

CITY MANAGER'S

BI-WEEKLY REPORT

JANUARY 31, 2020 | VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 2



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



www.cityofpsl.com



772-871-5225



121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd.

CITY OFFICIALS

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

MAYOR



Gregory J. Oravec
Mayor
Mayor@CityofPSL.com

VICE MAYOR



Shannon M. Martin
Vice Mayor/District 3 Councilmember
Shannon.Martin@CityofPSL.com

DISTRICT 1



Stephanie Morgan
District 1 Councilmember
Stephanie.Morgan@CityofPSL.com

DISTRICT 2



John Carvelli
District 2 Councilmember
John.Carvelli@CityofPSL.com

DISTRICT 4



Jolien Caraballo
District 4 Councilmember
Jolien.Caraballo@CityofPSL.com

CITY MANAGER



Russ Blackburn
City Manager
RBlackburn@CityofPSL.com





SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Receive regular updates of the City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report by visiting: cityofpsl.com/biweekly

ON THE COVER
Westmoreland Riverfront Park
Playground Design Public Info Workshop



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HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK



WESTMORELAND RIVERFRONT PARK PLAYGROUND DESIGN PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP

The City of Port St. Lucie hosted a WOW Playground Design Workshop on Wednesday, January 29 at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens. A WOW playground is planned for the existing Westmoreland Middle Tract park site, to complement other future uses like the Riverwalk boardwalk, proposed riverfront restaurant, historic homes, botanical gardens and adjacent conservation area. At the workshop, presentations were made by the City's playground design consultant, LandscapeDE, and included information on numerous WOW playground ideas from around the world! Additional information was provided by an inclusivity consultant to ensure design thoughts were geared for all to enjoy. With over 50 people in attendance, the design process is well underway and additional concepts and feedback will be sought at the upcoming River Nights event on February 13 and at the 2020 Citizen Summit on February 29.

For more information about the Riverwalk Boardwalk Project, visit: www.cityofpsl.com/riverwalk.

WE NEED YOU TO COME OUT AND PLAY

WESTMORELAND RIVERFRONT PARK PLAYGROUND DESIGN PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020
6:30 P.M. TO 8 P.M.
PSL BOTANICAL GARDENS
2410 SE WESTMORELAND BLVD.**

IMAGINE, DESIGN, PLAY!

The City of Port St. Lucie needs your help in creating a destination playground for everyone to enjoy. Spark your imagination and let your inner child, or your actual child, design the ultimate playground that is going to WOW!

CONTRIBUTE YOUR IDEAS FOR AN ICONIC PLAYGROUND DESIGN

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.CITYOFPSL.COM/RIVERWALK**

CROSSTOWN

CROSSTOWN PARKWAY EXTENSION *City of Port St. Lucie*

AS OF JANUARY 31, 2020

- The bridge and roadway are open to traffic from Manth to U.S. 1. Lane closures are anticipated throughout the project for construction activities and deficiency list items.
- The contractor started responding to damage claims and will continue to work to close out opened damage claim requests.
- Pending Project Items:
 - » Sod installation under the bridge at Coral Reef and in various areas throughout the project.
 - » Final thermo left on Coral Reef, Manth and turn lanes at Floresta.
 - » Construction of the plaza under the bridge including decorative features.
 - » Sign installation and corrections throughout the project.
 - » Landscaping and mulching ongoing.
 - » Corrections and deficiency items.
 - » Fence installation continues.
 - » Trellis installation ongoing.
 - » Benches and trash cans to be installed.
- A final inspection will take place prior to project acceptance. The contractor continues to complete activities and corrections throughout the corridor.

Updates under the bridge



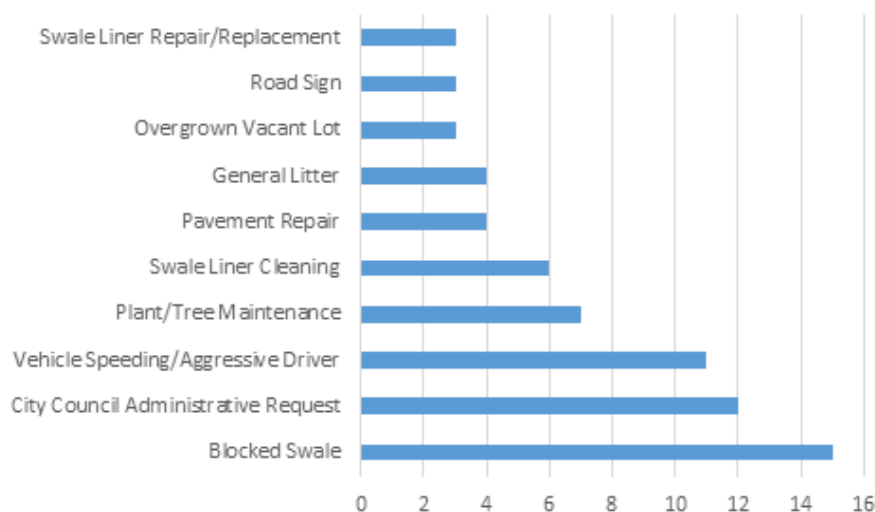
1PSL SYSTEM

WHAT IS 1PSL?

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

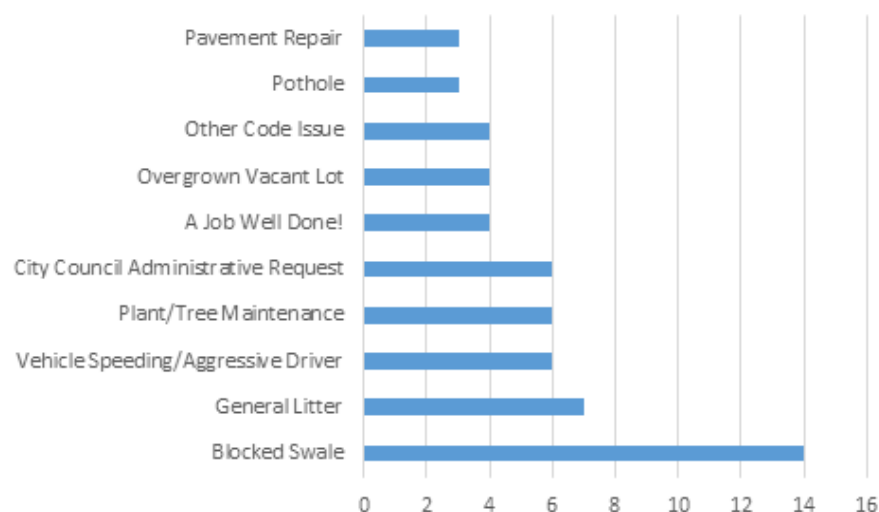


TOP 10 REQUESTS: 1/13/20 TO 1/19/20



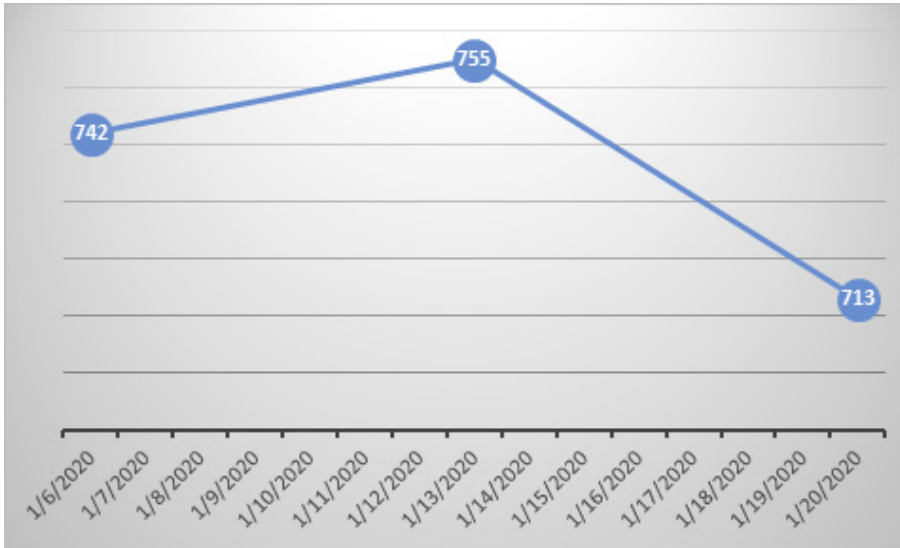
Request Type	Total
Blocked Swale	15
City Council Administrative Request	12
Vehicle Speeding/Aggressive Driver	11
Plant/Tree Maintenance	7
Swale Liner Cleaning	6
Pavement Repair	4
General Litter	4
Overgrown Vacant Lot	3
Road Sign	3
Swale Liner Repair/Replacement	3

TOP 10 REQUESTS: 1/20/20 TO 1/26/20



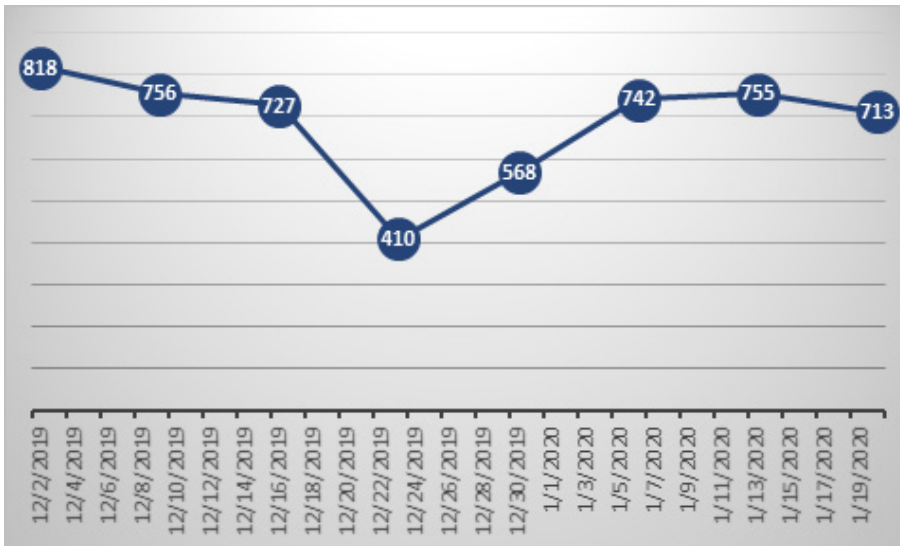
Request Type	Total
Blocked Swale	14
General Litter	7
Vehicle Speeding/Aggressive Driver	6
Plant/Tree Maintenance	6
City Council Administrative Request	6
A Job Well Done!	4
Overgrown Vacant Lot	4
Other Code Issue	4
Pothole	3
Pavement Repair	3

NUMBER OF CALLS PER WEEK SINCE 1/6/20



Date	Calls
1/6/2020	742
1/13/2020	755
1/20/2020	713

NUMBER OF CALLS: 10/7/19 TO 1/6/20



12/2/2019	818
12/9/2019	756
12/16/2019	727
12/23/2019	410
12/30/2019	568
1/6/2020	742
1/13/2020	755
1/20/2020	713



BUILDING DEPARTMENT

It starts with a good foundation.



Ardie R. Copas Veterans' Nursing Home

Located in Tradition, the new 120-bed state veterans' home began construction in the summer of 2018 with an estimated completion date of 20 to 24 months. The closest existing State veterans' homes are more than two hours away.



HIGHLIGHTS

- The Electrical Contractor Stakeholder meeting is February 3 at 3 p.m.
- The drive-thru hours, beginning Monday, January 27, will be 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. This expanded service was initiated at the request of our stakeholders.
- A new Routing Optimization program was rolled out to assist inspectors with efficient routing of their daily workload. This new feature will increase efficiency and help inspectors navigate through traffic issues.
- The Building Department has begun a training relationship with Washington, DC, by sharing best practices and initiatives.



Ardie R. Copas Veterans' Nursing Home

Once completed, officials estimate that the facility will employ 190 people annually. The 75-mile service area for the Treasure Coast currently houses an estimated 279,971 veterans; 118,617 of whom are over age 65.



RECENT STATISTICS

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY	1/10-1/13	2020	2019	2018	2017
Permits Issued	1,716	2,661	41,504	39,899	32,020
Single-Family Permits	114	201	2,722	2,200	1,518
Certificates of Occupancy (SFR)	111	181	2,711	1,824	1,382
Inspections	5,197	8,789	137,302	115,073	84,510
Plans Reviewed	562	851	13,978	13,559	10,352
Online Permits	711	1,105	18,395	13,421	8,346

COMMERCIAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY "CO"

PDQ – Restaurant – 10630 SW Tradition Pkwy.

Tamco – City Electric – 11675 SW Tom Mackie Blvd.

COMMERCIAL PERMITS

St. Lucie Medical – IV Prep Area Demo and Renovation – 1800 SE Tiffany Ave.

Aquabuddies – Gatlin Commons – Interior Remodel – 2755 SW Buckhart St. Bay 22

McDonald's – Interior Remodel – 1740 SW Gatlin Blvd.

Regency Center – Interior Remodel – 790 SW St. Lucie West Blvd.

MIDFLORIDA CREDIT UNION EVENT CENTER

PORT ST. LUCIE FLORIDA



MIDFLORIDA CREDIT UNION LAUNCHES NAMING RIGHTS AT CIVIC CENTER: VENUE RENAMED MIDFLORIDA CREDIT UNION EVENT CENTER

PORT ST. LUCIE, FL – After finalizing a naming rights agreement for the Port St. Lucie Civic Center with MIDFLORIDA Credit Union in December 2019, the City of Port St. Lucie and MIDFLORIDA are launching an initiative that will bring increased visibility and regional recognition to the City, the venue and the credit union. The new name is MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Event Center.

Under the terms of the agreement, MIDFLORIDA will pay the City of Port St. Lucie \$195,000 annually for five years for the naming rights, with an option for a five-year renewal. The City will retain ownership and operation of the Center, with plans to continue expanding the venue's special event, convention and entertainment business.

“Port St. Lucie is a city on the rise, and the same thing can be said about MIDFLORIDA as a financial institution. We are incredibly proud and excited to be partnering on the MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Event Center, and we should expect our brands and our community to reap many rewards. For the City, being able to make one of our central gathering places even more special while simultaneously making it more financially self-sufficient is something to celebrate.”

- Port St. Lucie Mayor Gregory J. Oravec

Steve Moseley, President of MIDFLORIDA Credit Union, agrees: “Our partnership with Port St. Lucie in building a powerful brand for this high-profile event center signifies MIDFLORIDA’s commitment to the region. As a community-oriented credit union, we believe in giving back to the areas we serve.”

Signage featuring the new name will be located above the main entrance to the MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Event Center, on the parking garage facing U.S. 1, and in the main lobby/art gallery and ballroom entrance areas. It will also be placed atop the Village Square concert stage, where the new “We Love Lucie Concert Series” is set to debut with Styx on February 1. MIDFLORIDA is also a sponsor of the series.

Linda McCarthy, the Center’s Director, notes that MIDFLORIDA’s immediate reach and recognition will help the Center grow audiences from both within and outside the area more rapidly. “This rebranding will enable us to market more effectively, bring in new audiences, and establish our venue as a regional event destination,” she says.

Mayor Oravec noted that the timing of the expanded regional outreach through rebranding couldn’t be better: “With the recent completion of the new bridge on Crosstown Parkway, accessibility to the Center from Interstate 95 and points west is more convenient than ever.”

ABOUT MIDFLORIDA CREDIT UNION

MIDFLORIDA Credit Union, a state-chartered financial institution headquartered in Lakeland, FL, is open for membership to anyone who lives, works, or attends school within its Central Florida service area, which spans from coast to coast. MIDFLORIDA is the fifth largest credit union in Florida and has 65 branches in the state, including four on the Treasure Coast: St. Lucie West, Gatlin Boulevard, River Park and Vero Beach, with construction of a fifth location in Stuart underway. The company has more than 1,100 employees, assets over \$4.4 billion, and serves more than 364,000 members.

ABOUT THE EVENT CENTER

The MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Event Center is the Treasure Coast’s premier concert, convention, special event and trade show venue. The 100,000 sq. ft. facility features expansive ballroom and recreation space, an outdoor plaza, festival grounds with a permanent stage, and an 800-space covered parking garage. The Center, which opened in 2008, today plays host to hundreds of events each year, including concerts, special events, conventions, banquets, meetings, expos, trade shows, fundraisers, festivals, sporting events and more. It features full catering and concession services, audio visual services, box office services, and production capabilities.

For more information, visit midfloridaeventcenter.com, email info@midfloridaeventcenter.com, or call 772-807-4488.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Telling PSL's story and engaging with the community.



CITY'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Communications Department designed and worked with every department in creating a comprehensive look back at the year 2019 and the City's accomplishments. To read The City Manager's Annual Report: A Year in Review online, visit: www.cityofpsl.com/annualreport.

WOMEN IN DESIGN SEMINAR

The American Advertising Federation (AAF) of the Treasure Coast invited Communications staff, Alyssa Taylor, Nicole Hricik, and Patricia D'Abate, to the Women in Design Seminar at Indian River State College on Wednesday, January 22. A total of eight talented women shared their experience in the fields of design, marketing and advertising to IRSC students.

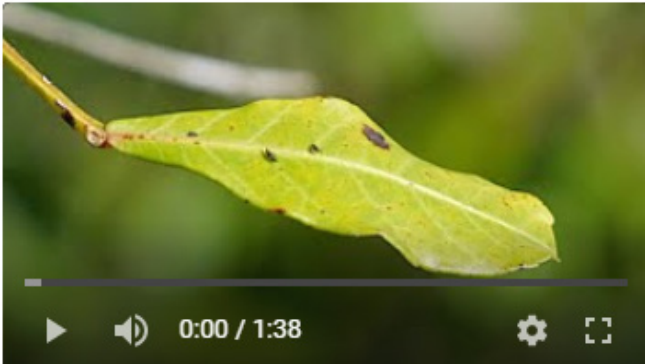


PRESS RELEASES & GOOD NEWS

- 1/21: [Port St. Lucie is ranked #1 safest large city in Florida:](#)
This guide to the safest and most dangerous cities in Florida analyzes crime data in the context of the larger societal and economic cost of crime.
- 1/21: [PSL to receive grant from the National Endowment for the Arts](#) (see page #28)
- 1/24: [MIDFLORIDA Credit Union launches naming rights at Civic Center](#) (see page #10)



VIDEOS

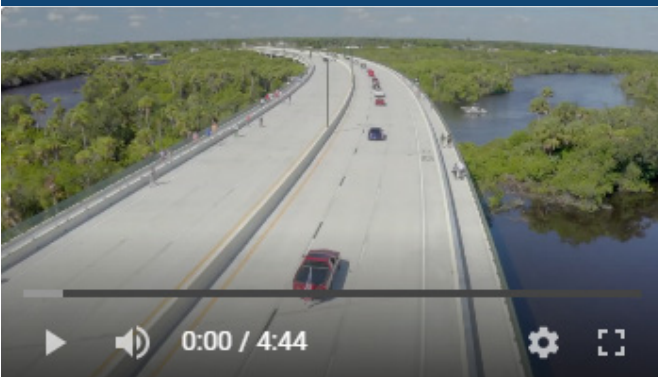


[Researchers use insects to fight Brazilian Peppers at McCarty Ranch](#): Learn more about how the City is partnering with others and working to protect our native environment from invasive plants.



[PSL Single Sign-On Getting Started Guide](#): The City launched a new and easy way to apply for house and pool permits right from your computer.

★ AWARDS UPDATE ★



The City recently won the **2020 Silver Zedman Award** in the Local/Community category for the [Crosstown Grand Opening Video](#).

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED



PSL TV

PSL TV is available on Comcast (Channel 20) and AT&T UVerse (Channel 99) featuring City news, live coverage and rebroadcasts of public meetings, events, and more.

Livestream PSL TV: www.cityofpsl.com/tv.

SOCIAL MEDIA



CityofPSL



CityPortStLucie



City of Port St. Lucie



CityofPSL



CityofPSL



CityPortStLucie

THE AGENDA SHOW

The City's show, called 'The Agenda', is where residents can stay informed about upcoming events, hot topics and happenings in the City. The show features four sections: A Look Ahead, For Your Information, In Case You Missed It, and Mark Your Calendar. This show airs each month in effort to promote and support the City's strategic goals.

CITYOFPSL.COM

In surveys asking residents' best method for getting City information, the City website has been the top answer.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION



CITY RECEIVES FEMA FUNDING

The City's Division of Emergency Management coordinated with departments to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding in late 2018 to install an underground fiber optic line which would provide uninterrupted communication between public safety partners during emergencies. We are pleased to announce that FEMA concurred with the State's approval of the fiber optic communications infrastructure project and awarded the total requested project cost of \$1,437,935.00 to the City of Port St. Lucie.

The City relies on its communication systems to manage emergency response meant to reduce loss of life and property. Above-ground communication systems pose risks to the population at large. The fiber installation would strengthen the City's communication systems and agency coordination County-wide.

Agencies/facilities to be inter-connected:

- City of Port St. Lucie:
 - » Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 - » Police Department
 - » JEA Utility Water Treatment Plant
- St. Lucie County:
 - » EOC & 911 Dispatch Center
 - » Fire District Headquarters (Milner Dr.)
 - » Sheriff's Office (Midway Rd.)

HMGP grants are structured as reimbursement, cost-share grants, with a 75/25 match (75% Federally funded; 25% locally funded). The City will be responsible to fund the cost of the fiber optic communications project and will be **reimbursed the Federal share of \$1,078,451.25.**

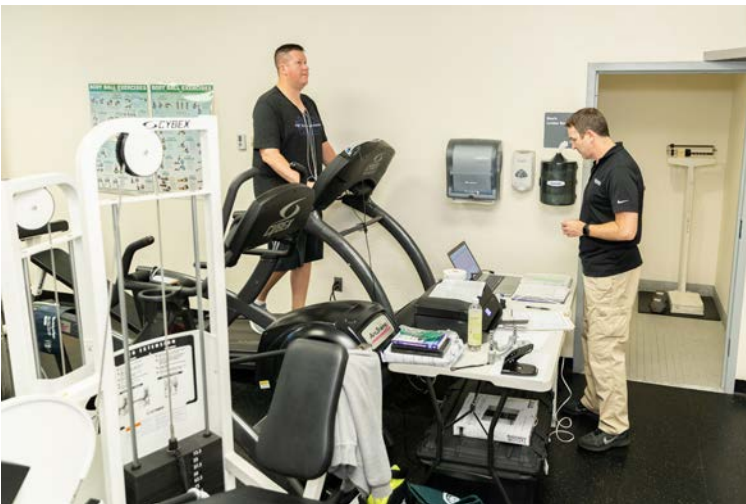
- Project Cost: \$1,437,935.00
- Federal Share: \$1,078,451.25
- Non-Federal Share: \$359,483.75

The State is in the process of developing and preparing the grant contract for the City's review and approval. Once received, staff will work to execute accordingly. As with many grants which the City is awarded, quarterly reports to the State will include reimbursement requests for work completed throughout each quarter. Initial work (contracting, permitting, etc.) can begin following execution of the contract; with full installation completed by March 2023.



HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Recruiting, training, motivating and retaining a qualified and diverse workforce.



LIFE SCAN UPDATE

Life Scan provides prevention wellness physicals that focus on early detection and prevention.

Life Scan has been on-site at the Port St. Lucie Police Department from January 20 through January 31 and has conducted 90 comprehensive health evaluations. Additional sessions are scheduled for March and June.

Life Scan has been well received by our sworn personnel and recognized as a value-added benefit.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Preserving & revitalizing neighborhoods, helping residents access services and programs.



CODE COMPLIANCE INTRODUCES COMMERCIAL LITTER REDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM

The Code Compliance Division is working with local businesses on a pilot project to keep parking lots and plazas within our City litter-free. The partnership includes a team of concerned parties including: Keep PSL Beautiful, PSL Chamber of Commerce, FirstService Residential (St. Lucie West Commercial Association) and People Serious about Litter. Port St. Lucie urges residents not to litter and to help do their part by removing litter wherever and whenever they see it in an effort to keep our City beautiful.



NSD & COSA WORKING TOGETHER

Neighborhood Services celebrated another year with the Council of Social Agencies (COSA) of St. Lucie County and attended their annual meeting. We are proud to celebrate a wonderful community organization like COSA. Also, we would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Stephanie Meyers for all her years of work and dedication. The mission of the organization is to educate and promote communication, collaboration and cooperation among member agencies and individuals for the enhancement of health and human services in the community. Remember - "It Takes a Village!"



CODE COMPLIANCE IS KEEPING OUR CITY SAFE, CLEAN, & BEAUTIFUL

The Code Compliance Division was able to cut the grass and remove open storage of a hot tub on a blighted property that was negatively affecting the neighborhood. By bringing the violations into compliance, Code Compliance was able to help improve property values and eliminate public safety concerns.



NSD PARTICIPATES IN JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Carmen Capezzuto, Neighborhood Services Department Director, has volunteered to teach career advancement skills to students at Somerset Academy as a part of the Junior Achievement Program. Over the course of six weeks, students will learn entrepreneurship, financial literacy skills, and a multitude of career options available to them in local government and in the private sector.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

To strengthen our community by offering exceptional leisure, cultural and innovative recreational opportunities.



Community Center
772-878-2277

Civic Center - Recreation
772-807-4499

Robert E. Minsky Gym
772-344-4142

The Saints Golf Course
772-398-2901



MCCARTY RANCH PRESERVE
RV & TENT SITES NOW AVAILABLE!

RESERVE ONLINE TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS

District 3

- Junior Basketball Playoff Games, Saturday, February 1, Minsky Gym and School Site
- Junior Basketball Playoff Games, Thursday, February 6, Minsky Gym
- Junior Basketball Practices, Mondays - Fridays, Minsky Gym
- Junior Basketball Practices, Tuesdays - Wednesdays, School Sites
- Junior Basketball Championship Games, Saturday, February 8, Minsky Gym
- Saints Men's League, Wednesday, continues to grow 80+ golfers
- Wilson Demo Day, Saturday, February 15, Saints Golf Course
- Wilson Series 2nd Tournament, Sunday, February 16, Saints Golf Course
- Pizza Jam Youth, Friday, February 21, Minsky Gym
- Garage Sale, Saturday, February 22, Minsky Gym

District 4

- City of Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation Bonfire & Hayride, Saturday, February 1, McCarty Ranch Preserve.
- City of Port St. Lucie Neighborhood Services, VITA Tax Preparation, Monday, February 3, Community Center
- City of Port St. Lucie Neighborhood Services, VITA Tax Preparation, Tuesday, February 4, Community Center
- Junior Basketball Playoff Games, Tuesday, February 4, MIDFLORIDA Event Center
- Junior Basketball Practices, Civic Center, Mondays - Fridays
- Pretty Princess Tea Party, Wednesday, February 5, Community Center
- City of Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation Daddy Daughter Dance, Friday, February 7, Community Center
- Junior Basketball Championship Games, Saturday, February 8, MIDFLORIDA Event Center
- City of Port St. Lucie Neighborhood Services VITA Tax preparation, Monday February 10, Community Center
- City of Port St. Lucie Neighborhood Services VITA Tax preparation, Tuesday, February 11, Community Center
- City of Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation Valentines Special Needs Dance, Wednesday, February 12,
- City of Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation River Nights, Thursday, February 13, Botanical Gardens/Westmoreland Property
- City of Port St. Lucie Neighborhood Services VITA Tax preparation, Tuesday, February 18, Community Center
- One Stop Shop Sale, Sunday, February 23, MIDFLORIDA Event Center



Leisure Time is a free bi-annual catalog of events, programs and classes that can be found at any of the City's facilities or online:
www.pslparks.com/leisuretime.

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

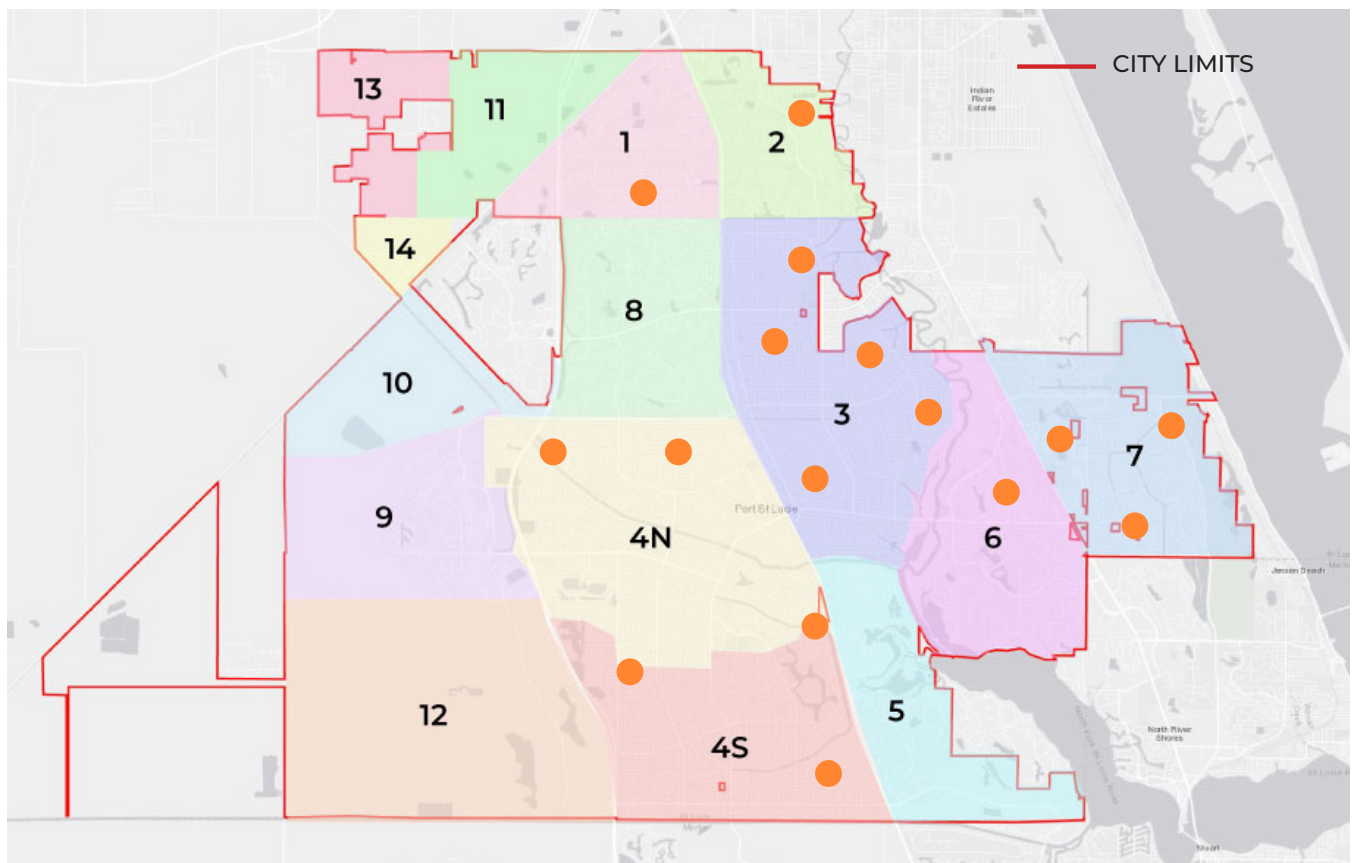
Encouraging quality community development.

PLANNING & ZONING PROJECTS

- P20-002 Popeyes (US Highway 1) – Site Plan for a 1,930 square foot drive-through restaurant.
- P20-003 Harolena Persad Industrial – Site Plan for a 8,043 square foot industrial building.
- P20-004 Baron Shoppes @ Tradition – Site Plan for 13,643 square feet of retail and office.
- P20-005 Veranda Estates – Preliminary Subdivision Plat for 234 single family residential lots.
- P20-011 Toscana Site Plan – Site Plan for 252 multi-family dwelling units.



The Planning & Zoning and Communications Departments are working together on outreach materials to promote the United States 2020 Census to low response areas within the City of Port St. Lucie. The orange dots on the Planning Areas Map below depict the locations of low response areas in the last census.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

To protect and serve with courage, knowledge and integrity.



DISTRICT 1

- Special Investigation Division Detectives concluded a months-long gambling investigation and secured a search warrant for a residence located on SW Monterrey Lane. S.I.D. Detectives executed the search warrant on the home. Detectives recovered \$37,827 in cash and seized the suspect's 2010 Jeep Wrangler, which will be subject to forfeiture proceedings. He was charged with Felony Promoting or Conducting a Lottery, Misdemeanor Possession of Gambling Paraphernalia, and taken to the St. Lucie County Jail. St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office was notified of a gambling house on North 13th Street in conjunction with the suspect on SW Monterrey Road, and arrested the operator of the house and seized approximately \$9,000 from his person.
- On Monday, January 20, 2020, at around 4:12 p.m., Police investigated the location of NW Cove Circle for reports of an elderly female who had been pushed to the ground while the suspect attempted and successfully snatched a black crotchet 'crossbody' bag she had hanging across her body. The victim had 'peanuts' inside of the bag; to feed squirrels. Police learned as the victim walked across the parking lot, an older model gold/tan colored SUV occupied by two males wearing ski-masks stopped the SUV next to the victim. The passenger exited the SUV, approached the victim, and began pulling on the victim's bag, demanding it, saying, "give me the damn bag," which eventually caused the victim to fall to the ground. Once the suspect got a hold of the bag, he got back into the SUV, and both the driver and passenger fled the area. The bag did not have any of the victim's personal belongings, just peanuts! The victim called the police by using her cell phone. The victim was transported to a local hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

DISTRICT 3

On January 19, 2020, at around 3:31 p.m., Police went to the 1800 block of Hickock Terrace for reports of a male victim who had been shot. Police learned the victim was inside of his home when two unknown male suspects entered the house through the unlocked rear slider and began ransacking the house. The two male suspects demanded money from the victim, at which point a physical fight ensued between the victim and one suspect. The subject brandished a handgun and fired three rounds, striking the victim on his left arm and back. The victim ran toward the rear of the home while the suspects fled in an unknown direction with the victim's \$200 and 100 grams of "shrooms" (urban psychedelic mushroom). The victim called 9-1-1 and was air-lifted to a nearby hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. No other persons were inside the home at the time of the incident. The US Marshal's Task Force located one suspect and arrested him for Home Invasion Robbery and Attempted Felony Murder. This case is actively being investigated by detectives to find the second suspect who has active warrants for Home Invasion Robbery with Firearm, Attempted Felony Murder and Burglary of a Dwelling while Armed.

Not sure what Council District you live in?
Find out here: cityofpsl.com/districts.

TIP A COP

Jan. 31, 2020
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

To support
Special Olympics Florida

Contact Port St. Lucie Police Sgt. Rick Schichtel
for more information: 772-871-5012 or rschichtel@cityofpsl.com

Ruby Tuesday's
1500 NW Courtyard Circle
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

1500 NW Courtyard Circle., Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
772-871-5012 • www.CityofPSL.com/Police

DISTRICT 2

The first Tip a Cop to benefit Special Olympics Florida will be held on January 31, 2020, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Ruby Tuesday's in St. Lucie West.



IN OTHER NEWS

Assistant Chief Richard Del Toro was awarded the Negron Family Hero of Hope Award from Place of Hope - Treasure Coast, a children's organization providing high-quality and stable family environments for foster children, homeless youth and human trafficking victims in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties.

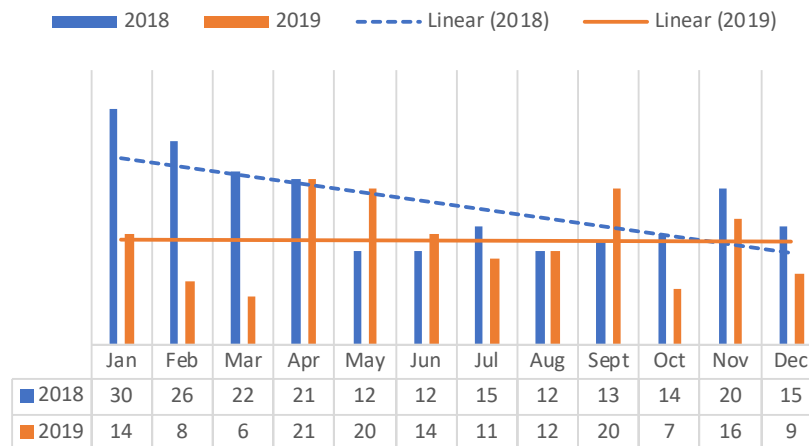


DISTRICT 4

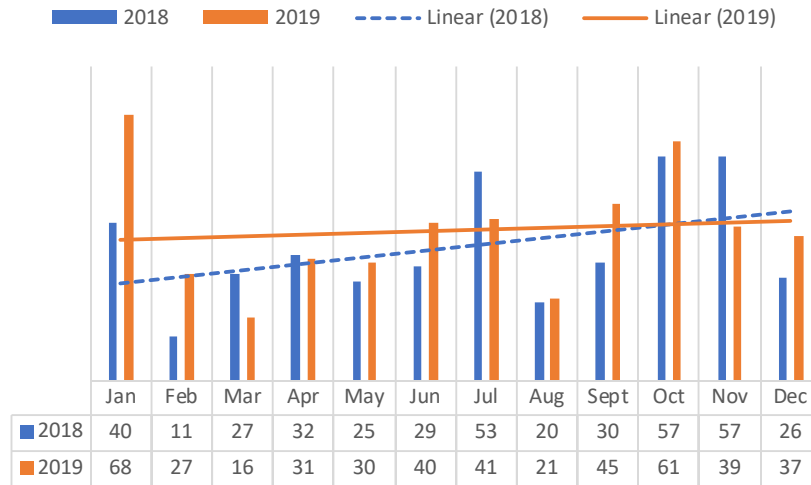
School Resource Officer Casey is working with a group of students implementing the Sandy Hook Promise SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Club. The pictured students are doing an infomercial for morning announcements on JAG TV.

CITY-WIDE CRIME TRENDS

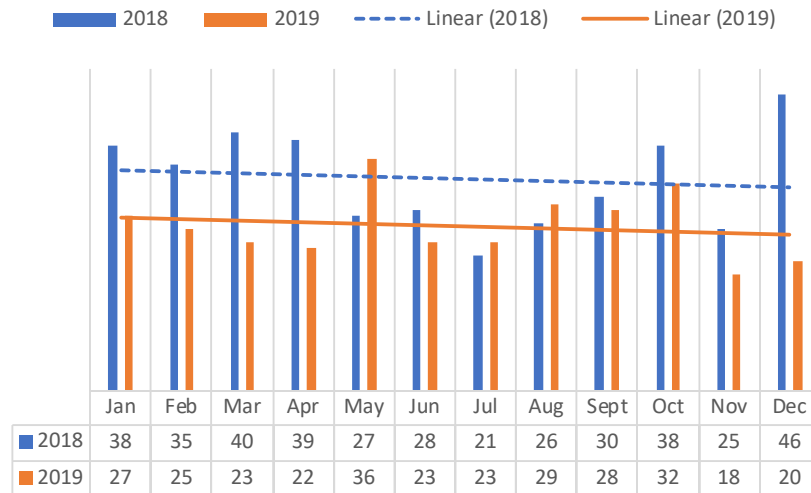
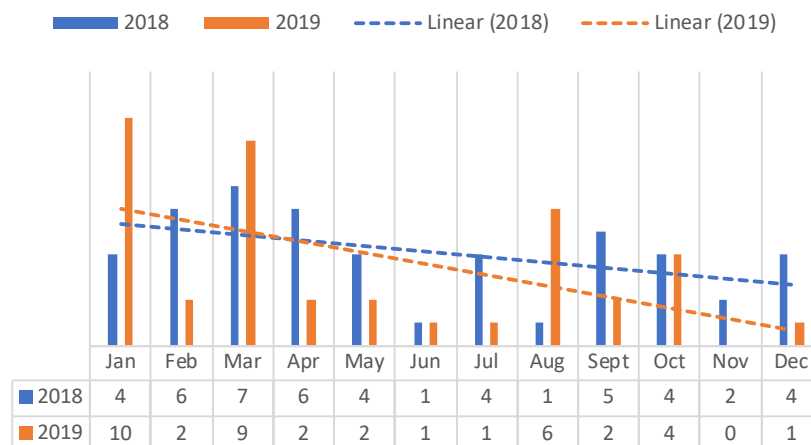
CITYWIDE RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES



CITYWIDE AUTO BURGLARIES



CITYWIDE RETAIL THEFT

CITYWIDE CONSTRUCTION SITE
BURGLARIES & THEFTS



EVENTS FROM THE PSL POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

- **Boxing Program:** Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Karate Program:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Wrestling Registration for Spring Sessions:** Saturday, January 11, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the P.A.L. Building on Tiffany Avenue.
- **Wrestling:** Tuesday, Thursday, from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, from 9 to 11 a.m.
- **Baton Clinics:** Saturdays, from noon to 5 p.m.
- **Drum Line Practices:** Sundays, from 3 to 5 p.m.
- **Men at Arms Motorcycle Club Meeting:** January 28, 2020, at 6 p.m. The is a fundraiser event to raise money to benefit P.A.L. is scheduled on April 18, 2020.
- **Police Department's Citizen's Academy:** January 28, 2020, at 6 p.m.
- **P.A.L. Members Selling Refreshments at City's Bonfire & Hayride Event located at McCarty Ranch:** February 1, 2020, from 3 to 7 p.m.
- **Boxing Open House at the P.A.L. Gymnasium:** February 8, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



PAL Fishing Clinic 2019



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Protecting the environment and infrastructure.

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



SALES TAX PROJECTS

St. Lucie West Blvd. Intersection Improvements:

- Cashmere Blvd. - Construction started on September 16, 2019 and is now complete.
- Peacock Blvd. - Construction started on September 16, 2019 and is now complete.
- Bayshore Blvd. - Construction started on September 16, 2019 and is expected to be complete by the end of February 2020.
- California Blvd. - Construction starts in FY 25/26.

California Blvd. widening from St. Lucie West Blvd. to Crosstown Pkwy.: Construction starts in FY 25/26.

Sidewalk Projects:

- Torino Blvd.: California Boulevard to Cashmere Boulevard - Design is complete. Procurement is preparing bid package for construction.
- Torino Blvd.: Villa Vizcaya to Midway Road - Design is complete. Procurement is preparing bid package for construction.
- Delwood Dr.: Torino Boulevard to Winterlakes Park - Design is complete. Procurement is preparing bid package for construction.

Repaving Projects:

- Morningside Blvd.: Westmoreland Blvd. to Club Med - Repaving is scheduled to begin following the ongoing FPL pole replacement project (Spring 2020)
- Tulip Blvd.: College Park Rd. to 368 Tulip (Spring 2020)
- California Blvd.: Country Club Blvd. to SLW Blvd. (Spring 2020)
- Gatlin Blvd. - Repaving starts in FY 26/27.

Traffic Signal Coordination:

- Port St. Lucie Blvd. starts in FY 27/28.
- Crosstown Parkway was originally scheduled to be implemented in FY 27/28. This project has been expedited with funds from the Crosstown Parkway Extension Project. The adaptive coordination system is now expected to be functional by the summer of 2020.

Floresta Blvd. Widening:

- Southbend Blvd. to Elkcarn Waterway - Design is underway with a completion date of February 2020. The contract has been extended 90 days to allow redesign of a control structure which will reduce flood stages in the Kingsway Waterway.
- Elkcarn Waterway to Crosstown Pkwy. - Design is underway.
- Crosstown Parkway to Prima Vista Blvd. - Design is underway.

Torino Blvd. Intersection Improvements:

- Construction began on October 14, 2019 for California Blvd. roundabout and Cashmere Blvd. roundabout. A diversion and three-way stop have been installed to facilitate construction. Construction is currently estimated to be complete by July 2020.

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

For more information about PSL's Half-Cent Sales Tax, visit: www.cityofpsl.com/salestax.



SIDEWALK PROGRAM

Macedo Blvd – Selvitz Road to St. James Drive (1.0 miles) – FY 19/20 – LAP Funded - McTeague Construction has been awarded the construction contract. Pre-construction meeting is pending and will be scheduled by the CEI consultant.

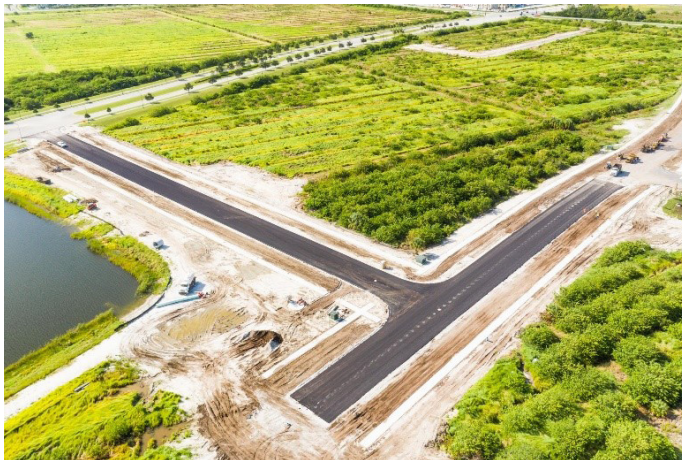
For more information about the City's Sidewalk Plan, visit www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks.

REPAVING PROGRAM

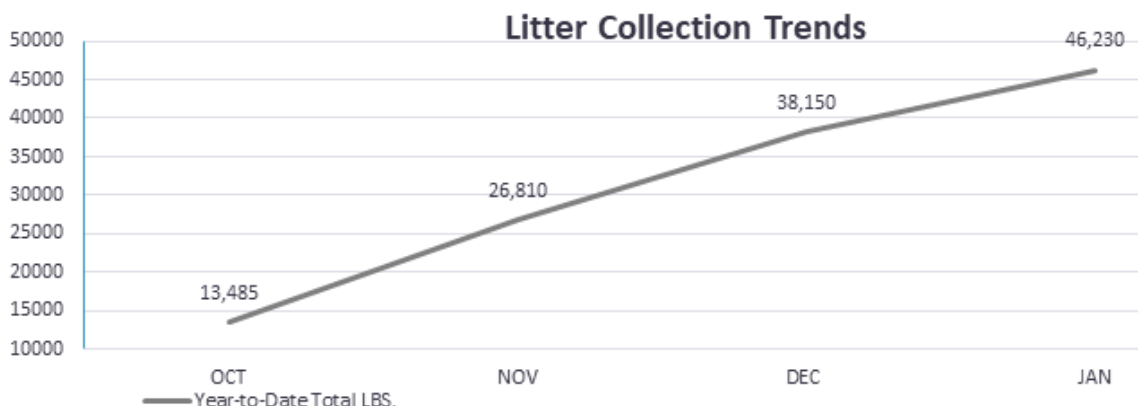
The street repaving goal for FY 19/20 is 28.9 miles with 12.2 miles completed to date. No paving has taken place in the last two weeks. For more information about the City's Repaving Plan, visit www.cityofpsl.com/repaving.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

City Electric Supply Loop Road - A walk-through to check completion of final punch list items is scheduled for 01/10/2020.



KEEP PORT ST. LUCIE BEAUTIFUL (KPSLB)



ARBOR DAY ACTIVITIES



Botanical Gardens' Arbor Day

On January 17th, Port St. Lucie's declared Arbor Day, KPSLB had the great honor to participate in the Botanical Gardens' Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Planting Ceremony. The Tree Planting Ceremony is done as a memorial to those you've love, lost or want to honor. The tree planted will continue to provide life and shelter for many years to come.



Arbor Day Proclamation

The observance of Arbor Day was proclaimed at the City Council meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020, by Mayor Gregory J. Oravec. The Arbor Day Proclamation states that the City of Port St. Lucie will observe Arbor Day on Friday, January 17, 2020. Joleen King - Botanical Gardens, Calin Ionita - Florida Forest Service, and Judith Sekscenski - Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful Committee Member, accepted the Proclamation.

Arbor Day School Visits

KPSLB, in partnership with the Master Gardeners and the Botanical Gardens, and with a grant from the Florida Forest Service, gave three school presentations, to teach children about the importance of Arbor Day. On January 15 & 16, 2020, KPSLB visited Morningside Elementary, Savanna Ridge Elementary and Northport K-8 and spoke to approximately 280 students. Each student received South Florida Slash Pine seedlings to bring home and plant. A total of 1,000 seedlings were given, ensuring enough to share with 5th grade classes.

The children had a ton of fun learning about the importance of trees and how to care for them. They were taught a catchy song to the tune of the "Hokey-Pokey" to remember the important points to planting their tree.



PROJECT CITIZEN

KPSLB for the very first time, had the honor of being invited to serve as a Judge for the 10th Annual St. Lucie Project Citizen District Showcase on January 21, 2020 at IRSC. There were 20 projects showcased in total. KPSLB and another judge were assigned six projects to assess. After introductions, the judges reviewed the students' poster boards which outlined the various parts to their proposals and the written action plan. The students then presented their action plan for a policy change. These projects included various topics, including Our Schools Need Money and That's Not Funny, Opioids, Respect the Trip, Micro Plastic, Give Hoot Don't Pollute and Come Together for the Better. The students had to describe the problem (causes, evidence, etc.), their research, their action plan, and show how government would be involved, what role they would have, provide alternatives in their action plan, explain the disagreements that may arise, opponents, etc. They also had to know if their action plan was constitutional and why or why not. One of the projects judged by KPSLB placed in the top three!



KPSLB Committee Member, Officer Fred Knaggs, will represent KPSLB as a Judge for the next competition on Friday, January 31, 2020, at the 32nd Annual St. Lucie County Regional Science and Engineering Fair, STEM Competition held at the Kight Center on the Fort Pierce Campus of Indian River State College. They are anticipating 49 schools to participate, with grades K-12 sending approximately 400 display boards.



BUDDY BENCH PROGRESS

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful received a Buddy Bench sponsorship for the PACE Center of Girls on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. When the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) reached out to KPSLB and expressed interest in sponsoring Buddy Bench Project, they chose to support the PACE Center for Girls. Of the five schools working with KPSLB for 2019/2020, all have received sponsorships for their benches, except for Savanna Ridge Elementary. Contact KPSLB if you are interested in sponsoring a Buddy Bench: www.cityofpsl.com/kpslb.



SAVANNA RIDGE ELEMENTARY

KPSLB recently had the honor of presenting and speaking to 2nd and 3rd graders, a total of 175 students, at Savanna Ridge Elementary about KPSLB's programs, events, litter prevention and ways to improve recycling. The students loved "The Wartville Wizard" story and had good questions and comments about litter, like who is responsible for keeping our community clean and beautiful. KPSLB left two books for each teacher for their classroom libraries.

UTILITY SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT



BUGS BATTLE BRAZILIAN PEPPERS AT MCCARTY RANCH PRESERVE

Brazilian peppertree is a well-known invasive species throughout Florida, and it's one that requires a number of approaches to stop its spread. The UF/IFAS Extension Office launched a pilot program with Port St. Lucie Utility Systems at the McCarty Ranch Preserve in January to release their first biological control agent for Brazilian peppertree—the thrip. A Brazilian native, the thrip is a tiny black bug that feeds on the tree and slows its growth and reproduction. Extension agents and Utility Systems staff released 1,500 thrips on a small section of peppertrees at McCarty Ranch Preserve. The agents plan to check back in one month to see if the thrips are feasting like expected. [Watch Bug Release Video.](#)

[Learn More about the integrated management of the Brazilian peppertree.](#)

KIDS DRAW WATER CONSERVATION MESSAGES FOR ANNUAL CONTEST

The 4th annual “Drop Savers” Water Conservation Poster Contest is underway throughout St. Lucie County. The contest teaches elementary-aged school children, and reminds middle and high school-aged teens, about the importance of water conservation. Hundreds of kids submit water conservation-themed posters to compete against other entries from their grade level. The posters are judged on their message, creativity, and originality. Winners receive a gift bag which includes a \$25 gift card and other prizes. The students will also be invited to attend a City Council meeting where they will be recognized for their efforts. The winning posters will also be submitted to the statewide contest. This event is held in conjunction with the Florida Section American Water Works Association (FSAWWA).

[Download contest guidelines.](#)



UTILITY SYSTEMS' STAFF HOSTS SHORT SCHOOL

Port St. Lucie Utility Systems hosted the Florida Water and Pollution Control Operators Association (FWPCOA) Short School at the Port St. Lucie Community Center in January. This two-day event is an opportunity for utility professionals to obtain their continuing education credits. More than 50 individuals from utilities in Region 5 attended and learned about topics like chemical feed systems, bypass pump systems for lift stations, and water distribution nitrification. Two Utility Systems employees instructed sessions: Senior Civil Utility Engineer Rich Schoenborn, PE, taught math for water and wastewater and Safety & Training Coordinator Alane Sisilli taught blood pathogen awareness. Short School is held twice a year.



FEATURE STORY

PSL TO RECEIVE GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

PORT ST. LUCIE – The City of Port St. Lucie has been approved for a \$10,000 Challenge America grant to support the creation of a mural outside Minsky Gym depicting PSL’s vision to be a City for All People.

Overall, the National Endowment for the Arts has approved 1,187 grants totaling \$27.3 million in the first round of fiscal year 2020 funding to support arts projects across the country. Port St. Lucie is one of 145 Challenge America grants included in this announcement.

“We are excited and thankful to be partnering with the NEA on a public art project that will celebrate and reinforce who we are as a community—a safe, beautiful and prosperous City for all people,” Port St. Lucie Mayor Gregory J. Oravec said.

Port St. Lucie’s project will be a mural on the wall of the 8,000 square-foot Minsky Gym at 750 SW Darwin Blvd. The project site is centrally located in the community, adjacent to Windmill Point Elementary School, Whispering Pines Park and Treasure Coast High School. A mural on Minsky Gym will be visible from Darwin Blvd. and will provide an opportunity for an underserved community to experience art.

The City will hold a public workshop to gather community members with the selected muralists to help identify neighborhood interests and develop design concepts. The goal is to unveil the mural at a future Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

The Challenge America funding category offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to populations that have limited access to the arts due to geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Each grant is for a fixed amount of \$10,000 and requires a minimum \$10,000 cost share/match.

“The arts are at the heart of our communities, connecting people through shared experiences and artistic expression,” said Arts Endowment chairman Mary Anne Carter. “The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support projects like the City of Port St. Lucie’s mural.”

For more information on projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

