, Nature & Fun Activities



High Performing City Government Organization



Highlight of the Week

Florida League of Cities Magazine

- On page 8, it was announced that Port St. Lucie was one of four Florida cities recognized by the National League of Cities for "bold commitments to driving innovation and inclusive economic development through entrepreneurship."
- On page 24, the HR Department and Building Department are highlighted in a story, "COVID-19 Changes How Cities Work."
- On page 40, the City was recognized for its Virtual Town Hall with St. Lucie County students for Florida Government Week.
- On page 53, the City's PSLinLights program was recognized in a story, "Community Connections During COVID-19."



Strategic Plan Highlight





Half-Cent Sales Tax

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



High Quality
Infrastructure
& Facilities

ST. LUCIE WEST BOULEVARD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Construction starts in FY 25/26 for California Boulevard.

California Boulevard widening from St. Lucie West Boulevard to Crosstown Parkway. Construction starts in FY 25/26.

SIDEWALKS

Torino Boulevard (California Boulevard to Cashmere Boulevard; Villa Vizcaya to Midway Road): Construction is currently underway.

Delwood Drive (Torino Boulevard to Winterlakes Park): Construction is complete.

Torino Boulevard (California Boulevard to Topaz): Construction is complete.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION ALONG PORT ST. LUCIE BOULEVARD

Adaptive traffic signal implementation along Port St. Lucie Boulevard starts in FY 27/28.

Adaptive traffic signal implementation along Crosstown Parkway is complete and fully functional.

REPAVING

Gatlin Boulevard: Repaving starts in FY 26/27.

ROSSER RESERVE (START DATE JAN. 18, 2021)	
SW Delos Avenue	SW Rosser Boulevard to SW Endicott Street
SW Alice Street	SW Delos Avenue to SW Paar Drive
SW Crater Avenue	SW Bamberg Street to SW Rardin Street
SW Chari Avenue	SW Batavia Street to SW Daniff Street
SW Bamberg Street	SW Delos Avenue to Paar Drive
SW Batavia Street	SW Chari Avenue to SW Delos Avenue
SW Daniff Street	SW Chari Avenue to SW Delos Avenue
SW Aler Street	SW Chari Avenue to SW Crater Avenue
SW Rardin Street	SW Delos Avenue to SW Paar Drive
SW Darien Street	SW Delos Avenue to SW Paar Drive
SW Endicott Street	SW Delos Avenue to SW Paar Drive

TORINO BOULEVARD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Project is complete.

LANDSCAPING & BEAUTIFICATION

U.S. 1 landscaping and beautification starts in April 2022. This will follow the completion of FDOT's resurfacing and safety improvement project that is currently ongoing.





Floresta Drive Improvements

SEGMENT 1 FROM SOUTHBEND BOULEVARD TO ELKCAM WATERWAY

- The contractor will be performing pressure testing and chlorination tests on the installed water main pipes. The contractor will be connecting the new water main.
- The contractor is preparing for drainage activities and will start installing a temporary roadway.
- Periodic lane closures will take place along Floresta Drive. Use caution driving through the work zone. Lane closures will not be permitted from 6:30-9:30 a.m. or 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the weekends.
- Side streets, including Portage Avenue, Essex Drive, Academy Lane and Chapman Avenue, will have temporary closures as the contractor installs pipe across the roadway during daytime hours.
- The contractor is working on the water main on the west side of Floresta Drive, north of Port St. Lucie Boulevard.
- The contractor will start working with residents to store existing mailboxes on their property until final configuration.
- The contractor will be working in residential driveways to remove concrete and replace with temporary base rock.

UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Utility coordination and relocation
- Drainage activities at pond 2 near Port St. Lucie Boulevard
- Drainage/outfall activities
- Pressure and chlorination testing
- Water service connections
- Set structures in Pond 1 area near Essex and Academy



SEGMENT 2 AND 3 FROM ELKCAM WATERWAY TO PRIMA VISTA BOULEVARD

Design is underway. Segments 2 & 3 have been combined and are being designed together. The plans are currently 60% complete and are progressing towards 90%.

A letter was sent to residents along the Phase 2 and Phase 3 corridors introducing the upcoming project, asking for resident contact information to keep them updated as the project moves forward. Virtual and in-person one-on-one meetings with residents will take place starting early 2021.

1PSL System



High Performing
Government
Organization



Your **24/7** City Hall

What is 1PSL?

1PSL is your 27/7 City Hall. This all-in-one system allows residents to connect with the City either via mobile app, phone or web portal. Residents can use 1PSL to request services, ask questions, pay bills, learn about City news and upcoming events, pinpoint an issue location with GPS, attach a photo with your comments, and receive status updates and resolution notifications.



CALL 772-871-1PSL

Call a 1PSL Navigator 24/7. After hours calls are answered by Police Service Aides. For all emergencies, call 911.



DOWNLOAD APP

The 1PSL mobile app is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

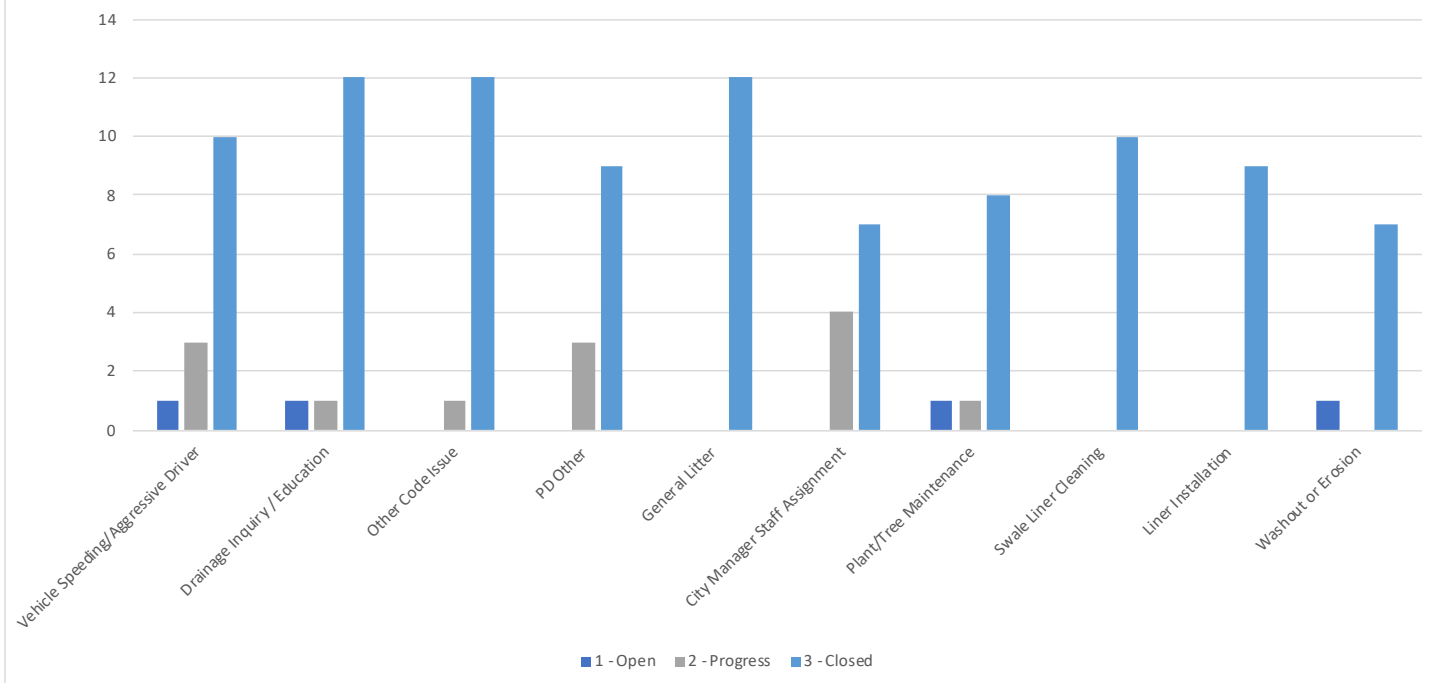


WEB PORTAL

Residents can use 1PSL without downloading the mobile app by visiting the 1PSL Web Portal.



Top 10- Requests from Jan. 15-18, 2021

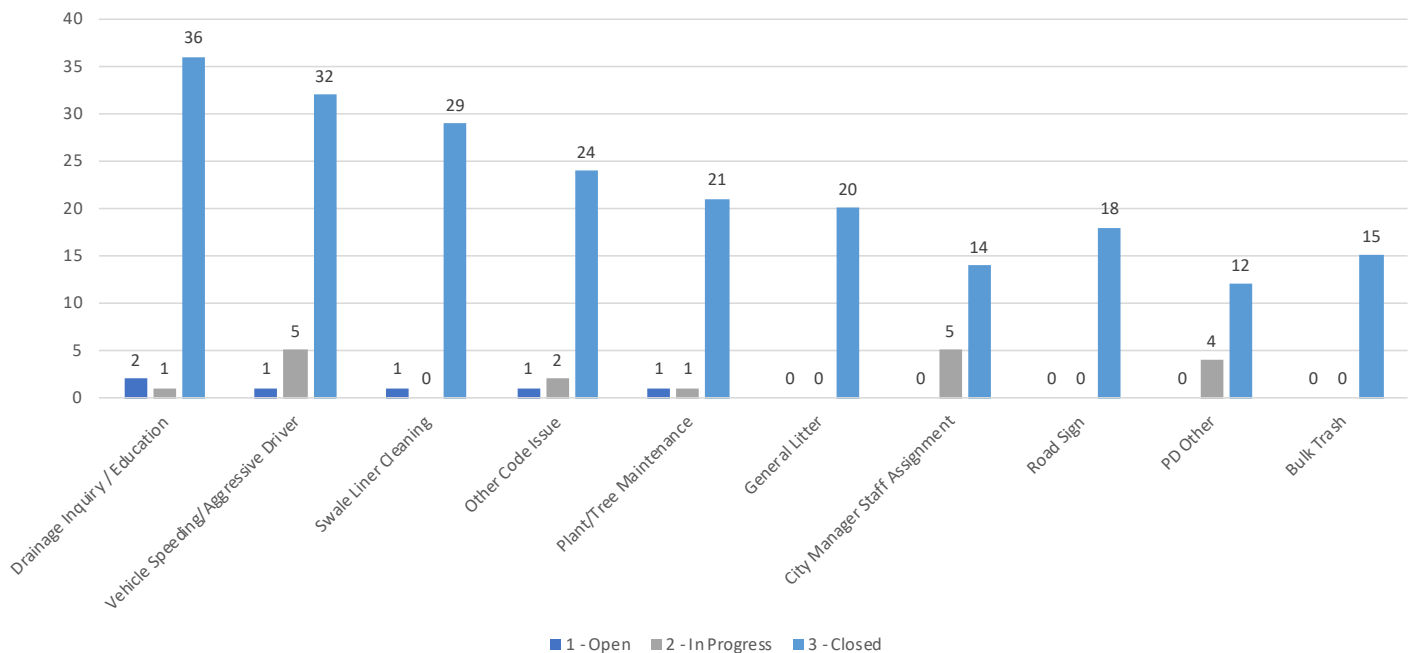




Call Totals



Top 10 Requests - Year to Date



Building Department



Diverse Economy
& Employment
Opportunities

Highlights

- Chief Inspector Vincent Montalto was promoted to Senior Chief Building Inspector.
- Building Permit Specialist Ounica Moore was promoted to Contractor Licensing Coordinator.
- New parking lot lighting will be installed Feb. 10.
- New canopy walkway should begin Feb. 15.
- Next contractor stakeholder meeting with Mechanical Contractors is 3 p.m. Feb. 8.
- During December, the Building Department collected 444 jars of peanut butter to donate to the Peanut Butter Brigade.
- This past month, the Building Department collected over 1,000 cans of SpaghettiOs to feed the food insecure in our community.
- During February, we will be collecting boxed macaroni and cheese.

Building Activities

JAN. 15-28, 2021		2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Permits Issued	1,938	3,410	52,355	41,504	39,899	32,020
Single-Family Permits Issued	187	449	3,592	2,722	2,200	1,518
Certificates of Occupancy Issued (SFR)	155	259	2,893	2,711	1,824	1,382
Number of Inspections Completed	6,840	6,840	155,421	137,302	115,073	84,510
Number of Plans Reviewed	701	1,550	19,150	13,978	13,559	10,352
Number of Permits Applied for Online	1,265	2,088	26,855	18,395	13,421	8,346

COMMERCIAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

- Teleperformance, interior renovations: 10400 S. U.S. 1
- Walmart, interior renovation: 10855 SW U.S. 1
- Port St. Lucie Shooting Range, interior renovation: 490 NW Concourse Place, Bay 1
- Aqua Buddies, interior renovation: 2755 SW Buckhart Drive, Suite 101
- Care Net, interior renovation: 3237 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd.
- Floridian Golf Course Snack Bar, new building: 3700 SE Floridian Drive

COMMERCIAL PERMITS

- Tru Hotel by Hilton, new building: 11560 SW Village Parkway
- Pizza Hut, interior renovation: 1014 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd.
- Blaze Pizza, interior renovation: 11175 SW Village Parkway
- Veranda Falls Self-Storage, new building: 540 SE Becker Road
- AHS at Tradition, Apt Building C&F: 11760/11790 SW Village Parkway



STAKEHOLDER MEETING SCHEDULE 2021

- Feb. 8: Mechanical
- March 8: Electrical
- May 10: Windows/Doors
- June 14: Pool
- July 12: Roofing
- Aug. 9: Mechanical
- Sept. 13: Electrical
- Oct. 11: Plumbing
- Nov. 8: Screen/Aluminum
- Dec. 6: Residential/General

Communications Department



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Organization

2020 Annual Report showcases the City's resilience during a year of uncertainty



Despite a year filled with extraordinary challenges, the City of Port St. Lucie persevered, thanks to a dedicated staff that pulled it together and embraced change to ensure the official business of the City continued amid a global pandemic.

There's no better way to highlight the City's achievements than by showcasing them in the 2020 City Manager's Report: A Year in Review.

This year's theme is "Resiliency through Teamwork." Topics include Connecting with the Community, Energizing the Economy, Innovations and Efficiencies, Financial Accountability and Outstanding Organization.

Dear Communications Department:

I wish to thank you for your superior City Manager's Annual Report. I read it using the PDF format as it made it easier because I was able to enlarge certain pages. The sections are well organized, your syntax is excellent, plus the content is informative and accurate. I am a professional writer and it truly pleases me.

Please feel free to pass my letter up the chain of command. You are to be commended. Thank you.

Irwin Sadetsky

Kings Isle AARP, Chapter 5080 Legislative Chairperson

Communications worked with the City Manager's Office to cultivate ideas and then asked each department to share its best successes of 2020. Communications gathered the stories, wrote new ones, including an entire section on COVID-19, and designed and proofed the 56-page report.

View the 2020 City Manager's Report here: www.cityofpsl.com/annualreport



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Mayor's State of the City Message presented virtually

Mayor Gregory J. Oravec shared his State of the City message virtually Jan. 27 in City Council Chambers.

The message aired live on Facebook, at www.cityofpsl.com/tv, on Comcast and Blue Stream Fiber Channel 20 and U-Verse Channel 99.

Mayor Oravec addressed residents through a combination of a live message from Council chambers as well as a prerecorded video produced by Communications. A live Facebook Q&A followed, and Mayor Oravec answered several questions from residents, including ones about Port St. Lucie Boulevard south, the Citizen Summit, the proposed Adventure Park and more.

The videos, produced by Matt Dutiel and Ben Elliott, showed how the City persevered during COVID-19, highlighting events held before and during the pandemic, as well as how the City is coping today. Matt and Ben also created three more videos, one about Southern Grove and its future economic impacts on the City, another highlighting the history of City Center and one that focused on the City's seven Strategic Goals. Kate Parmelee, Strategic Initiatives Director, helped gather information for the team.

The message garnered lots of positive feedback, including a comparison to "a Hollywood production with just the right tone."

Watch Mayor Oravec's State of the City message here: https://youtu.be/Nf7J_jpCLlQ



2021 Citizen Summit a combination of virtual, in-person, pop-up events

The year marks the 60th anniversary of the City of Port St. Lucie, and residents are encouraged to help build a stronger and more resilient community by participating in the annual National Community Survey™ and joining one of four #IamPSL Citizen Summit events.

Residents randomly selected to participate in the mail-in survey are encouraged to mail in their results before Feb. 15. All residents can take the National Community Survey™ online starting Feb. 1 at <https://polco.us/sg2eh5>. The survey closes Feb. 15.

There will be four unique ways for residents to participate in this year's Citizen Summit; a combination of virtual and in-person pop-up events. This year's theme is A City for All People by the People.

For more information about the National Community Survey and Citizen Summit, see page 30.

Community Redevelopment

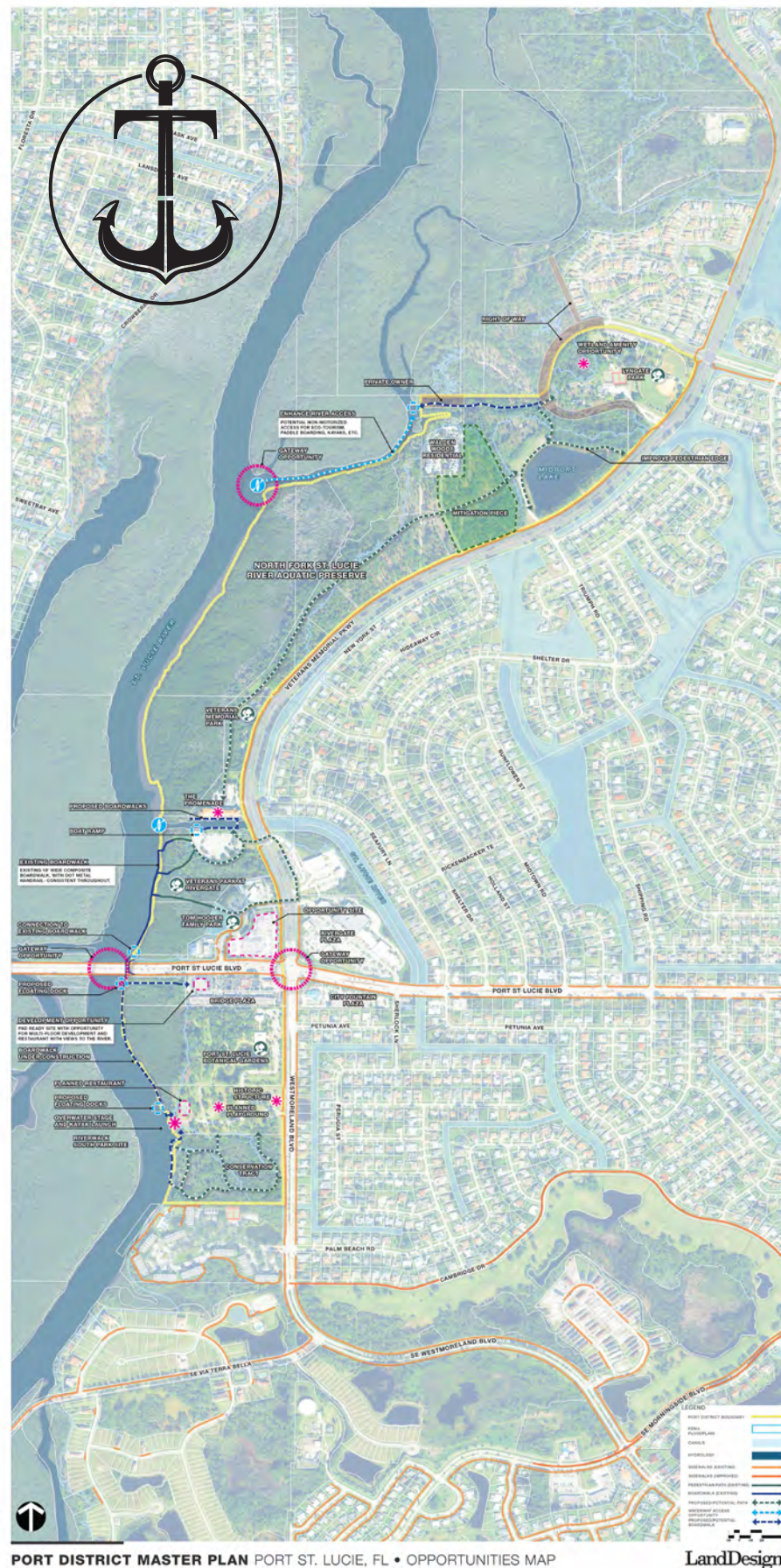
Planning The Port District

The City of Port St. Lucie's Parks & Recreation Department, in collaboration with the City's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and LandDesign, is in the process of creating a Master Plan for The Port District. Meetings were held recently to kick off the public engagement process and provided participants with polling questions which offered interactive question-and-answer sessions. In addition, a project survey will be launched to seek additional feedback on the desired elements for The Port District.

The Port District runs from Lyngate Park on the north end of Veterans Memorial Parkway, down to The Preserve on the south end of Westmoreland Boulevard (just north of the Anchorage community). Though the area was formerly known as the Riverwalk District, the development of a Master Plan for The Port District represents an effort by the City to create an updated vision that will include recreational and business opportunities while creating a sense of place. The recommended elements will build on the City's recent investment in the Boardwalk, Pioneer Park, Historic Homes and more. The final vision of the Master Plan should culminate in an iconic and memorable premier destination in Port St. Lucie. It is anticipated that The Port Master Plan will be presented to City Council in summer 2021.



Culture, Nature
& Fun Activities



Emergency Management

Drive-thru mobile food pantry helps feed food insecure

In an ongoing partnership with the Treasure Coast Food Bank, a drive-thru food pantry provided 500 vehicles with meals to assist those who are continuing to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During these unprecedented times, it is not a secret that many families are struggling. By continuing this partnership with the Treasure Coast Food Bank, we are hoping to provide some relief and assist the community in recovery efforts.



Safe, Clean
& Beautiful

Make a difference

Throughout this partnership with the food bank, many residents have expressed their gratitude for all those involved in these operations.

Recently, a resident reached out and expressed her appreciation for the help we have provided and shared a positive experience:

"I called my mom Thursday night to tell her about this drive thru. She arrived at 7:10 a.m. and said she was in row five. Very organized. After two hours she said her trunk was so full nothing else could fit in. She got a box of apples, vegetables, MREs, Her biggest surprise was the rack of lamb!! She shared with her neighbors the abundance.

"Mom said it was extremely organized and easy to exit.

"I want to say thank you to all who contributed money, time, resources, donations and the thoughtfulness of all involved. My mom felt safe and was so appreciative. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

We are making a difference and making a positive impact in our community.

Human Resources



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THE CITY WATER COOLER

TOTAL VISITS: 5,392
WATER COOLER SITE: 4,230
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SITE: 407
PSL FORWARD TRAINING SITE: 75

HR STATISTICS

(DEC. 11-JAN. 13)

- New hires started: 6
- Total applications received: 306
- Job requisitions received: 13
- Jobs posted: 11
- Internal promotions: 2
- Personnel change forms processed: 69

Training & Development

COMPLETED TRAININGS

- ICMA-RC Pension Training: Do you have a Tailored Financial Plan in Place?
- ICMA-RC Pension Training: Spend like there IS a tomorrow
- Understanding Creativity
- Effective Communication (Parts I & II)
- Learning to Lead
- Adaptive Thinking

entry in Munis, comprised the bulk of the training content.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

<https://psl.knowledgecity.com/>

- Purchasing Card Processing
- Safety: Bloodborne Pathogens
- Health & Wellness: Hypertension: The Silent Killer
- Unconscious Bias
- Supervisor Upskill: Performance Evaluations
- Creating a Culture of Diversity & Inclusion
- Making Better Decisions

SPOTLIGHT TRAININGS

ADA Essentials in Media

This virtual webinar discusses the importance of our City's compliance with the ADA standards of Accessible Design when creating any media that is meant for public consumption. The session was attended by 18 employees.

Legistar Essentials: Council agenda items

Legistar is our City's all-in-one product for managing the legislative process, from drafting files to publishing agendas and minutes, and this training featured support for drafters creating Council agenda items. This session was attended by 32 drafters and approvers.

Navigating Microsoft Teams

Attended by almost 60 employees, this training provided a demonstration of the ease of collaboration via Microsoft Teams.

Munis Budget Entry Training

Budget Entry training, conducted by Ivy Ladyko, is required for each department's budget team and is ongoing from Jan. 27 through Jan. 29 with multiple sessions over each day to accommodate schedules. The majority of the sessions have been conducted virtually, but in-person training has been offered as a contingency. Reviewing the budget calendar, necessary forms and an overview of CIP, as well as budget

Welcome to the City

Human Resources welcomes the following employees who have recently joined the City of Port St. Lucie family:



Jeffery Allen



Rafael Vega



Samantha
Tiernan

City of Port St. Lucie in the spotlight

The Human Resources Department, along with the Building Department, has been highlighted in the most recent edition of the Florida League of Cities quarterly publication, QualityCities, in a story "COVID-19 Changes How Cities Work." The multi-page spread calls attention to some of Florida's most innovative cities. You can read the article here: <http://publications.flcities.com/qc/2021Q1/viewer/desktop/#page/24>

MIDFLORIDA Event Center

CREATIVE CATERING

MIDFLORIDA EVENT CENTER

MIDFLORIDA Event Center welcomes new caterer

LOCALLY OWNED CREATIVE CATERING SET TO BRING CULINARY EXPERTISE TO THE SOUGHT-AFTER VENUE

In an effort to continue to be the prime event destination on the Treasure Coast, the MIDFLORIDA Event Center has announced the appointment of Creative Catering as the venue's full-service, in-house food and beverage provider.

Specializing in custom menus tailored to any event theme, as well as standardized menus offering delicious cuisine options, Creative Catering will add a special touch to any event at the 100,000-square-foot Event Center.

"We are thrilled for the opportunity to be a part of the MIDFLORIDA Event Center," said Karyn Boyd, owner of Creative Catering. "We will bring delicious food and impeccable service to the center's guests during special events such as banquets, weddings, conferences, concerts, festivals and tradeshows!"

The partnership between the Event Center and Creative Catering comes after City Council unanimously approved the food service contract Monday, Jan. 11. The contract term is for two years, with two additional two-year options to renew.

"We are honored to partner with this well-respected, professional family business," said Linda McCarthy, director of the MIDFLORIDA Event Center. "The team at Creative Catering aligns with our mission to provide exceptional services to clients and guests. And, being a locally owned company provides greater economic benefit to the City through increased job creation and local spending on goods and services."

Creative Catering will begin servicing events at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center on Feb. 1, 2021.



Culture, Nature
& Fun Activities

WELCOME!



Samantha Tiernan,
MIDFLORIDA Event Center,
Event & Service Coordinator

The Event Center welcomed Samantha Tiernan to its staff this month as the new Event & Service Coordinator. In her role, she will be responsible for the successful operation of the box office and also will be assisting the Promotions Manager with event marketing efforts. We are very excited for her to join the team!

Events

EVENT ATTENDANCE: 73,980

EVENT DAYS: 148

Port St. Lucie Arts & Crafts Expo returns to Event Center

The Port St. Lucie Arts & Crafts Expo returned for another wonderful weekend at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center. With more than 200 booths, there was something for everyone to enjoy!



Impacted by COVID-19?

RENT, MORTGAGE AND BUSINESS GRANTS AVAILABLE!

Housing grants & the CARES Act during the COVID-19 pandemic

Since March 2020, we all have been experiencing unprecedented changes to our lives as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City and Neighborhood Services have been doing everything they can to stay up to date with all the information and legislation coming from our federal and state governments.

Last year, as a result of the first and second CARES Act, the City and St. Lucie County received funding to implement COVID-19-related assistance programs. City staff have been working closely with its counterparts at the county, Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, the Florida Housing Coalition and the Department of Housing & Urban Development to stay abreast of updates and advocate for the unmet needs in our community.

During the second half of 2020, St. Lucie County launched several assistance programs and allocated approximately \$15 million in housing assistance. The City helped an additional 115 households that had a persistent COVID-19-related hardship with additional funds of over \$620,000 from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund.

The City also worked with AT&T and the St. Lucie County School Board to distribute WiFi hotspots to students in need to facilitate the increase in virtual school programs. It also set up a new Emergency Home Repair Program through St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity and spent over \$200,000 helping homeowners with small, emergency home repairs. Additionally, Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council worked closely with the St. Lucie County Clerk of Court of the St. Lucie County Clerk of the Circuit Court to execute an Eviction Diversion Program, spending over \$1 million to help landlords and tenants negotiate terms to avoid eviction.

More assistance is on the way and we are currently closing out and reporting our 2020 activities to the various authorities and planning for the next round of assistance coming in 2021. Check our website, www.cityofpsl.com/nsd, and Recover St. Lucie, www.recoverstlucie.org, regularly in the upcoming weeks for more information about assistance programs that will be available to residents who are still experiencing a COVID-19-related hardships.

If you are currently renting and are still experiencing a COVID-19-related hardship, it is extremely important that you fill out the National Declaration Form from the CDC and deliver it to your landlord so you may seek protection under the CDC's eviction moratorium. The moratorium has now been extended through the end of March 2021.

You can find the form here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/declaration-form.pdf>

Read more about the CDC moratorium on our website: <https://www.cityofpsl.com/government/departments/neighborhood-services/community-programs>

N CLEARANCE 8' 2"



Code assists with COVID-19 vaccine event

Code Compliance staff assisted Emergency Management during the COVID-19 vaccine event at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center on Jan. 19 and 20. Staff assisted with traffic operations, along with verifying all patients had the correct documentation before entering the facility. With their tremendous efforts, the event ran smoothly and in an orderly fashion.

NSD welcomes new employees

Neighborhood Services would like to welcome three new staff members that have joined our Community Programs Division team.



Karen Linthicum,
Community Development
Block Grant Coronavirus
Relief Project Coordinator



Diane Gonzalez,
Community Programs Grants
Administrative Assistant



Justice Thoman,
Neighborhood Improvement
(NICE) Intern

The Community Programs Division has been growing as a result of new federal and state programs and COVID-19-related grants as a direct result of the CARES Act. We are working on a lot of new projects in collaboration with our county, state and federal counterparts. We are very happy to have Karen, Diane and Justice join our team and look forward to growing our programs together.



Thank you, volunteers!

The Saints Golf Course honored its more than 50 volunteers Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021, during a catered luncheon in the beautiful, recently renovated Sandpiper Bay Room at The Saints Golf Course.

Saints volunteers logged more than 21,000 hours in FY 19/20, even during the COVID-19 pandemic, a 21.2% increase from FY 18/19.

Parks & Recreation Director Sherman Conrad, Deputy Director Patricia Roberts, Pro Shop Manager and Volunteer Coordinator David O'Kelly and Golf Course Administrator Keith Bradshaw thanked the volunteers for their hard work in keeping the golf course running smoothly.

After lunch, the volunteers and their guests hit the greens for a 9-hole scramble tournament.

When you visit The Saints, please extend your appreciation to our volunteers who, working alongside City staff, whether it's during a global pandemic or otherwise, work to provide our golfing community with the best municipal golf experience on the Treasure Coast.



Golf course operations

Staff is working aggressively on enhancements to course maintenance programs in preparation for warmer weather and the upcoming growing season. As a result, we are already seeing nice improvements to the course.

While we continue to see fewer golfers coming down from the north because of the pandemic, over the past two weeks, we have enjoyed hosting 170 golfers on average per day at The Saints.

With warmer weather and enhancements to agronomic plans, greens and fairways are showing improvements. Our guests are sharing their positive messages of recognition and appreciation for our continued course improvement projects.



Parks

On Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021, Winterlakes Neighborhood Park in Torino, officially opened to the public.

At the grand opening, Master of Ceremonies Mayor Gregory J. Oravec led the crowd assembled in the 28-acre neighborhood park to share in the community's excitement for the new amenity and open green space.

About 100-200 people already at the park, passively recreating in the beautiful, tranquil setting, enjoying the outdoor fitness trails, dog park, playground, tennis and pickleball courts, joined in the celebration during the 10 a.m. event.

While the ceremony was taking place, what a joy it was to hear the merriment from the children playing on the playground, the friendly banter between those enjoying pickleball and the crescendo of the dogs barking and playing in the dog park.

The grand opening event culminated with Mayor Oravec and other Councilmembers, the City Manager and citizens cutting the ceremonial ribbon. It was a beautiful day to be outside to enjoy the beauty of the newest neighborhood park in our City.





UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 6: Bonfire Hayride, McCarty Ranch
- Feb. 11: River Nights, The Event Lawn at The Port

COMMUNITY CENTER

- Feb. 5: City Manager Department Meeting
- Feb. 10: Valentine's Dance, a special populations event
- Feb. 12: Healthy U: a Series of Conversations. Topic: Trauma-informed care

PARKS & RECREATION AT THE MIDFLORIDA EVENT CENTER

- Feb. 9: Club Med Volleyball
- Feb. 12: Daddy Daughter Dance
- Feb. 16: Club Med Volleyball



Recreation

The front walkway at Minsky Gym has been resurfaced.

Season 4 of eSports is underway. Mobile games such as Words with Friends and Clash Royale have been added to the offerings.

Junior Basketball will be heading into playoffs the weekend of Feb. 20 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

Rock Steady Boxing will be adding Wednesday classes beginning Feb. 3.

A Valentine's Dance for Special Populations will be held February 10, at the Community Center.

Planning & Zoning



Diverse Economy
& Employment
Opportunities



Coming Soon to Port St. Lucie

www.cityofpsl.com/comingsoon

VITAS, TRADITION AT SG HOSPICE (P21-003)

Site plan for a 23,726-square-foot hospice facility with 16 patient rooms is proposed to be at the southwest corner of Community Boulevard and Tradition Parkway.

Dec-20					
PLANNING AREA	BUILT SINGLE FAMILY UNITS	BUILT MULTI-FAMILY UNITS	TOTAL BUILT UNITS	APPROVED UNITS	REMAINING UNITS TO BE BUILT
1	3,427	778	4,205	5,726	1,521
2	2,751	479	3,230	4,056	826
3	16,992	1	16,993	20,210	3,217
4N	16,438	677	17,115	22,444	5,329
4S	10,826	26	10,852	15,294	4,442
5	2,156	12	2,168	2,961	793
6	4,562	1,214	5,776	6,237	461
7	5,583	2,267	7,850	9,532	1,682
8	5,362	1,661	7,023	7,523	500
9	3,390	1,988	5,378	11,092	5,714
10	893	221	1,114	7,200	6,086
11	0	0	0	4,000	4,000
12	1,147	58	1,205	22,410	21,205
13	0	0	0	0	-
14	391	0	391	579	188
TOTAL	73,918	9,382	83,300	139,264	55,964

Police Department



Safe, Clean
& Beautiful

District 1

Cases 2020-25355 & 2020-25362:
Three men were linked to vehicle burglaries related to the Bent Paddle Lane hot spot. One of the suspects admitted to being involved, and the other individuals were linked through evidence and interviews conducted by Criminal Investigations Division Personnel.

District 2



A Port St. Lucie Police Department Officer rescues a blind Shih Tzu. A 69-year-old resident called 911 because her 10-year-old Shih Tzu (Ms. Autumn), wandered away and fell down a rock wall into the water. The resident told police a woman her age couldn't get down those rocks. Officer Marin quickly arrived on the scene, jumped down the rock wall, and safely rescued Ms. Autumn. The resident told police that Ms. Autumn is blind and is continuously running into things inside the house. She's glad PSLPD arrived quickly and rescued her dog. Way to go, Officer Marin! We're so happy Ms. Autumn is back home safe.

District 3

During the late-night hours of Jan. 19, 2021, Port St Lucie Police Officers observed a vehicle with no tag light at SW Gatlin and SW Port St Lucie boulevards. Officers initiated a traffic stop as the car turned west on SW Gatlin Boulevard. The vehicle continued west, traveling approximately 20-30 mph, about 10 mph under the speed limit.

Police Officers turned on their sirens. Meanwhile, the vehicle ignored the emergency lights and sirens while driving an additional 1.5 miles. The male passenger exited the vehicle while chewing on something. Officers found the passenger chewing on a green leafy substance in his mouth, teeth and tongue. The driver also had a green leafy substance in his mouth, teeth and tongue.

The occupants informed officers they saw and heard the emergency lights and sirens, but they continued to ignore them while they drove to eat the remaining marijuana. Officers learned the passenger is on felony drug probation, which is why they attempted to consume the marijuana. It is estimated they ingested approximately a quarter ounce of marijuana. The passenger of the vehicle was charged with tampering/destruction of evidence and violation of probation. The driver was charged with tampering/destruction of evidence, possession of drug paraphernalia and given citations for an equipment violation, fleeing and eluding and possession of an open container.

On July 3, 2019, a "smash and grab" burglary to a vehicle was documented at a Tradition fitness center parking lot. During the investigation, DNA evidence (blood) was recovered from the victims' car. The evidence was collected and submitted to the lab for processing. DNA results revealed a possible suspect. Officers conducted a local search, and the subject was in Palm Beach County Jail on charges of burglary to a conveyance. C.I.D. obtained a search warrant for DNA, and a buccal swab was collected from the subject. The DNA sample was submitted to the Indian River State College lab and processed. The results of the DNA comparisons were confirmed, verifying a match for that individual. Detectives introduced an arrest warrant to the state for the violation of F.S.S. 810.02(4)(b) burglary to a conveyance and F.S.S. 806.13(1)(b)(2) criminal mischief, where the suspect forcefully entered a vehicle intending to commit a crime and damaged the window. The warrants were approved, and, on January 21, 2021, the male suspect was arrested by the U.S. marshals.

On Jan. 24, 2021, at approximately 11 p.m., Port St. Lucie Police Officers responded to the 3900 block of SW Savona Boulevard, where a burglary occurred. Officers learned two Border Patrol Agents, who were driving home, observed three people leave the unoccupied home carrying a refrigerator. The Border Patrol Agents contacted the individuals, and, after learning the refrigerator did not belong to the subjects, the agents called the police.



Port St. Lucie Police Officers arrived and interviewed the three subjects. Police learned their refrigerator was not working correctly, and they needed a new one. The individuals walked to the unlocked home under construction and removed the refrigerator from the vacant house. The family was charged with burglary and grand theft.

The Port St. Lucie Police is thankful for the observant Border Patrol Agents who intervened in this crime and assisted us with our investigation.



District 4



Many of us at some point have been stranded on the side of a road, or maybe you received a frantic call from someone needing your help because their car broke down. This past Thursday, Officers Holly and Chamberlin answered the call. Margaret (Maggie) Crockett met with police to express her gratitude and detail what she described as "being up a creek, without a paddle."

Maggie, who cannot walk without assistance, was enjoying a beautiful ride on her recently donated electric scooter. She traveled on the sidewalk on SE Tiffany Avenue when her scooter suddenly stopped working, and she became stranded.

Thankfully, an observant jogger stopped to check on Maggie. The jogger called 911, and Officers Holly and Chamberlin responded. Officer Holly transported Maggie home safely, and Officer Chamberlin placed the electric scooter in his patrol vehicle.

Maggie, and her daughter, Megan, are thankful to the officers for "going above and beyond" to help her. Maggie gave each officer a shell that she painted as a sign of appreciation! PSLPD would like to thank the observant jogger, who could have kept going but decided to stay and help! Great job to all involved.

CASE 2020-12794:

A male suspect was involved in the sale of a stolen vehicle. He sold a car for \$9,000 to a young couple from Miami. The man used fake identification to conduct the transaction. The title used in the transaction also was fake. During the investigation, detectives identified the suspect and linked him to multiple fraud charges. The man turned himself in after a warrant for his arrest was issued.

In other news



The Port St. Lucie Police Department has continued its long-standing accreditation achievement through C.A.L.E.A. (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies). We were awarded our initial accreditation through C.A.L.E.A. in 1991 and have since been reaccredited through C.A.L.E.A. an additional eight times.

The agency has been recognized with a "meritorious" designation during the previous five accreditation cycles: 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016 and 2020. This designation is awarded to agencies with 15 or more years of accredited status. During the most recent 2020 accreditation cycle, the Port St. Lucie Police Department also was awarded for the first time with the designation of "Accredited with Excellence." To achieve "Accredited with Excellence," the agency must have not only demonstrated its commitment to excellence and professional policing through the assessment process but also meet additional specifications. The specifications included having no "conditions" placed on the agency during the current or previous assessment, having no "standards issues" or "non-compliance issues" during the accreditation cycle and meeting compliance with 95% or greater of all applicable other-than-mandatory standards.

Currently, there are only 43 agencies in Florida accredited through C.A.L.E.A.'s Law Enforcement Program. The Port St. Lucie Police Department is the only agency in St. Lucie County accredited through both (national) C.A.L.E.A. and (state) C.F.A. (Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation). There are only 158 agencies nationwide accredited through C.A.L.E.A. with the "Excellence" designation. Our most recent C.F.A. Award was presented in 2019 with "Excelsior" status following the two previous "Excelsior" awards received in 2016 and 2013. To achieve "Excelsior" status, the agency must have demonstrated a commitment to accreditation excellence by being awarded five successful accreditation cycles by the Commission.

"The organization continues to reduce the crime rate and maintain a low crime rate for a city with a population over 100,000 in the State of Florida. The low crime rate is attributed to a combination of a comprehensive crime reduction strategy and the agency's relationship with the citizens of the community." (2020 C.A.L.E.A. Final Report)

The Port St. Lucie Police Department would like to introduce and congratulate its newest Port St. Lucie Police Department K-9 Team, Officer Bianco and K-9 Ciro. This past week, Officer Michael Bianco, a 12-year veteran and 8-year Marine Corps veteran, was selected as our newest K-9 Officer.

The entire team made an all-too-familiar trip to Metro Dade K-9 Services to meet the Canine Operations director. PSLPD. has a long relationship with the organization, purchasing at least 10 dogs from Metro Dade K-9. The team evaluated four dogs, looking for desire, drive, confidence, sociability, temperament and commitment. After an exhaustive process, one dog rose to the top, Ciro, a two-year-old Malinois/Shepherd mix.

Together, Ciro and Bianco will complete 600 hours of training before being deployed to the streets. They will be trained in narcotics detection and patrol (tracking, area search, article search, building search and criminal apprehension).

Soon, Ciro will be joining Jaxson, Blek, Dingo, Bodhi and Dany. There is no doubt our newest K-9 team will have a positive impact on our City.

Almost a year after the virus that causes COVID-19 was first detected, safety remains paramount. With the Health Department's assistance, Port St. Lucie provided vaccines to the citizens of Port St. Lucie. On Jan. 19-23, 2021, the Traffic Unit and District Support was front and center. It made it a priority of theirs to ensure the COVID-19 vaccine was being distributed as safely as possible at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.



CRIME PREVENTION

In January, our Crime Prevention team was very excited to get back into the community! Gretchen Raziela, Model Traffic Stop Coordinator, completed a Crime Prevention presentation at Vitalia at Tradition Homes, a residential security survey for a Port St. Lucie resident. She then followed up with the Vizcaya Falls community to provide recommendations to help reduce theft opportunities at the construction sites.



PARKS

Our officers showed "teamwork makes the dream work" as we celebrated the grand opening of Winterlakes Neighborhood Park on Jan. 23, 2021. In attendance were District Support Officers and District 4 staff members.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The department would like to give a massive shout-out to School Resource Officer Mike Casey for adding a couple of new additions to his already-impressive resume. Officer Casey was selected to participate in the department's Peer Support Group, Drone Unit member and attend training to become a certified Defensive Tactics Instructor. Keep up the outstanding work, Officer Casey!

After a 21-year tenure with the City, School Resource Officer Raphael Lushbaugh is retiring from our agency on Jan. 29, 2021. He will be missed, but we all wish him well on a happy and healthy retirement! Officer Fabio Improta has been selected as his replacement.



TRAFFIC UNIT

One of the greatest feelings is knowing we as individuals can make a difference. That is why the Port St. Lucie Police Department's Traffic Unit partnered with Treasure Coast Food Bank and Christ Fellowship Church to distribute food to hundreds of families at Clover Park.

Our Traffic Enforcement Officers are always on the lookout for illegal activity. Earlier this month, a driver was pulled over for traveling 70 mph in a 40 mph zone. The driver also had three grams of crack cocaine in the car, along with approximately \$1,000 in cash. The Traffic Unit and the department is committed to keeping our roads safe and illegal drugs out of our City.

Upcoming events

Port St. Lucie Police Athletic League is proud to announce Dre'Shawn Norwood as our Florida State Boxing Champion.

Dre'Shawn is 13 years old and boxed in the 139-pound division. He was presented with pictures and a plaque. Congratulations, Dre'shawn! Your hard work paid off!

Thank you to all the trainers at the Police Athletic League for your continuous dedication to the program.

On Jan. 23, 2021, the Police Athletic League Board dinner was held. William T. May will officially take over as P.A.L. President. He presented the first-ever Legacy Awards to St. Lucie County Sheriff's Officer Chief of Staff Garry Wilson and Retired Port St. Lucie Police Chief John Skinner.

EVENTS FROM THE PORT ST. LUCIE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE (P.A.L.):

- Karate program: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 6-8 p.m.
- Boxing conditioning: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.



- Wrestling conditioning: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.
- Baton clinic at the P.A.L. Building: Saturdays, noon-5 p.m.
- Marching Drumline: Sundays, 3-5 p.m.



Projects

The City of Port St. Lucie has received funding assistance in the form of grants for the Sagamore East and West Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA).

The State Water-Quality Assistant Grant (SWAG), in the amount of \$838,230, will be provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program grant amount is \$1,051,770.

The STAs will be small ponds that have aquatic plants below the water line, and landscaping along the borders. The STAs will restore natural habitat for wildlife, store more water during rain events and give time for pollutants to settle or break down naturally. The aquatic plants will uptake nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) that can cause algae blooms before discharging into the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

This project will ultimately make the river healthier for humans and wildlife.

SIDEWALK PROJECTS:

www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks

Paar Drive (Savona Boulevard to Daemon Street):
Construction is complete.

STREET PAVING PROJECTS:

www.cityofpsl.com/repaving

The street paving goal for FY 20/21 is 32.9 miles with 3.49 miles completed to date.

SANDHILL CROSSING (START DATE FEB. 1, 2021)

SE N. Buttonwood Drive	SE Berkshire Boulevard to SE Berkshire Boulevard
SE Mandrake Circle	SE Berkshire Boulevard to SE Mandrake Circle
SE Ironton Avenue	SE Mandrake Circle to SE S. Buttonwood Drive
SE Joyner Circle	SE Ironton Avenue to SE Ironton Avenue
SE Kosner Place	SE Mandrake Circle to SE S. Buttonwood Drive
SE Maywall Place	SE Mandrake Circle to SE S. Buttonwood Drive
SE Colfax Court	SE Mandrake Circle to End
SE Inman Place	SE Mandrake Circle to SE Berkshire Boulevard
SE Isanda Lane	SE Berkshire Boulevard to End
SE Leigh Avenue	SE West Blackwell Drive to SE Berkshire Boulevard
SE Hutchings Avenue	SE West Blackwell Drive to SE Berkshire Boulevard
SE Braddock Street	SE Leigh Avenue to SE West Blackwell Drive
SE Tate Court	SE Braddock Street to End
SE Surry Lane	SE Hutchings Avenue to SE Rosk Springs Drive
SE Beechwood Terrace	SE Hutchings Avenue to SE West Blackwell Drive
SE Awin Lane	SE Rocksprings Drive to SE West Blackwell Drive
SE Berkshire Boulevard	SE Blackwell Drive to SE Heathwood Circle
SE Berkshire Boulevard	SE Heathwood Circle to SE Melaleuca Boulevard
SE Kaycee Court	SE Lyman Circle to End
SE Lyman Circle	SE Berkshire Boulevard to SE Berkshire Boulevard
SE Dranson Circle	SE Berkshire Boulevard to SE Dranson Circle
SE Angus Court	SE Dranson Circle to End
SE Lavina Circle	SE Dranson Circle to SE Dranson Circle
SE Tuttle Lane	SE Berkshire Boulevard to SE Dranson Circle
SE Hurtis Place	SE Dranson Circle to SE Melaleuca Boulevard
SE West Blackwell Drive	SE Charleston Drive to SE Berkshire Boulevard

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Hegener Drive Phase 1 Extension: Project Design Kick-Off Meeting was held June 17. The BUILD Grant for construction was not awarded; still awaiting response for EDA grant. A meeting was held with City staff and a potential funding source to discuss the project and scope. Signed and Sealed Plan Set, along with revised cost estimate, has been received and sent to potential funding sources for review.





Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful



Safe, Clean
& Beautiful

Bicyclists equipped to pick up litter, too

Litter prevention is a shared responsibility and litter control is made even easier with this cool gadget! Bicyclists can participate in litter control with this bike attachment modeled by KPSLB's Adopt-a-Street Ambassador Wayne Landry.

Cigarette Litter Prevention Program update

KPSLB has received feedback via Facebook that the CLPP campaign is influencing and encouraging residents to get involved. Ms. Wanda Conrad writes: "Prompted by this post, I picked up 43 butts in Oak Hammock Park this morning without venturing into the parking lot."

Our residents are helping to make a difference!

KPSLB Lunch & Learn Workshop (with lunch included)

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful hosted the first of four scheduled Lunch & Learn Workshops on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021. Baron Real Estate graciously offered to host the event and provide its conference room as the event's venue.

Bethany Partlo, KPSLB Committee member, coordinated the details. KPSLB Program Supervisor Georgette Beck welcomed the guests and shared interesting details about the KPSLB program, including upcoming event information. Ana Grazioli from Dignity Memorial, who provided a delicious lunch box for guests to enjoy, talked about Dignity's upcoming seminars.

KPSLB's program activities directly relate to its mission of engaging with individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their community environments as it relates to litter prevention, improving recycling and beautification. This new Lunch & Learn Workshop Series allows for KPSLB to partner with other organizations and individuals who have similar missions and objectives to bring interesting and important information to our community members. The session also allows for developing new relationships with residents. Kate Rotondo of the UF/IFAS Extension Office presented facts about the 9 Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) Principles. There were 12 residents in attendance who posed several questions at the end during the Q&A portion.

KPSLB invites residents to participate in the next 3 workshops:

April 23: Microplastics

Aug. 20: Integrated Pest Management

Sept. 17: Recycling

Preregistration is required as space is limited. Contact kpslb@cityofpsl.com.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION & TIRE AMNESTY DAY

SAT., MARCH 13, 2021
8 A.M. - 12 P.M.

This event makes it easy for Port St. Lucie residents (ID's required) to get rid of their unwanted household chemicals and hazardous waste. Hand over these materials to the experts for proper disposal, free of charge.

Accepted

- Ammunition
- Automotive Fluids
- Batteries (rechargeable & vehicle*)
- Bug Sprays
- Computers/Electronics
- Drain Cleaners
- Fire Extinguishers
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs/Tubes
- Fuels
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Lighter Fluid
- Mercury Thermometers
- Oil-based Paint
- Propane Tanks (20lbs or less)
- RX Drugs
- Solvents/Thinners
- Thermostats
- Tires**

Not Accepted

- Bio-hazard/Medical Waste
- Containers larger than Five Gallons
- Explosives
- Flares
- Paint (Water-based or Latex)
- Sharps

Now collecting Fats, Oils & Greases (F.O.G.)

No container over 5 gallons will be accepted. The event is for RESIDENTS and RESIDENTIAL items only. NO COMMERCIAL accepted.

*Vehicle Batteries: Includes car, truck, boat, lawn, mower, etc.
** 4 RESIDENTIAL tires, 14"-18" in size. NO COMMERCIAL TIRES

450 SW Thornhill Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984 • 772-871-5103 • www.CityofPSL.com/HHW

Logos: FDOT, DRIVE WPSL 1890, TREASURE COAST ELECTRONIC RECYCLING, WASTE PULP, SOLID WASTE, ST. LUCIE COUNTY





Utility Systems hosts safe, socially distanced short school

The global pandemic made it challenging for water and wastewater professionals to earn continuing education units (CEUs) to meet Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) licensing requirements. Because of COVID-19 restrictions last year, in-person short schools were not offered were postponed, so the Florida Water and Pollution Control Operators Association (FWPCOA) (www.fwpcoa.org) Region 5 officers wanted to ensure an opportunity for professionals in this area to earn their CEUs before the deadline.

In January, Port St. Lucie Utility Systems, in conjunction with FWPCOA, hosted the two-day short school at the Port St. Lucie Community Center. No more than 36 people were allowed in the room at a time and participants were able to spread out in a larger space and socially distance during the classes.



Over the two days, a total of 45 professionals from Port St. Lucie Utility Systems, St. Lucie West Services District, Indian River County, City of Vero Beach, City of Palm Bay, City of Stuart, Martin County, City of Lake Worth and St. Johns Improvement District, plus a local private company, attended a variety of trainings for everything from chemistry basics to wastewater metering.

Feedback from a survey participants took following the short school showed that overall, they were very happy and appreciative of the opportunity and felt comfortable attending the in-person training sessions.

A special "thank you" to the event sponsors: Southland Painting Corporation, Waco Filtration, Curry Controls Company and KationX and special thanks to P&R for so graciously hosting the socially distanced audience and being an accommodating venue for this short school!





Elements align perfectly for McCarty Ranch Preserve controlled burn

The Florida Department of Forestry jumped into action in January for a controlled burn of the southeast corner of McCarty Ranch Preserve. It was not too moist, not too dry and there were low winds, the perfect combination of conditions for managing the overgrown vegetation and reducing the risk of wildfires. The fire burns everything above ground, acting as fertilizer for the moist roots below, inspiring regrowth.

A controlled burn also helps minimize invasive species. The Brazilian peppertree, however, does not typically take to the fire, but on this occasion, it did. Brazilian peppers are a very wet tree internally, which allows them to survive the heat. Again, the perfect conditions paid off and the Brazilian pepper in this area has been burned.

Several animal species benefit from a controlled burn, too. The gopher tortoise appreciates the renewal of the grass, which it likes to eat. When there's too much growth impeding their ability to access the grass, they move elsewhere and risk crossing streets. Florida scrub jays and red-cockaded woodpeckers nest high in trees to avoid danger, but they also need a perch with clear views. Too much growth hinders their sight and they are forced to move.

A total of 30 acres was burned and the Florida Department of Forestry will return in the fall to again manage additional portions of the preserve, when the right conditions present themselves.

McCarty Ranch Preserve is 3,100 acres of largely old Florida pinelands. The City purchased the property in 2012 and incorporated it into the City limits in 2013 with plans to use it as a water storage and treatment facility to help meet the City's water demands for decades to come. Additionally, the property was planned as an environmentally friendly passive recreational area for all to enjoy.



Feature Story



High Performing City
Government Organization

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO HELP SHAPE PSL'S FUTURE, PARTICIPATE IN ...



2021 Citizen Summit

PORT ST. LUCIE, FL

2020 Citizen Summit

Port St. Lucie is a City for All People being shaped By the People through its resident-driven strategic planning process. Each year, the City engages in this planning process that kicks off with the National Community Survey™, which includes an annual Citizen Summit, leading to an update of the City's Strategic Plan based on the residents' feedback.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the City of Port St. Lucie, and residents are encouraged to help build a stronger and more resilient community by participating in the annual National Community Survey™ and taking part in one of four #IamPSL Citizen Summit events. There have been a lot of changes since 1961. The City has grown from 250 homes to over 200,000 residents. It's never been a better time to share your opinions to help chart the City's future and improve Port St. Lucie's quality of life.

Port St. Lucie residents who were randomly selected to participate in the National Community Survey™ (NCS) are encouraged to mail in their survey or enter in their unique link before the survey closes Feb. 15. The NCS is a snapshot of how Port St. Lucie residents feel about their City. Survey results will become a powerful tool to help improve service delivery as well as identify clear priorities in strategic planning and budget discussions. The data collected through the surveys will be presented to the Port St. Lucie City Council. The more responses received, the more accurate the results.

It's easy to participate. In addition to the survey of randomly selected households, all Port St. Lucie residents can take the survey online starting Feb. 1, 2021, through Feb. 15, 2021. Once residents have answered the questions, they will be asked to provide their email and ZIP code. This allows the City to be sure it is hearing from each person only once. Responses will remain confidential; no individual responses or data will be shared with the City. All responses are reported in group form only.

We will further celebrate the City's diamond jubilee with the annual Citizen Summit. This year's theme is A City for All People by the People. The Summit will be held virtually for the first time, accompanied by three pop-up events, which means there will be more opportunities for residents to provide input that helps shape the City's future. At the Citizen Summit, we ask more specific questions about projects than what is included in the National Community Survey™ to further listen to our residents.

OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT INCLUDE:

- Virtual Citizen Summit, Tuesday, March 2, 2021, from 6-8 p.m.
- Citizen Summit Park Pop Up, Saturday, March 6, 2021, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Winterlakes Park
- Citizen Summit Safe, Clean & Beautiful Pop Up Event, Saturday, March 13, 2021, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Public Works Compound
- Citizen Summit Diverse Economy Pop Up Event, Tuesday, March 23, 2021, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center