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



**Volume 6 | Issue 4 | March 4, 2022**

**A digital publication highlighting the City of Port St. Lucie's latest news, events and projects.**

www.CityofPSL.com/BiWeekly

# 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.



Shannon M. Martin
Mayor



Jolien Caraballo
Vice Mayor, District 4



Stephanie Morgan
District 1



David Pickett
District 2



Anthony Bonna
District 3



Russ Blackburn
City Manager

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

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Subscribe!

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.

www.CityofPSL.com/BiWeekly

Cover



Riverwalk Sunset

Questions?

Email the Communications Department with questions or comments about this publication at pslcommunications@cityofpsl.com.

# Strategic Goals

**Safe, Clean & Beautiful**

**Vibrant Neighborhoods**

**Quality Education for All Residents**

**Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities**

**High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities**

**Culture, Nature & Fun Activities**

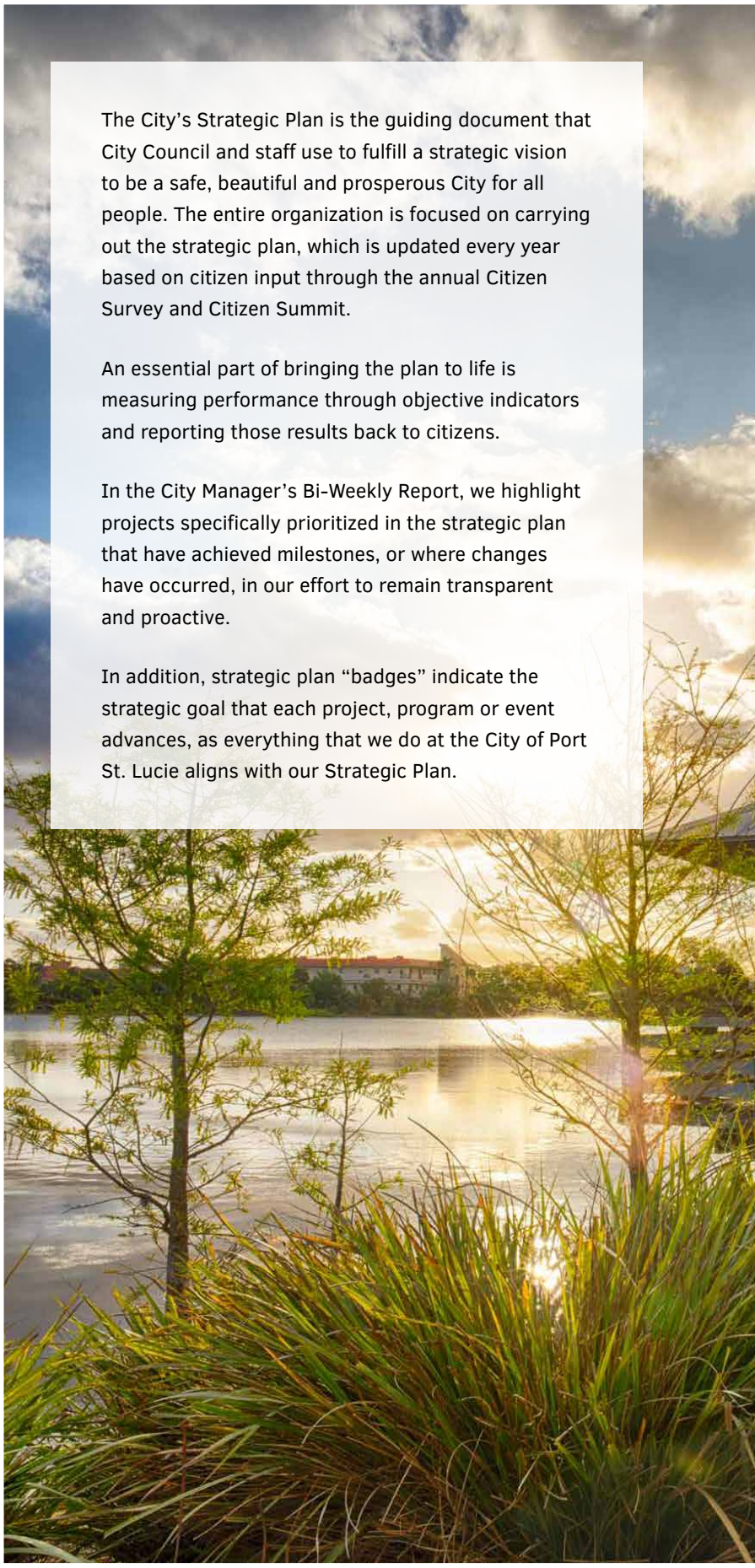
**High-Performing City Government Organization**

The City's Strategic Plan is the guiding document that 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 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" 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.





# Events

**March 4–31, 2022**

March 5 • Community Garage Sale, Minsky Gym

March 10 • River Nights, The Event Lawn at The Port

March 11-12 • St. Patrick's Day Festival, MIDFLORIDA Event Center

March 12 • Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, Public Works Complex

March 15 • Coffee with the Mayor, City Hall Council Chambers

March 19 • Community Garage Sale, Minsky Gym

March 26 • Golden Years Senior Dance, MIDFLORIDA Event Center

## Calendar

**See a list of all events on the City's website calendar.**

**www.CityofPSL.com/Calendar**

# Highlight

*High-performing City Government Organization*

## Council Winter Retreat, Feb. 23-25

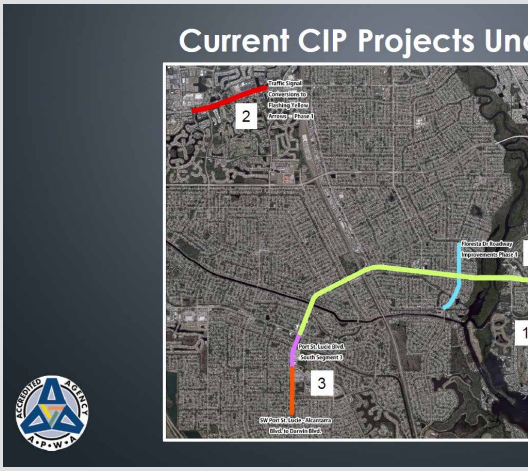
The Council met in late February for its annual Winter Retreat, where it got a first look at the upcoming budget season and heard reports from several City departments. Council receives in-depth presentations on key topics and receives a financial outlook as a critical step in its strategic planning process.

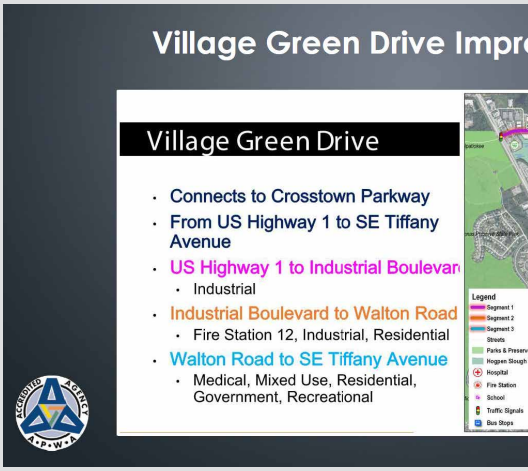
It also heard an update from the president of Indian River State college's PSL campus, who presented its new Promise Program—announcing tuition-free associates degrees for qualifying 2022 high school graduates from public and public charter schools in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. Learn more about the Promise Program.

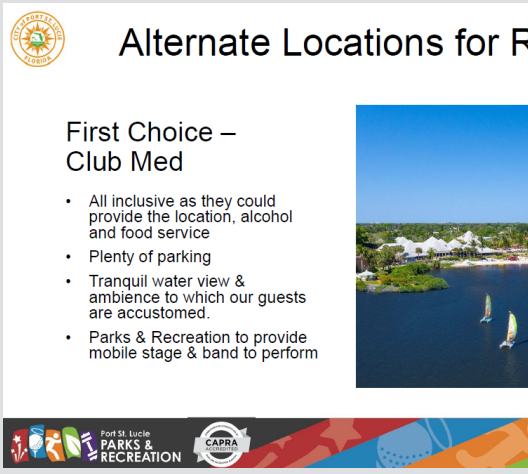
At its Strategic Planning Workshop on March 9 & 10 the City Council will incorporate ideas from the Winter Retreat as well as review citizen feedback from the National Community Survey™ and Citizen Summit to determine the priorities in the update of the Strategic Plan.

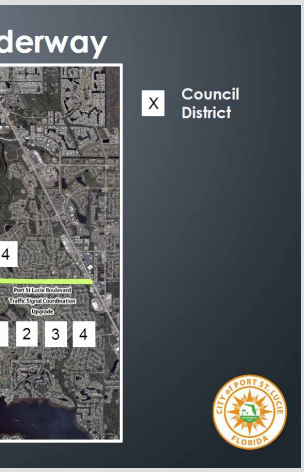
If you are interested in watching the Winter Retreat or the Virtual Citizen Summit, recordings of both can be found on the City's website or on PSL TV, Channel 20 on Comcast and Blue Stream Fiber or Channel 99 on U-verse. Visit our agendas and meetings portal at psl.legistar.com to find meeting details, agendas and minutes and other supporting documents.

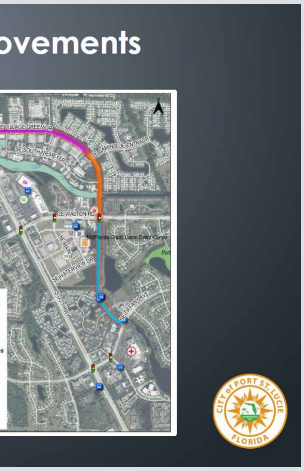
Watch the Winter Retreat online now









HIGH IMPACT PLAN **FY 2021-2025**

# COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

**VISION**

To be innovative influencers utilizing cutting-edge technology to reinvent government communication.

## TOP **3** WAYS WE ARE PUTTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN INTO ACTION

### SAFE, CLEAN & BEAUTIFUL

**Help protect and improve the natural environment and safety though communication and education.**

This year's priorities will be:

- Our Water Video Series – continue to build upon the city/county collaboration to expand this series of short videos aimed at educating about our natural resources and how to protect them.
- Collaborate with the Police Department in speeding reduction messages and implement an education/marketing plan for the new neighborhood speed limit reduction.
- Find new ways to promote and celebrate mid-project milestones for the St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Project, including possible on-site event for dignitaries.

**Swale Education campaign:**

**Find new ways to target residents and businesses with messaging about how to properly maintain and care for their swales, which impacts the stormwater system.**

*6/2020* **220 1PSL Swale Requests**

**Intensive/Targeting Messaging**

*11/2020* **50%** **Reduction** in 1PSL calls

The City also experienced a 50% reduction between June and November for the request for service relating to swales.

### CULTURE, NATURE & FUN ACTIVITIES

**Collaborating with departmental partners to improve and grow the city's overall image, culture and brand.**

This year's priorities will be:

- Improve marketing efforts for The Saints Golf Course, including re-working the website and implementing an integrated marketing and advertising plan.
- Continue re-branding projects for The Port District and tell the story of the development of Pioneer Park, especially on social media.
- Create a branding campaign for Port St. Lucie's High-Performance Public Spaces, including name, unified look/feel, logo, typography, and visually appealing map.




# Half-Cent Sales Tax

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

***High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities***



## Sidewalks

- **Fairgreen Crossings Neighborhood (Import, Galiano, Cadima, Fairgreen):** Complete
- **Sandia Drive (Thornhill to Crosspoint):** Complete
- **Import Drive (Gatlin to Savage):** Construction anticipated to start in March.
- **Rosser Boulevard Sidewalk Project:** Under construction.

## Roadway Resurfacing

The Sales Tax resurfacing goal for FY 21/22 is 17.21 miles with 0.9 miles completed to date. See table below.

- **Gatlin Boulevard:** Repaving starts in FY 26/27.

| Morningside | Completed Jan. 27 |
|---|---|
| SE Dittmar Avenue | SE Abcor Road to SE Gidding Road |
| SE Gidding Road | SE Abcor Road to SE Dittmar Avenue |
| SE Abcor Road | SE Dittmar Road to SE Flanders Road |
| SE Flanders Road | SE Gidding Road to SE Gena Road |
| SE Dion Avenue | SE Gowin Road to SE Flanders Road |
| SE Gena Road | SE Delano Road to SE PSL Boulevard |
| SE Delano Road | SE Gena Road to SE PSL Boulevard |

# Floresta Drive Improvements

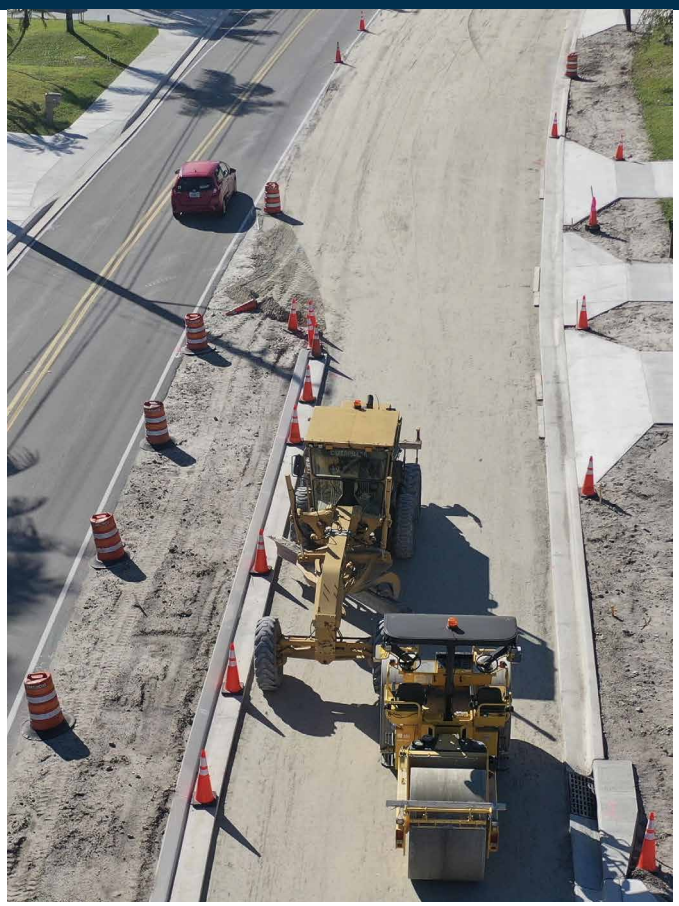
The contractor shifted traffic south of Port St. Lucie Boulevard and is working in the median.

Paving took place north of Port St. Lucie Boulevard as the contractor worked to complete roadway activities in this area. Roadway activities continue as the contractor works to complete the project, anticipated in March.

Residents can expect temporary shifts and closures along Floresta and the side streets as the contractor places final curb and installs the roundabout at Thanksgiving Drive.

Remaining activities include:

- Construction of the roundabout
- Intersection improvements at Port St. Lucie Boulevard
- Sidewalk activities
- Curb activities
- Median activities
- Roadway activities
- Residential driveway activities





# 1PSL System

*High-Performing City Government Organization*




## What is 1PSL?

This all-in-one system allows residents to connect with the City via mobile app, phone or web portal.

Residents can use 1PSL to request services, ask questions, access utility payment portal, 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.

**Your 24/7 City Hall**

### Call 772-871-1PSL

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

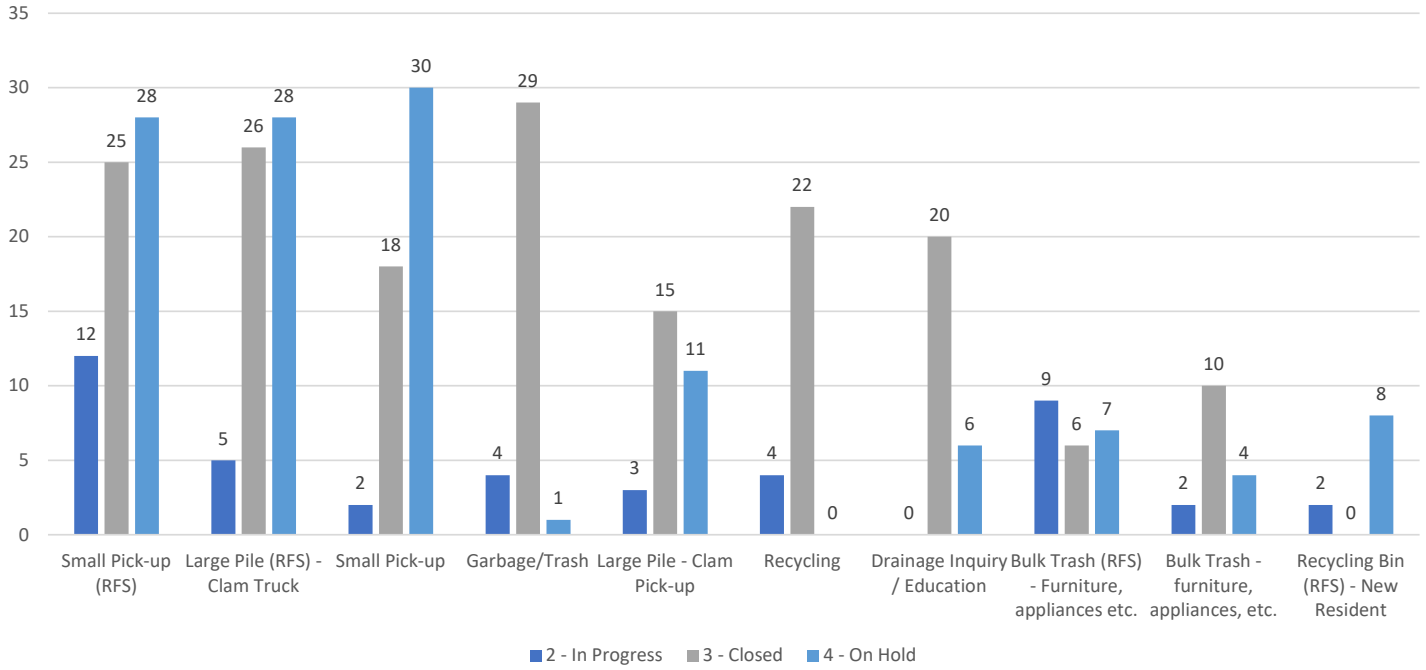
### Download App

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

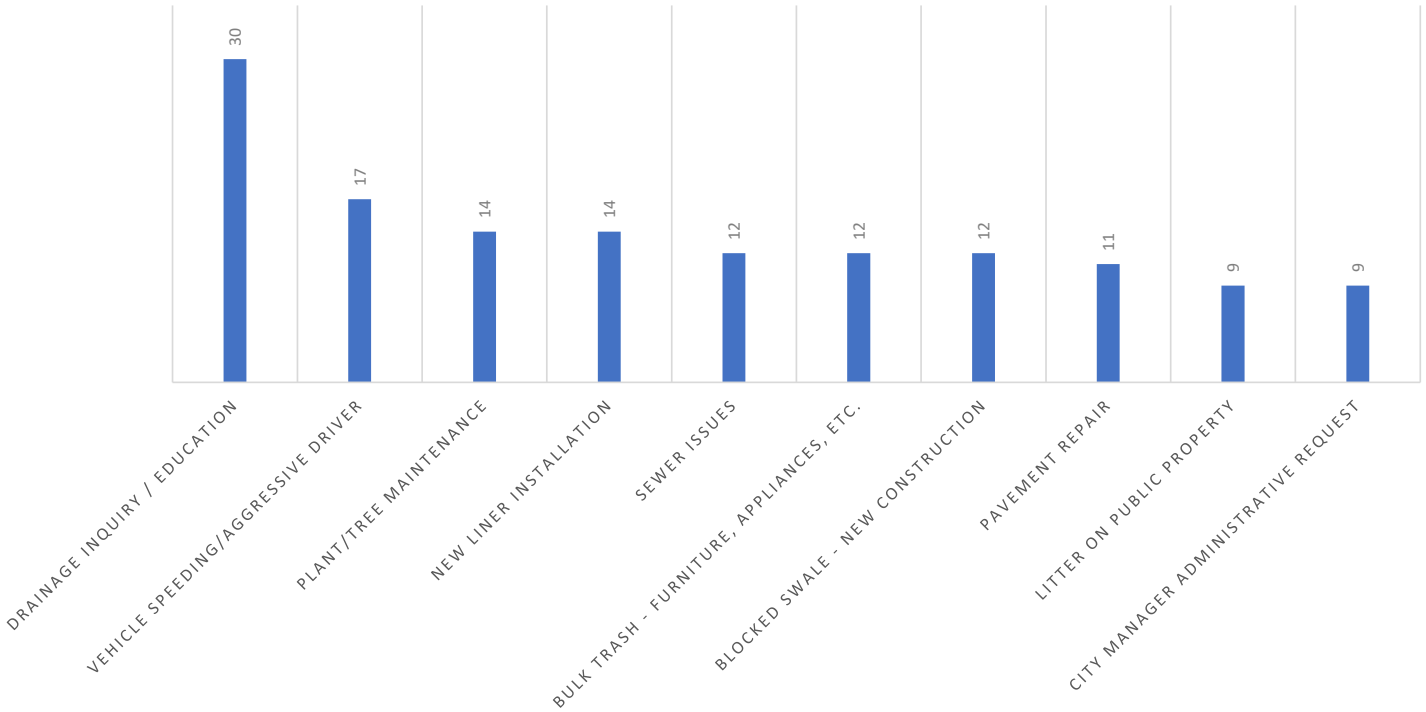
### Web Portal

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

## 2022 Data - Top 10
## 2/11/2022 to 2/24/2022




## 2021 DATA - TOP 10
## 2/11/2021 TO 2/24/2021



# Building

***High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities***

***Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities***

IAS ACCREDITED Building Department

## Highlights

- Staff from the Building Department, along with Mayor Shannon Martin, toured the Project Midway site Feb. 16.
- The 2022 stakeholder meeting calendar is updated and available on the website.
- The next stakeholder meeting is with Residential and General Contractors on March 14 via Microsoft Teams.
- The Building Department provided training and Accreditation assistance to the City of McKinney, Texas, on Feb. 17.
- The Building Department held a consultation meeting Feb. 23 with the owners of Oculus.
- Building Official Joel Dramis presented to the Port St. Lucie Historical Society on Feb. 16.



**Mayor Martin's visit**
Amazon Facility on Midway Rd.

## Building Activities

| Feb. 12-25, 2022 | | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Permits Issued | 1,894 | 68,261 | 52,355 | 41,504 | 39,899 | 32,020 |
| Single-Family Permits Issued | 110 | 5,335 | 3,592 | 2,722 | 2,200 | 1,518 |
| Certificates of Occupancy (SFR) | 181 | 3,911 | 2,893 | 2,711 | 1,824 | 1,382 |
| Inspections Completed | 7,352 | 208,545 | 155,421 | 137,302 | 115,073 | 84,510 |
| Plans Reviewed | 628 | 24,820 | 19,150 | 13,978 | 13,559 | 10,352 |
| Online Permits Applied | 1,652 | 48,166 | 26,855 | 18,395 | 13,421 | 8,346 |

### Certificates of Occupancy

- Casa Vincenzo Ristorante, interior renovation, 844 SE Becker Road
- Riverland Arts and Culture Center, Dumpster, 12067 SW Community Blvd.

### Commercial Permits

- FLXFIT, Interior Renovation, 10198 SW Village Parkway, Suite 106
- Two Fat Guys from Brooklyn, interior renovation. 1355 SW Gatlin Blvd.
- Telaro At Southern Grove, fountain, 9962 SW Cerulean Blvd.
- Cleveland Clinic Emergency SLW, interior renovation, 1095 NW St. Lucie West Blvd.

**FedEx Distribution Center**
Port St. Lucie






**Amazon Facility**
Construction progress on Midway Rd.

# Communications Department

*High-Performing City Government Organization*




PSL Living

*Culture, Nature & Fun Activities*

## PSL Living goes green to promote St. Patrick's Day Festival & Parade

Dig out your green shirts, pants, sunglasses and socks, folks, because the City's annual St. Patrick's Day Festival & Parade will be here quicker than you can say leprechaun.

PSL Living host Maureen Kenyon met recently with Jim Williams, of the Friendly Sons & Daughters of Ireland, to talk about the upcoming festival as well as the group's decades-long partnership with the City of Port St. Lucie.

Jim gave viewers a rundown of the festivities, including the Irish bands, dancers and singers who will be preforming March 11 and March 12 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center, along with the plethora of food and drinks, arts and crafts vendors, carnival rides and more available to the thousands of event attendees.

Watch the full video, which was recorded by Benjamin Elliott and Gus Nadasi and produced by Matt Dutiel, at www.cityofpsl.com/news.

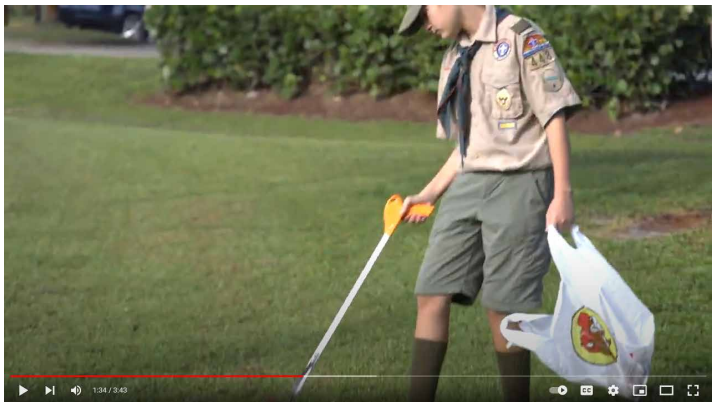
## Adopt A Park safety video gets an upgrade

*Culture, Nature & Fun Activities*

Keeping our parks clean and beautiful is a top priority for the City, so that's why its Adopt A Park program is so important.

Recently, the video team filmed new footage of Boy Scout Troop 448 picking up debris and trash in its adopted park, Whispering Pines Park, for an video that is required viewing for all Adopt A Park volunteers.

Park Operations Manager Billy Henson shared important information so our Adopt A Park volunteers remain safe while they work hard to help us keep our greenspaces clean.



[Watch the full video.]

## In-person Citizen Summit, Exploration Trail a hit with residents

*High-Performing City Government Organization*




Nicholas, a Port St. Lucie resident, had some great things to say about this year's Citizen Summit at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

"This has been an amazing experience seeing how involved everyone is. It's probably one of the most interactive government events I've ever been to."

Wow! Thank you, Nicholas!

Nicholas and his wife, Michelle were just two of several residents and City staffers interviewed by Matt Dutiel and Benjamin Elliott during the in-person Citizen Summit event Feb. 5. The duo produced a 2-minute, 45-second video about the importance of the annual summit, which gives residents a chance to learn about the City's seven Strategic Goals and share ideas with staff in a fun, interactive way.

Watch the entire video.

# Community Redevelopment Agency

***Culture, Nature & Fun Activities***

## Priorities, priorities!

At City Council's Winter Retreat, staff from the Community Redevelopment Agency and Parks & Recreation presented a prioritization of projects related to the recently completed and adopted Port District Master Plan.

City Council considered and supported staff's recommendations to prioritize branding The Port District; a Tower Phase with a picnic area and boardwalk river connection; improvements to Midport Lake and Lyngate parks, including upland trails, river connection and boardwalk, stormwater enhancements, additional parking and support amenities; and modifications to the Veterans Memorial Plaza with additional parking and open space improvements.

These priority projects support The Port District's intent to allow people to "explore, gather and connect" with the North Fork of the St. Lucie River and will be incorporated into the City's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) program as timing and funding opportunities align. Several additional projects remain in The Port District Master Plan and will be considered in years to come.

For more information about this project, visit www.cityofpsl.com/theport.







# Emergency Management

*Safe, Clean & Beautiful*

## Florida Flood Awareness Week, March 7-11

Flooding is a major concern throughout Florida. Flooding is also the No. 1 most commonly occurring hazard in this part of the state, which means it is more likely to occur (and more frequently) than any of our other hazards. To avoid major damage to your family and belongings, it is important to be aware of flood warnings, know your flood zone, have a plan and consider purchasing flood insurance.

For more information, visit the comprehensive flood page at www.cityofpsl.com/flood or www.ready.gov/floods.

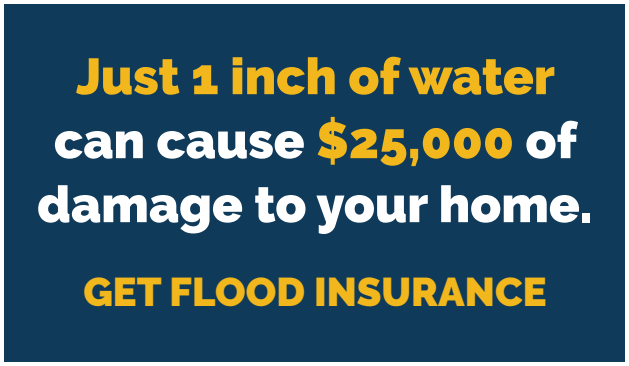
### Flood warnings

- Local authorities will issue flood warnings when flooding is imminent, so it is key to monitor local media outlets. Local outlets that provide warnings are:
- The Weather Channel
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS)
- Weather alert radios provide emergency updates
- Sign up for emergency notifications from St. Lucie County at www.stlucieco.gov/alert

### Know your flood zone

Knowing your flood zone is key to understanding your flood risk. Visit the City's Flood Zone interactive map and search your address to learn if you're in a designated evacuation zone: www.cityofpsl.com/floodzone.

To find out if your home is in a Special Flood Hazard Area, has a history of flooding or could be affected by erosion, contact the City's Public Works Department at 772-871-5225. Staff also can give advice or visit your home to provide you with ways to protect your home against flooding.




### Consider purchasing flood insurance

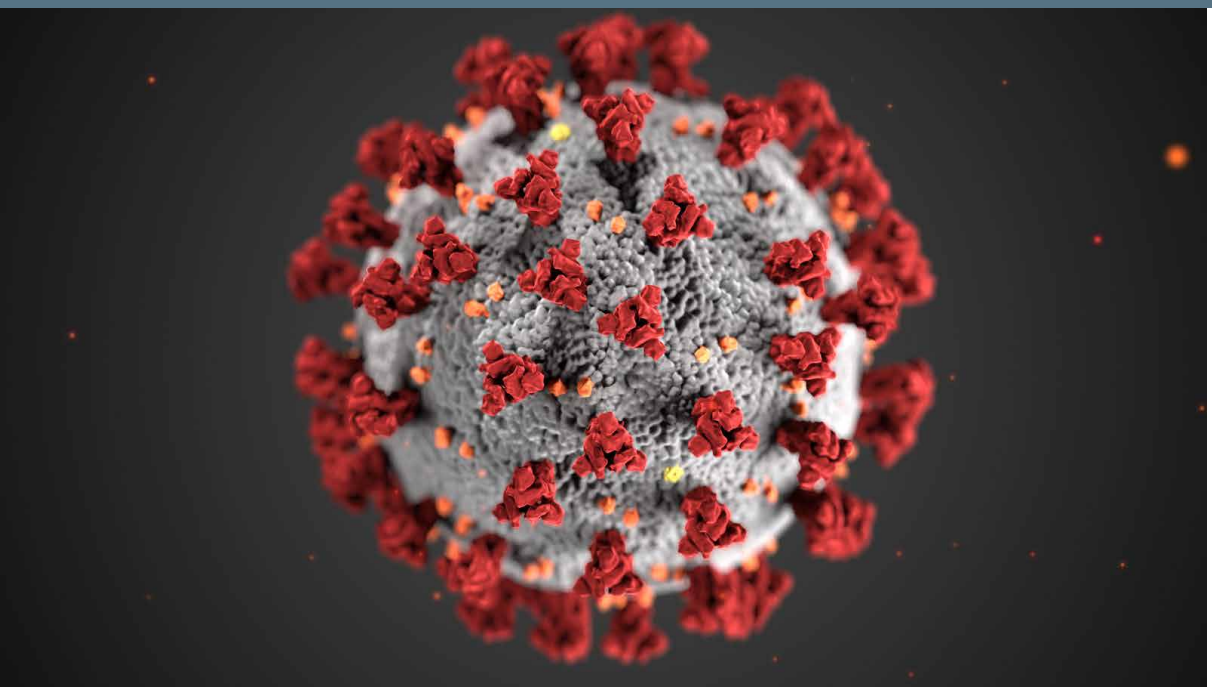
Did you know homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding? The City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS), which currently provides a 10% discount to those in the Special Flood Hazard area, and 5% everywhere else within the city.

You do not have to live in a flood zone to be flooded or to have flood insurance. Floods can happen anywhere – just one inch of water can cause up to $25,000 in damage. Flood insurance is a separate policy that can cover buildings, contents in a building or both, so it is important to protect your most important financial assets – your home, your business and your possessions. For more information about what's covered and to find a policy, visit FloodSmart.gov.

### Have a plan

You should always have a plan about what you will do in the event of a disaster, including a flood.

Does everyone know where to go? Are your important papers in order? Do you have family "go-kits" you can grab and go if you need to leave quickly? For more information on family, business or special needs plans, visit flgetaplan.com which will help you develop a plan to protect those you love.



# Vaccine clinic update

The City of Port St Lucie's Office of Emergency Management is working diligently to ensure residents have every opportunity to get the COVID-19 vaccine as conveniently and safely as possible. The City has partnered with Dr. Mark Pamer, a local pulmonologist, to have vaccination points of distribution (PODs) throughout the City.

On Feb.11, 35 people received a vaccine at Holy Family Catholic Church. The City also held a clinic at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity on Feb. 25.

COVID-19 transmission rates continue to drop after the omicron surge and are nearing pre-surge levels. COVID rates are now below 10% positivity and less than 500 new cases a week in St Lucie County as of Feb. 24.

With COVID-19 vaccines being widely available, the City of Port St. Lucie will pause its public/private partnership hosting vaccine clinics. Residents and visitors are encouraged to get vaccinated. To find a local vaccine provider, please visit www.vaccine.gov, text your zip code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233. The City extends its gratitude to Dr. Mark Pamer and his staff for diligently administering over 6,200 vaccines since March 25, 2021.

# Human Resources

***High-Performing City Government Organization***

## Welcome to the City!

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

**New & Promoted Employees**


Rolando Esparza, Event Services Leader, MIDFLORIDA Event Center


Christopher Gough, Plant Operator Trainee, Utility Systems Department


Brian Riegsecker, Plumber, Facilities


Meredith Schiller, Paralegal, City Attorney's Office


Colt Schwerdt, Assistant Director, Public Works Department


Jacqueline Burns, Accountant I-AP, Financial Management Department

## HR Statistics

| Feb. 12 – 25, 2022 | | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Hires | 11 | 47 |
| Total Applications Received | 318 | 1,270 |
| Job Requisitions Received | 22 | 75 |
| Jobs Posted | 33 | 121 |
| Internal Promotions | 6 | 31 |
| Reclassifications | 1 | 22 |
| Personnel Change Forms Processed | 40 | 163 |
| Total Training Attendees | 58 | 399 |
| Water Cooler Site Visits | 5,497 | 23,613 |
| Employee Benefits Site Visits | 613 | 2,559 |
| PSL Forward Training Site Visits | 354 | 1,834 |

## Training & Development

### Completed trainings

- Feb. 15: P-Card Processing
- Feb. 18: Techniques to Restore Well-Being and Improve Health
- Feb. 22: Building Genuine Leaders: Honoring Different Work Styles – Different Doesn't Mean Deficient
- March 1: Performance Evaluations
- March 1: Customer Service Recovery Strategies
- March 2: Change Your Mindset, Change Your Life
- March 3: OMG. I Have to Present?! Conquer Public Speaking

### Upcoming trainings

- March 7: Project Ledger
- March 8: Understanding & Responding to Workplace Bullying
- March 9: Dealing with Difficult People
- March 10: Microsoft Excel: Behind the Spreadsheet

## Spotlight Training

**OMG. I Have to Present?! Conquer Public Speaking**

The second-ever Training & Development Catalog's newest category addition, titled Computer Proficiency, features training around Adobe and the Microsoft Office suites, notably OneNote. This virtual notebook is an excellent tool for collaboration, organization, time management, and balancing priorities and projects. Microsoft OneNote is an application available to everyone for freeform information gathering and multi-user collaboration. This training seeks to increase our skills with the tools available to us in furthering our strategic plan goal of a high-performing City government organization.



# CITIZEN SCHOLARS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## *FREE FOR STUDENTS*

**GET HANDS-ON JOB EXPERIENCE**

STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THIS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM WILL LEARN ABOUT POTENTIAL FUTURE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The City of Port St. Lucie's Citizen Scholars Internship Program will provide student interns with invaluable hands-on experience in local government and an opportunity to learn more about the City of Port St. Lucie.

The Program outlines student eligibility requirements, expectations of student interns and the supervising Department.

It is designed to provide extensive experience in a variety of areas for student interns.

The City of Port St. Lucie is excited to implement this Program and invites students to help make a difference in the affairs of local government.

*This advertisement meets School Board Policy 9.40 for distribution of the advertisement. However, this acknowledgement does not represent an endorsement or recommendation of the product/service advertised.*

## LEARN MORE & CONTACT

**City of Port St. Lucie Human Resources Department**
**citizenscholars@cityofpsl.com • 772-344-4335**

# Advancing Goal 7: High-Performing Government Organization

The PSL FORWARD Innovation Academy engages our most valuable asset as an organization -- our employees – and provides them with the simple tools and techniques they need to tackle small, everyday problems and deliver big results to make innovation and continuous process improvement the future of our City.

All employees have access to the PSL FORWARD Innovation Academy, a training that combines innovation, learn-and-process improvement methodologies and change management practices while using existing staff and monetary resources.

# Spotlight on innovation

## **Innovation:** Reduction in time to process lien order requests

A member of the inaugural PSL FORWARD Innovation Academy voluntary cohort, Project Coordinator Oswmer Louis in the Neighborhood Services Department got the idea to innovate the process involving lien order requests by working with his colleague nearby, Administrative Assistant Jackie Basile, on this issue and finding a solution using the tools and techniques taught within the PSL FORWARD Innovation Academy.

**The problem:** Lien order requests involve generating a Word mail merge document, filling out the information and ensuring the violation is correct. These would contain two pages, one to be printed in legal size format and the other in letter format. Two Word documents would then need to be opened and completed to accommodate the different sizes. This process would take up to 4 minutes. At approximately 1,820 requests managed per year, this equates to nearly 121 hours spent on this process each year.

**The solution:** Oswmer stayed true to one of the few rules of the PSL FORWARD Innovation Academy, realizing innovation with no new technology, and found a way to manipulate the mail merge document to accommodate both format sizes in the same document. He then standardized the document by creating a checklist for it to become the template to use in the future.

**The change:** At nearly 1,820 lien order requests processed each year, Oswmer and his Neighborhood Services team members were able to find waste and innovate this process, reducing the duration of the process by half. That equals just over 60 hours per year, leading to a savings of more than ***$1,500*** per year!

**You rock, Oswmer!**

Look forward to more spotlights on innovation and recognition as our employees work to further our strategic goal of a high-performing government organization!



**Oswmer Louis, Project Coordinator**
Neighborhood Services Department



MIDFLORIDA CREDIT UNION EVENT CENTER

PORT ST. LUCIE FLORIDA

# MIDFLORIDA Event Center received business, industry award



The St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce recently announced the MIDFLORIDA Event Center received the Business & Industry of the Year Award in the Professional Services category. Congratulations to the Event Center's superstar team, who is truly deserving of this recognition for their passion, hard work and dedication to our clients and guests.

***Culture, Nature & Fun Activities***

## Event Stats

*(as of Feb. 25, 2022)*

Attendance: 58,240

Event days: 150

## Upcoming Events

***Feb. 18:*** 7 Bridges, Eagles Tribute Concert

***March 5-6:*** Garlic Festival

***March 19-20:*** Port St. Lucie Strawberry Festival

***March 24:*** Myles Savage and The Last Original Stars

***March 25:*** Port St. Lucie Beer, Wine and Spirits Fest

***April 1-2:*** Port St. Lucie Sweet Corn Festival

***April 9:*** Little River Band

# Economic Development Council leadership dinner

The Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County recently held its eighth annual Leadership Dinner at the Event Center.









# 7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience brings 14th year of touring to Event Center

In its 14th year of national touring, 7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience packed the house at the Event Center with one of the most authentic Eagles tribute band experiences in the United States.

The concert was a stunningly accurate tribute to the music of the Eagles. Using no backing tracks or harmonizers, 7 Bridges faithfully re-created the experience of an Eagles concert from the band's most prolific period. The show featured one brilliant hit single after another with some mighty Joe Walsh surprises sprinkled into the mix.

7 Bridges offered the perfect blend of songs to capture all levels of Eagles fans.

# Hundreds of brides-to-be attend bridal expo

Brides-to-be were matched with businesses that can make their special day the best it can be! The expo provided a variety of options that could pave the way toward a successful wedding day.

Wedding coordinators, photographers, wedding cake sampling, limos, and venues, including the MIDFLORIDA Event Center, were on hand with wedding day ideas.











# Testimonials

Just a wonderful event last night. We are very grateful for all the love and attention you and your staff poured into the Leadership dinner. Linda, everything you said about this event being the best, certainly came true and then some. Thank you!

**Peter J. Tesch, President**
Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County

Meredith, I want to tell you how much I enjoyed working with you. I learned a lot and think I can do a good job in 2024. I also want to tell you how great Curtis was. He was so helpful and supportive. We couldn't have done it without him. The public response to the show, by everyone, was so positive. Onward to 2024! Thanks again!

**Marian McCoin, Event Coordinator**
Port St. Lucie Crazy Quilters



Event Coordinator Cecilia Brown and her supervisor exceeded my expectations in service and working with me to ensure our event was successful. All staff were friendly and accommodating, as well as quickly responsive to any needs, or unforeseen changes that needed to be made the day of the event. I highly recommend Cecilia for her professionalism and calm demeanor.

**Mary Murphy, Business Services Consultant**
St Lucie County Career Center




# Inaugural Zen Arts & Music Festival "ZAM Fest" Showcases Diversity and World-Class Entertainment

Presented by Riverland and Mattamy Homes, this outdoor event will highlight a variety of art, wellness experiences, and musical performances from headliners Diamond Rio, Tone Loc, and Tag Team.

Multicultural artists from local and regional bands including Reggae Rainfall Band, The Groove Soul Band, and Tomasito Cruz Band among others, will be showcasing a variety of genres from Reggae, Jazz, Rhythm & Blues, Calypso, Country, Pop, and Hip Hop - all presented by Latin, Caribbean, and Brazilian performers.

"This event is an example of our City's commitment to supporting arts and culture, and we are proud to make this exciting 2-day festival possible." said City of Port St. Lucie Mayor Shannon Martin. "It will be a fun and diverse mix of health, wellness, arts and music, showing that PSL is truly a City for ALL People."

Artists will showcase all types of art, including painting, sculpture, jewelry, pottery, and photography, some of which have been upcycled and recycled! In addition, natural crafting vendors will exhibit handmade soaps, perfumes, and a variety of healthy, delicious foods!

For those into holistic treatments and wellbeing, various vendors will feature acupuncture, hypnotherapy, massage therapy, sound therapy, Chinese yoga accessories, incense, crystals and rocks, bath and beauty products, essential oils, and crystal jewelry!




A mix of mindfulness and entertainment includes Sumba, a combination of Salsa and Zumba, meditation sessions, yoga, contemporary and belly dancing, magicians, drum circles (with audience participation), singing crystal bowls, and many more will add the Zen and arts to ZAM Fest.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with the City of Port St. Lucie to expand the Cultural Alliance, family-friendly arts and Zen event, formerly called the Treasure Coast Arts & Mindfulness Fest. Joining forces with the City of Port St. Lucie will create a larger event and increase exposure and opportunity for artists throughout St. Lucie County," said Rebecca Miller, Chair of the St. Lucie Cultural Alliance. "This distinctly different celebration combines the mind-opening benefits of art with the healing power of mindfulness, and now includes multicultural musical performances."

ZAM Fest will also feature a Kids Zone featuring face painting, craft projects, glitter tattoos, fairy hair, trackless train rides, bounce houses, an obstacle course and petting zoo.

ZAM Fest is co-sponsored by Kolter Homes, Akel Homes, Sina Companies, Walmart, and Tambone Companies. Friends of the Festival include Cotleur Hearing, Urban Air Adventure Park - Port St. Lucie, Braden Real Estate, Florida Power & Light, Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, Southern Eagle Distributing, and Nature's Keeper.

For more details, an updated list of headliners, vendor, and sponsorship opportunities, visit zamfestpsl.com or call 772-807-4488.

# Neighborhood Services

***Vibrant Neighborhoods***

***Safe, Clean & Beautiful***

## Neighborhood Services attends Upward Mobility community engagement event

On Feb. 18, staff from the Neighborhood Services Department attended a community engagement event for St. Lucie County's Upward Mobility Cohort.

During the event, NSD along with representatives from various organizations within St. Lucie County, helped present data to residents at the Havert L. Fenn Center to collect public input on the Upward Mobility Cohort Project.

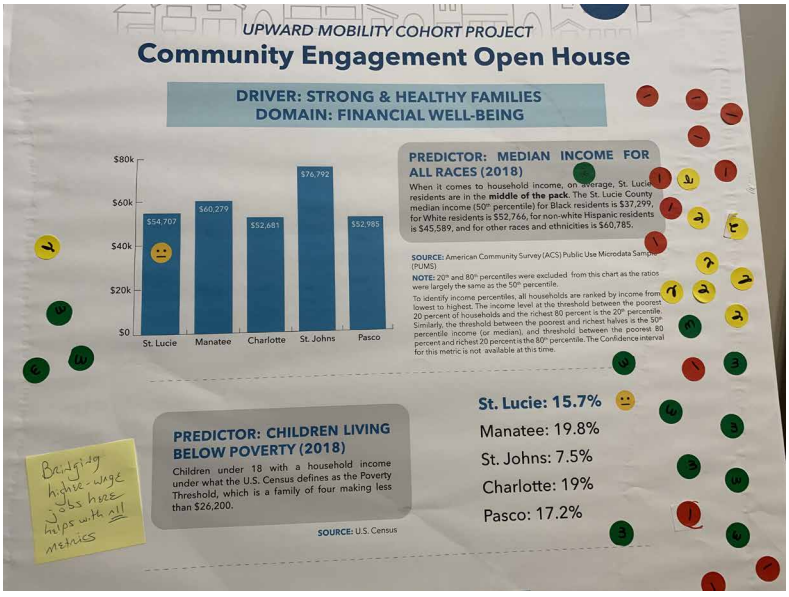
The Upward Mobility Cohort Project is a data-driven, community-wide effort to identify policies and best practices that will boost the upward mobility of St. Lucie County residents.

NSD has been participating in the Upward Mobility Cohort as an Advisory Board Member to assist St. Lucie County after it was chosen by the Urban Institute last year as a pilot community. In its work, the county has been tasked with developing a program to narrow inequities and support upward mobility from poverty in the community. The goal is to develop strategies that will ultimately result in the launching of a Mobility Action Plan.

Additional community engagement events have been scheduled to take place within the county in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact: St. Lucie County Community and Business Engagement Coordinator Sarah Smith at 772-462-2380.










## Neighborhood Services organizes employee bake sale

On Feb. 16, NSD staff member Mendy Solorzano organized an employee bake sale at City Hall with all proceeds benefitting the United Way of St. Lucie County.

Through the donation of homemade and store-bought desserts, the department was able to raise around $300 for the United Way. Thank you to all City employees who were able to participate in the first of several bake sales that will help raise funds for a worthy cause!

## NICE Program Awards & Recognition

On Feb. 14, staff with the Neighborhood Services Department recognized the 2021 NICE Recognition Awards recipients.



The Neighborhood Improvement and Community Engagement (NICE) Recognition Program celebrates the vibrant, diverse neighborhoods that contribute to Port St. Lucie's unique charm and also recognizes the people, programs and accomplishments that help individual neighborhoods and the overall community.

Residents were encouraged to nominate neighbors and/or agencies or groups for each of the available award categories. Nomination submissions were accepted from May 1 through Nov. 30 and applications were available on the Neighborhood Services Department's NICE webpage.

The following were the 2021 NICE Recognition Award recipients:

- **NICE Contributor of the Year:** Gary Smith
- **NICE Outstanding Neighbor of the Year:** John Lomba
- **NICE Outstanding Neighborhood of the Year:** Tradition
- **NICE Community Involvement Award:** The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County (CSCSLC)



# City staff mobilizing to relieve waste collection delays

*Safe, Clean & Beautiful*

**The City of Port St. Lucie is aware some customers are experiencing curbside yard waste collection delays; however, help is on the way and Waste Pro customers should see relief soon.**

**Post Date: Feb. 24, 2022**

As Waste Pro staffing levels continue to fluctuate, the City of Port St. Lucie will utilize staff to provide curbside yard waste relief. Beginning Monday, Feb. 28, several crews of City employees from Neighborhood Services, Utility Systems, Public Works and Parks and Recreation will be rolling up their sleeves to alleviate the curbside yard waste delay.

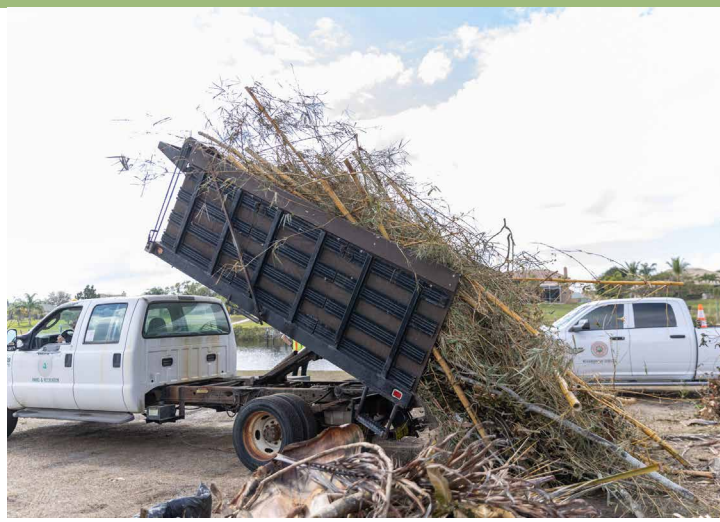
The City's supplemental waste collection efforts will be deducted from Waste Pro's payment to cover the cost of this expense. This relief will last until Waste Pro is caught up with its routes and can maintain consistent service schedules.

"City employees are the quickest way we can provide immediate relief to bring this service more in line with customer expectations," said City of Port St. Lucie Neighborhood Services Director Carmen Capezzuto. "We expect to complete a first pass through the City within two weeks. A second pass is likely to be accomplished within three to four weeks."

As a voluntary additional option, the City of Port St. Lucie has extended the days and times at its free bulky and yard waste drop-off collection site. Beginning Monday, Feb. 28, the collection site will be available to Port St. Lucie residents, seven days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., until further notice. The site is located at Public Works Complex, behind the green, fenced-in area, just west of Florida's Turnpike overpass at the corner of Cameo Boulevard and Crosstown Parkway.







There is a limit of 2 cubic yards of bulky waste that can be dropped off at any one time. This is comparable to the size of a large refrigerator. This is the same cubic yard put-out limitation that can be found in City Ordinance Sec. 50.06 (d)(4).



## Items not accepted at these sites

- Materials from commercial waste haulers and contractors
- Tree limbs exceeding 6 inches in diameter or root balls exceeding 50 pounds
- Land clearing debris
- Bagged household garbage
- Hazardous materials such as fertilizers; herbicides; pesticides; sharps/needles; gasoline and oil; spray paint; stains; thinners; solvents; and biological waste and radioactive waste, including smoke alarms/detectors
- Automotive, boat, RV or trailer parts
- Any gas-powered equipment that must have the fuel drained
- Propane, acetylene and helium tanks
- Oil paint (Latex must have lids off and paint dry/hardened.)




## Yard waste collection online map

Starting Monday, Feb. 28, an online map of collection pick-ups and delays can be found at www.cityofpsl.com/solidwaste.

To report a service disruption call 1PSL at 772-871-1775, use the 1PSL web portal or submit your concern via the 1PSL mobile app. Because of collection delays, the City is handling high call volumes, which may mean longer-than-normal wait times. We're sorry for the inconvenience, so please hold on the line and one of our representatives will assist you as quickly as possible.

## Mark your calendar

The City's next Household Hazardous Waste drop-off event is Saturday, March 12.

# Office of Management & Budget

***High-Performing City Government Organization*** ***Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities***

## Bid Opportunities, Recent Bid Awards

**Week ending Feb. 25, 2022**

| Bid / Solicitation Number | Description | Status |
|---|---|---|
| 20220044 | CMAR Services for Westport Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements | Upcoming |
| 20220040 | Glades-Tradition Reuse Water Main Construction | Upcoming |
| 20220039 | Design Services for the Anthony Sansone Blvd. Extension | Upcoming |
| 20220035 | Traffic Striping & Markings | Upcoming |
| 20220028 | Site Improvements at The Port (Westmoreland Property) | Upcoming |
| 20220024 | License Plate Readers/Cameras – JAG Funded | Upcoming |
| 20220020 | Design Bayshore & Lakehurst Signalization Project | Upcoming |
| 20220019 | CEI Services for Rosser Blvd. Sidewalk Project | Upcoming |
| 20220017 | Design Modifications for Northport Booster Station | Upcoming |
| 20220025 | Threat Hazard Identification & Risk Analysis Review | Active Bid Opening: March 22, 2022 |
| 20220032 | The Port District Riverfront Park Site Improvement | Active Bid Opening: March 15, 2022 |
| 20220034 | Provide COVID-19 Testing & Vaccinations | Active Bid Opening: March 4, 2022 |
| 20220036 | Design Services for a New Regional Park on Torino Pkwy | Active Bid Opening: March 16, 2022 |
| 20220038 | Design Services for the Hogpen Slough Trail Boardwalk | Active Bid Opening: March 21, 2022 |

*The active solicitations listed above fall under the City's Cone of Silence. Per City Code of Ordinances Section 35.13, Cone of Silence means a prohibition of any communication regarding competitive solicitations such as a request for proposal, request for qualification, request for information or request for bid, between any potential or actual proposer, bidder, or any other person or entity with the potential for a financial interest in the award, or their respective agents or representatives (hereinafter collectively referred to as "bidder"), and any member of the city council, city professional staff, or any member of the city's selection, evaluation or negotiation committee. Communication regarding any of the solicitations listed above shall go through the City's Procurement Division.*

Port St. Lucie
# PARKS & RECREATION

*Culture, Nature & Fun Activities*

## Announcements/Administrative

- JRBB Winter Season Championship games will take place Saturday, March 5.
- Adult Softball Playoffs are scheduled to begin Monday, March 14.
- Co-ed Softball Playoffs are scheduled to begin Friday, March 18.
- Spring Break Camp will be held at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center from Monday, March 14 through Monday, March 21.

## Parks

On February 19, Port St. Lucie American Little League officially opened its 2022 season at Lyngate Park. Close to 400 people were in attendance, almost 200 of whom were young baseball players, for the opening day ceremony.

The League wanted to honor Lyngate Park Supervisor James O'Reilly for his hard work and dedication to ensuring the ball fields and park looked great. James had the honor of throwing the first pitch, which signifies the beginning of the season.

With a full, but surprised smile on his face, James stepped up to the challenge, approached the mound and threw a strike. The crowd cheered and thanked James for his hard work. James said it was the first time he was ever selected for such an honor. The League then "gifted" James with the ceremonial ball for him to commemorate and cherish.

This day will clearly have an impact on the youth in our community whose lives were touched by the lessons, memories and celebrations they will experience this season as they enjoy America's favorite pastime....baseball!

### Upcoming Events

***March 5*** • Community Garage Sale, Minsky Gym

***March 8*** • Club Med Volleyball Rental, MIDFLORIDA Event Center

***March 9-10*** • City Manager Strategic Planning, Community Center

***March 10*** • River Nights, The Event Lawn at The Port

***March 11-12*** • St. Patrick's Day Festival, MIDFLORIDA Event Center

***March 16*** • PSL Utility Systems Department's Drinking water Contest, Community Center

## Recreation

- The kitchen and restrooms at the Community Center received a commercial cleaning.
- The MIDFLORIDA Event Center Recreation/Fitness restrooms were commercially cleaned Feb. 23.
- River Nights will be celebrated from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10 at The Event Lawn at The Port. Rough Shot will perform country and old rock favorites.
- The MIDFLORIDA Event Center will be the home to the 2022 St. Patrick's Day event from 5-10 p.m. Friday, March 11, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 12.









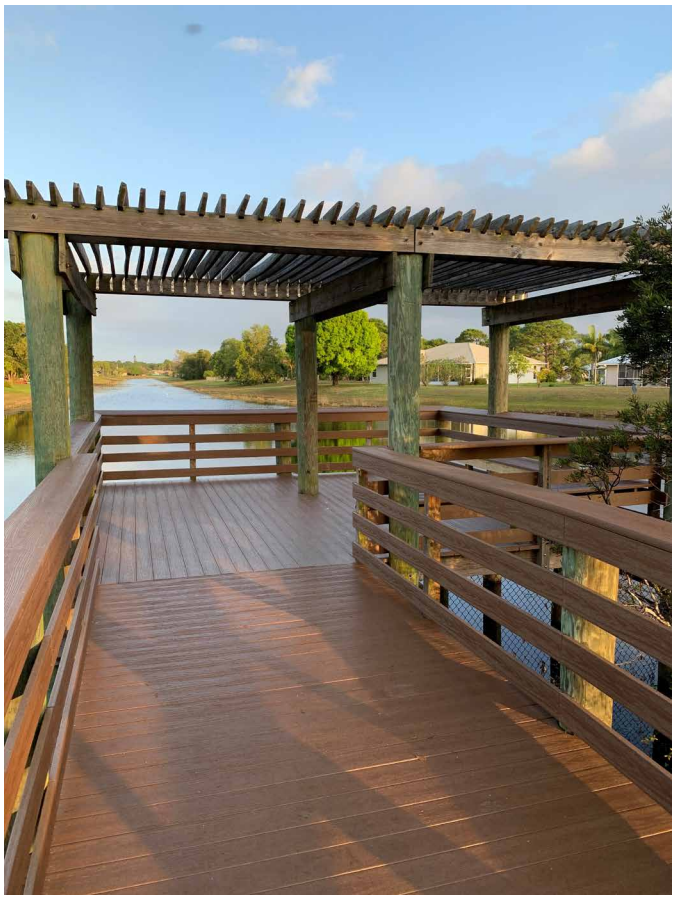


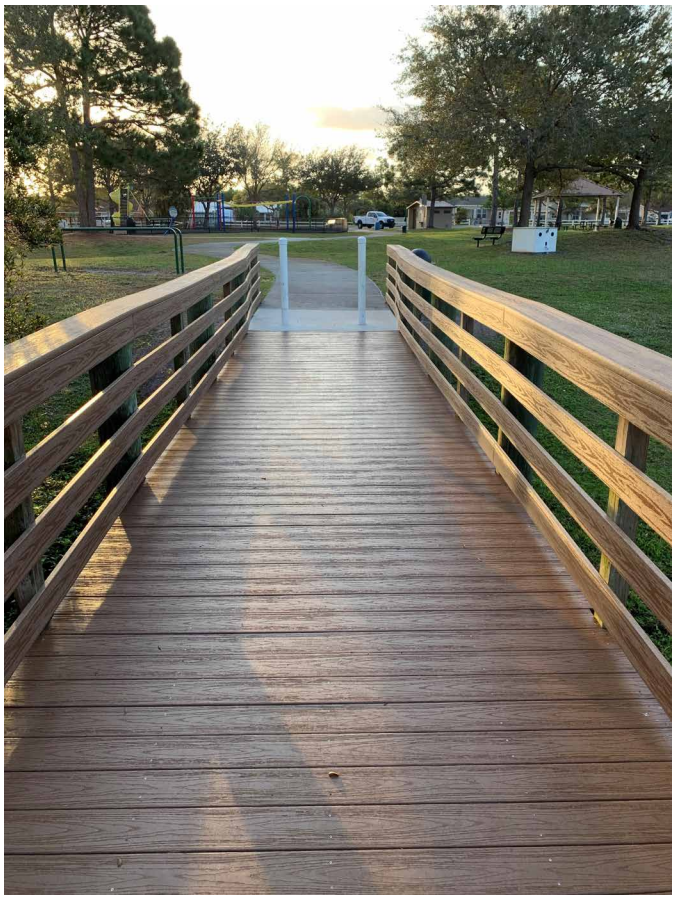
**Pier Before Improvements**
Elks Lodge #2658 Friendship Park

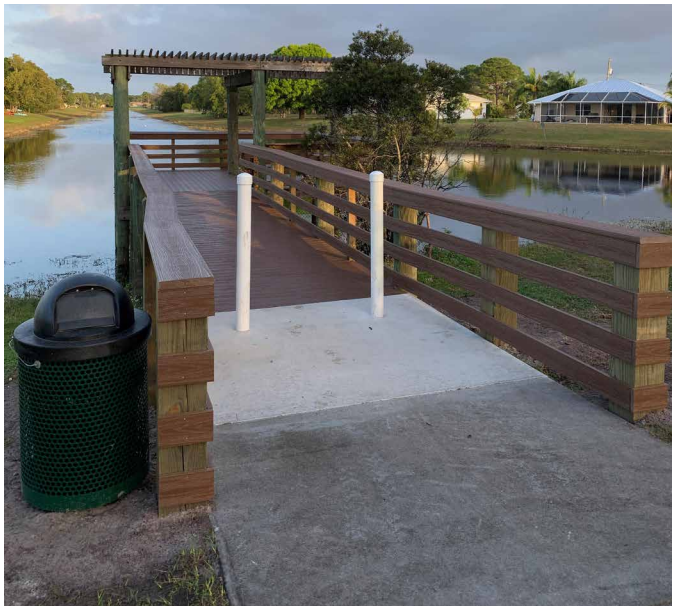
## Elks Lodge #2658 Friendship Park improvement projects

Recently, a significant park improvement project was completed at Port St. Lucie Elks Lodge #2658 Friendship Park, 2264 SE West Black Park.

Because of age and deterioration, the fishing observation pier needed significant maintenance. Please see the major improvements to the fishing observation pier as depicted by the "before" and "after" photos.







**Pier After Improvements**
Elks Lodge #2658 Friendship Park




# River Nights

Free for all ages
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
The Event Lawn at the Port
2454 SE Westmoreland Blvd.

**Live Music by Rough Shot country and old rock favorites**

Grab a comfortable chair, head over to the Event Lawn at the Port and listen to live music while looking out over the St. Lucie River and gazing into the night sky. Food and drink are available for purchase.

River Nights is free and takes place on the second Thursday of every month. Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs.

# St. Patrick's Day Festival

## Friday, March 11, 5-10 p.m.

## Saturday, March 12, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Carnival rides • Food trucks & vendors, Irish Cuisine for sale!







### Friday, March 11

DeLeon Band performing live!

### Saturday, March 12

Parade at 11 a.m.

First Annual Lucky PSL Pet Costume Contest

*Dress up your pet and join the shamrockin' fun!*

Rowdy Mics, Bangers & Mash performing live!

**at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center** 9221 SE Event Center Place

*This advertisement meets School Board Policy 9.40 for distribution of the advertisement. However, this acknowledgment does not represent an endorsement or recommendation of the product/service advertised.*

SCAN ME

www.PSLParks.com | 772-878-2277 *Dates are subject to change.*

Find us on Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation Facebook Group

# Planning & Zoning

***High-Performing City Government Organization*** ***Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities***

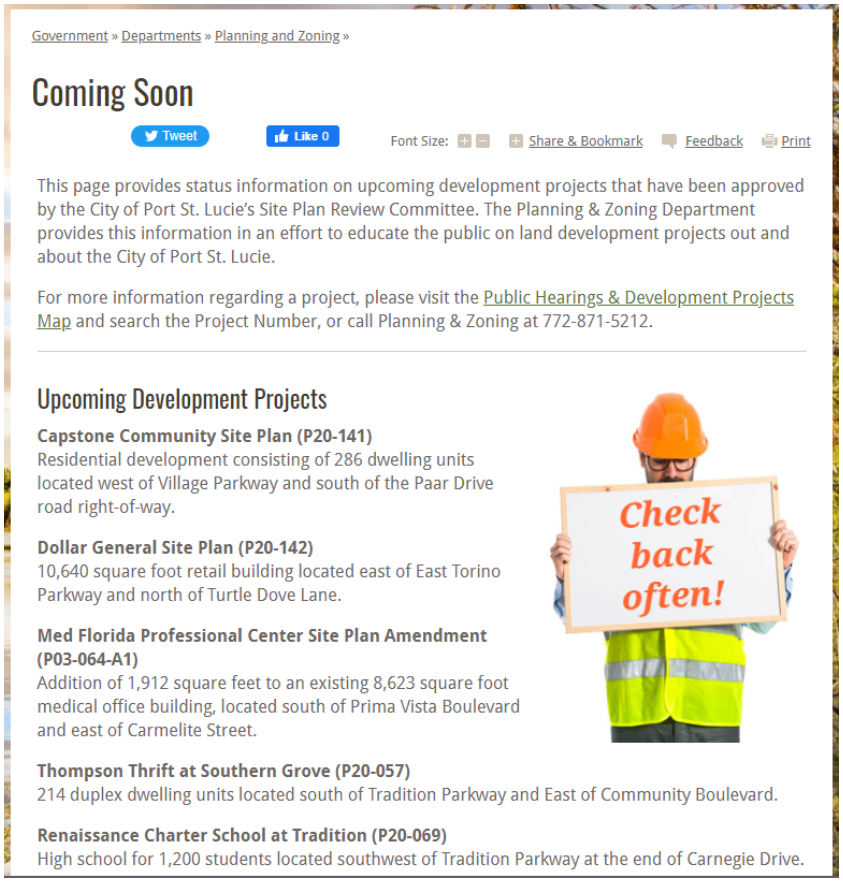
## Coming Soon to PSL

**St. Lucie Battery & Tire, Gatlin Boulevard (P07-366-A1)**
A 4,896-square-foot auto service building with six bays proposed to be located north of Gatlin Boulevard and east of Edgarce Street.

**Verano Maintenance Facility (P21-210)**
A 8,000-square-foot golf course maintenance facility proposed to be located north of the Crosstown Parkway right-of-way and east of the N/S Road A right-of-way.

www.cityofpsl.com/comingsoon

## Check back often!




The Coming Soon webpage provides status information on upcoming development projects that have been approved by the City of Port St. Lucie's Site Plan Review Committee. The Planning & Zoning Department provides this information in an effort to educate the public on land development projects out and about the City of Port St. Lucie.

For more information regarding a project, please view the Public Hearings & Development Projects Map and search the Project Number, or call Planning & Zoning at 772-871-5212.

# Police Department

***Safe, Clean & Beautiful***

## District 1





Assistant Chief Del Toro and Commander Swanchak attended opening day for the 2022 Spring season for the Port St. Lucie National Little League. Assistant Chief Del Toro threw out the first pitch and gave special thanks to the City of Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation Department for maintaining our City's sports fields to ensure our young athletes have a place to chase their dreams.

On Feb. 20, at 6:28 p.m., the Port St. Lucie Police Department responded to the 1900 block of SW Cameo Boulevard regarding a death investigation. A preliminary investigation has revealed a roommate returned to the residence and discovered deceased individuals inside the house. The roommate exited the house and called 911. PSLPD Officers arrived on the scene, where the investigation revealed a 52-year-old man shot and killed a 33-year-old man, a 53-year-old woman and two dogs inside the residence. The male then shot and killed himself. Detectives found a suicide note and believe depression could be a motivating factor in this incident. If you need mental health resources, call 211 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.




## District 2

Assistant Chief Vega, Michelle R. Miller, St. Lucie Clerk & Comptroller, and Indian River State College Pruitt Campus President Andrew Treadwell attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Aviva Senior Living. The 159-unit senior living facility will be located on NW Lake Whitney Place. Welcome to our community!



PORT ST. LUCIE POLICE

**Bulletin #:** 2022-059 (PUBLIC/PAC)
**Released:** February 11, 2022

# REWARD

## ***NEED TO IDENTIFY-HOMICIDE***
### 1200 Block of SW Del Rio Blvd – Zone 42

**Case #2020-17379**
On 8/26/2020 at 2304 hrs., victim, 18-year-old Charles Highlands, known as Charlie, was found shot dead in a Toyota at a gas station in the 1200 block of Southwest Del Rio Boulevard. Port St. Lucie Det. Richard Giaccone has followed up on any provided ***leads including any social media posts around the date of the incident*** and continues to pursue other investigative avenues towards the identification and apprehension of the responsible person or persons.
**The Highlands family is now offering a $10,000 reward for any information that leads to an arrest of the suspect(s) that are responsible for the death of their son. Crime Stoppers will also provide another $5,000 if the tip is provided through Crime Stoppers.**



**Victim Image:**
Charles Highlands (Charlie)




**Vehicle Image:**
2016 Black Toyota Corolla

If anyone has information pertaining to the above incident, please contact:
**Detective Richard Giaccone**
Office #(772) 807-4401
**You can be anonymous, call Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers 800-273-TIPS (8477)**

**Prepared by the Crime and Intelligence Analysis Unit**
**PORT ST. LUCIE POLICE DEPARTMENT**
121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd. Bldg. C Port. Lucie, FL 34984 – (772)871-5000 - @PSLPolice - @PortStLuciePolice

On Aug. 26, 2020, 18-year-old Charles "Charlie" Highlands was found fatally shot in his vehicle at a gas station in the 1200 block of SW Del Rio Boulevard. Detectives have worked diligently and continue to pursue all investigative leads towards identifying and apprehending the responsible suspect(s). The Highlands Family and Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers are offering a reward of $15,000 for any information that leads to an arrest of the suspect(s) responsible for Charlie's fatal shooting. If anyone has information about this incident, you can remain anonymous. Call Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 800-273-8477.

## District 3

PSLPD Officers replaced a resident's mailbox after the mailbox was vandalized Feb. 18. An unknown individual broke the stand and post of the mailbox. Officer Fazio learned our resident recently had eye surgery and could not repair the mailbox himself. Without hesitation, Officer Fazio took it upon himself and obtained the needed supplies from the Home Depot. With the assistance of Officer Lidbetter, Officer Fazio installed a new mailbox for our resident. Thank you to Officers Fazio and Lidbetter for giving back to our community.





## District 4

Criminal Investigations Division Property Crime Detectives followed up on an investigation involving an employee of a company, where the suspect was fraudulently using the company credit card and company truck. Through the process of subpoenas and video surveillance, Detectives verified several fraudulent charges completed by the individual. A warrant was completed on the suspect for fraud-illegal use of credit cards. The man was subsequently arrested by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

## In Other News

The Port St. Lucie Police Department joined the fight where an 8-year-old is battling cancer. Assistant Chief Vega, Commanders Niemczyk and Swanchak, Lt. Boham and Sgt. Lumpkin prepared a get-well box of PSLPD patches and toys Feb. 18 and sent them to 8-year-old Joshua, who's battling cancer at the U.P.M.C. Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Joshua likes to collect police patches and wants to become a police officer when he gets older. On behalf of the men and women of PSLPD, we wish Joshua a speedy recovery!





## Conrgratulations, Officer Horten!




Congratulations to Officer Horten after retiring from PSLPD with 18 years of service! Officer Horten began his career in August 2004 and held various assignments during his career. Before joining the department, he served in the Navy from 1990 to 1996 and worked with the Danbury Police Department from 1997 to 2004. In July 2020, Officer Horten and other officers responded to an active shooter incident. The Officers did not hesitate and entered the home, immediately taking on gunfire from the suspect. Officer Horten was shot in the left arm and chest during the gunfight, suffering a career-ending injury.

Chief Bolduc presented Officer Horten with the Medal of Honor and the Law Enforcement Purple Heart based on his heroic and brave acts. The Medal of Honor is the highest award bestowed by PSLPD, and the Law Enforcement Purple Heart is awarded to an Officer who suffers serious injury in the performance of their duty. We would also like to remember the two innocent civilian lives lost during that tragic event. Congressman Brian Mast attended the retirement ceremony today and thanked Officer Horten for his bravery, dedication and committed service to our country and the City of Port St. Lucie. We wish Officer Horten a very happy retirement, and we thank him for his dedicated, selfless, and exceptional commitment to serving the residents of Port St. Lucie!

## Congratulations, Tom!



Congratulations to Tom Andrew on his retirement after serving 15 years as the PSLPD Volunteer Coordinator! Chief Bolduc, Assistant Chief Vega, Police Administrator Bill May, family and friends gathered to celebrate the well-deserved retirement of Tom Andrew. Tom enlisted in the Army in 1970 and was later honorably discharged. He has spent his life dedicated to law enforcement, beginning his career at the South Orange Police Department in 1973, where he retired at the rank of director in 2003. Tom was hired at PSLPD in 2007 as the Volunteer Coordinator, overseeing 150 police department volunteers while honorably serving the residents of Port St. Lucie. So enjoy your new adventure of rest and relaxation, and best of luck in your future endeavors!

## Kassidy Totten is Animal Control's Featured Officer of the Month



Kassidy has been with the City and Animal Control since December 2016. During this time, she has taken on challenges, including dangerous dog investigations and animal abuse/neglect cases, without hesitation. Kassidy was instrumental in finding an owner who reported their dog missing for four years. She was an integral part of a cruelty case by investigating prior history with animals from the residence. She has taken on three dangerous dog cases that resulted in the declaration of the dogs and restrictions being placed on the owners to ensure public safety.

Kassidy was the lead officer in rescuing a dog running on the Florida's Turnpike after escaping from the owner's vehicle. Her efforts saved the dog from being hit by a car. Kassidy was given a "Do Your Job" award for a case she was involved in where the owner needed treatment for his dog and assistance in cleaning his house. She worked with the Council on Aging to find someone to assist with cleaning. She was also able to get assistance with groceries and household needs through a local church. Kassidy's education and training include (F.A.C.A.) Florida Animal Control Association Certification, Chemical Immobilization, Dangerous Dog investigations, (FTO) Field Training Certification and Leadership courses. She will be specializing in animal cruelty, starting with the first class in March.

## CTO PSLPD's 2021 Support Services Bureau Award Recipients!

Assistant Chief Vega recently recognized these valued members for their contributions and accomplishments in 2021:










- Sworn Supervisor of the Year: Detective Sgt. Robert Fonteyn
- Command Staff Member of the Year: Police Administrator Bill May
- Detective of the Year: Detective Robert O'Hara
- City Employee of the Year: Assistant Director of Neighborhood Services Michael Lubeck
- Civilian of the Year: Fleet Coordinator Colleen Bakels
- Civilian Supervisor of the Year: Records Manager Linda Cole

Congratulations to everyone! Thank you for your dedication to PSLPD and our community.

# District Support



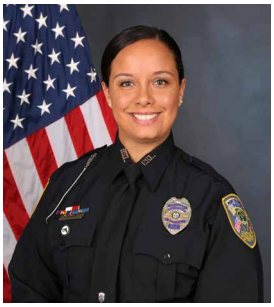
### School Resource Officer

On Feb.15, we celebrated School Resource Appreciation Day! SROs play many vital roles such as protecting the safety of students and staff, counseling and educating, and being a positive role model for students.

Meet our School Resource Officers:



Officer Casey:
Port St. Lucie
High School



Officer McCarty:
Treasure Coast
High School



Officer Pietrzak:
St. Lucie West
Centennial High School



Officer Improta:
Somerset College
Preparatory Academy



Officer Camara:
Somerset Academy
St. Lucie

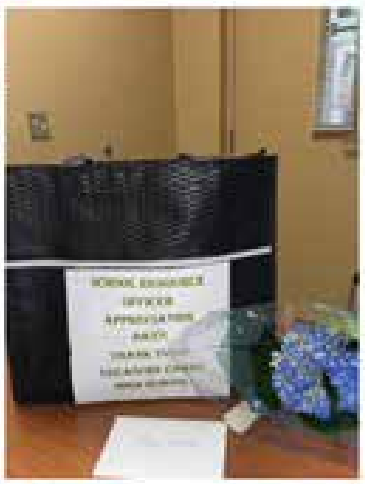
Thank you to our PSLPD SROs for your dedicated service to mentoring our youth and ensuring a safe learning environment for our children. You are appreciated!

Our SROs do much more than keep their schools safe! Officer(s) Camara and McCarty have completed training to become certified RadKids instructors and will now be scheduled to attend the advanced class, allowing Port St. Lucie to utilize the RadKids personal empowerment safety education curriculum include dynamic simulation in our training. Way to go!

Officer Pietrzak enjoys training the criminal justice students at Centennial. Officer Pietrzak consistently goes above and beyond to assure our children receive the best each day.

Officer McCarty was given flowers and gifts by the school administration to thank her for her hard work and dedication to Treasure Coast High School students. We are very proud of our officers.









### Crossing Guards

Our crossing guards are loved by the children they help each day. Terry Walls and Eslon Bennett received hand-drawn pictures from one of their students.

### Traffic Unit

Sgts. Duncombe and Butterworth are attending Traffic Homicide School (T.H.I.) and will be finished by Friday. While they were gone, the Traffic Division completed traffic enforcement in the Floresta Drive construction area.

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## PSL Police Athletic League (P.A.L.)

### Event Summary: Fishing Clinic

On Feb. 19, P.A.L. hosted its fishing clinic at the Port St. Lucie Police Athletic Building located on SE Tiffany Drive. The popular event hosted the youth within our city. Two young men walked away with trophies for the outstanding fishing skills!





# Public Works

***High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities***

***High-Performing City Government Organization***

## New Public Works Assistant Directors



### Welcome back, Colt!

Colt Schwedt, P.E. returns to Public Works as a new assistant director for Public Works. He brings extensive experience overseeing design and construction of municipal and private development projects.

Colt has a bachelor's degree in civil and architectural engineering and obtained his professional engineers license in 2014. He will be overseeing the Regulatory Division, Environmental Services, Drainage and Streets, Fleet and Facilities, Support Services and CIP and Sales Tax Project Group.

Colt previously worked for the City for eight years and is returning after serving a year as a private civil engineering consultant. He is an active member of the Florida Engineering Society and has a diverse combination of skills in civil engineering, water resources, land development, transportation and survey.

Colt lives locally and has a wife and two daughters. We are excited to welcome Colt back to the Public Works team!

### Welcome, Mike!

Mike Enot, P.E., is the City of Port St. Lucie City engineer and now also an assistant director for Public Works, overseeing the administration and operations personnel services, financial team, community and customer service, Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful (KPSLB), Stormwater and Traffic Operations.

Mike earned a professional engineer license from Florida in August 1996. He has served as the engineer of record (EOR) on a vast cross-section of projects ranging from a simple intersection improvement to a complex limited-access interchange. He has worked for federal, state and local governments in addition to consultant designers and roadway contractors since 1985.

Mike lived in Port St. Lucie from 1972 until 1988 when he left for Gainesville to earn a bachelor’s degree in engineering from the University of Florida.

Congratulations to Mike for your new role with Public Works!

# Celebrating Engineers Week

The City acknowledged and celebrated its engineers and the impacts engineers make on our community during the 2022 Engineers Week, which took place Feb. 21-25.

Public Works kicked off the week Feb. 22 with the American Public Works Association (APWA) Treasure Coast Branch hosting a donut breakfast and coffee at City Hall. Several members of the Florida Engineering Society (FES) and City of Port St. Lucie staff gathered to show their appreciation.

The City also shared posts on its social media channels throughout the week, recognizing the engineers in the City's Public Works Department.




# Proactive canal treatments, Brazilian pepper tree removal program

Public Works continues its Brazilian pepper tree eradication program, which primarily treats, in place, Brazilian pepper trees from rights of ways.

The pepper trees grow aggressively and rapidly and are known to disturb habitats and the biological diversity of plants and animals.

By eradicating this evasive plant, the City can prevent them from encroaching on resident's properties, promote the growth of native plants which in turn help our area to be more ecologically friendly and aids in the support of positive conveyance of our stormwater system.















# APWA Leadership Training Module 2





Public Works team members Karen Russell, Andrew Gomez and Beth Zsoka continue the American Public Works Association (APWA) Leadership Training with Module 2.

This round of training included presentations on Legal Issues in the Workplace, Problem Solving & Decision Making, Team Building/ Mentoring in the Moment, Developing Personal Strategy, Creative & Ethical Decision Making, Motivating Employees, Budget & Finance, Drones in Public Works, Intra-preneurship and Work Place Safety.

The training group, including attendees from Charlotte County, the City of Fort Pierce, the Town of Jupiter and the City of Melbourne had the opportunity to tour the City of Port St. Lucie's James Anderson Water Treatment Plant, St. Lucie County Emergency Operations and the City of Port St. Lucie Glades Wastewater Treatment Plant. The trainees also attended an APWA Treasure Coast Branch Board Meeting to learn about how to get involved, the benefits of being an APWA member and some of the great events and things the Branch is doing locally.



# Roadway Resurfacing

www.CityofPSL.com/Repaving

St. Lucie North (North): Completed Feb. 23. See photos below of Peachtree Blvd. and St. James Dr.







# Construction Projects

**Port St. Lucie Boulevard traffic update**

Construction on Port St. Lucie Boulevard from Gatlin Boulevard to Alcantarra Boulevard continues. The contractor continues to clear and grub in the median throughout the project limits including tree, asphalt and concrete removal. The contractor will be working on water main construction within the median areas. Motorists can anticipate traffic shifts and lane closures in this area. The speed limit has been lowered to 30 mph during construction.





# Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful

***Safe, Clean & Beautiful***

## Cigarette Litter Prevention Program Task Force

KPSLB is seeking volunteers who have a passion for keeping our City clean and beautiful who wish to be a part of a new Cigarette Litter Prevention Program (CLPP) task force that would focus on preventing cigarette butt litter.

The CLPP Task Force would handle cigarette scans conducted on commercial properties and would assist in picking up cigarette butts off the ground to ship to Terracycle. The scans conducted are a part of the CLPP campaign made possible by grants received.

Grab your friends, neighbors and help us make a difference by volunteering to pick up litter and cigarette butts along Torino Parkway. This area needs our attention.

Thank you to AAS Del Webb at Tradition for helping keep Village Parkway clear of trash.














# APPRECIATION NIGHT AT CLOVER PARK

## THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

**Gates open at 5:30 p.m.**
**Game starts at 6:10 p.m.**

Fans who bring two nonperishable food items will receive a free ticket to the St. Lucie Mets game that night. Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful will have a booth at the front of the stadium and will partner with the Treasure Coast Food Bank for the donations.

**Contact KPSLB - 772-871-5103 for details.**

## Call for exhibitors, sponsors and donors

**Caring Community Cleanup Day**
**April 30, 2022**

KPSLB is seeking exhibitors, raffle prize donors and volunteers for the citywide cleanup day event on April 30, which is part of the national Great American Cleanup. All exhibitors and sponsors/donors are promoted in the event program and event write-ups.

**Clover Park**
31 Piazza Drive

# Utility Systems

***High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities***

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## Utility Systems hosts IFAS at McCarty Ranch Preserve

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension Office faculty held its monthly meeting at McCarty Ranch Preserve to learn more about the St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Project, located just south of the property. Utility Systems Community Outreach Assistant Manager Jenny Tomes hosted the group and discussed the project's benefits and accomplishments thus far.

More than 42.3 billion gallons of water flow annually into the North Fork of the St. Lucie River from the C-23 Canal. Upon completion, this project is anticipated to keep up to 21% of excess freshwater C-23 Canal discharges and rainfall captured on the property from entering the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

Areas 1, 2 and 3 of the project are complete and operational. Construction is underway on Area 4, which is expected to be complete in May. Learn more about this project at www.cityofpsl.com/c23project.





## APWA Leadership group tours Utility Systems plants

Public Works professionals from across the state got a behind-the-scenes look at the operations and lab facilities at the James E. Anderson Water Treatment Plant and Glades Wastewater Treatment Plant. Utility Systems plant operators walked the group through the step-by-step processes of treating water and wastewater. They saw microorganisms under a microscope feasting on wastewater, plus the filters used in the reverse osmosis water treatment process.

The Florida American Public Works Association (APWA) Leadership Institute is a 90-hour course that gives participants the opportunity to learn from industry professionals in the classroom and in the field.





# Sewer school is in session

Toilets and tardigrades were topics of discussion during a sewer presentation given by Community Outreach Assistant Manager Jenny Tomes.

The group of homeschool students compared toilet paper and wipes during a flush test to discover the differences between “flushable” and “biodegradable.” They played a few rounds of toilet twister to review which items were flushable and which should be thrown away.

The kids learned about the different microorganisms, including rotifers, stalked ciliates and tardigrades, that help clean the wastewater at the treatment plant. They met Francis FOGberg, a mass of congealed fats, oil and grease (FOG) and other non-flushable items that are found in our sewer system.

This “sewer school” gives kids a better understanding of where waste goes once it’s flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain.



# Feature Story

*Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities*




## New mural highlights Port St. Lucie's diversity

A new, large-scale public mural in Port St. Lucie celebrates culture and diversity through sports and recreation at Whispering Pines Park. The vivid "City for All People"-themed mural, drawn from the City's vision statement, is located on the exterior wall of Robert E. Minsky Gym, facing Southwest Darwin Boulevard.

The mural showcases four multicultural children playing a variety of sports such as soccer, basketball, baseball and football, and enjoying the park amenities. On either side of the children are depictions of a mother and grandmother watching from the sidelines and an elderly man basking in the sun on a park bench. The colorful background, inspired by Seminole Patchwork, is a stylized sunset honoring the Native American people who settled in Florida in the 18th century. The word "community" dramatically overlays the vibrant 81-foot-tall section of the mural (81 feet 2 inches wide x 10 feet 2 inches tall).

A total of 18 artists answered the City's Call for Artists, and West Palm Beach artist Eduardo Mendieta's entry was selected by a project review team, including representatives from the St. Lucie Cultural Alliance and select Port St. Lucie staff from the Parks and Recreation and Planning and Zoning departments and the City Manager's Office. The mural was completed Jan. 18 and featured at Port St. Lucie's March Through the Park to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The mural took two weeks to complete.

The funding for the mural was allocated in part by a $10,000 National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Grant. Port St. Lucie was one of 145 Challenge America grants recipients in the nation.

This public art project received support from the City's internal Diversity Committee and was introduced for public input at the 2021 Citizen Summit. Residents were informed of the future mural to be placed on the outside wall of Minsky Gym and asked a question: "What Makes Port St. Lucie Diverse?" Their responses were tabulated, and the results were included in the Call to Artist flyer for artists' knowledge and consideration.

City leaders take pride in Port St. Lucie's diversity. Port St. Lucie has been recognized as one of only two large cities in the United States to be considered "fully integrated," according to researchers at the University of California, Berkeley.

In addition, the City's public art program strives to create beautiful places that will draw people together. To learn about the public art program, visit www.CityofPSL.com/art.