The Heart of the Treasure Coast | 03/15/24 | Volume 8 Issue 6

PSL ON THE PULSE



PORT ST. LUCIE
HEART OF THE TREASURE COAST

POP 2000 Tour comes to MIDFLORIDA Event Center

Don't stop the POP!

Shannon M. Martin



MAYOR

Jolien Caraballo



VICE MAYOR
District 4

Stephanie Morgan



COUNCIL
District 1

David Pickett



COUNCIL
District 2

Anthony Bonna Sr.



COUNCIL
District 3

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.



Jesus Merejo

CITY MANAGER

Mission

To provide exceptional services that enhance our community's safety, beauty and quality of life through innovation, engagement and fiscal responsibility.

Vision

To be a leader in finding innovative solutions that put residents first and support opportunities for all people to thrive.

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Cover

The POP 2000 Tour, hosted by Chris Kirkpatrick of *NSYNC, had its only Florida stop March 9 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center outdoor stage. The concert also featured performances by pop stars O-Town, Ryan Cabrera and LFO, and had fans bopping to the beats. Learn more about concerts and other fun events taking place at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center here.

Subscribe

Receive regular updates of PSL on the Pulse, a digital publication released every two weeks highlighting the City of Port St. Lucie's latest news, events and projects.

www.CityofPSL.com/Pulse

Questions

Email the Communications Department with questions or comments about PSL on the Pulse 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's focus is to carry 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 PSL on the Pulse, we highlight projects specifically prioritized in the Strategic Plan that have achieved milestones, or where changes have occured, 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 we do at the City of Port St. Lucie aligns with our Strategic Plan.

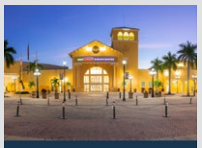
Calendar

March 15-30

March 15	**5-10 p.m.:** St. Patrick's Day Festival
March 16	**11 a.m.-10 p.m.:** St. Patrick's Day Festival **2 p.m.:** Pokepark Gym Challenge
March 18	**11 a.m.:** Boys & Girls Club Mobile Club **6 p.m.:** Public Art Advisory Board Meeting
March 19	**8:15 a.m.:** Coffee with the Council **11 a.m.:** Boys & Girls Club Mobile Club **2 p.m.:** Municipal Police Officers' Retirement Trust Fund
March 20	**9 a.m.:** Special Magistrate Hearing **11 a.m.:** Boys & Girls Club Mobile Club
March 21	**11 a.m.:** Boys & Girls Club Mobile Club **11:30 a.m.:** TRICO
March 22	**11 a.m.:** Boys & Girls Club Mobile Club
March 25	**5:30 p.m.:** Community Redevelopment Agency **6 p.m.:** Regular City Council meeting
March 27	**9 a.m.:** Special Magistrate Hearing **1:30 p.m.:** Citizens Advisory Committee **1:30 p.m.:** Site Plan Review Committee
March 28	**5:20 p.m.:** Port St. Lucie Youth Council
March 29	**9:30 a.m.:** Easter Bunny Breakfast
March 30	**9 a.m.:** Eggstravaganza



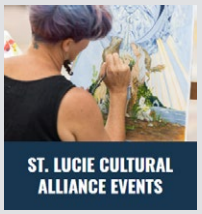
Click here to view full calendar.



Click here to view full calendar.



Click here to view full calendar.



Click here to view full calendar.

CityofPSL.com/Calendar

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

Half-Cent Sales Tax

Floresta Drive Improvement Project Phase 2

Construction continues for the Floresta Drive Phase 2 Improvement Project. The contractor continues to focus on the roadway activities, sidewalks and driveways. The contractor shifted traffic to the east side of the roadway to work on construction on the west side of Floresta Drive.

Damask Avenue at Floresta Drive to Crown Street, and Thornhill Drive from west of Floresta to Fairfield Street are expected to reopen March 15, weather permitting. Lansdowne Avenue at Floresta Drive to Fairfield Street will remain closed to local traffic only.

The closures are necessary for drainage pipe installation, road, curb, intersection and sidewalk activities. Closures and construction activity timeframes can be impacted by weather.

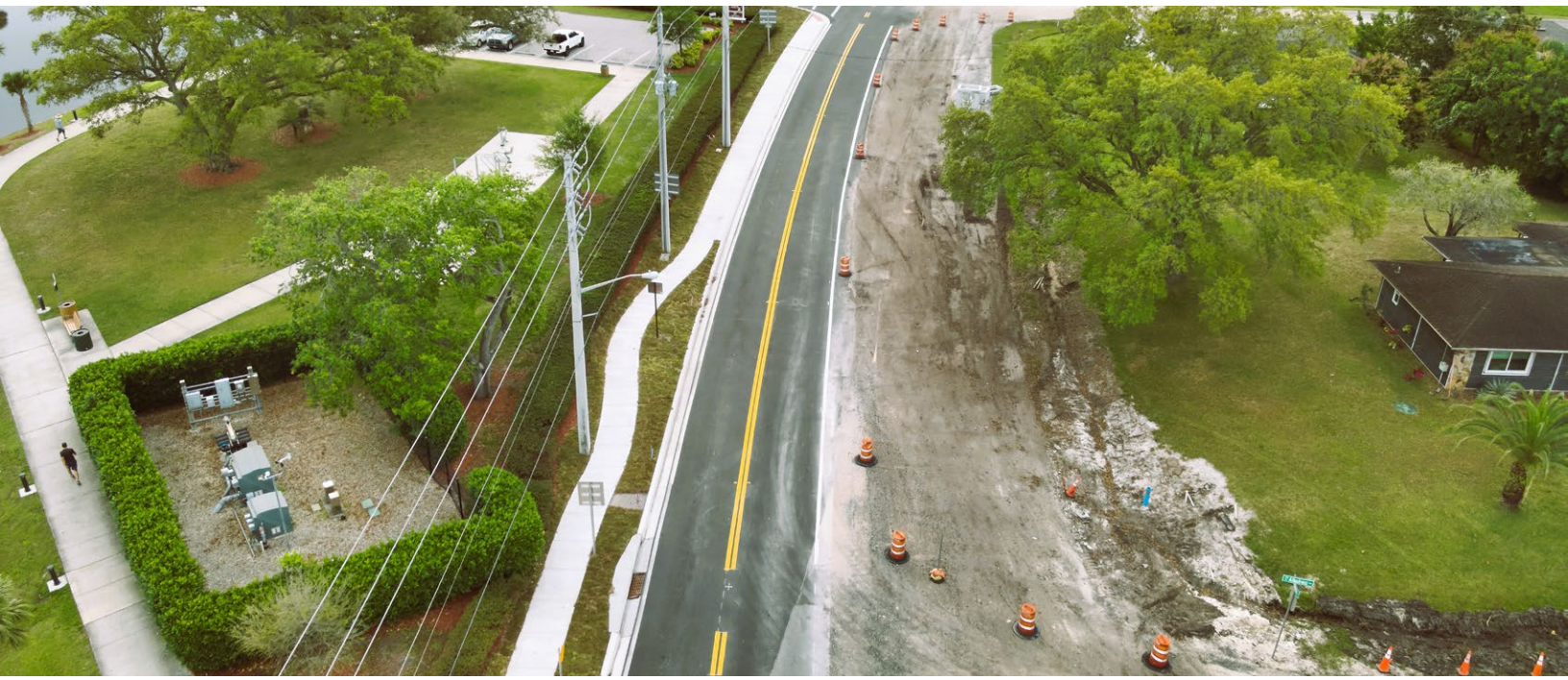
The contractor completed construction of a new bridge crossing the Elkcam waterway that helps accommodate pedestrian and bicycle access with 6-foot sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides. The contractor also constructed a roundabout on Floresta Drive at Polynesian Avenue. The roundabout provides a circular configuration that safely and efficiently moves traffic.

Work continues at Thornhill Lake for required stormwater retention as part of the project. The lake will help provide water quality for protection of the St. Lucie River.



The City urges drivers to be vigilant, patient and slow down while driving through the construction zone. Follow the appropriate detour routes.


STOP







Abingdon Sidewalk Project

Sidewalks

www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks

Import Drive (Inca Terrace to Savage Boulevard):
Phase 2 is pending final acceptance.

Abingdon Avenue (Import Drive to Savona Boulevard):
Under construction.

Roadway Resurfacing

www.cityofpsl.com/repaving

The Sales Tax resurfacing goal for FY 23/24 is 16.44 miles with 10.55 miles completed to date. Below are the areas that will be resurfaced this fiscal year. Residents will be notified in advance of resurfacing.

Sandpiper Bay (South):
Complete

Sandpiper Bay (Mid):
Complete

Riverview (South): Complete

Oak Hammock: Complete

Floresta Gardens (Mid)
Scheduled

Rosser Reserve (East)

Building

IAS ACCREDITED Building Department

Highlights

- The Building Department will host a stakeholder meeting March 18 with mechanical contractors.
- The overall customer service rating for February was 9.55.
- There were 4,139 permits applied for in February.

Building Activities

Certificates of Occupancy

- Conviva Care, commercial alteration: 1700 SE Hillmoor Drive, Unit 500
- Benjamin Franklin Plumbing, commercial alteration: 6945 NW LTC Parkway
- H&M Nails, commercial alteration: 2834B SW Port St. Lucie Blvd.
- Tradition Medical Center, commercial alteration: 10000 SW Innovation Way
- Total Truck Parts, warehouse: 8910 NW Glades Cut Off Road
- Kyle G's The Chicken Place: 10228 SW Meeting St.
- Marshalls, commercial alteration: 1733 NW St. Lucie West Blvd.

Commercial Permits

- Paraiso Esthetics By Lorraine, commercial alteration: 529 NW Prima Vista Blvd., Suite 103
- Wawa, gas canopy: 730 SW Becker Road
- Upper Cuts Barber Shop, commercial alteration: 3961 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd.

Employee of the Month

Steven Padilla is the Building Department's customer service award winner for February.



LTC Parkway Warehouse



Florida Coast Surgical Hospital

Feb. 24-March 8		2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Permits Issued	1,939	8,003	54,440	60,774	68,261	52,355	41,504	39,899
Single-Family Permits Issued	156	693	4,069	3,882	5,273	3,824	2,729	2,189
Certificates of Occupancy Single-family	152	728	3,835	4,658	3,911	2,893	2,711	1,824
Inspections Completed	7,668	38,379	210,048	248,274	208,545	155,421	137,302	115,073
Plans Reviewed	769	3,617	21,211	24,103	24,820	19,150	13,978	13,559
Online Permits Applied	1,703	7,319	50,658	50,937	48,166	26,855	18,395	13,421

1PSL

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.

1PSL
Your 24/7 City Hall



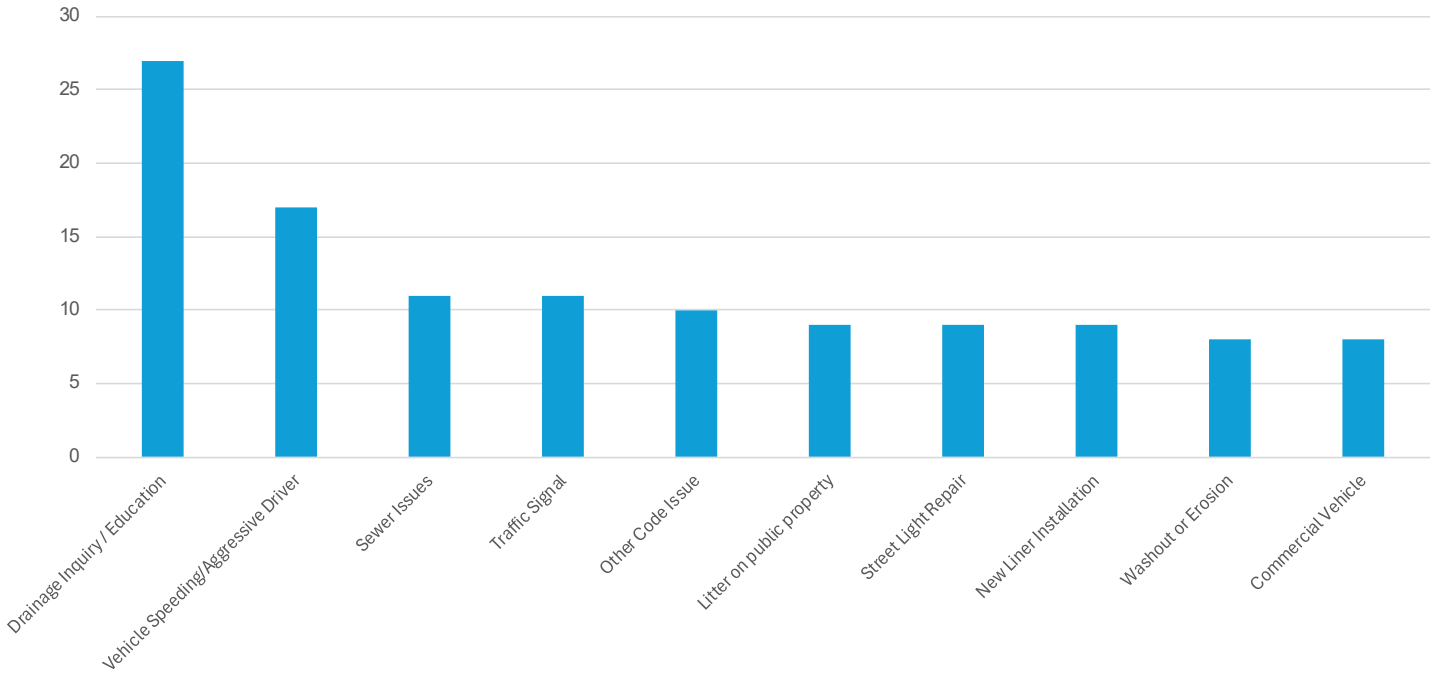
Download App

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

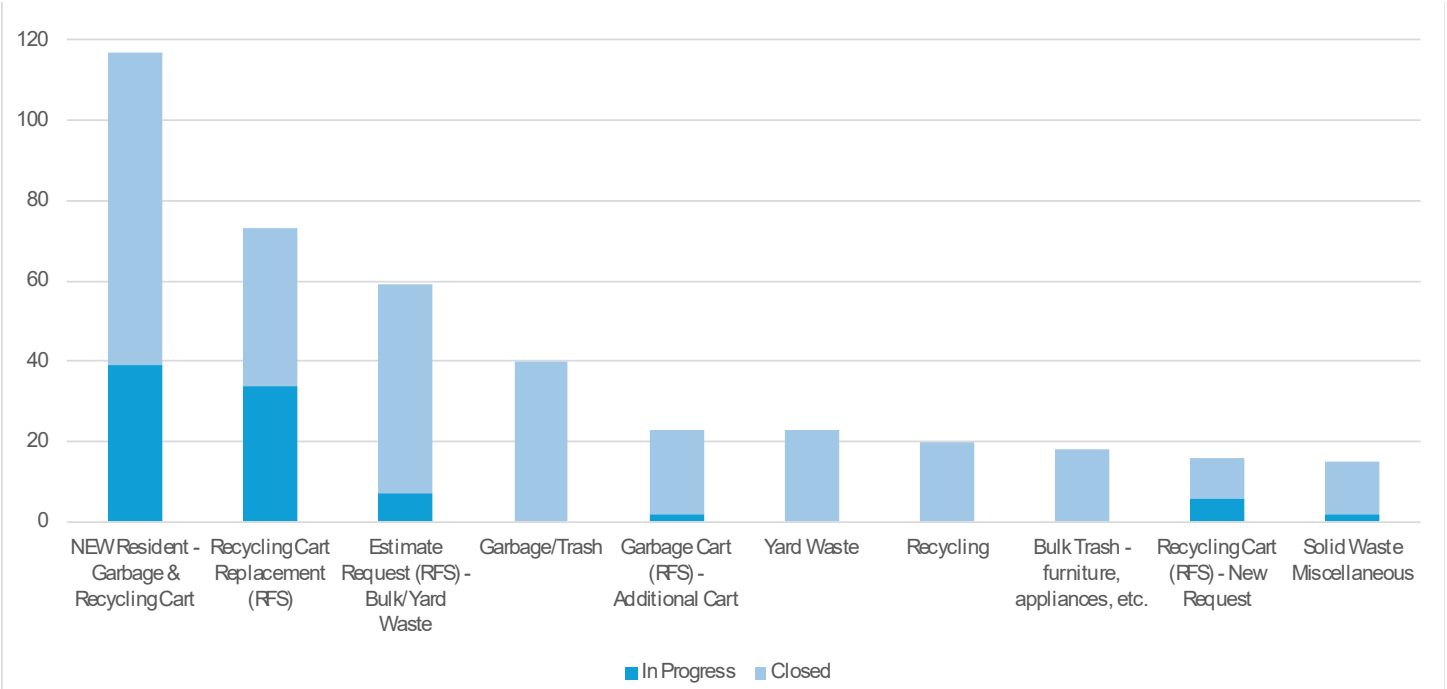
Web Portal

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

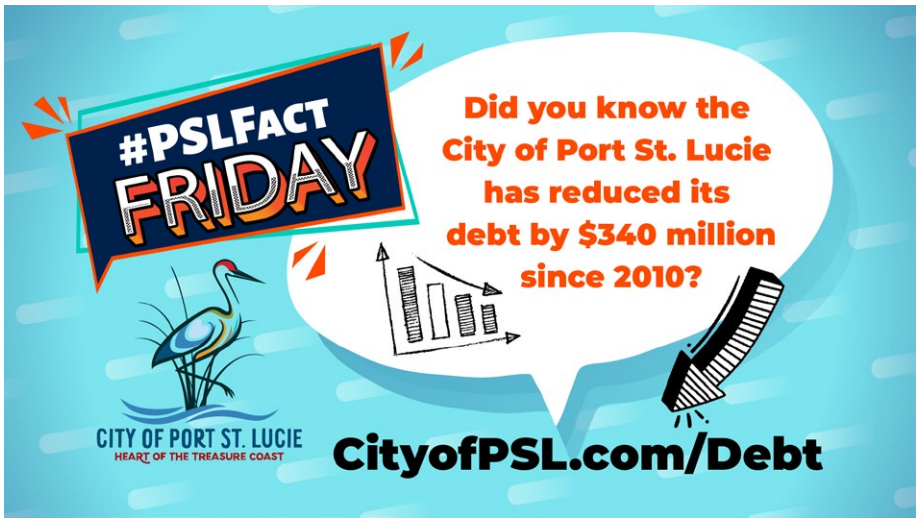
Top 10 1PSL Requests
Feb. 23-March 7



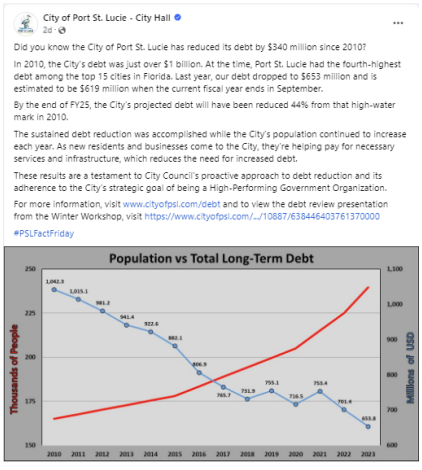
Top 10 Solid Waste Requests
Feb. 23-March 7



Communications



#PSLFactFriday: Learn a tidbit about the City every Friday


City of Port St. Lucie - City Hall
2d

Did you know the City of Port St. Lucie has reduced its debt by $340 million since 2010?

In 2010, the City's debt was just over $1 billion. At the time, Port St. Lucie had the fourth-highest debt among the top 15 cities in Florida. Last year, our debt dropped to $653 million and is estimated to be $619 million when the current fiscal year ends in September.

By the end of FY25, the City's projected debt will have been reduced 44% from that high-water mark in 2010.

The sustained debt reduction was accomplished while the City's population continued to increase each year. As new residents and businesses come to the City, they're helping pay for necessary services and infrastructure, which reduces the need for increased debt.

These results are a testament to City Council's proactive approach to debt reduction and its adherence to the City's strategic goal of being a High-Performing Government Organization.

For more information, visit www.cityofpsl.com/debt and to view the debt review presentation from the Winter Workshop, visit https://www.cityofpsl.com/.../10887/638446403761370000

#PSLFactFriday

A new social media campaign, #PSLFactFriday, aims to educate our followers with facts and tidbits about the City of Port St. Lucie.

The first post was shared March 8 and highlighted how the City was able to reduce its debt by more than $300 million over the past decade. The post also explained how the sustained debt reduction was accomplished while the City's population continued to increase each year.

Future topics could be based on frequently asked questions and/or data and messaging important to residents.

#PSLFactFriday will be shared to TV20 as well.



PSL On The Mic: We answer residents' FAQs and share big updates from City Council's Winter Workshop

When is the playground at Whispering Pines Park reopening? What's happening with swales? Can we go back to twice-a-week garbage pickup? Are backyard chickens allowed in Port St. Lucie?

On Episode 19, host Maureen Kenyon and Mayor Shannon Martin answer residents' frequently asked questions and Mayor Martin also shares major updates from last month's City Council Winter Workshop.

Watch and listen at www.cityofpsl.com/podcast.



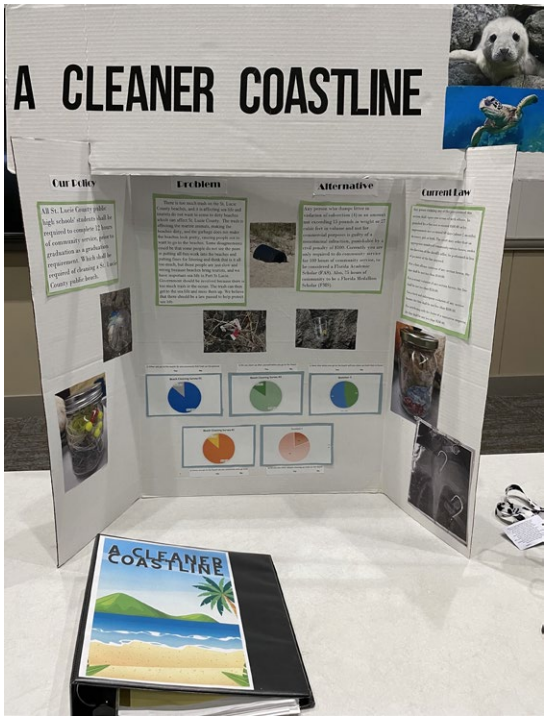
Project Citizen District Showcase highlights next generation of civic leaders

On March 8, Community Engagement Manager Stephanie Vernot was a guest judge at the 14th annual Project Citizen District Showcase. During this event, seventh-grade students from throughout St. Lucie County Public Schools worked together as a class to identify community issues and research public policy solutions. Students then selected one public policy solution and created an action plan for a better future.

The projects presented covered a variety of topics such as rent control, a cleaner coastline, the power of productive planning, entertainment options for Port St. Lucie residents and life skills classes at schools.

Judges discussed the different projects and made recommendations on which ones should advance to the state competition. They also had the chance to witness the creativity, dedication and commitment displayed by these students, as they explored ways to make a positive difference in our society.

The City looks forward to creating a brighter tomorrow for our students through more collaborative efforts and shared commitment through civic engagement.





Community Redevelopment Agency

'Infrastructure is the backbone of economic growth' – Alok Sharma

Construction of the next segment of Anthony F. Sansone Sr. Boulevard (Phase 3) is underway. The start of construction aligned just behind the real estate land closing on the Project Everest site, now publicly known as the Costco Warehouse Distribution Depot. To best site the distribution depot on assembled acreage in Legacy Park at Tradition, the original roadway alignment was shifted west, thus triggering modifications to the design and permitting for the roadway and related infrastructure.

Land clearing, lake excavation and roadway embankment work are underway, as is the installation of a 72-inch drainage pipe. Additional project elements include the installation of a supportive drainage network, water and sewer lines, landscaping, irrigation and street lighting. Completion of the roadway is anticipated in late 2024, ultimately adding a 2-mile stretch to Anthony F. Sansone Sr. Boulevard that will serve as the backbone of economic opportunities within not only Legacy Park at Tradition, but all of Southern Grove.





Emergency Management

Protect yourself from flooding

Flooding is a coast-to-coast threat. It could cause damage and losses to homes and buildings in all areas, whether they are high-risk special flood hazard areas or low- to moderate-risk flood zones. Flood preparedness education and mitigation measures taken before, during and after a flood can increase your chances of survival and better protect your property.

For instance, it is vital to know what to do if you are driving and hit a flooded road. Here you will find an interactive flood map, information describing the different types of flooding and educational material. You also will learn how the National Weather Service keeps you aware of potentially dangerous flooding situations through alerts and warnings.



To avoid major damage to your family and belongings, it is important to stay informed, know your flood zone, have a plan, build a kit and consider purchasing flood insurance. For more information on floods, visit the comprehensive flood page on our website or www.ready.gov/floods.



Office of Emergency Management visits National Weather Service in Melbourne

The Port St. Lucie Office of Emergency Management recently visited the National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in Melbourne. The Melbourne Weather Forecast Office provides forecast information and meteorological data to St. Lucie County and nine additional counties. It has a variety of responsibilities, providing assistance and support to 10 counties ranging from Martin County on its southern border, Lake County to the west and Volusia County to the north.

The NWS and OEM staff discussed the products and services they provide to residents and businesses, as well as their planning, education and awareness processes.

This year marks a recertification year for the City's StormReady designation. The visit allowed us to discuss with Warning Coordination Meteorologist Will Ulrich (pictured left) the various requirements to be a StormReady community, review our plans and operating guidelines to ensure the City is well-prepared for weather events and confirm we are ready to submit our recertification paperwork to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for approval.

2024 Hurricane Preparedness Expo coming in June

The Office of Emergency Management's Hurricane Preparedness Expo is returning to the MIDFLORIDA Event Center on Saturday, June 1. We are working on coordinating presentations, vendors, giveaways and maybe a few surprises for this year's Expo! We are looking forward to seeing you there.

If you are a local business that is hurricane or disaster-related, reach out to PSLEM@cityofpsl.com with your contact information, type of business and willingness to be a vendor at the Expo. Our Expo planner will add you to the business distribution list so you will be notified when booths are available for reservations. (Please note: We only will take booth reservations from vendors who provide a product or service that would assist citizens in preparing for a hurricane or other disaster because of limited space for vendors.)

Once the vendor reservation portal opens, it is advisable to quickly secure your spot.



Finance

Retirement Statistics - Attendees

Feb. 24-March 8	Pay Period Ending March 8	Year to Date
Keys to Retirement Attendees	8	83
Mission Square One-on-One Appointments	0	128
Financial Wellness Class Attendees	59	159
New 457 sign-ups	8	24
New Police Officers	1	12
Participants entering the DROP	0	5
Participants exiting the DROP	1	3
Total DROP Participants	-	21



Upcoming Financial Wellness Class*

What: Medicare Basic
When: Noon, April 19
Where: Building B Training Room
Presenter: Brian Gauldin from Valery Insurance Agency, Inc.

Register today on PSL Forward Powered by Absorb!

*Please note, these sessions are for current City employees only.

Business Tax Compliance Officer attends local networking event

Earlier this month, Business Tax Compliance Officer Mathew Rouselle was an invited speaker at the Port St. Lucie Business Club networking event. Mat was able to connect with area business owners and answer questions. This was a unique opportunity for the Business Tax Office to meet face-to-face with organizations and local business groups to build a strong community by discussing regulations, encouraging innovation and supporting local businesses.









Human Resources

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

NEW HIRES



Evens St. Louis,
Project Manager,
Utility Systems Department



Luis Barata,
Traffic Safety Technician I,
Public Works Department

Training & Development

March 20: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Reasonable Accommodation

March 21: Munis 101

March 22: Munis: Grants Master Module

March 26: Hyperlipidemia: Controlling Your Cholesterol

March 27: Munis: Financial Reporting with Cubes

March 28: Purchasing Card (P-Card) Processing

HR Statistics

Feb. 22-March 6		YTD
New Hires	9	50
Total Applications Rec'd	382	1,821
Job Requisitions Received	13	58
Jobs posted	20	140
Internal Promotions	9	33
Reclassifications	1	15
Personnel Change Forms Processed	100	353
In Person New Hire Orientation	20	55
Life Scan Participation	23	54
Total Training Sessions	2	22
Total Training Attendees	307	740
Water Cooler Site Visits	5,995	28,816
Employee Benefits Site Visits	906	3,425
PSL Forward Training Site Visits	409	2,135

Training Spotlight

Purchasing Card (P-Card) Processing
Thursday, March 28
at 11 a.m.

Use of a purchasing card is the preferred method of payment for our City because of the advantages over payments by check or ACH/EFT. Guaranteed faster payment, trackability and security are a few of those advantages. Yet the primary purpose of our P-Cards is to make incidental purchases easier, which the City entrusts staff with the responsibility and obligation of this privilege. This training, conducted by the Finance Department, covers cardholder expectations, approver requirements, restrictions and best practices in keeping with our City's values of Ethics, Accountability and Stewardship.

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful

Residents turn out for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

More than 400 residents came out March 2 for Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful's first Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day of 2024. The 437 participants were an increase from the previous year. The collection was held at the Public Works Complex, which allowed residents to bring accepted waste items for disposal. The second and final collection day will take place Saturday, Oct. 19.







Hazardous Waste Items Collected	Amount
Tablet computers	8 pounds
Computers	521 pounds
Power tool batteries	172 pounds
Battery backups and jump boxes	180 pounds
Misc. electronics	1,013 pounds
Fluorescent bulbs	386
Acids	150 pounds
Bases	750 pounds
Paint-oil based	1,600 pounds
Pesticides – solid/liquid	800 pounds
Oxidizers	28 pounds
Mercury	5 pounds
Flammable – liquids bulks	400 pounds
Flammable – solids	410 pounds
FOG (fats, oils & greases)	560 pounds
Oil – used	463 gallons
Prescription drugs	50.75 pounds
Ferrell Gas – small	96
Ferrell Gas – medium	2
Ferrell Gas – large	24
Batteries – auto	53
Batteries – small lead acid	38
Recyclable batteries – mixed	50 pounds
Fire extinguishers & Halon	97.5 pounds
Smoke detectors	10
Ammunition	284.25 pounds
FCC electronic roll off	0.60 tons
FCC trash roll off	0.82 tons
Total Pounds	**10,826.5**
Total Gallons	**463**
Total Pieces	**609**
Total Vehicles	**437**





Gin Blossoms to hit the stage for a night of alternative rock



American alternative rock band Gin Blossoms and special guest Fastball are set to take the outdoor stage Saturday, April 13 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

Gin Blossoms rose to prominence following the 1992 release of its first major label debut album, "New Miserable Experience," and the first single released from that album, "Hey Jealousy" became a Top 25 hit that went gold. The album eventually went quadruple platinum, and two other charting singles were released from the album, "Allison Road" and "Until I Fall Away."

The band's follow-up album, "Congratulations, I'm Sorry," went platinum, including the Grammy Award-nominated "As Long as It Matters" and "Follow You Down." Gin Blossoms continue to tour every year, and in recent years have shared the stage with Collective Soul, Barenaked Ladies and Hootie & The Blowfish.

Fastball, formed in 1994 in Austin, Texas, combined a fondness for melodic, Beatles-inspired pop with the alternative aesthetic of late-1990s mainstream rock. After signing with Hollywood Records, Fastball released its debut album, "Make Your Mama Proud," in 1996. Most recently, Fastball returned with "The Help Machine" and its new album, "The Deep End," was released in 2022.

Tickets are $65 for reserved seating and $50 for general admission, plus tax and fees at etix.com or in person at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center Box Office, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets also may be purchased by calling 800-514-3849.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 19: Presidential preference primary

March 20: Jay and the Americans

March 23-24: Strawberry Festival

April 2: Ambassadors of Spring, Spring into Spring

April 13: Gin Blossoms, with special guest Fastball

April 19: Wrestling Coastal Championship

April 20-21: Port St. Lucie Arts & Craft Show

Event Center Visitors: 58,331
Event Days: 134
(as of March 9)

Clay Walker, special guest Kasey Tyndall entertain Port St. Lucie

Clay Walker hit the MIDFLORIDA Event Center stage Feb. 24, entertaining a packed crowd of country fans! The Event Center was thrilled to have a clear night with cooler temperatures as the crowd enjoyed dining at the food trucks, ordering a drink at one of the bars and stopping by the merch tents.

After Kasey Tyndall's incredible, energetic performance, she stopped by the merch tent to sign items and meet with fans – such a kind gesture from a performer who truly earned the title of "country star!" A huge thank you to B94.7 Fresh Country for coming out. It was a blast!









Neighborhood Services

NSD participates in de-escalation training

Code Compliance would like to send a big thank you to Port St. Lucie Police Department Master Training Officer Scott Johnson for conducting a de-escalation training for our field staff. Our Code Officers learned many helpful techniques for reducing the intensity of potentially violent verbal and non-verbal situations.



Top 5 Code Compliance Violations
Feb. 18-March 2



NSD Solid Waste Code Case Data

	Solid Waste Stats for Feb. 11-17	Solid Waste Stats for February 18-24
All Code Cases Opened	206	493
Solid Waste Cases Opened	67 (32.5% of all code cases opened during the week)	203 (41.2% of all code cases opened during the week)
Solid Waste Cases Complied Within The Week	17	61
All Active Code Cases	1227	1377
Active Solid Waste Cases	147 (12% of total active cases)	222 (16.1% of total active cases)

Volunteer tax assistance available for St. Lucie County residents

Trained volunteers with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and AARP will be providing free tax preparation assistance at five locations throughout St. Lucie County starting in February.

VITA sites offer free tax filing assistance to residents making $64,000 or less per year. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. AARP tax help is targeted at low-to-moderate income taxpayers. While the focus is on taxpayers 60 or older, the volunteers don't turn anyone away because of age.

Assistance will be offered at the following locations:

- VITA Assistance at the Kilmer Branch Library, 101 Melody Lane in Fort Pierce, on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (walk-in), through April 16. For questions, call 211.
- VITA Assistance at Indian River State College, Building Y, Room 102, 3209 Virginia Ave. in Fort Pierce, on Thursdays from 2-7 p.m. (appointment only), through March 28. (Note: The site will be closed March 14).
- VITA Assistance at the Port St. Lucie Community Center, 2195 SE Airoso Blvd. in Port St. Lucie, on Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (walk-in), through April 10.
- AARP Assistance at the Morningside Branch Library, 2410 Morningside Blvd. in Port St. Lucie, on Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon (appointment only), through April 12. For details and appointments, call 772-243-8051.
- AARP Tax Aide at the Lakewood Park Village Hall, 7508 Jennings Way in Fort Pierce, on various days and times (walk-in), through April 12. To view the schedule visit www.lakewoodparkpoa.com.



A list of potential paperwork residents will need to bring includes:

- Proof of identification
- Social Security numbers
- Birth dates of family members
- Property tax bills
- All income documents, including wage and earning statement(s) W-2, W-2G, 1099-R from all employers; interest and dividend statements from banks (forms 1099-Div); a copy of last year's federal and state returns (if available); health care expenses; donation receipts and bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit.

Volunteers at all the sites have been trained by the Internal Revenue Service. For walk-in locations, residents will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis.

For IRS help contact the IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center, 7410 S U.S. 1 in Port St. Lucie or call 772-340-5606.

Office of Management & Budget



The Office of Management and Budget celebrates Procurement Month

Mayor Shannon Martin signed a proclamation March 11 recognizing March as Procurement Month. The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing and other international associations celebrate Procurement Month to expand awareness of the purchasing professional role to government officials and the public.

This year's theme is "Celebrating the Power of You." Public procurement professionals have tremendous influence on the economic conditions in the United States with purchasing power totaling billions of dollars.





OMB hosts educational seminars

OMB hosted several procurement educational seminars in recognition of Procurement Month. On Feb. 29, the department invited guest speaker Kirk Buffington for a presentation on Understanding Florida's Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act.

Mr. Buffington is a recognized and experienced public procurement professional who has served as the president of the Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers and is a past president of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing. Forty employees from various City departments attended the session and we were pleased to be joined by City Councilman Anthony Bonna Sr.

Seminar focuses on procurement topics

The Procurement Management Division on March 5 conducted its annual Procurement Month seminar, which focused on various relevant procurement topics, including ethics in procurement, risk management and insurance and cooperative contracting.

Special guest speakers included Dr. Cliff McCue, a leading public procurement professional and professor from Florida Atlantic University; Ella Gilbert from the City's Risk Management Department; Nate Rubel, the City's Procurement Assistant Director; Anne Jordan from Pavilion; and Elijah Wooten from the City Manager's office.

More than 50 participants attended the seminar, including employees from various City departments and 18 employees of other local agencies, including Fort Pierce Utilities Authority; City of Stuart; Village of Indiantown; Okeechobee County; Indian River School District; and Martin County School District.

The Division is appreciative of the extensive support received this year to recognize the public procurement profession from the City and other neighboring entities.

Fun facts about the Procurement Professionals in the Procurement Management Division:

- The team of 10 includes four procurement contracting officers, a senior procurement contracting officer, a procurement analyst, a procurement contracts manager, two procurement managers and a procurement assistant director.
- Three team members are credentialed as Certified Public Procurement Officers (CPPO).
- In FY 2022/23, the division supported the organization in expending $462 million dollars for operating expenses and capital projects.



OMB earns GFOA Distinguished Budget Award for 34th year

The City of Port St. Lucie has earned the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct.1, 2023.

To achieve the GFOA budget award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide and as a communications device. This award is valid for the FY 23/24 only and marks the City's 34th time receiving this award.

The OMB team is proud to work with City Council and staff toward meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. The award represents a significant achievement by the City of Port St. Lucie.

Bid Opportunities, Recent Bid Awards

Week ending March 8

Bid #	Description	Status
20230107	Mowing & Trimming Services at City Park Lands	Active Bid Opening: 03/28/24
20240034	Well Rehabilitation Services	Active Bid Opening: 03/13/24
20240017	CCD Stormwater Rebate Study	Active Bid Opening: 03/12/24
20230103	Emergency Management Recovery/Response Services	Awarded to: Hagerty Consulting, Inc., Innovative Emergency Management, Inc.
20240014	Lot Clearing, Nuisance and Tree Removal	Awarded to: Precision Landscape Company of Palm Beach County, Inc., T&K Enterprises of Volusia County, 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.

Procurement 2024 Statistics

(formal procurements submitted to City Council for Approval)

Feb. 24-March 8	Period	Year to Date
Amendments	0	4
Awards	3	15
Co-Ops/Piggybacks	2	5
Other:(Contract Adjustments	1	1
Total	**6**	**25**



PORT ST. LUCIE PARKS & RECREATION

CAPRA ACCREDITED

Job fair connects high school students with Parks & Recreation

On Feb. 27, Parks and Recreation participated in the Economic Development Council's High School Job Fair at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center. Staff met with many high school students who expressed interest in joining our team as summer camp seasonal employees! We're looking forward to welcoming the students onto our team for our 2024 summer camp program!





Celebrating the luck o' the Irish

The annual St. Patrick's Day Festival kicks off Friday, March 15 and continues Saturday, March 16. Guests can enjoy a parade and live entertainment, including a U2 tribute band, Bangers and Mash and more.

Go green with this art showcase

We are working on recycled artwork for the Green Art Showcase, taking place at the Community Center in April! Come join us for the creative display!

Putting on a fresh coat

Interior painting of the recreation side of the MIDFLORIDA Event Center has been completed.

Golfers enjoying The Saints amenities

The weather has been nice recently, which means everyone has been having a great time at The Saints Golf Course.

Members and guests also are enjoying the many amenities the course has to offer, including the mobile beverage cart service on the course and the drive-up "to-go" window, where golfers can stop and get food and beverages of their choice.

Come out today and enjoy all that The Saints has to offer for your game.





Volunteer at The Saints recognized for his efforts

Dan Szewczul's excellent customer service skills and his ability to be a team player are at the core of the exceptional work he has offered as a volunteer at The Saints Golf Course for eight years.

Dan was recognized as the Volunteer of the Quarter for October-December 2023. Thank you, Dan, for everything you do!



UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDFLORIDA Event Center
March 15-22: Spring Break camp
March 15-19: St. Lucie County elections
March 29: Kids Day Out Camp

Minsky Gym
March 15-19: St. Lucie County elections
March 29: Easter Bunny Breakfast

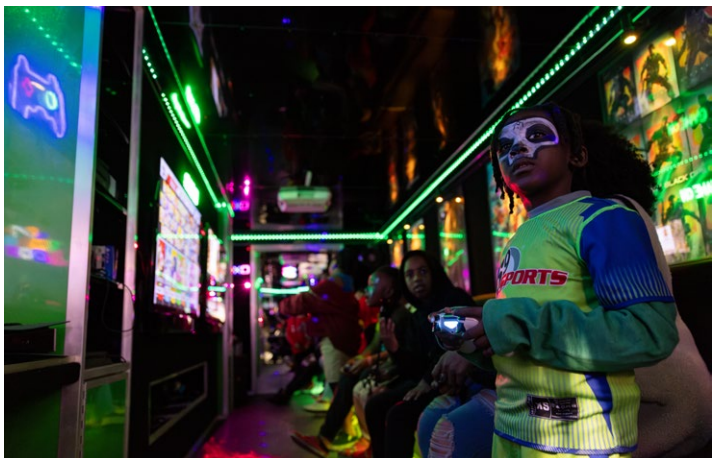
Community Center
March 15-19: St. Lucie County elections
March 18-20, 25-27: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Whispering Pines Park
March 30: Eggstravaganza

FAM Fest draws a crowd to celebrate Black culture

The inaugural FAM Fest was Feb. 24. The event celebrated Black culture through food, art and music. An estimated 1,500 people attended the event.










FAM FEST
DREAM TEAM







Planning & Zoning



Coming Soon to Port St. Lucie

P23-145 Tambone TCC Tract B: A 62,750-square-foot warehouse/office building proposed to be located east of Tom Mackie Boulevard, between Trade Center Drive and Marshall Parkway.

P23-144 Southern Grove Village Parkway: A 20,264-square-foot commercial building proposed to be located south of Discovery Way and east of Village Parkway.

P22-281 Tradition Assisted Living Facility: A 64-unit assisted living facility proposed to be located east of Village Parkway and north of the Landing at Tradition shopping center.

P23-234 Fifth Third Bank at Veranda Falls: A 1,900-square-foot bank with a drive-thru proposed to be located south of Becker Road and east of Florida's Turnpike.

P23-227 Town Centre IHOP Restaurant: A 3,750-square-foot restaurant proposed to be located on an outparcel of the Town Centre shopping center located west of U.S. 1 and north of Becker Road.

P22-310 Dwyer Avenue Storage: A 57,273-square-foot self-storage facility proposed to be located south of Dwyer Avenue, between South Macedo Boulevard and Biltmore Street.

P13-008-A1 St. Lucie HCA Hospital: Addition of 56,400 square feet to the existing hospital located at the southeast corner of Tiffany Avenue and Hillmoor Drive.

P23-171 Strickland Brothers at Prima Vista Oil Lube: A 1,670-square-foot oil lube facility located west of Friar Street and north of Prima Vista Boulevard.

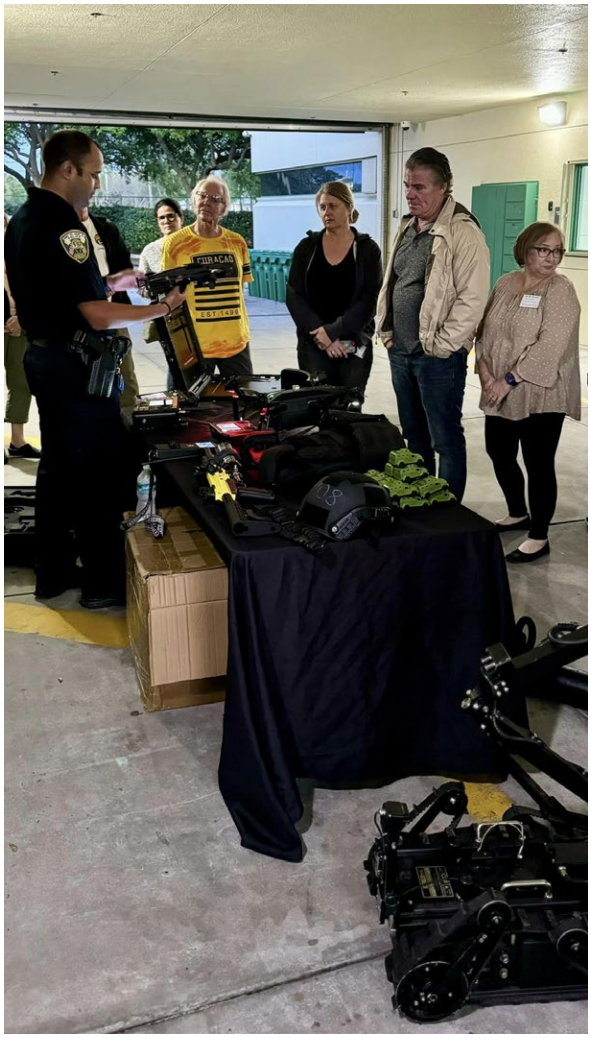
P24-019 JJF Automotive Shop: A 5,900-square-foot auto repair facility located at the southeast corner of Domina Road and Campana Street.

Port St. Lucie Police

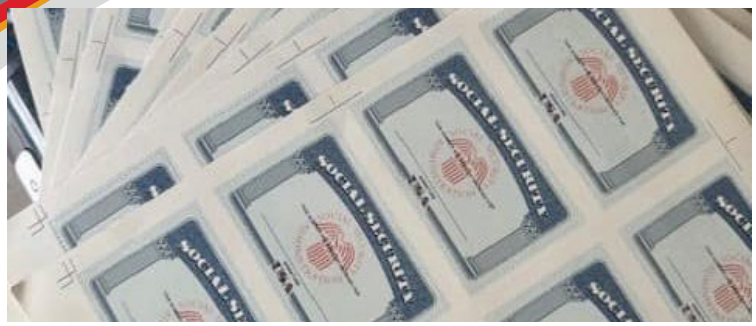
District 1

The Port St. Lucie Police Department's Citizen Police Academy is going strong! Academy participants get up close and personal with some of the firearms and equipment our officers use, the robotics and drones used by our SWAT team and our furry friends and their K9 officers who work the streets.











In February, the PSLPD Special Investigations Division and the PSLPD SWAT team served a search warrant in the 400 block of NW Reading Lane. They arrested 41-year-old Jabbar Ferdinand on several felony charges. The investigation began with a tip from the Department of Homeland Security, which intercepted a package containing multiple sheets of blank social security cards addressed to Ferdinand at his address.

A controlled delivery was conducted, and once detectives verified that Ferdinand received and opened the package, the search warrant was served.

Ferdinand was charged with counterfeiting credit cards; trafficking in counterfeit credit cards; fraud/possession of a fake driver's license; fraud/impersonating another without consent; possession of a firearm by a convicted felon; possession of a controlled substance; and possession of tools to produce credit cards. Ferdinand was transported to the St. Lucie County Jail, where he has since bonded out. This shows great teamwork between federal and local law enforcement!



On March 1, PSLPD Special Investigations Division (SID) Gang Intelligence detectives provided security for Probation and Parole while they conducted a probation search at 33-year-old Carlet Dervile's residence in the 6100 block of NW Ginger Lane. Dervile was on probation for making a false or fraudulent insurance claim under $20,000.

During the search, probation officers found marijuana, so SID detectives obtained a narcotics search warrant. Once the search warrant was obtained, detectives continued the search. They discovered a loaded handgun, ammunition, 2.2 pounds of marijuana, five Xanax pills, two vials of testosterone, 44 Tramadol pills, several vacuum sealer bags, a stolen ATV out of Palm Beach County and a large sum of cash.

Meanwhile, a traffic stop was conducted on a black BMW in the 11000 block of SW Tradition Parkway. One of the occupants of the BMW, 27-year-old Travis Julceus, was discovered to be a resident of the NW Ginger Lane home. The driver of the BMW was 26-year-old Tremain Mathieu. Officers at the traffic stop could smell the odor of burnt marijuana emanating from the BMW, so a search was conducted. The search revealed a large sum of cash, 3 pounds of marijuana and a loaded handgun.

Carlet Dervile was arrested and charged with violation of probation; possession of marijuana over 20 grams; possession of marijuana with intent to sell; grand theft of a motor vehicle; three counts of possession of a controlled substance; and possession of drug paraphernalia. He is housed in the St. Lucie County Jail.

Travis Julceus was arrested and charged with giving a false name to an officer; possession of marijuana over 20 grams; possession of marijuana with intent to sell; possession of drug paraphernalia; and grand theft of a motor vehicle. Julceus also had three outstanding warrants for his arrest out of St. Lucie County that were served, and he is housed in the St. Lucie County Jail.

Tremain Mathieu was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to sell and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony. He has been released on bond. A total of $46,679 was located and seized as part of the investigation. Great job by all involved!



Officer Ruede located 76-year-old Michael along SW Bayshore Boulevard on March 6 as he was pushing his scooter full of groceries in 85-degree weather. His scooter's battery died.



Officer Ruede stayed with Michael and contacted Officer Boyd, who arrived in his Patrol SUV with a trailer. The officers provided Michael with refreshments and delivered him and his scooter to his residence off Airoso Boulevard. Great job, officers!



District 2

Chief Richard Del Toro and Assistant Chief Leo Niemczyk, on behalf of the PSLPD Police Foundation, accepted a $2,000 donation from Mission BBQ! This donation will assist officers in need. We thank you for your continued generosity!

District 3

The Port St. Lucie Police Department responded to a gas station on SW Darwin Boulevard for reports of an adult male armed with a handgun stating he wanted to kill himself. Officers arrived shortly after and located the 49-year-old male standing beside an air compressor in the parking lot. Several other officers arrived and set a perimeter to block off traffic and contain the scene.

Officers pleaded with the male subject to drop the handgun, but the male refused and repeatedly yelled for the officers to shoot him. As officers attempted to de-escalate the incident, an off-duty officer, who happened to be a crisis negotiator, saw the heavy police presence and responded to the scene. The off-duty officer took over negotiations with the male subject, but he still would not drop his handgun.

As the off-duty officer continued negotiations, the on-duty sergeant positioned himself more than 40 feet away from the armed subject and armed himself with his newly issued Taser 10. Other officers provided lethal cover to the sergeant.

As the off-duty officer distracted the armed subject, the subject removed the handgun from his head, pointing it at the ground. The sergeant took the opportunity and deployed his Taser 10, pulling the trigger five times. Neuromuscular Incapacitation (NMI) was achieved and the subject dropped his handgun as he fell to the ground. Officers rushed to the subject and handcuffed him without further incident.

Officers secured the subject's handgun. Although his handgun was real, it was only loaded with blanks, not live ammunition. The subject was taken to a local hospital for treatment, receiving the needed help.

This incident is a prime example of why the PSLPD upgraded to the Taser 10. The Taser 7 would not have allowed the sergeant to deploy from a distance greater than 21 feet, and if he were close enough to deploy, he only would have had two opportunities to incapacitate the subject. The new Taser 10 gave him nine opportunities at greater and safer distances.







Lt. Brian Kenny and Councilman Anthony Bonna Sr. attended the Southwest PSL Little League opening ceremony at Whispering Pines Park. This year marks the league's 30th anniversary, and even Spider-Man and Sponge Bob were on hand to celebrate!







District 4

Assistant Chief Niemczyk and Councilman David Pickett attended the Port St. Lucie Little League Softball opening ceremony. What started six years ago with a handful of athletes has grown to more than 200 athletes eager to start the season!

In Other News

Assistant Chief Niemczyk gave a small group of Girl Scouts a behind-the-scenes tour of the police department last week. The Girl Scouts were shown several areas throughout the department and even watched a demonstration from our Crime Scene Investigators. Who knows, this group may have some future officers or investigators!









In February, PSLPD placed a donation bin in the front lobby to support The Hands and Feet: Delivering Help and Hope, an organization supporting foster care children. Employees and citizens could donate the much-needed items, including new blankets, stuffed toys, nightlights, sound machines and books. Assistant Chief Niemczyk and members of Command Staff were happy to turn over the bin of donated items. Pictured is just a sample of the donations.





PSLPD SWAT Team members, in conjunction with Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties, participated in Read Across America at Mariposa Elementary School. Officers were allowed to read several books to kindergarten through third-grade students. The kids and readers all enjoyed the experience!

An attaboy from the Desk of Children's University:

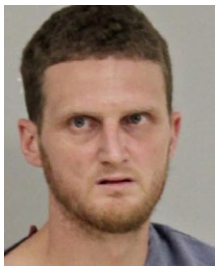
March 5, 2024

To whom it may concern,

The administration team at Children's University wants to write this letter regarding our experience today with Officer Bermudez's visit. The experience she gave our students was so enriching and memorable. We are truly grateful. She taught the children so much while simultaneously keeping the learning environment so incredibly fun and interactive. She was informative, poised and a complete role model for these young children. They admired her very much and had a day they will never forget. Officer Bermudez was a joy to work with and we are very thankful for her service to our community!

Kind Regards,

Children's University's Administration Team



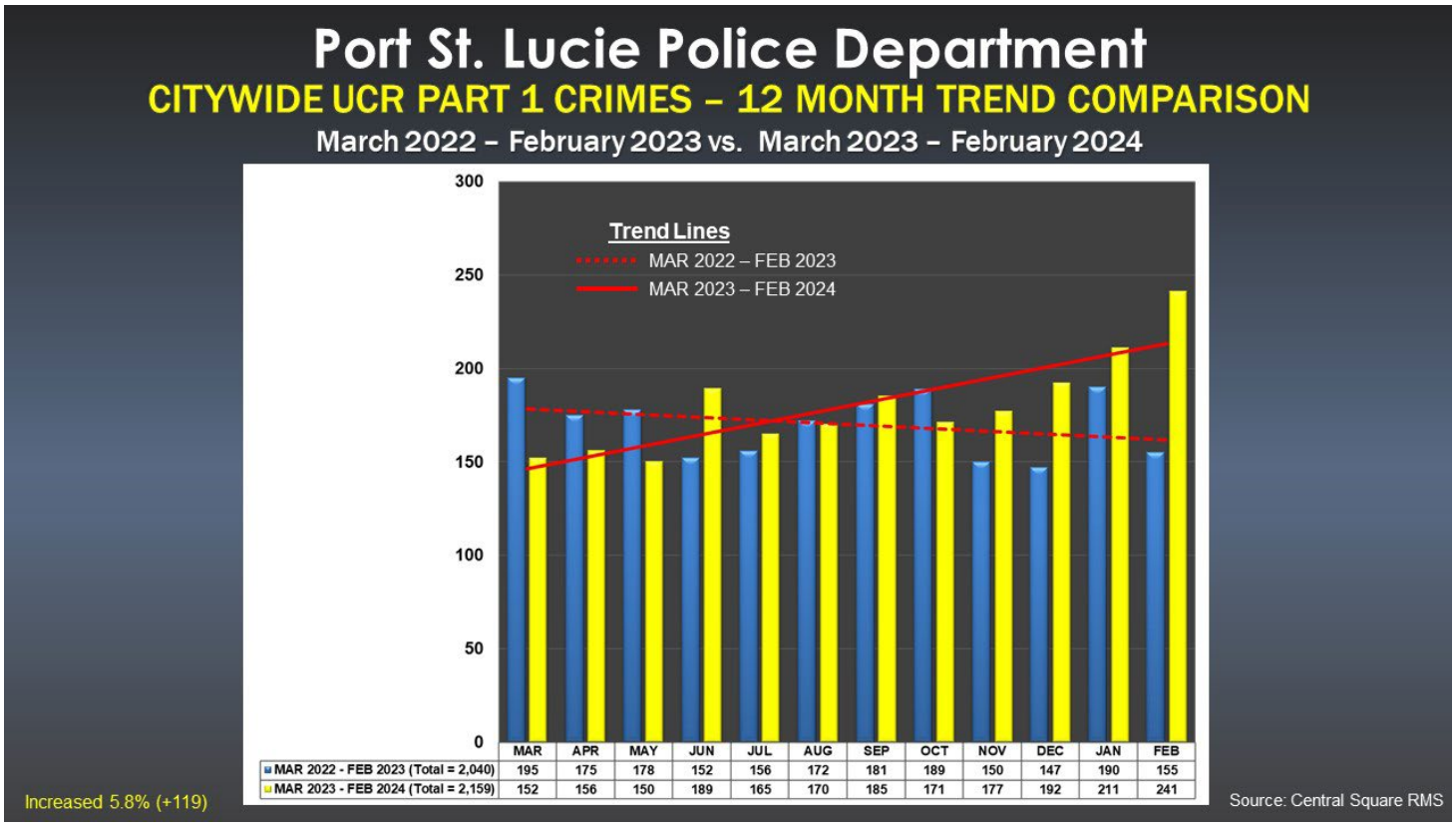
On March 1, at the St. Lucie County Courthouse, 32-year-old Edwin Thompson accepted a 15-year prison sentence in a plea deal for the charges of manslaughter, sale and delivery of fentanyl, possession of fentanyl and unlawful use of a two-way communication device. Thomspon was arrested by Port St. Lucie Police Department Special Investigations Division detectives in October on several felony charges concerning the overdose death of 34-year-old Michael McGaffin. Great job by the detectives involved!

Police Events

On March 21, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, the PSLPD will host a Safe Kids Car Seat Install at its headquarters, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd., Building C. Anyone interested should call 772-871-5027.



Crime Stats

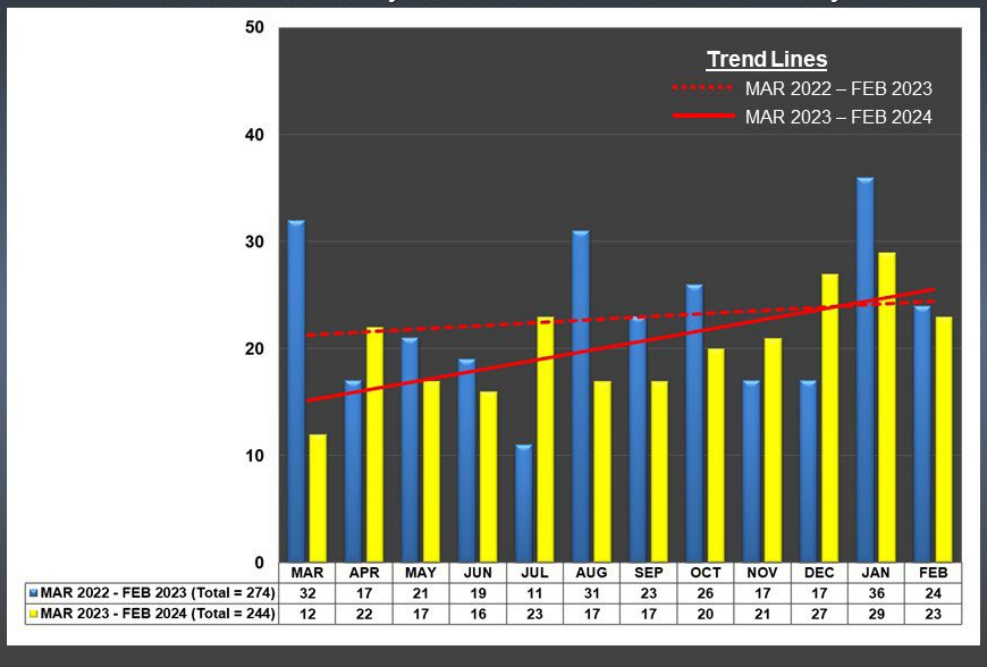


Crime Stats

Port St. Lucie Police Department

CITYWIDE UCR VIOLENT PART 1 CRIMES – 12 MONTH TREND COMPARISON

March 2022 – February 2023 vs. March 2023 – February 2024



	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
MAR 2022 - FEB 2023 (Total = 274)	32	17	21	19	11	31	23	26	17	17	36	24
MAR 2023 - FEB 2024 (Total = 244)	12	22	17	16	23	17	17	20	21	27	29	23

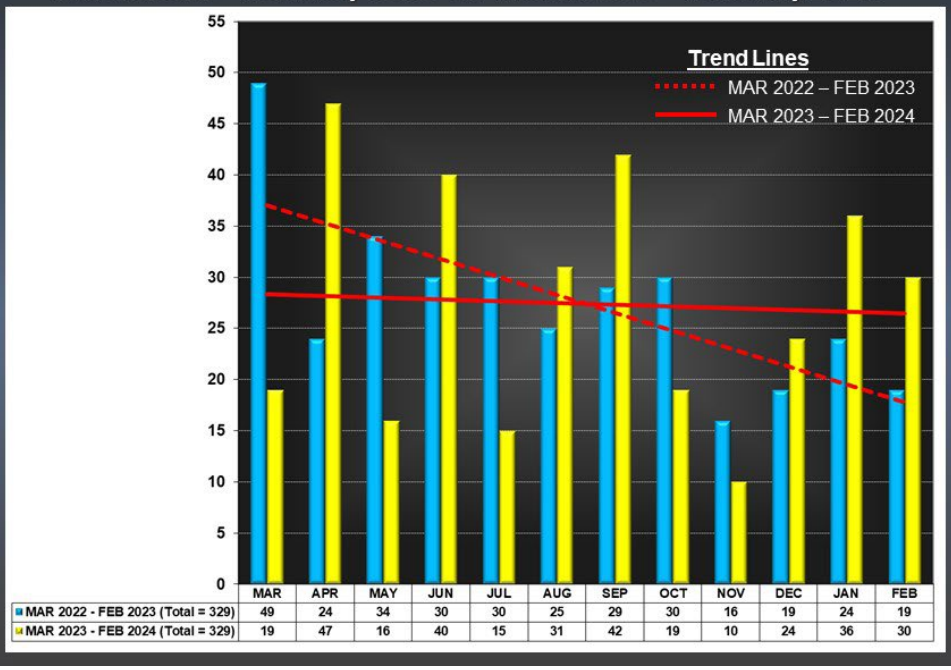
Decreased -10.9% (-30)

Source: Central Square RMS

Port St. Lucie Police Department

CITYWIDE AUTO BURGLARIES – 12 MONTH TREND COMPARISON

March 2022 – February 2023 vs. March 2023 – February 2024



	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
MAR 2022 - FEB 2023 (Total = 329)	49	24	34	30	30	25	29	30	16	19	24	19
MAR 2023 - FEB 2024 (Total = 329)	19	47	16	40	15	31	42	19	10	24	36	30

No Change (0)

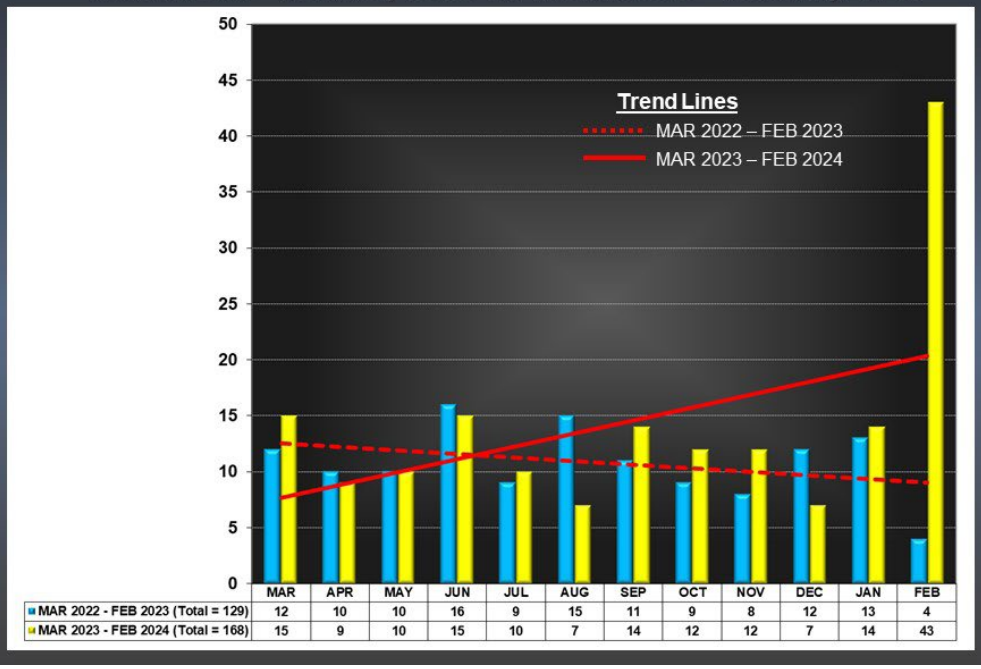
Source: Central Square RMS

Crime Stats

Port St. Lucie Police Department

CITYWIDE RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES – 12 MONTH TREND COMPARISON

March 2022 – February 2023 vs. March 2023 – February 2024



	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
MAR 2022 - FEB 2023 (Total = 129)	12	10	10	16	9	15	11	9	8	12	13	4
MAR 2023 - FEB 2024 (Total = 168)	15	9	10	15	10	7	14	12	12	7	14	43

Increased 30.2% (+39)

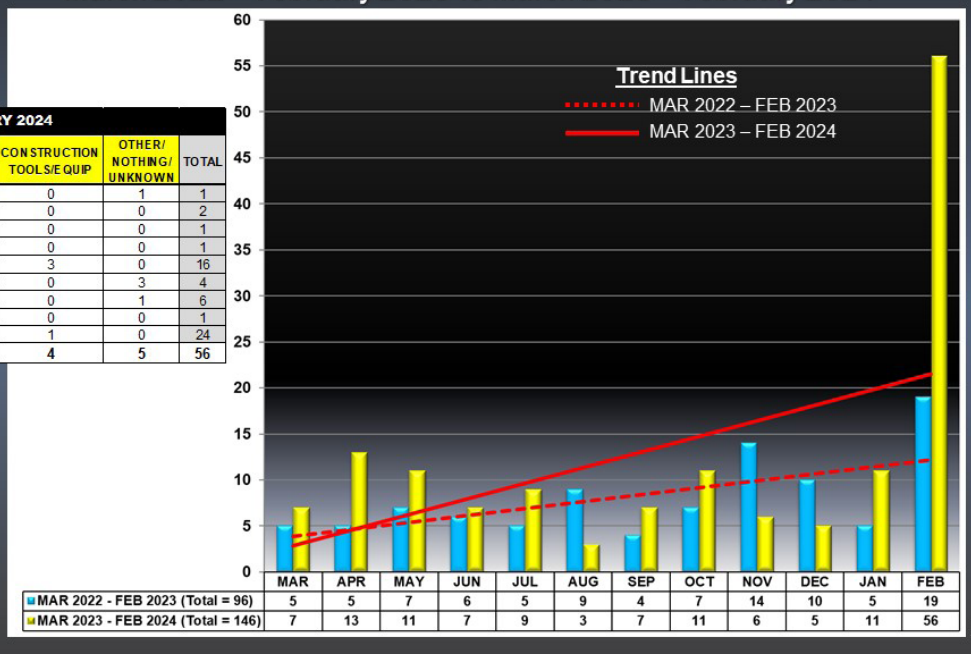
Source: Central Square RMS

Port St. Lucie Police Department

CITYWIDE CONSTRUCTION SITE BURGLARIES & THEFTS– 12 MONTH TREND COMPARISON

March 2022 – February 2023 vs March 2023 – February 2024

FEBRUARY 2024					
ZONE	APPLIANCES	BUILDING/ LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES	CONSTRUCTION TOOLS/EQUIP	OTHER/ NOTHING/ UNKNOWN	TOTAL
PS14	0	0	0	1	1
PS22	0	2	0	0	2
PS32	0	1	0	0	1
PS43	0	1	0	0	1
PS44	0	13	3	0	16
PS51	0	1	0	3	4
PS52	0	5	0	1	6
PS53	1	0	0	0	1
PS54	0	23	1	0	24
TOTAL	1	46	4	5	56

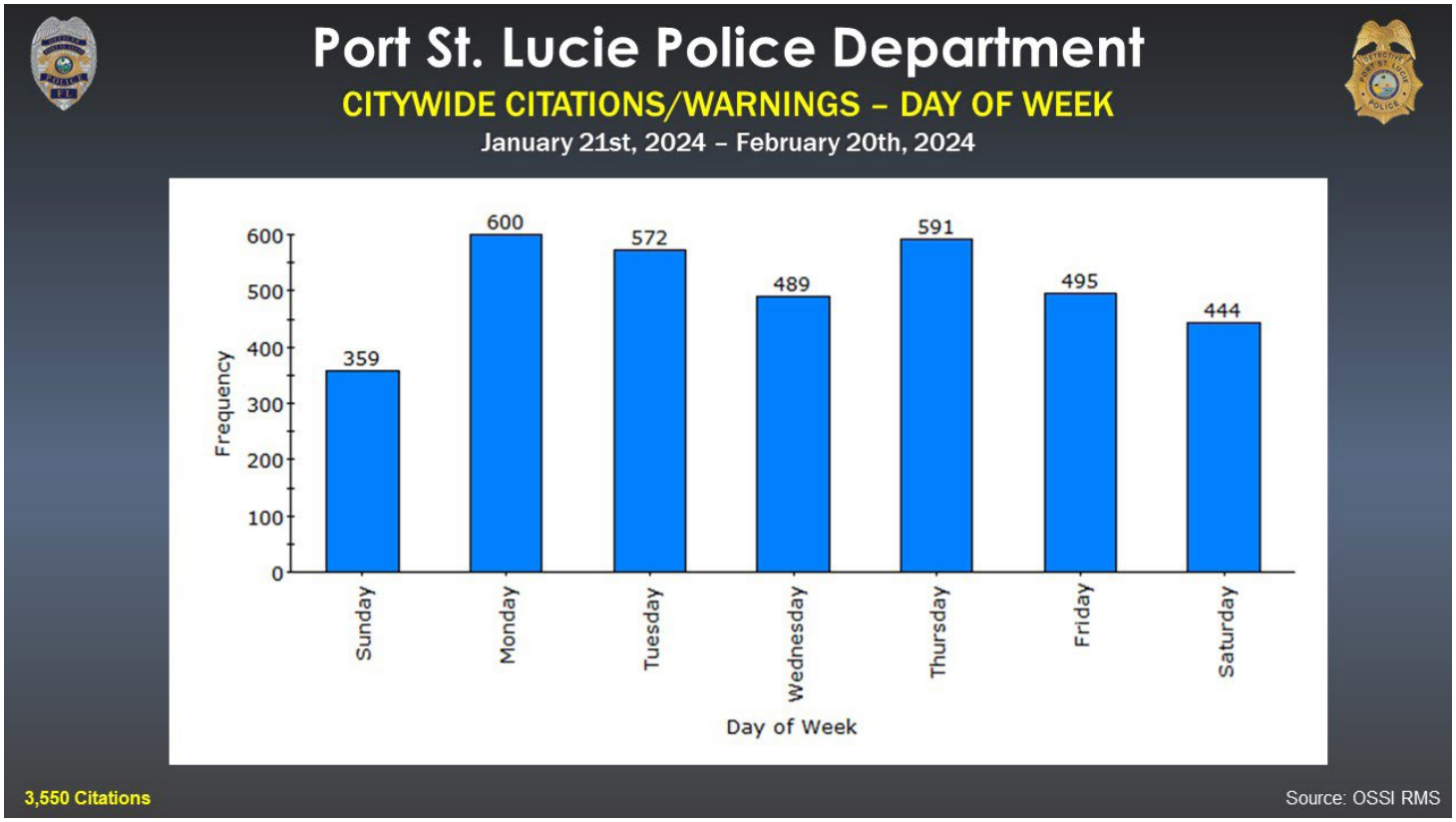


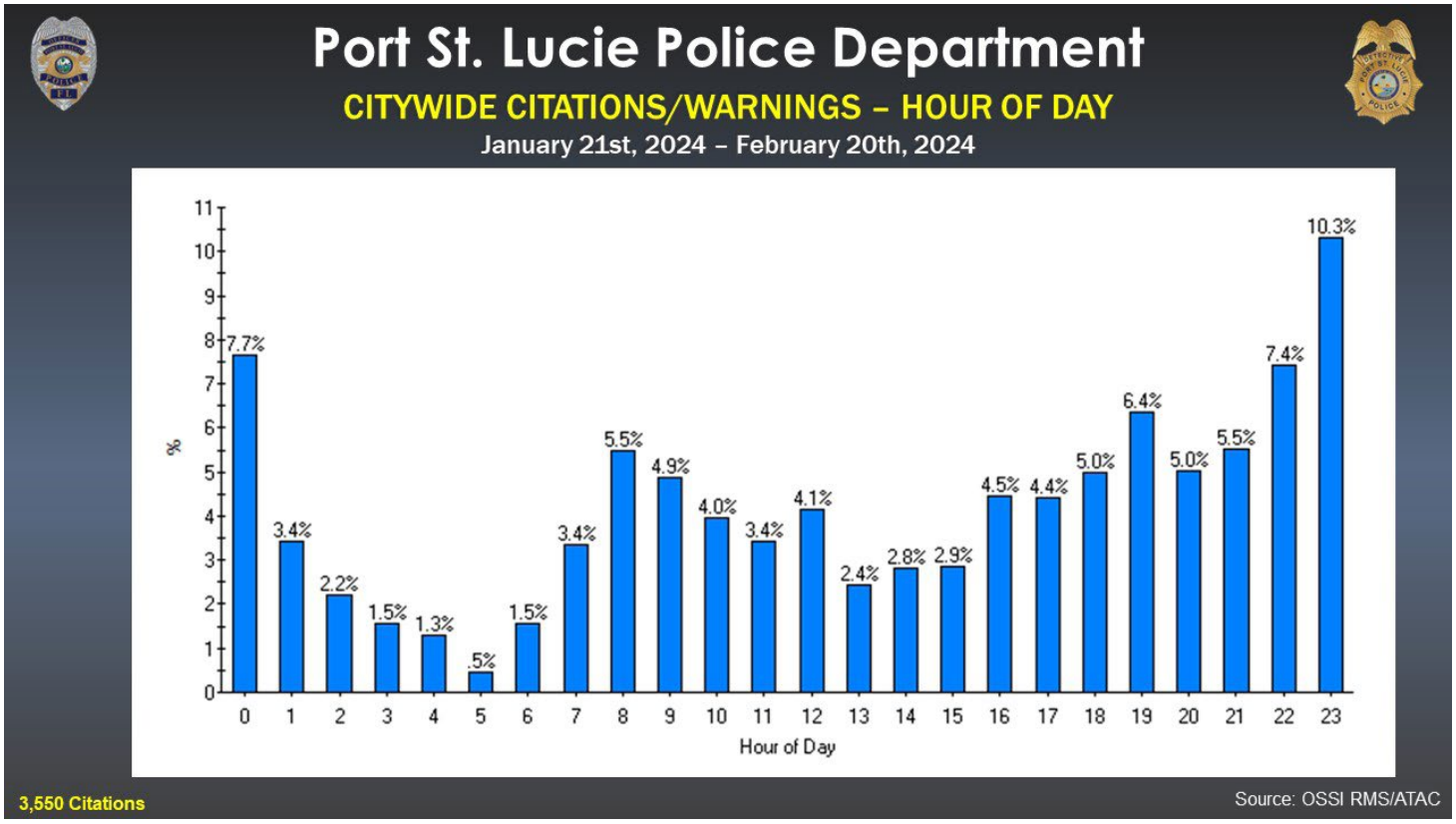
	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
MAR 2022 - FEB 2023 (Total = 96)	5	5	7	6	5	9	4	7	14	10	5	19
MAR 2023 - FEB 2024 (Total = 146)	7	13	11	7	9	3	7	11	6	5	11	56

Increased 52.1% (+50)

Source: Central Square RMS

Crime Stats


Port St. Lucie Police Department
CITYWIDE CITATIONS/WARNINGS – DAY OF WEEK
January 21st, 2024 – February 20th, 2024
Frequency
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
359
600
572
489
591
495
444
Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Day of Week
3,550 Citations
Source: OSSI RMS


Port St. Lucie Police Department
CITYWIDE CITATIONS/WARNINGS – HOUR OF DAY
January 21st, 2024 – February 20th, 2024
%
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
7.7%
3.4%
2.2%
1.5%
1.3%
.5%
1.5%
3.4%
5.5%
4.9%
4.0%
3.4%
4.1%
2.4%
2.8%
2.9%
4.5%
4.4%
5.0%
6.4%
5.0%
5.5%
7.4%
10.3%
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
Hour of Day
3,550 Citations
Source: OSSI RMS/ATAC

Public Works

Public Works attends homeowner association meetings

Director of Public Works and City Engineer Colt Schwerdt attended the Vitalia Homeowner Association (HOA) Meeting with Mayor Shannon Martin to discuss development, growth and help answer resident questions.

He also attended the Kings Isle and Lake Charles HOA meetings with Councilman David Pickett to discuss projects and answer questions, along with Thomas Salvador, Capital Improvement and Sales Tax Project Group Manager, and Emily Seitter, Capital Improvement and Sales Tax Project Manager. The team updated residents on the California Boulevard Widening Project.

Our Public Works team enjoys talking to community residents about our role in overseeing the City resources that manage the planning, design, construction and maintenance of City infrastructure and various facilities.





Public Works focusing on customer service

Customer Service Supervisor Jennifer Romberger helped train staff on responding and tracking resident concerns on the 1PSL service requests, another way to ensure residents experience excellent customer service from our amazing staff in the Public Works Department. Jennifer offered two training courses held at different Public Works locations for our staff to participate.

1PSL Your 24/7 City Hall

The City of Port St. Lucie uses the 1PSL system to help residents reach the City to request services, report concerns, get help fixing issues or to thank employees for a job well done. This system is used for non-emergency issues only.



Capital Improvement Project managers attend 2024 Safe Streets Summit

Our Capital Improvement and Sales Tax Project managers Emily Seitter, David Epperson and Everett Tourjee recently attended the 2024 Safe Streets Summit in Miami.

The summit focused on embracing bicycle and pedestrian mobility to help turn neighborhoods into vibrant and connected communities where safe, sustainable and accessible streets empower everyone to embrace the joy of bicycle and pedestrian mobility. The summit offered the opportunity for collaboration, innovation and advocacy. Our staff connected with other participants from local municipalities and had the opportunity to attend sessions, workshops and discussions aimed at fostering a shared vision for creating safer, more resilient streets.







Supporting Target Zero

Public Works continues to partner with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to support mobility and safety throughout the City. This includes learning and finding ways to support the FDOT Target Zero Initiative.

Katie Kehres, FDOT District Four Safety Administrator, recently presented information on Target Zero to the Treasure Coast Branch of the American Public Works Association (APWA), which includes representatives from the City of Port St. Lucie, consultants, contractors and other local municipalities.

Target Zero is a statewide initiative to reduce the number of transportation-related serious injuries and deaths across Florida to zero. Target Zero is important because on average, eight people are killed and 49 are seriously injured on Florida's roads every day. In most of those serious and fatal crashes, driver behavior is a contributing factor. The Target Zero initiative focuses on connecting, interacting and designing our transportation system to specifically relate to those drivers who are most involved in crashes that result in serious injuries and fatalities.

The City is working closely with FDOT on Target Zero as it looks at intersections and roadways throughout the City. Our staff attends regular Target Zero partnering meetings and invites FDOT to reach out to City residents at events such as the Citizen Summit.



Supporting a Boy Scout in earning a merit badge

Jacob Perusse, First Class, BSA Troop 463, reached out to our Traffic Operations Division to help him as he worked towards earning a Boy Scout merit badge for citizenship in the community. To earn a citizen in the community badge, a Scout must identify a problem and interview a community leader about the issue. The student interviewed Paul Johnson, Administrator for Traffic Operations, about traffic in the City. Paul spoke with the Boy Scout about Traffic Operations' role in supporting the community with mobility and safety, and helped answer the student's questions.

The Traffic Operations Division manages the maintenance and functionality of the City's traffic signals, beacons, roadway and pedestrian lighting, school zone flashers, signs and pavement markings as well as ITS network. One of the primary functions is to help provide mobility and safety for residents through planned infrastructure projects and improvements as well as system upgrades utilizing innovative technologies.

Florida Department of Transportation starting construction on Midway Road widening project in April

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is starting construction on a County Road 712/ Midway Road widening project from west of Jenkins Road to Selvitz Road. FDOT hosted a public meeting Feb. 13 and recently announced construction for the 0.785 miles of roadway will start in April with anticipated completion in the summer of 2026.

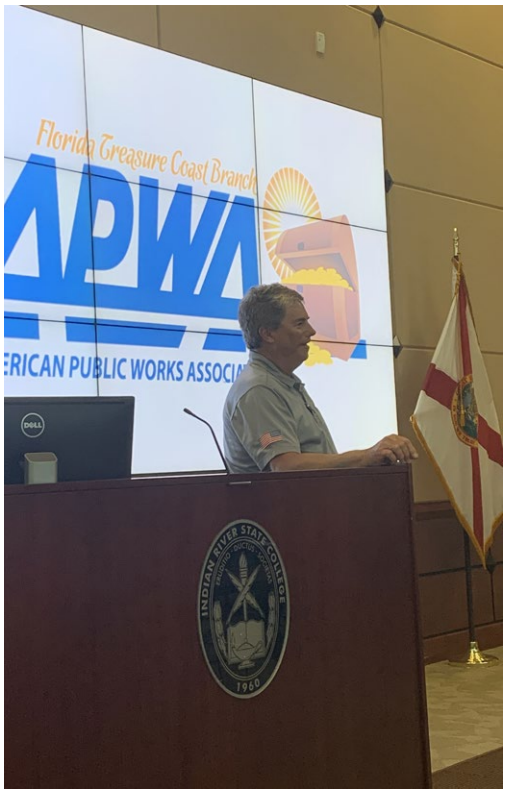
The project improvements include widening CR 712/Midway Road from a two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided roadway. The eastbound and westbound lanes of CR 712/ Midway Road will be separated by a raised landscaped median. Additional improvements include constructing left-turn lanes in the median to allow access to adjacent side streets, properties and businesses; constructing 7-foot buffered bicycle lanes on both sides of CR 712/Midway Road; constructing 6-foot sidewalk along the north side of CR 712/Midway Road; constructing a 12-foot bicycle/pedestrian path along the south side of the project; installing landscaping along the south side of the project; and upgrading drainage, signage and pavement markings.



Public Works participates in the APWA Leadership Institute

Public Works staff Michelle Reid, Michelle Lanchez and Kevin Stone are participating in the American Public Works Association (APWA) Leadership Institute with Indian River State College. The 90-hour leadership course provides instruction on supervision and workplace skills, management and public trust, and leading forward. The continuing education program also offers on-site tours of facilities highlighting the different aspects and areas of Public Works.

Frank Knott and Bob Carlsen recently presented information to the group on how to become involved with the American Public Works Association (APWA) volunteer organization, spotlighting the benefits of trainings and events to give back to the community.





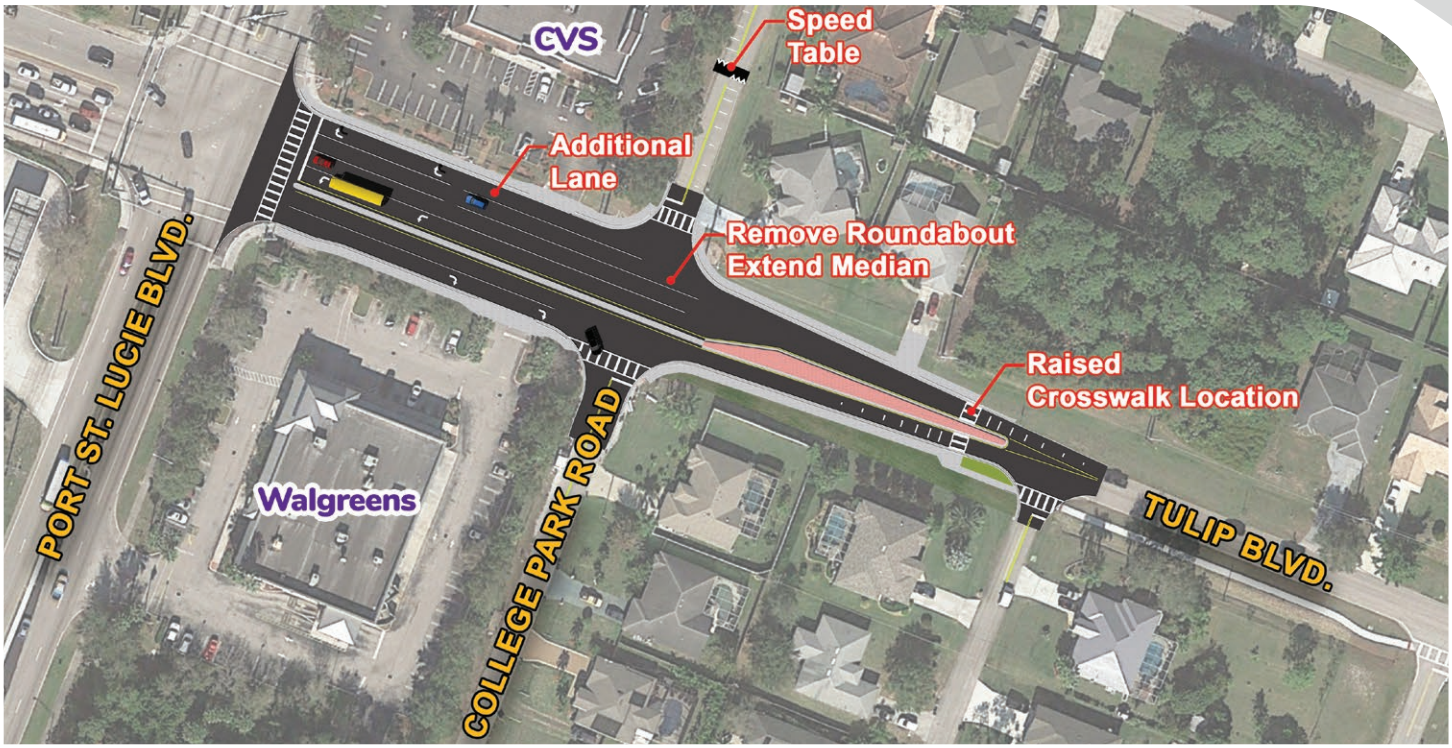


March is Florida Bike Month

Get out and ride safely! March is Florida Bike Month, and whether you enjoy riding for fun or use bicycling to commute to work or school, remember to stay safe.

Bike safety quick tips:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Ride in the same direction of traffic on the street.
- Be visible, especially at night or in the early morning. Always use a white front light and a red rear light and reflector.
- Obey all traffic signs, signals and markings.



SW Tulip Boulevard and SW College Park Road intersection construction update

Construction for the SW Tulip Boulevard and SW College Park Road intersection improvements project is anticipated to start in summer 2024. This will minimize traffic congestion by avoiding construction of the adjacent Port St. Lucie Boulevard segment three project that is ongoing. The new start date will not affect the cost of the project. Improvements include the removal of the existing mini roundabout, extension of the existing traffic separator, construction of a dedicated westbound right turn lane, traffic signal modifications, sidewalks, a raised crosswalk and a speed table on SW College Park Road.

Advance notice of construction will be provided and communicated to the public.

Roadway Resurfacing Projects

www.cityofpsl.com/repaving

The Capital Improvement resurfacing goal for FY 2023/24 is 26.91 miles with 0 miles completed to date. Below are the areas that will be resurfaced this fiscal year. Residents will be notified in advance of resurfacing.

- Palm Trails
- Hidden Oaks (West)
- Hidden Oaks (East)
- Gatlin Pines (West)
- Gatlin Pines (East)
- Rosser Reserve (West)
- Sandhill Crossing
- Floresta Gardens (East)
- Floresta Gardens (West)

Utility Systems



Water Woman celebrates Literacy Week

Water Woman made waves in Ms. Monsanto's first grade class as a guest reader to help Savanna Ridge Elementary celebrate Literacy Week. After watching the students' book character parade, Water Woman read "A Drop Around the World" by Barbara Shaw McKinney, which follows one drop of water around the world and through the water.

Next she read "The Water Princess" by Susan Verde to the class, which helped the students appreciate how precious our water resources are and how not everyone in the world has access to fresh water. This was Water Woman's fourth time being a guest reader at Savanna Ridge.



Future trainees recruited at job fair

St. Lucie County Public Schools hosted a job fair in February at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center in conjunction with the Economic Development Council. Hundreds of high school juniors and seniors had the chance to speak to Water Treatment Plant Operators Mike Futo and Jeff Golden about the trainee positions available in Utility Systems. Mike and Jeff talked about the professional development opportunities, as well as the benefits of working for the City of Port St. Lucie. Utility Systems will be attending the next job fair scheduled for April 4 at the Fenn Center in Fort Pierce.



560 pounds of used cooking oil diverted

A total of 560 pounds of used cooking oil was collected at the Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in March. Utility Systems first partnered with KPSLB at a collection event held in 2020 and since then, 1,893 pounds of used cooking oil has been collected and kept from entering the sewer system.

Keeping household fats, oil and grease, also known as 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 prevent 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.

If you missed KPSLB's biannual collection event, you still can help protect our sewer system and the environment all year round by properly disposing of your household FOG. You can wait for it to cool and 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 you don't plan on using it, you can drop it off at the collection site located at the St. Lucie Solid Waste Bailing and Recycling Facility. These simple changes can make a huge impact.

The next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is Saturday, Oct. 19.

Highlight

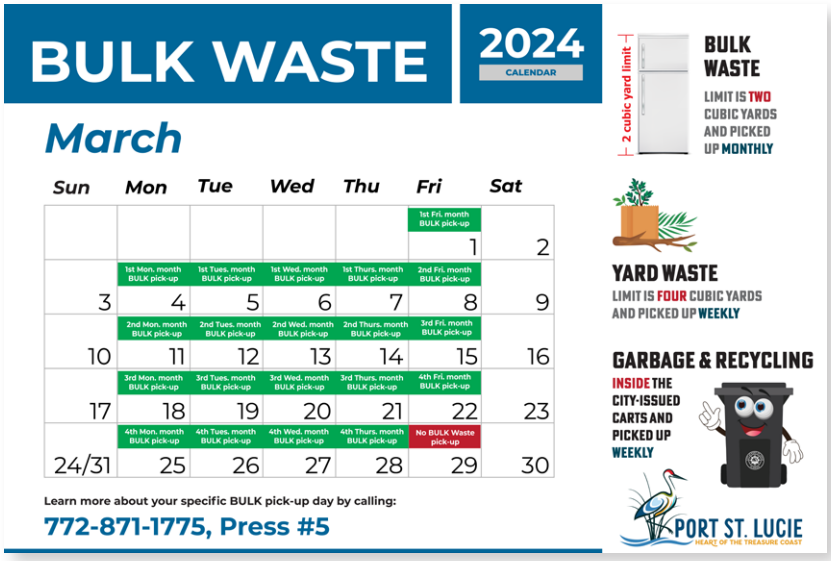


Spring into spring cleaning by knowing bulk waste collection dates

Spring is approaching and for many people that means it's time for the annual tradition of spring cleaning.

From decluttering closets to tidying up garages, households across Port St. Lucie will find themselves needing to get rid of items that might not fit into the regular waste collection carts. To assist with this seasonal purge, the City of Port St. Lucie is reminding residents they can dispose of bulk waste curbside once a month.

For residents who aren't sure what day is their bulk waste collection day, click here for the schedule for all of 2024.







Residents have multiple convenient options to determine their once-a-month bulk waste collection schedule, which is part of residents' regular service:

Phone support: Residents also can obtain the schedule by calling the Office of Solid Waste at 772-871-1775 and pressing 5 during regular business hours.

In-person assistance: Residents are welcome to visit City Hall to have a staff member look up their bulk waste pickup day and mark it on a magnet to put on a refrigerator. The magnet can be obtained at City Hall, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd., Building A, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding holidays.

Check online: The City's interactive solid waste map incorporates a calendar function, enabling residents to synchronize their pickup days seamlessly with their smartphone and laptop calendars.

To enable this feature, follow these easy instructions:

1. Visit the Waste Collection interactive map.

2. Once the map loads, type in your address in the search bar.

3. When your address has been located, click "Add to Calendar."

Here are some frequently asked questions about bulk waste that may be beneficial for residents.

What is bulk waste?

If you have items too large to fit inside your garbage cart, such as furniture, mattresses, large toys, exercise equipment and appliances, then it is considered bulk waste, which is collected once a month.

How much bulk waste is allowed?

The limit for bulk waste is 2 cubic yards per month, about the same size as a sofa or a standard size refrigerator.

When should residents put it out?

Residents should place items curbside by 7 a.m. on their pickup day but no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening before collection.

What if a resident can't wait for their bulk waste day?

Residents can drop off yard and bulk waste at the City's Convenient Drop-off Center at 1501 SW Cameo Blvd. on the corner of Cameo Boulevard and Crosstown Parkway. The Convenient Drop-off Center is open Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sometimes, the drop-off center's service may be temporarily interrupted when it reaches capacity. However, it will resume shortly after it has been serviced.

How do I dispose of household hazardous waste?

Household hazardous waste cannot be picked up with regular household garbage or at the City's Convenient Drop-off Center, but can be disposed of in two ways:

The St. Lucie County Solid Waste Baling and Recycling Facility, 6120 Glades Cut Off Road in Fort Pierce, accepts approved household hazardous waste. Learn more about what types of items can be disposed of at the St. Lucie County facility.





The City of Port St. Lucie Office of Solid Waste hosts a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day twice a year. The department also has free drop-off sites at City buildings for rechargeable batteries such as cell phones. Call 772-871-1775 and press 5 for more information.