



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



Jesus Merejo
City Manager



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

Contents

- 2 • City Officials
- 4 • Strategic Goals
- 5 • Upcoming Events
- 6 • Half-Cent Sales Tax
- 8 • Building Department
- 9 • 1PSL
- 12 • Communications Department
- 14 • Community Redevelopment Agency
- 15 • Emergency Management Department
- 17 • Finance Department
- 18 • Highlight
- 19 • Human Resources Department
- 20 • Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful
- 22 • MIDFLORIDA Event Center
- 26 • Neighborhood Services Department
- 27 • Office of Management & Budget
- 29 • Parks & Recreation Department
- 32 • Planning & Zoning Department
- 33 • Police Department
- 37 • Public Works Department
- 39 • Utility Systems Department
- 42 • Feature Story

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



On Friday, March 24, the Port St. Lucie Police Department participated in Tip-a-Cop at Oak & Ember Steakhouse (Kyle G. restaurant) to raise funds for the Special Olympics Torch Run.

Questions?



Email the Communications Department with questions or comments about the City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report at pslcommunications@cityofpsl.com.

Strategic Goals



**Safe, Clean
& Beautiful**



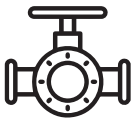
**Vibrant
Neighborhoods**



Smart & Connected City



**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.



Calendar

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

www.CityofPSL.com/Calendar

Events (April 1-14)

April 1

- **8 a.m.:** Green Art Showcase
- **7 p.m.:** Everclear Concert

April 4

- **6 p.m.:** Planning and Zoning Board

April 5

- **9 a.m.:** Special Magistrate Hearing
- **6:30 p.m.:** HealthyU: Resilience Building

April 7

- **9:30 a.m.:** Easter Bunny Breakfast

April 8

- **9 a.m.:** Eggstravaganza

April 10

- **6:30 p.m.:** Regular City Council Meeting

April 12

- **9 a.m.:** Special Magistrate Hearing
- **1:30 p.m.:** Site Plan Review Committee
- **6 p.m.:** Special Populations Dance

April 13

- **9 a.m.:** Contractor's Examining Board
- **1 p.m.:** Subcontractor Open House
- **5:30 p.m.:** River Nights



PARKS & RECREATION

Click [here](#) to view full calendar.



MIDFLORIDA EVENT CENTER

Click [here](#) to view full calendar.



VISIT ST. LUCIE EVENTS

Click [here](#) to view full calendar.



ST. LUCIE CULTURAL ALLIANCE EVENTS

Click [here](#) to view full calendar.



Half-Cent Sales Tax

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



High-Quality Infrastructure & Facilities



Floresta Drive Improvement Project Phase 2

Construction on the Elkcarn Waterway Bridge continues as part of the Floresta Drive Phase 2 Project. Through Aug. 4, Floresta Drive will remain closed from Port St. Lucie Boulevard to Thornhill Drive to allow the construction of a new bridge over the Elkcarn Waterway. This section of Floresta Drive will remain open only to residents living in the area. Motorists can use Port St. Lucie and Airoso Boulevards and Thornhill Drive to access Floresta Drive to the north and south. During this time, the contractor also will be completing roadway and utility activities south of Thornhill Drive. This will include the construction of the roundabout at Polynesian Avenue.

The contractor Felix Associates continues to work on underground and utility activities. The contractor has three to four crews working Monday through Friday in various locations from the Elkcarn Waterway to Crosstown Parkway. The contractor is working in the retention pond areas off Walters Terrace and Thornhill Drive.

Motorists are asked to adhere to the speed limit and use caution while driving through neighborhood streets.



Sidewalks

www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks

- **Fairgreen Crossings Neighborhood (Import, Galiano, Cadima, Fairgreen):** Complete.
- **Sandia Drive (Thornhill to Crosspoint):** Complete.
- **Import Drive (Gatlin to Inca):** Phase 1 is complete.
- **Import Drive (Inca to Savage):** Phase 2 is under construction.
- **Rosser Boulevard Sidewalk Project:** Complete.

Import sidewalk project: Construction is underway on the SW Import Drive Phase 2 sidewalk project from SW Inca Terrace to SW Savage Boulevard. The project consists of concrete sidewalk, swale grading, utility adjustments, milling and resurfacing some portions of the roadway, sod, updated signage and pavement markings. The project is funded by the Half-Cent Sales Tax. The contractor for the project is Timothy Rose Contracting.

The City of Port St. Lucie continues to progressively expand the sidewalk network City-wide to include sidewalks that help connect neighborhoods and schools, as part of the City's strategic goal to be safe and have vibrant neighborhoods.

For more information about the City's sidewalk program, visit www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks.

Roadway Resurfacing

www.cityofpsl.com/repaving

The Sales Tax resurfacing goal for FY 22/23 is 16.45 miles with 7.86 miles completed to date.

- **Bayshore Heights (Thornhill):** Completed Nov. 18, 2022.
- **Cashmere Cove:** Completed Jan. 19.
- **Hidden Oaks (East):** Started March 6.



Import Sidewalk Project - Phase 2



Floresta Drive Improvement - Phase 2

Building



High-Quality Infrastructure & Facilities



Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities



Highlights

- The Building Department has obtained certification from Florida as a CEU provider for real estate professionals, building inspectors, plans examiners and building officials.
- The next stakeholder meeting will be April 10 with electrical contractors.
- 89% of all permits are now paperless.
- The Building Department administrative staff is reviewing and commenting on proposed legislation affecting building departments and development projects.



Legacy Park 520 Building

Building Activities

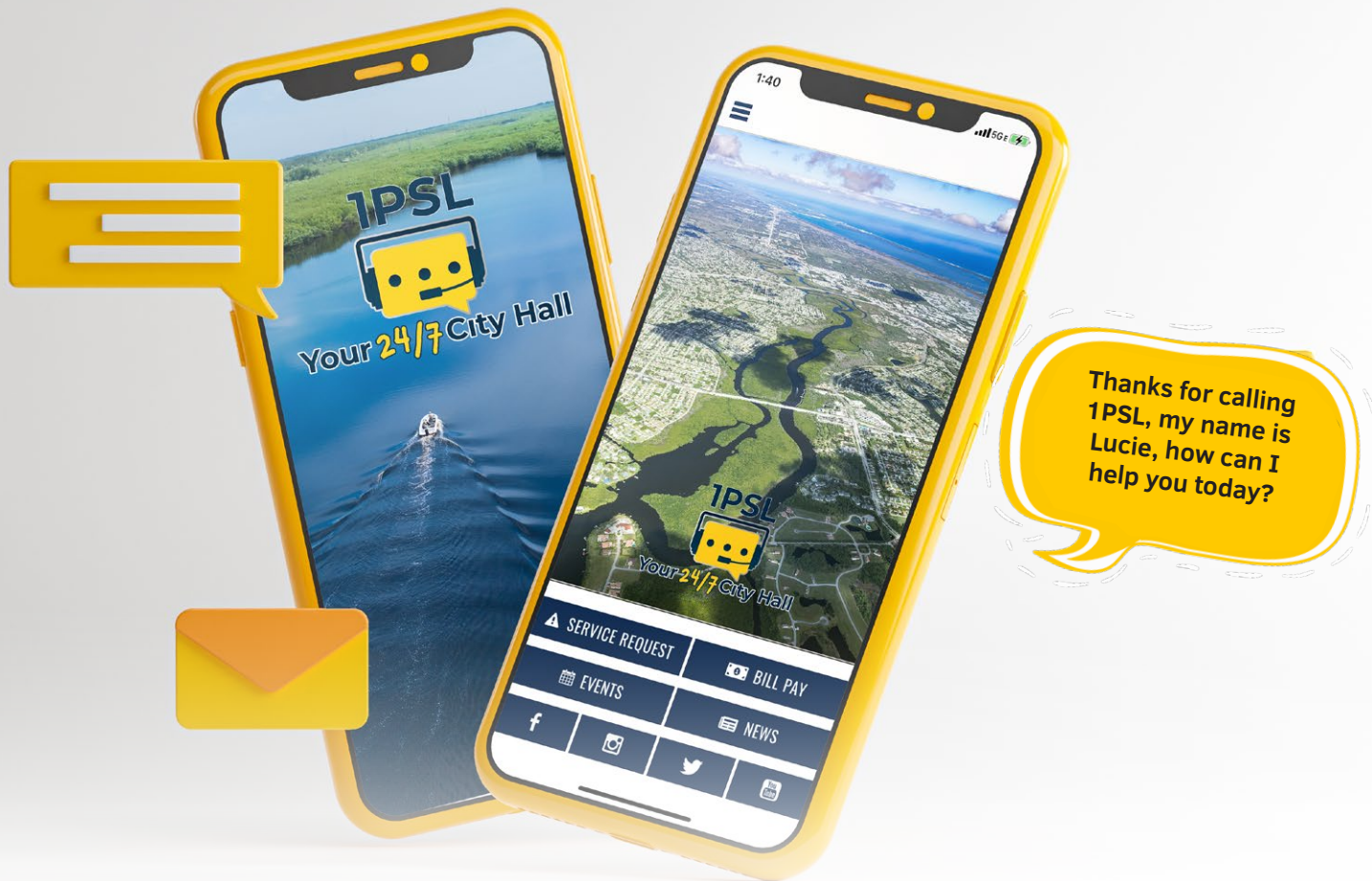
Certificates of Occupancy

- Prestige Hair Salon, commercial alteration, 1630 SW Bayshore Blvd.
- All Bright Floor Restoration, commercial alteration, 1958 SW Biltmore St.
- Tradition Medical Center, commercial alteration, 10000 SW Innovation Way
- Petco, commercial alteration, 1753 NW St. Lucie West Blvd.
- Abundant Health, commercial alteration, 1609 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd.
- Farrell Storage-Future Tenant, commercial alteration, 10190 SW Village Parkway, Suite 106

Commercial Permits

- MDNow, commercial alteration, 10650 SW Tradition Parkway
- La Mesa RV Center, commercial alteration, 8650 NW LTC Parkway
- Kauffs Towing, commercial alteration, 8920 NW Glades Cut Off Road
- Holiday Inn, commercial alteration, 10120 S. U.S. 1
- Luso Bakery, commercial alteration, 11498 SW Village Parkway

March 11-March 24		2023 YTD	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Permits Issued	1,919	11,087	60,774	68,261	52,355	41,504	39,899	32,020
Single-Family Permits Issued	151	800	3,882	5,273	3,824	2,729	2,189	1,524
Certificates of Occupancy Single-family	149	970	4,658	3,911	2,893	2,711	1,824	1,382
Inspections Completed	8,022	52,246	248,274	208,545	155,421	137,302	115,073	84,510
Plans Reviewed	795	4,794	24,103	24,820	19,150	13,978	13,559	10,352
Online Permits Applied	1,645	11,087	50,937	48,166	26,855	18,395	13,421	8,346



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.



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

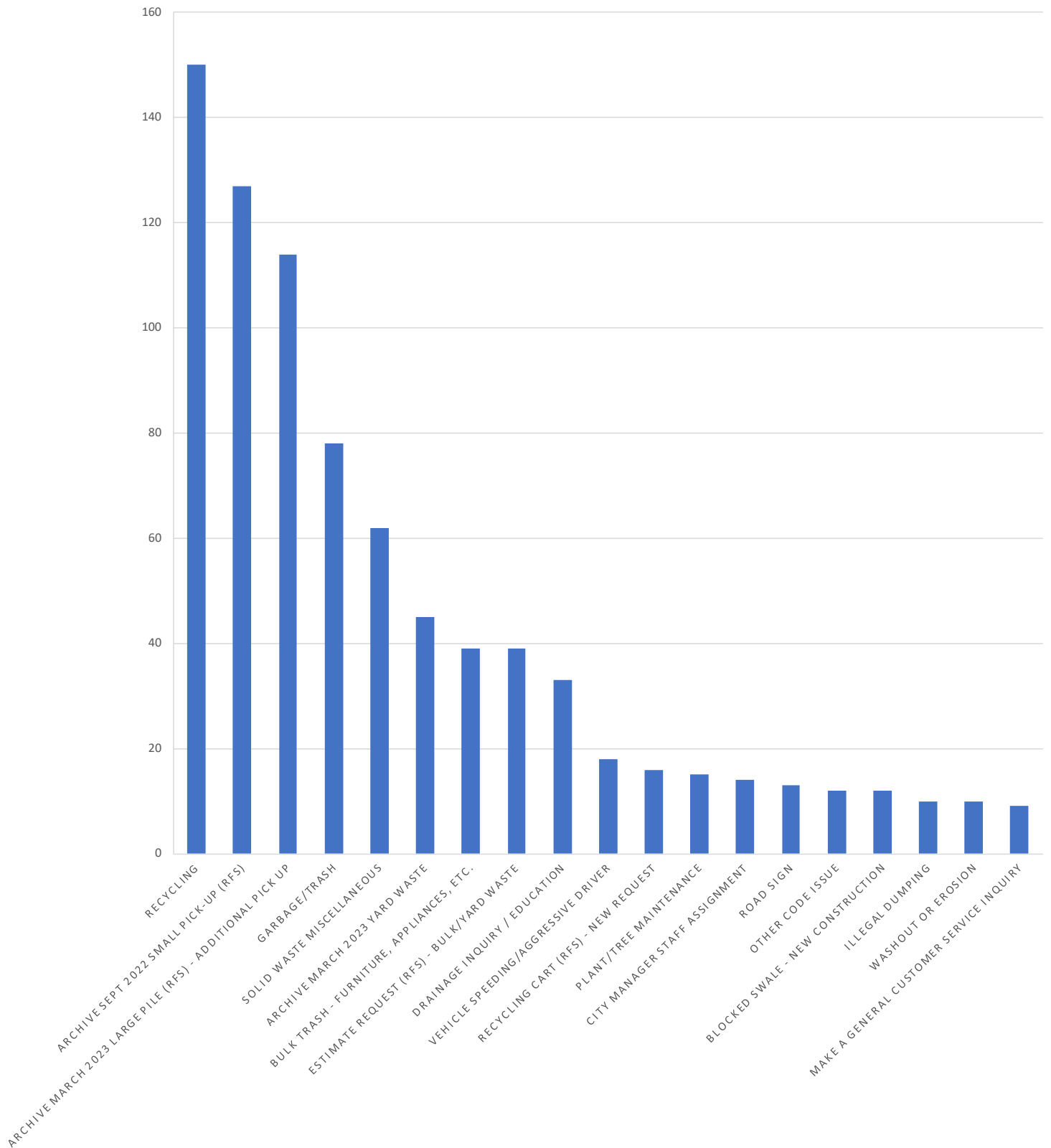
The 1PSL mobile app is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.



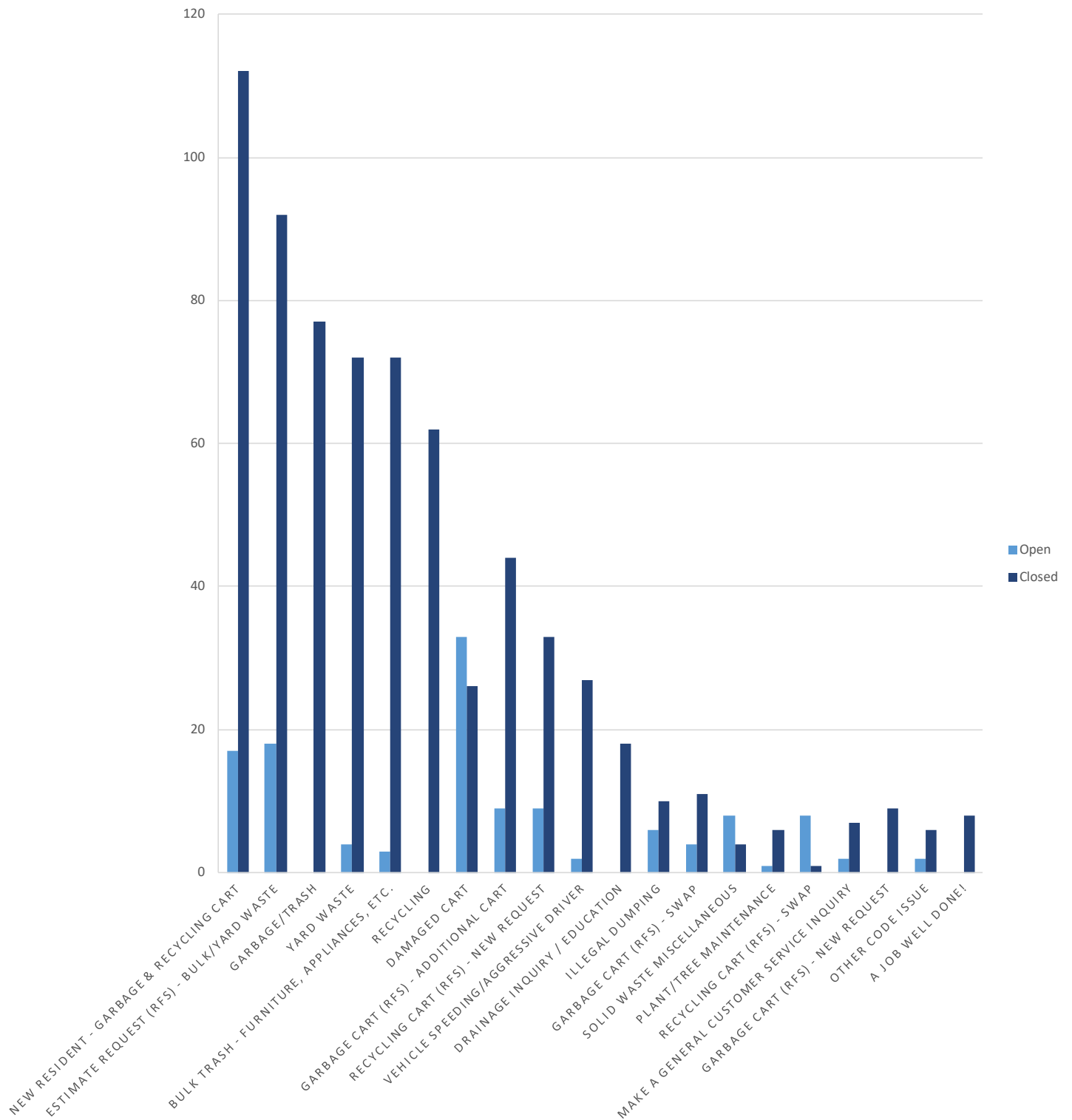
Web Portal

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

TOP 20 REQUESTS | MARCH 10, 2022 to MARCH 23, 2022



TOP 20 REQUESTS | MARCH 10, 2023 to MARCH 23, 2023



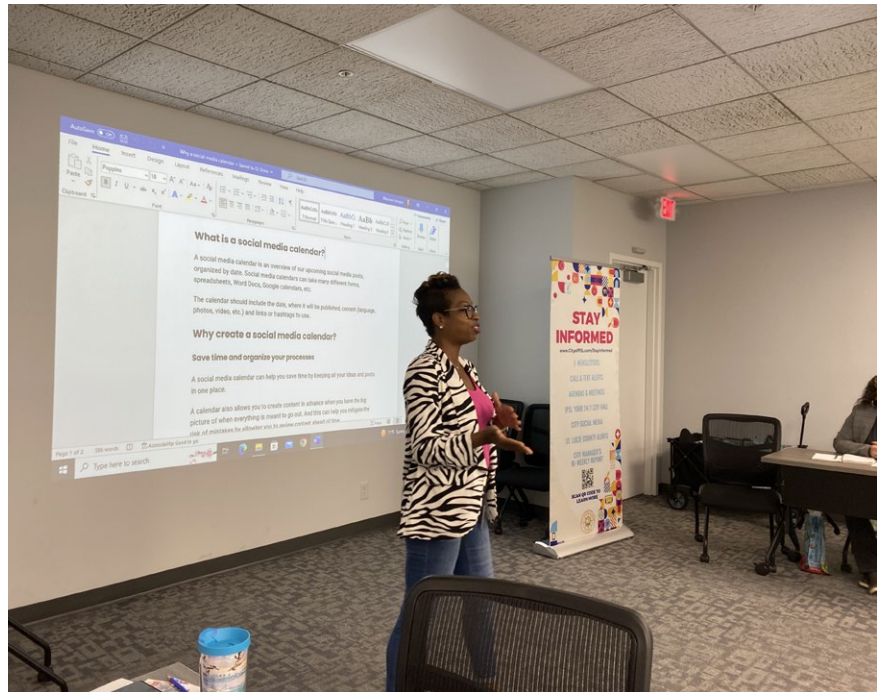
Communications Department

New City Engagers Working Group kicks off

Communications launched a new working group March 24 for City employees who often engage with Port St. Lucie residents. The purpose of the group is to share information, work collaboratively and support each other as we serve the community.

Facilitated by Community Engagement Manager Stephanie Vernot, the first meeting kicked off with two guest speakers and 14 staffers in attendance. Social Media Manager Maureen Kenyon talked about the importance of the City's social media calendar and Creative Team Leader Melissa Yunas introduced different types of communications plans for different departments.

The next meeting is 10 a.m. April 28. The topic will be "Big Events and Community Meetings." Interested in attending? Email svernot@cityofpsl.com to reserve your spot!



Total Truck Parts breaks ground on its largest facility in Port St. Lucie

Officials from Total Truck Parts and local dignitaries attended a groundbreaking March 16 for the company's largest facility in Port St. Lucie.

The employee-owned company, with six locations in Central and South Florida, selected a 6-acre site in Midway Business Park to build its third facility. The 47,000-square-foot building will include a 5,000-square-foot showroom, 16 heavy truck and trailer repair bays, a large area for hydraulic and drive line repair and extensive warehouse space for parts.

Digital Video Producer Ernesto Perez was on hand to shoot video and photographs of the groundbreaking.



Video animation adds a little fun to marketing plan for Parks & Recreation's Spring programs

Spring is in the air, which means Parks & Recreation's spring programming is here!

To add a little fun and flair to marketing the programs, Graphic Designer and Digital Content Specialist Ann Marie Watkoskey created an animated video using Vyond to highlight programming such as running, arts & crafts, pickleball and more. It was published to YouTube and also will be used on social media, website and in an eBlast.

The voiceover for the video was done by Community Engagement Manager Stephanie Vernot.



Community Redevelopment Agency

 **Culture, Nature & Fun Activities**

 **Vibrant Neighborhoods**

 **Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities**



Reporting on redevelopment

Each year, the City of Port St. Lucie's Community Redevelopment Agency is required to file its Annual Report for the preceding fiscal year. Florida Statutes, Chapter 163, outlines the annual reporting requirements for the Agency, including boundary maps, initial and current property valuations for each of the redevelopment areas, a complete financial statement for the redevelopment fund accounts, as well as any notable updates for projects within the redevelopment areas. A copy of the Agency's Annual Report for FY 21/22 is now available to view on the City's website, as are Annual Reports dating back to FY 01/02.

View the report at <https://joom.ag/1X6d>.

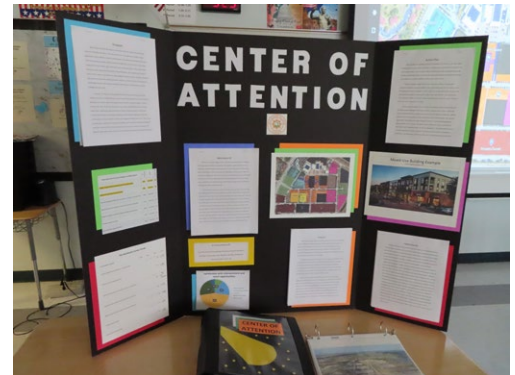
City Center is the 'Center of Attention' for local students!

Last week, staff from the Community Redevelopment Agency and Communications visited with students from Manatee Academy's seventh-grade civics class, led by Tucker Young. The students developed a project, "Center of Attention," which received the highest honors at the Project Citizen District Showcase. It was so well received that students will feature this project next at the Project Citizen State Competition!

In "Center of Attention," students proposed a comprehensive mixed-use master plan for the City Center land with the goal of providing residents entertainment and community gathering space within the City. They identified the underlying problem, engaged in an extensive data-gathering phase, conducted multiple surveys on proposed desired uses and identified creative solutions to incorporating these multiple uses on the site. Their mixed-use concept included residential, commercial, recreation and cultural uses. Students were thoughtful in developing their layout, noting how transportation could become a problem if too many uses were concentrated in one area of the site. Students also proposed expanding the center stage/community gathering area, adding a 200-room hotel and introduced an arts district and staking rink to the site.

Students practiced their presentation before the state competition, but also gathered input from CRA staff on opportunities to further develop their plan. A question-and-answer session followed and students were provided swag bags from the City, and of course jumped at the opportunity to pose for a photo!

For more information on City Center, visit www.cityofpsl.com/citycenter.



Emergency Management



April 3-9 is Florida's Wildfire Awareness Week

In Florida, more than 14 million acres are covered in forest. Over the past 50 years, more and more Floridians have moved out of cities to build homes and businesses in the outlying areas, which is known as the wildland urban interface (WUI). In fact, almost one-third of the population lives in these interface areas where structures intermingle with forests and wildlands.

Residents here, however, do not realize they live close to nature, and could, in fact, be living on the edge of a wildland fire disaster. In dry years, Florida has been known to experience severe wildfires that destroy homes, disrupt people's lives and impact our economy.

Homes burn because of things most people don't think about: the two most vulnerable parts of a home, the roof and the area immediately surrounding the home.

Wood shingles easily catch fire from flying embers. Roofs with fire-resistant shingles also can catch fire from embers if there is an accumulation of leaves and pine needles on the roof and in the gutters. Exposed eaves could allow fire embers into the attic, which could catch the roof on fire. Vinyl soffits are not recommended in fire-prone areas unless they have backing of one-eighth, non-combustible (wire) mesh. They melt easily and could allow embers into the attic.

Another way that causes homes to burn in the WUI is allowing things that easily catch fire or burn to be within 30 feet from a home. Making a "defensible" area 30 feet around the perimeter area of the home greatly decreases the chances of a home catching fire if a wildfire should break out.

There are many other tools that could help reduce the chances of a catastrophic wildfire, including safely disposing of yard waste, professionals utilizing prescribed burning and reporting a potential wildfire or suspicious arson activity. Knowing how to prepare in case of a wildfire is crucial.

For more information, visit www.bewildfireadyfl.com

How to protect a home

Hardening the home and outbuildings against fire is important to reduce wildfire impact and its spread. Consider the following areas as you harden your home:

Interior

- Keep working fire extinguishers on hand.
- Install a smoke alarm on each level of your home, inside and near all bedrooms.
- Test monthly and replace batteries annually.

Roofs

- Regularly clear your roof and gutters of branches, leaves and other types of debris. Roofs made of wood shingle or wood shake are especially vulnerable to fire.
- Consider other, safer materials:
- Class A asphalt/fiberglass
- Sheet metal
- Tile
- Concrete

Eaves

- Eaves are the edges of the roof that overhang the face of a wall and, normally, project beyond the side of a building.
- It is important to make sure that the eaves are made with fire-resistant materials and in good condition to ensure a fire cannot enter the attic.

Vents

- Clean vents regularly.
- Remove debris surrounding these areas.
- Consider installing vent covers to prevent fire from entering through them.

Walls

- Clear exterior walls of foliage and brush.
- Consider fire-resistant building materials from foundation to roof.
- **Windows and doors**
- Windows and doors must be constructed to withstand high temperatures.
- Regularly inspect windows and doors in the home and make sure they are sealed with no leaks.
- Install dual-pane windows with tempered glass, shutters and insect screens.

Balconies and decks

- Use fire-resistant and noncombustible materials to repair or add balconies or decks onto the home.
- Eliminate debris and combustible products surrounding these areas.
- Consider fire-resistant and noncombustible furniture in outdoor spaces.

Be aware of fire weather

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Forestry Service offers the Fire Danger Maps and Fire Danger Index (FDI) Report daily at its website, <https://fireweather.fdacs.gov/wx/fdi-report.html>. They are updated every night to give the outlook for the following day.



My Subscriptions

Checking or unchecking a subscription will also apply that change to any subgroups within that subscription.

Alert Subscriptions

Community Information

Send me the following (5)

- ☒ Emergency Alerts
- ☒ Crime Alerts
- ☒ COVID-19 Information
- ☒ Informational Updates
- ☐ Mosquito Control Alerts

Weather

Flood (8)

- ☒ Areal Flood Warning
- ☐ Areal Flood Watch
- ☒ Flash Flood Warning
- ☐ Flash Flood Watch
- ☒ Flood Warning
- ☐ Flood Watch
- ☐ High Surf Warning
- ☐ High Surf Watch

Marine (5)

Weather and Hazard Alerts Settings

Don't contact me between:

09:00 PM and 05:00 AM

Time Zone:

(GMT-05 00) Eastern Standard Time (America/New_York)

Note: If enabled, delivery path has its own quiet time.

- ☐ Dense Smoke Warning
- ☐ Dense Smoke Watch
- ☒ Excessive Heat Warning
- ☐ Excessive Heat Watch
- ☒ Extreme Cold Warning
- ☒ Extreme Cold Watch
- ☒ Frost Warning
- ☒ Frost Watch
- ☐ Heat Warning
- ☐ Heat Watch
- ☐ Fire (2)
 - ☐ Fire Weather Watch
 - ☒ Red Flag Warning
- ☐ Tsunami (2)
 - ☒ Tsunami Warning
 - ☐ Tsunami Watch
- ☒ Tropical (4)
 - ☒ Hurricane Warning
 - ☒ Hurricane Watch
 - ☒ Tropical Storm Warning
 - ☒ Tropical Storm Watch
- ☐ Other Events (1)
- ☐ Severe (4)
 - ☒ Severe Thunderstorm Warning
 - ☐ Severe Thunderstorm Watch
 - ☒ Tornado Warning
 - ☐ Tornado Watch



Stay informed: Sign up for emergency alerts

Have you signed up for the county-wide mass notification system yet? Sign up for Alert St. Lucie at www.stlucieco.gov/alert to receive alerts about emergencies of all types, as well as whole community alerts.

The best part about Alert St. Lucie is residents can choose which alerts to receive and when. If they want to receive frost advisories but not after 10 p.m., they can set up "do not disturb." Residents also pick and choose which type of weather alerts they want such as hurricane and tornado warnings or severe thunderstorm warnings. The alert also automatically sends out National Weather Service alerts to those who choose to receive them. Receive alerts via phone, text, email or all three.

Another time-tested method of receiving weather alerts are NOAA weather radios. These handy devices give residents advanced warning of floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and other severe weather. Pick up one at retail locations throughout the City and don't forget to set the S.A.M.E. code to 012111 for St. Lucie County, so the radio only receives NOAA alerts within the county. Please remember this system is for emergencies only and is controlled by St. Lucie County. To sign up for text alerts from the City of Port St. Lucie that cover a wide range of information, please visit <http://www.cityofpsl.com/stayinformed>.

Hurricane Preparedness Expo returns in June

Are you ready for a hurricane or other weather disaster?

After a highly successful event last year, the City of Port St. Lucie again will host its 17th annual Hurricane Preparedness Expo at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 3.

The free event brings together local meteorologists, storm-related vendors, area emergency managers and our friends in the media to help residents prepare in the event of tropical weather activity this season. Don't forget the free raffle items! There also will be food trucks outside of the Event Center. We hope to see you there!



Finance



High-Quality Infrastructure & Facilities



High-Performing City Government Organization

Business Tax Workshop

Business Tax hosted a free in-person and virtual business workshop March 14 with presenters from ClearSem Solutions who presented "A Guide For Getting Your Business Online," and the St. Lucie County Property Appraiser's Office who presented, "Tangible Personal Property Tax."

Participants learned how to get their business listed on sites such as Google and Yelp and how to use the free resources their company provides. In addition, the Property Appraiser's Office guided attendees through the process of filing the Tangible Personal Property Tax, an ad valorem tax assessed against the furniture, fixtures and equipment located in businesses and rental property.



Diversity Committee event

The City of Port St. Lucie's Diversity Committee is comprised of various City staff. The committee recently attended the NFBPA (National Forum of Black Public Administrators) Treasure Coast Chapter second annual Black History Month Gala.

Last year, the University of California at Berkeley performed a study and found the City of Port St. Lucie is one of only two cities nationwide that is considered to be fully integrated.



"As our City grows, it's an honor to be a member of the diversity committee and a part of a City of all people,"
- Evelyn Rojas



Highlight



High-Performing City Government Organization

City of PSL to host Town Hall meeting regarding Tradition growth

What: Mayor Shannon Martin will host a Town Hall Meeting to inform residents and community members about current and future development in the Tradition community.

When: Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 6-8 p.m.

Where: There are two ways to participate:

1. Virtually through Zoom – [click here](#)
2. In-person at:
Tradition Town Hall
10799 SW Civic Lane
Port St. Lucie, FL 34987

Why: The community is invited to learn more during this presentation-style meeting and ask questions. Those who wish to participate in public comment may submit a comment/question card up to fifteen (15) minutes before the start of the meeting.

During the meeting, the following topics will be highlighted, including existing and future:

- Development
- Roads & Utilities Infrastructure
- Parks & Trails
- Schools & City/Civic Sites
- Emergency Services

This is an in-person meeting and will be recorded. A link to the video will be available after the meeting. Those unable to attend can also watch and participate live on Zoom.

TRADITION TOWN HALL MEETING

Join the City of Port St. Lucie to learn about current and future development in Tradition. During the meeting, the following topics will be highlighted:



Current & Future Development



Roads & Utilities



Parks & Trails



Schools & City/Civic Sites



Emergency Services

Tuesday, April 18, 2023
6-8 p.m.

Presented by
Port St. Lucie Mayor Shannon Martin

Participate in person or
scan the QR code to
attend via Zoom.



Tradition Town Hall
10799 SW Civic Lane,
Port St. Lucie, FL 34987

Human Resources



High-Performing City Government Organization

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



Razax Ali, Water Meter Technician,
Utilities Department



Janae Angel, Model Traffic Stop Coordinator,
Police Department



Richard Berrios, Deputy City Attorney,
City Attorneys Office



Pablo Castillo, Police Officer,
Police Department



Carlos Culmer, Field Tech Trainee,
Utilities Department



Daniel Hamlin, Police Officer,
Police Department



Matthew Johantgen, Code Compliance
Specialist, Office of Solid Waste Department



Mavis Lopez, Police Public Service Specialist,
Police Department



Deon Reese Jr., Water Meter Technician,
Utilities Department



Ashley Taylor, Police Officer,
Police Department



Jeffrey Teepe, Special Events Administrator,
MIDFLORIDA Event Center



Ryan Whiting, Police Officer,
Police Department

Training & Development

Upcoming Training

March 31: The Art of Mindfulness

April 3: Flood Insurance 101

April 4: Nutrition for Mood, Body, and Brain

April 5: Developing Strategic Plan Project Charters

April 6: The Art of Influence

Spotlight

Adapting to Workplace Changes

The Art of Influence, 3 p.m. Thursday, April 6

Negotiation is a key skill in everyday work environments, and there need not always be winners and losers in these negotiations. Leveraging the art of influence is critical to determining your personal negotiating style, understanding when that style will work for or against you and help you to prepare, a crucial phase. This training focuses on strategies to use during negotiation sessions that focus on adding to your influence.

HR Statistics

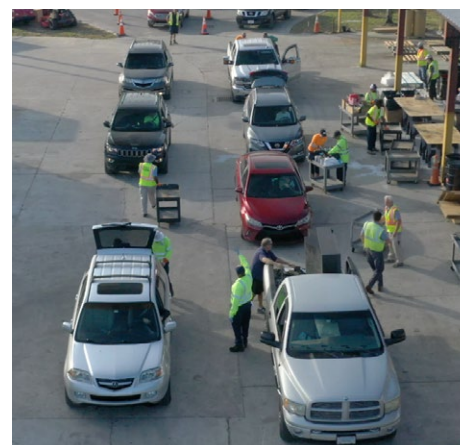
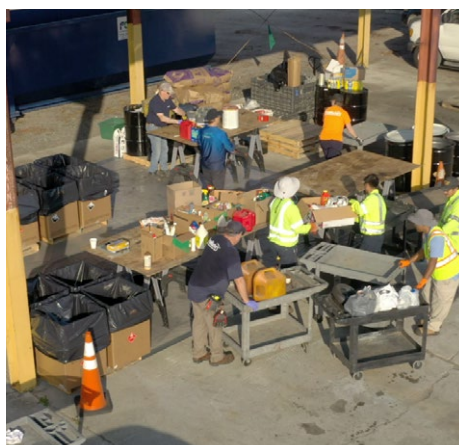
	March 11–24, 2023	YTD
New Hires	18	74
Total Applications Rec'd	259	1,587
Job Requisitions Received	13	62
Jobs posted	41	168
Internal Promotions	0	19
Reclassifications	1	11
Personnel Change Forms Processed	77	400
In Person New Hire Orientation	0	42
Life Scan Participation	0	66
Total Training Sessions	3	35
Total Training Attendees	46	617
Water Cooler Site Visits	3,007	33,325
Employee Benefits Site Visits	286	3,682
PSL Forward Training Site Visits	191	1,989

NEW HIRES

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful



 **Safe, Clean & Beautiful**



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

A total of 19,293 pounds of household hazardous waste was collected from 430 vehicles March 11 during Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

The bi-annual event makes it convenient for residents to dispose of unwanted household chemicals and hazardous waste safely. For proper disposal, the collected material is handed over to experts, free of charge.

Accepted items: ammunition; automotive fluids; batteries (rechargeable & vehicle); bug sprays; computers/electronics; drain cleaners; fluorescent light bulbs/tubes; fuels; herbicides; insecticides; lighter fluid; mercury thermometers; oil-based paint; propane tanks; prescription drugs; solvents/thinners; thermostats; and fats, oils and greases (F.O.G.).

Items not accepted: Biohazard/medical waste; containers larger than 5 gallons; explosives; flares; fireworks; liquid prescription medications; paint (water-based or latex); tires; or sharps.

KPSLB wishes to thank all participants and partners who helped make the event a success: St. Lucie County Solid Waste Baling and Recycling Facility; Port St. Lucie Police Department; Treasure Coast Electronic Recycling; St. Lucie Battery & Tire; Port St. Lucie Utility Systems; Indian River State College Fire Academy; Ferrellgas; WPSL 1590; Lighting Resources, Inc.; Gotto Go Green; Clean Harbors; and Cliff Berry, Inc.

The next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is Saturday, Oct. 21.

For more information, contact KPSLB at 772-871-7000 or email kpslb@cityofpsl.com.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE TOTALS 03-11-23		
ITEM	AMOUNT	Total Pounds
Acids	2 x DM55COPAK	284.00
Bases	4 x DM55COPAK	850.00
Aerosols	4 x DM55COPAK	800.00
Ammunition		14.75
Batteries - Auto	21 @ 32 lbs.	672.00
Batteries - Lawn	10 @ 17 lbs.	170.00
Batteries - Small Lead Acid	31 @ 9 lbs.	279.00
Batteries - power tool, jump boxes & backup units		509.00
E-Waste		3307.00
Fire Extinguishers & Halon	34 (various sizes)	198.25
Flammable - Liquids Bulk	6 x DM55COPAK	2400.00
Flammable - Solids	2 x DM55COPAK	800.00
Fluorescent Bulbs	Various sizes	354.00
Oil - Used	Inc waters 285g @ 8 lbs.	2280.00
Paint - Oil Based	4 x DM55STL	1600.00
Pesticides - Solid/Liquid	9 x DM55COPAK	1800.00
Oxidizers	1 X DM30POLY	50.00
Mercury	1x DM5POLY	5.00
Prescription Drugs		65.05
Propane Tanks - Medium	23	520.00
Propane Tanks - X Small	135	135.00
F.O.G. (Fats, Oils & Greases)		420.00
Solid Waste	.89 tons	1780.00
Total Pounds:		19,293
Vehicles Participating:		430

Upcoming Events

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful invites residents and community members to make a positive impact on neighborhood cleanup by volunteering at the 28th year Caring Community Cleanup Day at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 15. Volunteers will pick up litter at designated locations throughout their City.

How can you spring into action?

Preregistration for participants is strongly suggested. Walk-ups will be welcomed on the morning of the event. Individual volunteers and groups can register online and provide their group's T-shirt sizes. Shirts are provided on the day of the event, while supplies last.

Volunteers will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center, 9221 SE Event Center Place, to pick up their free T-shirts and litter tools and be directed to their designated area.

Enjoy a free breakfast provided by Walmart and root beer or water from Side Door Brewing Company before participating in the initiative.

The cleanup begins at 8:30 a.m.

Volunteers will return between 10 and 11 a.m. for a raffle ticket and a chance to win a prize, interact with exhibitors and receive a free lunch from FCC Environmental Services. Volunteers also have a free lunch, interact with their community and have a chance to win raffle prizes.

Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, the local Coca-Cola bottler, will host a fun and interactive rain barrel workshop and donate rain barrels and conversion kits. Participants will learn how to upcycle Coke Florida's syrup barrel into a rainwater collection system that can be used in your gardens and yards! Following the workshop, volunteers will help paint the rain barrels and have the opportunity to take one home.

Coke Florida will also offer a tasting tent for some of the latest Coca-Cola products.



KEEP PORT ST. LUCIE BEAUTIFUL
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

CARING COMMUNITY CLEANUP

 **April 15, 2023**
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

 **MIDFLORIDA Event Center**
9221 SE Event Center Place

Preregister online or day of the event

Volunteers...

LEAP into our "Culture of Clean" by picking up litter, recycling and beautifying their City.

Volunteers will enjoy a free breakfast, before traveling throughout the City most in need of a cleanup.

After the cleanup, volunteers will enjoy a free lunch, have a chance to win a raffle prize, interact with exhibitors and have fun with the community

www.CityofPSL.com/KPSLB



Volunteers are invited to create art from the litter and items they pick up. The creations will be submitted to Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful. The designs will be displayed at City Hall and/or the MIDFLORIDA Event Center during November for America Recycles Day.

Local schools, businesses, organizations, HOAs and churches are encouraged to participate and conduct a cleanup anytime during April. Businesses and organizations are encouraged to participate as an exhibitor and/or donate a raffle prize to support the volunteers. Photos of their cleanup efforts can be shared on [social media](#) or submitted to kpslb@cityofpsl.com.

This event is open to the public. Volunteers are always needed!

For more information and learn how to become a volunteer, visit www.cityofpsl.com/kpslb.



Event Center Visitors
(as of March 24) 44,784

Upcoming Events

April 1: Everclear with special guest David Cook

April 11: EDC Luncheon

April 15: Caring Community Clean Up Day

April 18: Ambassadors of Swing – Remembering Harry James

April 21: CCW Ultimate Showdown

April 22: PrideFest & after party





Strawberry Festival attracts thousands to Event Center

To celebrate all things berry, the Port St. Lucie Strawberry Festival held its annual event at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center on March 25-26. Thousands packed the Event Center and enjoyed Plant City strawberries, pie-eating contests, berry cute baby contests, kids zone, arts and crafts, face painting, petting zoo and pony rides.



COASTAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING PRESENTS
ANNIVERSARY 19
APRIL 21, 2023 IN PORT ST. LUCIE, FL

CCW's biggest event of the year coming to Port St. Lucie

Be a part of history as Coastal Championship Wrestling (CCW) celebrates its 19th anniversary when its biggest event of the year, The Last Territory, comes to the MIDFLORIDA Event Center at 8 p.m. Friday, April 21.

The Last Territory will partner with "The Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan for Championship Wrestling in Florida.

As first reported by Mike Johnson of PWInsider.com, CCW has announced it has started pre-production in the re-creation of Championship Wrestling from Florida and have appointed Kevin Sullivan to act as Executive Producer and Creative Director.

"Looks like it's going to be an EPIC Anniversary in Port St. Lucie," a fan posted on CCW's Facebook page.

Tickets are available at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). VIP upgrades are available, plus a special meet and greet with WWE Hall of Famer D-Von Dudley.



From the Heart Juried Photography Exhibition opens April 7

From the Heart Juried Photography Exhibition is the 10th annual photography exhibition presented by the Treasure Coast Photography Center and hosted by the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

The 2023 exhibition, opening April 7, benefits Safe Families for Children, a 501(c)(3) organization on the Treasure Coast, whose mission is to serve and surround families in crisis with caring and compassionate volunteers, community members and churches motivated to keep children safe and families intact.

The Treasure Coast Photography Center gives back to the community by using photography and juried art shows to raise money for local charities.

The exhibition is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 7-May 3 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

For more information visit www.tpcinc.org.



Pridefest After Party, featuring Detox

For more information, visit
pridealliancetc.com.



Testimonials

"I just want to say a huge thank you to your team last night when we had an entire table of people show up whose reservations had not come through. Your team handled the night like champions! Please make sure that our thanks get to the right people? They were gracious over every one of our requests and I am grateful."

- Sue Chess, Executive Director, Care Net

"I just wanted to reach out and personally thank you for everything you and your center have done for Care Net! We are so grateful and appreciative of everything! Your team did so many things with Excellence and we had just a beautiful two nights! Again, Thank you so much!"

- LeAnn Muscanera,
Director of Community Events, Care Net

Neighborhood Services



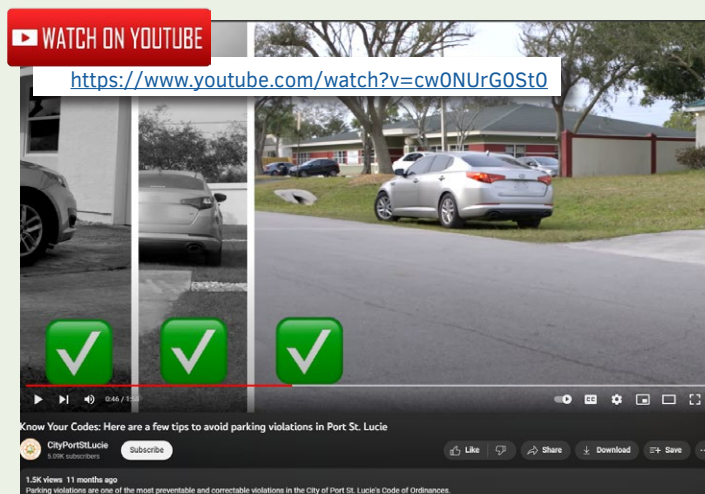
Vibrant Neighborhoods



Safe, Clean & Beautiful

Know your parking codes

Code Compliance has recently seen an uptick in the number of parking violations throughout the City. Residents can watch the Know Your Codes video to learn more about our City's residential parking ordinances.



New pet waste stations installed

The Neighborhood Improvement and Community Engagement (NICE) Program, Public Works Department and Office of Solid Waste recently partnered to install two new pet waste stations at the new Stormwater Treatment Area at Floresta Drive and NW Concord Drive.

The NICE program annually assesses locations where future pet waste stations could be implemented. The NICE Program serves to provide enhancements across all neighborhoods within the City.

For more information, visit www.cityofpsl.com/nice.



South Side - Floresta Drive & Concord Drive



North Side - Floresta Drive & Concord Drive

Office of Management & Budget



High-Performing City Government Organization

Bid Opportunities, Recent Bid Awards

Week ending March 24, 2023

Bid #	Description	Status
20230040	SW Abington Avenue Sidewalk Construction Project	Active Bid Opening: 04/18/23
20220096	Design-Build Police Training Facility – Step Two	Active Bid Opening: 04/18/23
20230041	Traffic Calming at Various Locations in Port St. Lucie	Active Bid Opening: 04/26/23
20230030	CEI & GEO Services for Anthony F. Sansone Sr. Blvd. Extension	Active Bid Opening: 04/20/23
20230032	Design-Build of Public Works Facility – Step One	Active Bid Opening: 04/19/23
20230018	Direct Purchase of Materials for the Hegener Drive/ Paar Drive 24" Water Main Extension.	Awarded to: Ferguson Enterprises, LLC
20220016	Gatlin Boulevard Adaptive Signal Control Project - LAP Funded	Awarded to: Ferreira Construction Southern Division Co., Inc.

For more detailed information about active solicitations and awards, please visit the Procurement Division's website: www.cityofpsl.com/procurement

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.



OMB receives award

March is Procurement Month, and the Procurement Management Division (PMD) was recognized by the Florida Association of Public Procurement Officials, Inc. (FAPPO) as being one of 19 agencies in Florida to receive the Award of Excellence in Public Procurement.

This program is designed to measure innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity and leadership attributes of the procurement function.

PMD has earned held the award since 2004, and as the City grows, PMD also is evolving while maintaining best practices and exceeding benchmarks of the profession.





OMB celebrates Government Finance Professionals Week

Mayor Shannon Martin signed a proclamation March 13 recognizing Government Finance Professionals Week, March 20-24. The Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) sponsors a weeklong series of activities aimed at recognizing government finance professionals and the vital services that they provide to our state and community. OMB joined the Finance Department, and finance professionals across all City departments to celebrate their hard work and dedication to the City.

Fun facts about PSL finance professionals:

- 48 financial professionals are staffed in OMB and Finance.
- Several staff members earned master's degrees in public administration or business administration and maintain various credentials such as: certified public account, certified government finance officer, certified public officer and certified public procurement officer.
- They serve as officers on boards, members of committees and experts in their specific fields of study.
- They volunteer in the community and enjoy meeting City residents.
- They are real-life superheroes helping to make the City brighter.





Port St. Lucie PARKS & RECREATION



 **Culture, Nature & Fun Activities**

 **Vibrant Neighborhoods**



Upcoming Events

Community Center

April 7: Easter Bunny Breakfast

April 12: Special Populations Dance

Special Events

The St. Patrick's Day Festival was successful and, for the first time in many years, the weather was wonderful!

Here comes the Easter Bunny and the final River Nights of the season!

Join us Friday, April 7 for the Easter Bunny Breakfast at the Port St. Lucie Community Center, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The event is for children ages 2-6 and the cost is \$9.50 per child.

Grab your Easter basket and head over to Whispering Pines Park, 800 SW Darwin Blvd., on Saturday, April 8 for the annual Eggstravaganza. Children can hunt for more than 18,000 eggs spread over three baseball fields! There will be golden eggs on all the fields with prizes! This event is free and we start at 9 a.m. sharp!

Announcements/ Administrative

We received a phenomenal compliment about our Parks & Recreation team member Recreation Leader Jessica Pratt, who works in the Recreation unit managed by Parks & Recreation at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

Email from website:

"Hi. I don't know who to contact but I will start with your office. I want to compliment one of your workers and hope you can see that this gets delivered or forwarded for me.

"I attended an event on St Patrick's Day at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center. I live out of state. I lost my iPhone watch that unfortunately was never found, but one of the employees at the Events Center named Jessica went out of her way to help me locate it.

"First of all, she was incredibly polite on the phone and was sensitive to what my call was about. She even went outside and looked for my watch where I told her I had been sitting for the event. She said she would get back to me and she did. I can't say enough about her and don't have her last name but you should be proud to have employees like her representing your city. I hope this can get passed along to her manager. "

Regards, Syracuse, NY





Parks

Major improvements have greatly enhanced the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens!

New elements include:

- A pair of 10-foot-wide rolling chrysanthemum-decorated handmade gates at the main entrance;
- A stunning 8-foot butterfly decorative gate at the beloved butterfly garden;
- A new sidewalk;
- Synthetic turf around the lily pad seating area;
- A 2,000-square-foot concrete pad inside the Secret Garden;
- An 8-foot-tall ornamental picket fence and three ornate gates.

"We're excited to be providing upgrades for our residents to enjoy," said Sherman Conrad, Director, Parks & Recreation. "Botanical Gardens is a beloved space that offers a resource for people seeking a deeper connection with nature to feel inspired and at-one with the natural surroundings."

Beginning April 1, the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens will have new operating hours. The Gardens will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday and closed Mondays.



Recreation

Summer JR Basketball Season kicks off with evaluations Saturday, April 1 at Minsky Gym.

Volleyball Mini Camp begins Monday, April 3 at Minsky Gym.

A new program, Glow Up Pickleball, will take place Saturday, April 15 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

Summer Camp registration begins Saturday, April 1.

An upgraded sound system was installed on the Community Center's multipurpose room.

Fitness

Recreation Supervisor-Fitness and Rock Steady Boxing coach Jill Souza, along with and PWR! coach Jennifer Worley, attended the Parkinson's Foundation seminar at Tradition Town Hall on March 18.

About 20-25 of our Rock Steady Boxing fighters preregistered and attended this session, which included information about additional resources and new treatments in the fight against Parkinson's disease.

The Saints Golf Course

Everyone is having a great time at The Saints!

For everyone's enjoyment, The Saints always maintains a fully stocked Pro Shop with all of the latest in merchandise. Staff will even help guide a guest in choosing the right items that best suit their game. This includes selecting from a complete assortment of golf balls, gloves, bags, shoes, shirts, hats and more.

Golf pros with The Saints also will help guests in selecting appropriate golf clubs by helping to fit them with just the right equipment. This is just another way The Saints provides the best customer service possible.

Come out to The Saints today!

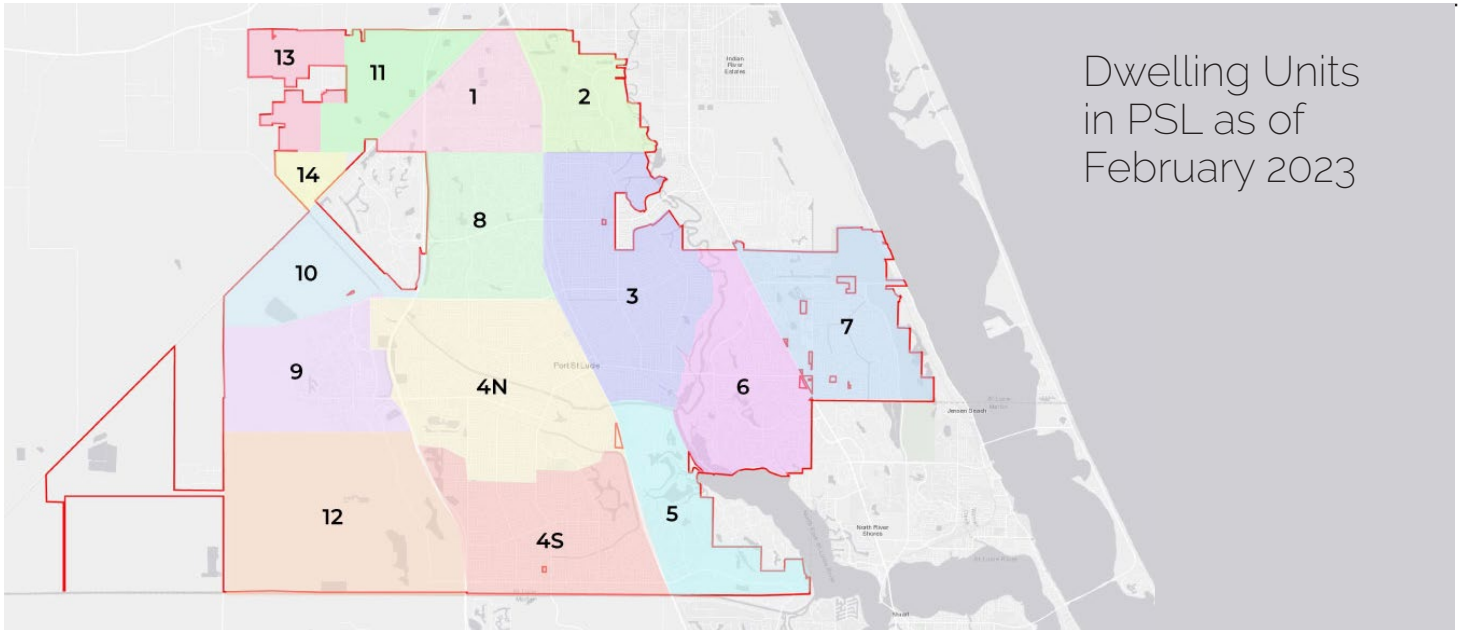
Subscribe to our e-newsletter for a chance to win a free round of golf for your foursome, valued at up to \$150! To learn more, visit <http://www.thesaints.com>.



Planning & Zoning



Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities



PLANNING AREA	BUILT SINGLE FAMILY UNITS	BUILT MULTI-FAMILY UNITS	TOTAL BUILT UNITS	APPROVED UNITS	REMAINING UNITS TO BE BUILT
1	3,889	824	4,698	5,772	1,059
2	3,029	485	3,503	4,062	548
3	17,960	1	17,932	20,210	2,249
4N	17,915	677	18,538	22,404	3,812
4S	12,390	26	12,345	15,296	2,880
5	2,688	12	2,668	3,297	597
6	4,639	1,346	5,984	6,506	522
7	5,929	2,267	8,176	9,532	1,336
8	5,366	1,661	7,027	7,523	496
9	3,964	2,207	7,150	11,092	3,942
10	1,657	295	1,922	7,200	5,278
11	0	0	0	4,000	4,000
12	2,756	138	2,820	22,410	19,590
13	0	0	0	0	-
14	574	0	572	579	7
TOTAL	82,756	9,939	93,335	139,883	46,316

Police Department



 **Safe, Clean & Beautiful**

District 1

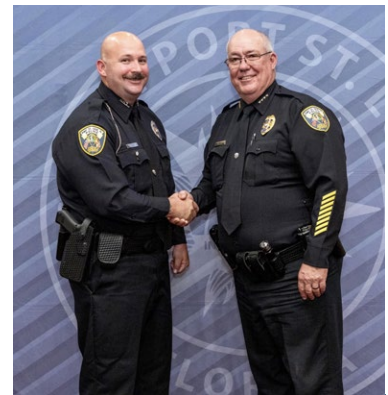
On March 13, Chief Bolduc held a swearing-in ceremony and welcomed our four newest members, Officer Castillo, Officer Hamlin, Officer Taylor and Officer Whiting. Welcome to the PSLPD family and be safe!

It was an exciting afternoon as Chief Bolduc was proud to promote three members of PSLPD! Acting Sergeant John Fazio and Acting Sergeant Supreet Fraga were promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Latent Fingerprint Examiner/Crime Scene Investigator Joel Smith was promoted to Crime Scene Unit Manager. Sgt. Fazio began his career with PSLPD in 2005 and has held the positions of Patrol Officer, Traffic Officer, Motor Officer, K9 Officer, Instructor, Honor Guard, T.H.I., F.T.O., and C.N.T. Sgt. Fraga began her career with PSLPD in 2017 and has held the positions of Patrol Officer, C.I.D. Detective, U.C.I. and F.T.O. Crime Scene Unit Manager Joel Smith began his career with PSLPD in 2002 and has held the positions of Crime Scene Technician, Crime Scene Investigator and Latent Fingerprint Examiner II/ Crime Scene Investigator.

Congratulations and well deserved!



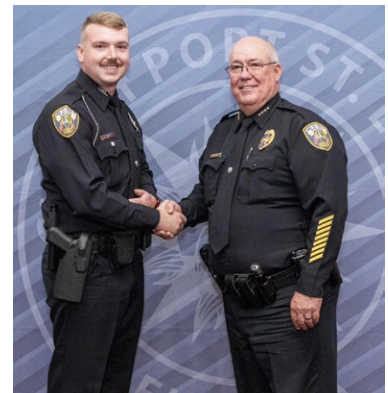
Officer Castillo



Officer Hamlin



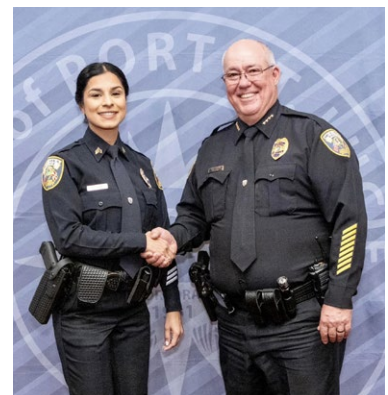
Officer Taylor



Officer Whiting



Sergeant Fazio



Sergeant Supreet Fraga

District 1

"It was the best day ever!" Those are the words our newest junior police officers from Children's Emporium Pre-School used to describe their Spring Break field trip to PSLPD! The children met K9 Ronin, turned on the sirens in a police car, processed their fingerprints and received junior police badges from Chief Bolduc. Their smiles said it all! The children and our Officers had a great time!



On March 18, Officer Penney completed the Field Training Program for new officers and will be on her first solo road patrol shift. Welcome aboard and stay safe!



In honor of Government Finance Professionals Week, PSLPD recognized and thanked the members of its Fiscal Management Section for their hard work and dedication. Abe Alvarez, Brianne Nasso, Melissa D'Agostino, Susan Improta and Nakesha Cuff are vital and essential members of the police department. We truly appreciate you!



District 2

Detective Valentin teamed up with local officials to inform our residents of fraud prevention tips. PSLPD continues to see suspects often call victims with “spoofed” numbers, making it appear they are calling from a local enforcement agency or government entity. The suspects tell the victims they have an outstanding warrant or impersonate a grandchild in a crisis, asking for immediate financial assistance or bail money. BE AWARE, this is always a scam, please immediately hang up. NEVER wire your hard-earned money, send cash, or purchase gift cards for the suspects! Thanks to Michelle R. Miller, St. Lucie Clerk & Comptroller, Michelle Franklin, St. Lucie County Property Appraiser, Glenn Hoffman with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office and Ivonne Suarez with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services for joining PSLPD at this very informative and important consumer fraud prevention seminar hosted by the Rotary Club of Port St Lucie.



District 3

After receiving reports of missing items from the patient's homes, Criminal Investigations Division Detectives began to investigate and identified a 46-year-old female as the suspect responsible for stealing a \$5,000 ring from an 86-year-old patient. The home health worker then pawned the woman's stolen ring for \$450. The suspect was arrested and charged with three felonies, including theft from a person 65 years of age or older, giving false information to a pawnbroker and dealing in stolen property. Detectives continue to investigate the incidents.



District 4

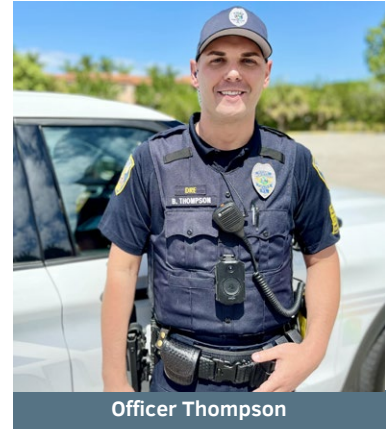
PSLPD had a great time celebrating with our community this weekend at the City of Port St. Lucie's annual St. Patrick's Day Festival. There was live music, authentic food, Irish dancing and a parade led by the motor unit and honor guard.



District Support

Officer Brian Thompson has been selected as the newest member of the Traffic Unit! He is a 13-year veteran of PSLPD and serves as a Traffic Homicide Investigator, Traffic Crash Reconstructionist and Drug Recognition Expert. Congratulations on the new assignment and stay safe!

A PSLPD Traffic Officer observed the driver of a sport bike traveling at a high rate of speed on Port St. Lucie Boulevard and change lanes over 20 times without signaling. The driver thought his concealed license plate would keep him from being identified but Officers finally caught up to him in a parking lot on U.S. 1. The motorcycle was unregistered, and the driver did not have a valid license. The 23-year-old man is now facing criminal charges and was taken to the St. Lucie County Jail. PSLPD will continue to conduct speeding and aggressive driving enforcement to keep our roadways safe.



Officer Thompson

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day event was held March 11. There were 430 vehicles that participated. We appreciate the traffic management support and collection of prescription drugs and ammunition.



Officer Jackson was patrolling McCarty Ranch Preserve when he saw a baby deer in the grass. The deer was wobbling and was unable to walk by itself. Officer Jackson assisted the deer and then called Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation to ensure the deer received the help it needed. Thank you, Officer Jackson, for helping our furry friends.



In Other News

On March 23, the Special Investigations Division and S.I.D. Gang Unit conducted an operation which targeted drug trafficking activity throughout the City. As a result, there were 48 traffic stops resulting in eight narcotics arrests. Detectives seized a 2017 Dodge Charger Hellcat, three handguns, more than 12 pounds of marijuana and more than \$12,000.

Public Works



High-Quality Infrastructure & Facilities



High-Performing City Government Organization

Remember to maintain your swale

The City of Port St. Lucie sees an average of 53 inches of rain per year. A well-maintained swale can help keep stormwater flowing.

It's perfectly normal for water to be in the swale during and after a rain event. Swales are designed to collect stormwater. Please allow seven days without rainfall for the water to recede before submitting a request for service. Swales not only direct stormwater but they also help filter runoff to remove pollutants in our waterways.

Tips for maintaining swales:

- Do not drive over or park in a swale.
- Keep the swale clean of debris such as leaves, overgrown grass and litter.
- Remove obstructions like toys, basketballs, vehicles, lawn furniture or other items that might block the flow of water.
- Mow the swale area, minimize the use of fertilizer and maintain good grass growth.

For more information, visit www.cityofpsl.com/swale.



FAQ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A SWALE LINER?

A plastic swale liner is placed at the bottom of the swale to move stormwater through the system.

WHY DID THE CITY INITIALLY INSTALL SWALE LINERS?

In the 1980s, the City began to install a plastic swale liner to aid in flood prevention in residential areas. It was believed that the liner would move water and help maintain a consistent grade. Research has shown that it actually decreases the flow capacity compared to a typical swale with a flat bottom.

WHAT IS A SWALE?

A swale is designed to collect storm water and deliver the runoff to canals and waterways prior to discharging to the river.

WILL THE CITY STILL INSTALL SWALES?

Yes, the City will continue to install and repair residential swales throughout the City, but going forward they will not include the plastic liners.

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO MAINTAIN SWALES?

It is the responsibility of property owners to maintain that portion of the street/road right-of-way from the edge of the pavement to the owner's property line. Learn more at Maintenance of Right-of-Way Code Ordinance Sec. 41.08. Until the swale re-work program has been presented to council, the City will continue the enhanced swale liner clearing.

Announcements

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

Distracted driving continues to be a deadly problem on our roadways. According to the Department of Transportation, texting behind the wheel is at the top of the list for distractions. Other distractions include talking on the phone, other vehicle occupants, setting your navigations, adjusting your music, drinking and eating, applying makeup and more.

When you are driving distracted, you risk those extra seconds needed to avoid accidents and deadly crashes. Take action today to save your life and the lives of others. Remind friends and family: If you're in the driver's seat, it's the only thing you should be doing. No distractions. If your driver is texting or is distracted, tell them to stop and focus on the road.

Join the pledge in not driving distracted. You could save a life.

For more information, visit nhtsa.gov.

National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week is April 17-21. While construction occurs throughout the City of Port St. Lucie, this is a great reminder to slow down in the construction zones. For your and your passengers safety, the workers and residents living on the improvement projects.

Roadway Resurfacing Projects

www.cityofpsl.com/repaving

The Capital Improvement resurfacing goal for FY 22/23 is 30.30 miles with 14.69 miles completed to date.

Bayshore Heights: Completed Jan. 13.

Gatlin Pines (South): Completed Jan. 25.

Gatlin Pines (Mid): Completed Feb. 9.

Northport Village (Floresta): Completed Feb. 21.

Rosser Reserve: Completed Feb. 24.

Hidden Oaks (West): Completed March 6.

Sidewalk Projects

www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks

Hillmoor sidewalk project: The City recently completed the Hillmoor Sidewalk Project from SE Tiffany Avenue to west of Grand Drive. The new sidewalk provides access from St. Lucie Medical Center and other businesses along Hillmoor Drive to the Woodstork Trail. Woodstork Trail has an existing sidewalk to fitness stations and observation/fishing decks. The project was overseen by David Epperson, Project Coordinator CIP and Sales Tax Projects. The contractor was Southern Underground.



Utility Systems



High-Quality Infrastructure & Facilities



High-Performing City Government Organization

420 pounds of fats, oil, and grease diverted

Utility Systems Pretreatment Coordinator Kevin Palmer collected 420 pounds of used cooking oil at Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on March 11.

Kevin first partnered with KPSLB at a collection held in 2020, and since then, 1,750 pounds of used cooking oil has been collected and kept from entering the sewer system.

Keeping household fats, oil and grease (FOG) out of the kitchen sink helps to protect the integrity of the City's vast sewer system, which includes more than 1,200 miles of sewer main. When FOG enters pipes, it cools and forms blockages, which prevents wastewater from flowing efficiently. It builds up over time and collects other flushed debris. The clogs create backups and damage infrastructure, and ultimately, wastewater cannot be properly processed and treated to make reclaimed water, which is used for irrigation.

Residents can still help protect the City's sewer system and the environment year round by properly disposing of household FOG. Wait for it to cool and then scrape it out of the pan and into the trash or pour it into a can or container to store it for future use. If it's not used, drop it off at the collection site at the St. Lucie Solid Waste Bailing and Recycling Facility. These simple changes can make a huge impact.



'Drop-Savers' Poster Contest winners announced

The City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems, in conjunction with Florida Section American Water Works Association (FSAWWA), invited St. Lucie County school students in grades K-12 to create a poster depicting a water conservation idea in the "Drop Savers" Poster Contest.

The contest teaches elementary-aged school children, and reminds middle and high school-aged teens, about the importance of water conservation. One of the best opportunities to conserve water is through a long-range education and awareness program.

In addition to creating posters, Utility Outreach Assistant Manager Jenny Tomes, aka "Water Woman," was invited to speak to classes about the importance of water conservation and help inspire ideas for their poster entries. Nine schools and homeschool groups in St. Lucie County submitted 340 poster entries, including Creative Arts Academy of St. Lucie (CAST), Dan McCarty Middle School, Ivy League Academy, Manatee Academy K-8, Northport K-8, Oak Hammock K-8, Palm Pointe Educational Research School and Sun Grove Montessori. City of Port St. Lucie employees judged the posters on their message, creativity and originality. A winner was chosen from each participating grade level.

Each winner will receive a \$25 Walmart gift card and a T-shirt with their poster printed on it, plus lots of other prizes. The winning posters have been submitted to the statewide "Drop-Savers" Poster Contest.

Honorable mentions:

Kindergarten: Khaleesi Mercedes, Oak Hammock K-8

First grade: Evelina Torres, Homeschool

Second grade: Marianna Loughlin, Northport K-8

Seventh grade: Ameeliah Bennett, Palm Pointe

Seventh grade: Brooklyn Panckeri, Palm Pointe

Eighth grade: Breanna Weiser, Palm Pointe

2023 winners:



Pre-K: Joshua McLeish, Homeschool



Kindergarten: Max Strum, Oak Hammock K-8



First grade: Timothy Kitchens, Ivy League Academy



Second grade: Gavin Morley, Homeschool



Third grade: Gianna Grasso, Creative Arts Academy of St. Lucie (CAST)



Fourth grade: Mia Hurtado, Ivy League Academy



Fifth grade: Ema Arreaga,
Manatee Academy



Sixth grade: Jaylani Neille,
Dan McCarty Middle School



Seventh grade: Max Juillen,
Palm Pointe



Eighth grade: Nathan Webb,
Palm Pointe

Feature Story



Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities



Port St. Lucie welcomes innovative human milk processing company

LactaLogics, a mission-driven company dedicated to bringing more human milk to babies, is opening its headquarters and processing facility in Port St. Lucie.

“Although breast milk is vital to the health of premature infants, most rely on cow’s milk-based formula for nutrition due to the lack of access to human milk. To address this need, LactaLogics plans to collect excess milk from qualified donor moms across the United States and then gently process the milk to meet the unique needs of premature infants,” said LactaLogics co-founder Chelly Snow.

“The goal is to make more human milk available to hospital NICUs (neonatal intensive care units) and parents across the country. Families will finally have better access to human milk-based products, helping to improve the health of newborns while supporting moms who struggle with breastfeeding,” Snow said.

With multiple patents filed, the company has tested and refined its systems and will build its facility at the former Liberty Medical building at 8883 S. Federal Highway. Significant capital and equipment investments, extensive renovations and upgrades are planned for the 60,000-square-foot building. The company plans to hire an additional 60 full-time workers at 107% of St. Lucie County’s average wage.

“Port St. Lucie is the ideal home for us because it offers critical infrastructure and a desired workforce,” said Snow. “We’re excited to build a high-tech manufacturing facility, bringing more jobs to the Treasure Coast.”

“It’s an excellent project. It’s definitely something that is very different than we are used to seeing. It’s going to serve a great need,

not only in our community but probably around the entire country,” said Port St. Lucie Mayor Shannon Martin during the March 27 City Council meeting. “It’s very exciting to see development happening on the east side. I think, coupled with what’s going to come forward with our master plan with City Center, it’s going to really boost the entire area.”

“We always talk about local businesses and local citizens having the opportunity to bring their business to Port St. Lucie. The owners of LactaLogics are residents of Councilwoman Morgan’s district,” said Port St. Lucie Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo. “It’s wonderful to know we are going to have a new business utilizing an old space that’s needed to be filled for a while, providing jobs and, more importantly, economic impact to the eastern side of the city.”

“The Economic Development Council has been working with LactaLogics, as Project Gala, for more than a year and we are proud to have the headquarters and processing facilities for a company with such a compelling mission located here in Port St. Lucie,” said Pete Tesch, president of the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County. “The opening of LactaLogics also adds to our community’s growing life sciences sector, joining Cleveland Clinic’s Florida Research and Innovation Center and Florida International University’s Center for Translational Science.”

The incentive package for LactaLogics will include expedited site plan and permitting; ad valorem tax exemptions for tangible personal property only at 100% for the first five years, then at 90%, 80%, 60%, 40% and 20% for the next five years; mobility and impact fee mitigation and an opportunity for a Job Growth Investment Grant.