

PSL
ON THE

Heart of the Treasure Coast | 10/04/24 | Volume 8 Issue 13

PULSE



Having a doggone good time!
National Night Out offers info, fun and more.

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

Officer Burdick with Hoot, one of the two bloodhounds that recently certified to begin work with the K9 Unit. Hoot and the other canines were at National Night Out on Oct. 1.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

Subscribe

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

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



PLANNING FOR A THRIVING FUTURE



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. The Strategic Plan was recently updated and adopted at the City Council Summer Workshop on July 24.

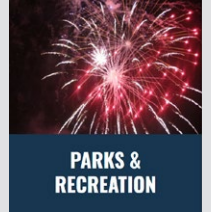
An essential part of bringing the plan to life is measuring performance through objective indicators and reporting those results back to citizens.

In PSL on the Pulse, we highlight projects specifically prioritized in the Strategic Plan that have achieved milestones, or where changes have occurred, in our effort to remain transparent and proactive. In addition, Strategic Plan "badges" indicate the strategic goal that each project, program or event advances, as everything we do at the City of Port St. Lucie aligns with our Strategic Plan.

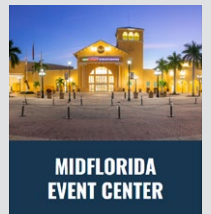
Calendar

Oct. 5-Nov. 1

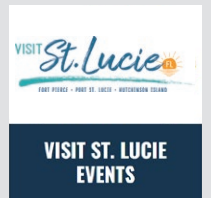
Oct. 5	2 p.m.: Oktoberfest 3 p.m.: Annual Sunlight Community Church Fall Festival
Oct. 9	9 a.m.: Special Magistrate Hearing 1:30 p.m.: Site Plan Review Committee
Oct. 10	9 a.m.: Construction Board of Appeals 5:30 p.m.: River Nights
Oct. 12	2 p.m.: Pokepark Gym Challenge
Oct. 14	1 p.m.: City Council Meeting
Oct. 15	8:15 a.m.: Coffee with the Council
Oct. 16	9 a.m.: Special Magistrate Hearing 1:30 p.m.: Citizen's Advisory Committee 6 p.m.: Super Spooky Special Populations Dance
Oct. 17	2 p.m.: Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
Oct. 18	3 p.m.: Infrastructure Surtax Citizens Oversight Committee
Oct. 19	8 a.m.: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day 2 p.m.: Harvest Hayride and Bonfire in the Preserve
Oct. 21	9 a.m.: City Council Workshop Meeting 6 p.m.: Public Art Advisory Board
Oct. 22	11:30 a.m.: Before You Sign the Lease Workshop
Oct. 23	9 a.m.: Special Magistrate Hearing 1:30 p.m.: Site Plan Review Committee
Oct. 25	11 a.m.: Shred and Protect 5 p.m.: Fall Fun Fest
Oct. 26	12 p.m.: Fall Fun Fest 4 p.m.: Jeeps Creepers Trunk or Treat Jeep and Car Show
Oct. 27	1 p.m.: Fall Fun Fest
Oct. 29	4 p.m.: Governmental Finance Corporation 6 p.m.: City Council Meeting
Oct. 31	6 p.m.: HallowTeen Hangout
Nov. 1	10 a.m.: Community Engagement Networking



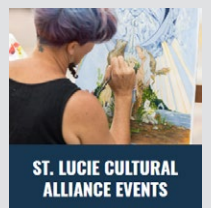
Click [here](#) to view full calendar.



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



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



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



FEATURE STORY

A lot is happening in the City of Port St. Lucie! From road projects to new parks, stormwater management to utility improvements, it can be hard to keep up with everything that's going on across Port St. Lucie.



In early October, the City participated in events that offered residents updates, information and insights that matter to them.

On Oct. 1, City Manager Jesus Merejo was the featured speaker at the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce Port St. Lucie Update Luncheon. The annual event was held at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center and featured a packed house of local business representatives, elected officials and more.



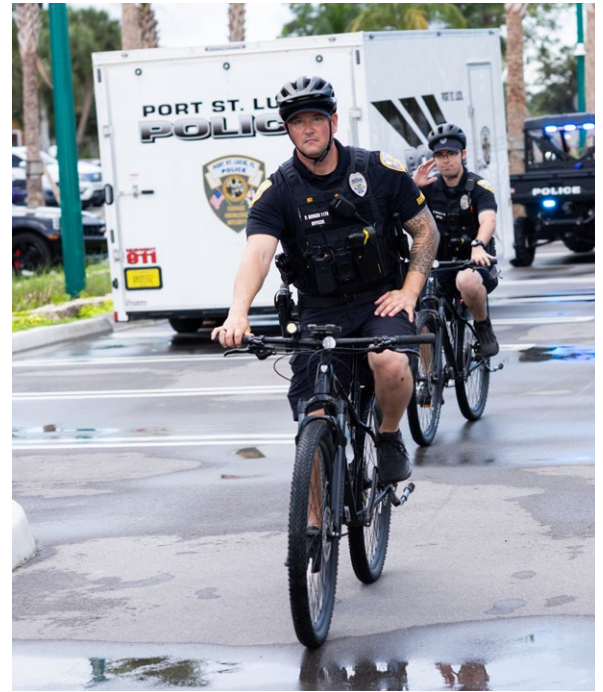
The City Manager held a “fireside chat” discussion, highlighting his three decades working for Port St. Lucie in a variety of different roles and how those experiences have shaped his leadership perspective. You can watch the video [here](#).

On Oct. 2, City Councilman Anthony Bonna Sr. hosted a District 3 Town Hall at Keiser University in Tradition. Approximately 60 residents attended the event, which touched on topics ranging from growth and infrastructure to budget and taxes.

He also was joined by Dr. Chirag Choudhary, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Cleveland Clinic Tradition Hospital. Dr. Choudhary discussed medical services available at the hospital and how Cleveland Clinic is recruiting new healthcare providers to meet the population growth demand.

Throughout the presentation, Councilman Bonna and City staff took questions from attendees and provided information on a wide variety of topics.





Also on Oct. 1, residents were invited to National Night Out, which featured interactive activities, games and presentations by Port St. Lucie Police department units. The event provided an opportunity for participants to have fun while learning about crime and drug prevention, and local anti-crime programs – ultimately strengthening police and community relationships.

Thank you to everyone who participated in these events to stay informed about all that's happening in Port St. Lucie!





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 shifted traffic to the newly constructed lanes to allow room to work in the median/middle of the road area from Damask Avenue to Crosstown Parkway. The contractor continues with concrete curb work and installing stamped concrete. The contractor is also installing irrigation to prepare for landscaping installation.

During the summer, the contractor constructed the oval-about at Floresta Elementary School. The new configuration supports pedestrian and vehicular traffic in this area. The oval-about will feature dolphin artwork.

Motorists are advised to use caution because of traffic shifts in the area as the contractor completes work in the median area of the roadway. Also, motorists should be cautious and aware of the new oval-about configuration in the area of Floresta Elementary.

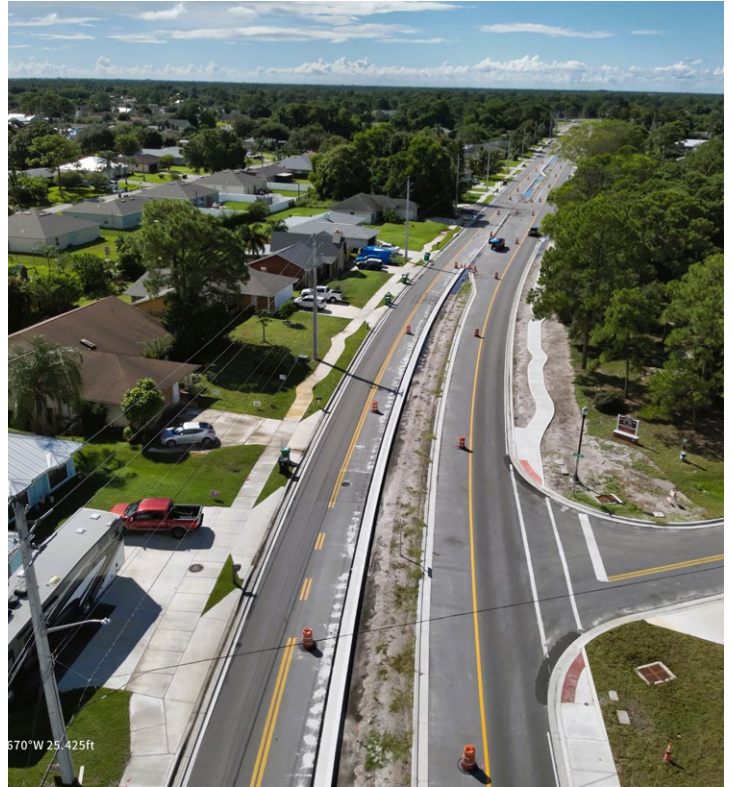
Lane closures and traffic shifts can be expected, and Lansdowne Avenue at Floresta Drive to Fairfield Street will remain closed to local traffic only. Autumn Terrace and Albatross Avenue at Floresta Drive have closures implemented because of median configuration and work taking place. These closures and construction activities may be affected by weather.

The contractor has completed the construction of a new bridge crossing the Elkcarn waterway, featuring 6-foot sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. Additionally, a roundabout on Floresta Drive at Polynesian Avenue has been constructed to safely and efficiently move traffic.

Work is ongoing at Thornhill Lake for required stormwater retention as part of the project, which will help provide water quality for the protection of the St. Lucie River.

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







Abingdon Avenue

Roadway Resurfacing

www.cityofpsl.com/repaving

The Sales Tax resurfacing goal for FY 23/24 is 16.44 miles with 14.80 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

Rosser Reserve (East):
Scheduled

Floresta Gardens (Mid):
Complete

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):
Project complete.





BUILDING



Highlights

- The Building Department hosted a stakeholder meeting Sept. 16 with plumbing contractors. The next meeting will be Nov. 18 with mechanical contractors.
- The Real Estate Assist Program was presented Sept. 18 to The St. Lucie County Realtor Association.

Building Activities: Certificates of Occupancy

- Five Guys, commercial alteration: 1707 NW St. Lucie West Blvd., Unit 158
- Florida Power & Light, commercial alteration: 9001 W. Midway Road
- Rosenthal Office, commercial alteration, third floor: 1660 SW St. Lucie West Blvd., Suite 300
- Riverland Sports Complex, shade structure: 12001 SW Riverland Blvd.

Commercial Permits

- Hulett Environmental Services, new building: 3201 SW Yales St.
- Vivid Salon, commercial alteration: 10684 SW Crosstown Parkway
- Stars and Stripes Park, walkways: 12441 SW Village Parkway
- Movement Meditation Studio, commercial alteration: 10198 SW Village Parkway, Suite 101
- Brooklyn Water Bagel, restaurant buildout: 1319 NW St. Lucie West Blvd.



Aug. 30-Sept. 27		2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Permits Issued	3,254	35,233	54,440	60,774	68,261	52,355	41,504	39,899
Single-Family Permits Issued	201	2,718	4,069	3,882	5,273	3,824	2,729	2,189
Certificates of Occupancy Single-family	297	2,990	3,835	4,658	3,911	2,893	2,711	1,824
Inspections Completed	13,387	149,052	210,048	248,274	208,545	155,421	137,302	115,073
Plans Reviewed	3,146	27,088	21,211	24,103	24,820	19,150	13,978	13,559
Online Permits Applied	3,110	32,397	50,658	50,937	48,166	26,855	18,395	13,421

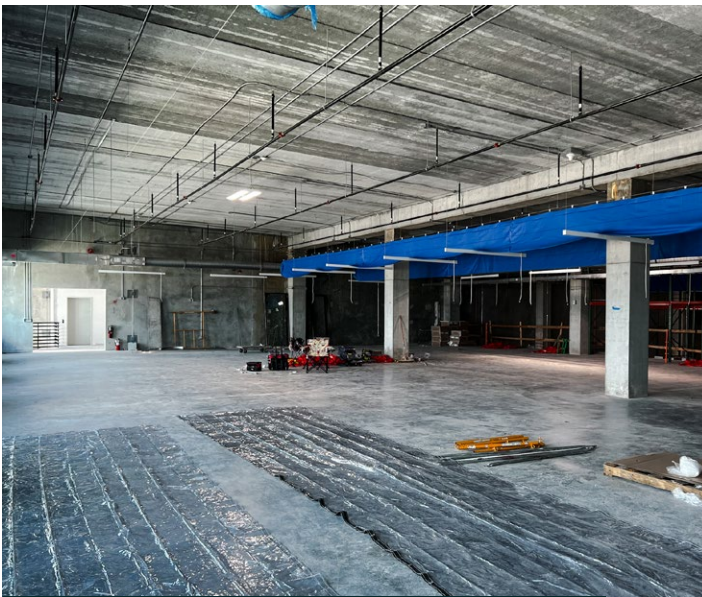
Testimonials

"The service received at each step from the permit application to the final inspection was exceptional. I am extremely pleased with this service."

"PSL is No. 1 in South Florida for efficiency, working with builders and owners and administration of the entire permitting process."

Welcome

The Building Department welcomes its new team members, Anthony Solino and Daron Subryan.



Oculus Surgical - Interior



Oculus Surgical -Manufacturing Facility





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.

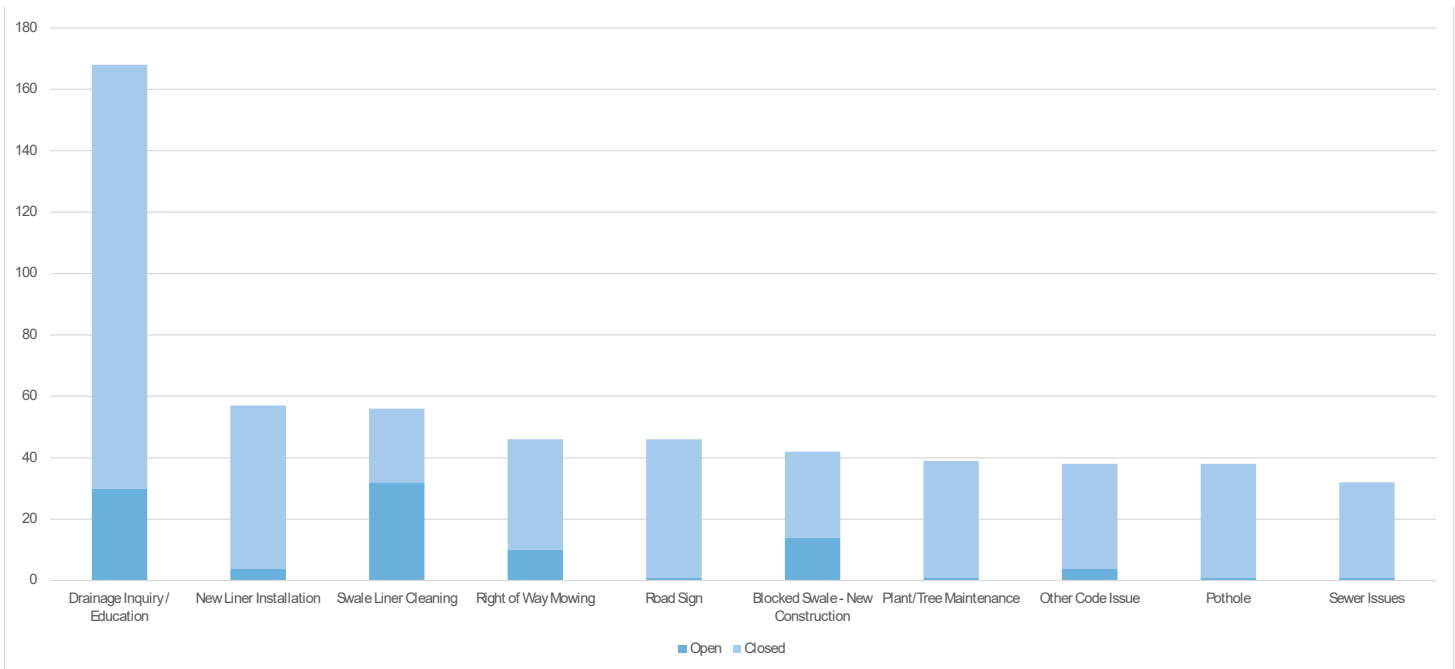
Web Portal

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

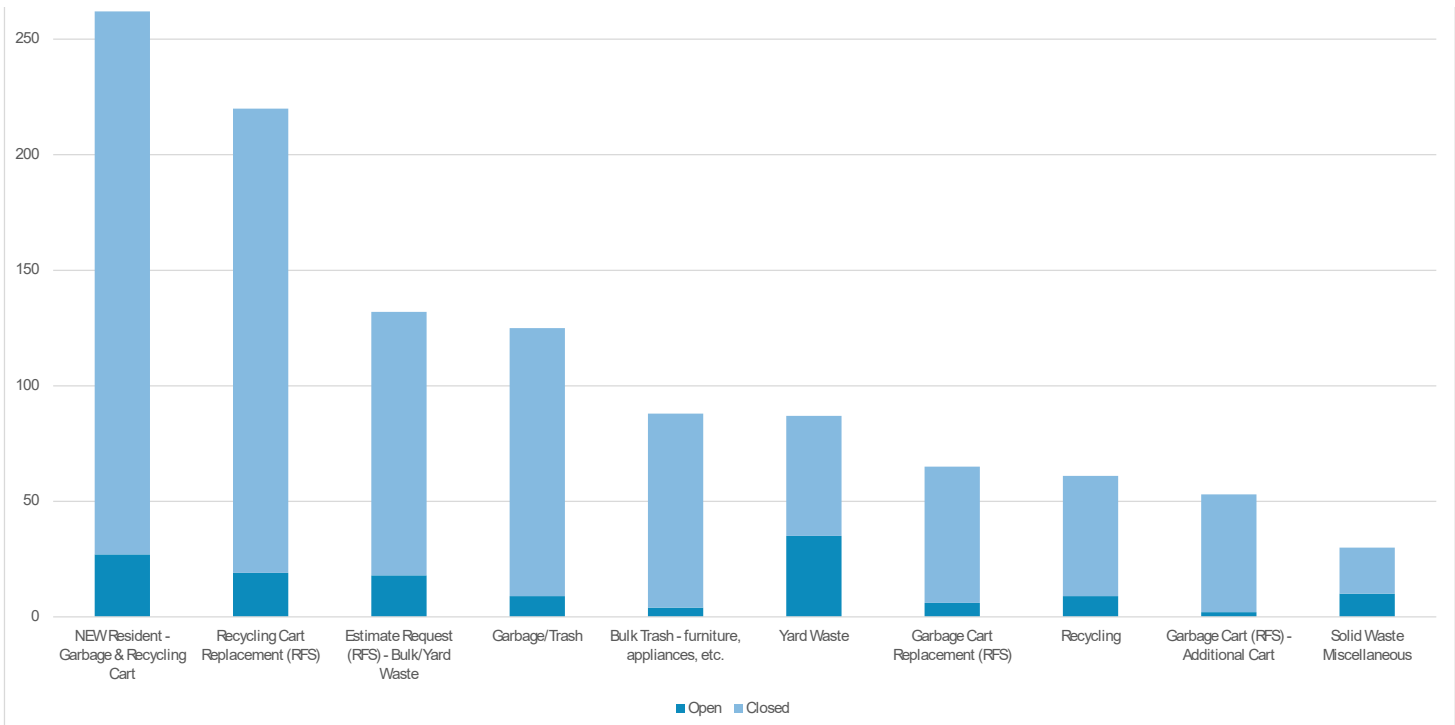




Top 10 1PSL Requests Sept. 1-26



Top 10 Solid Waste Requests Sept. 1-26





COMMUNICATIONS

Youth Council kicks off 2024-25 with leadership summit

This September, the Youth Council's first-ever leadership summit was a success. More than 100 people came out on a Saturday, including 43 Youth Council members and their parents, as well as 15 guest speakers, including the Mayor, City Manager and other City staff. The City collaborated with three organizations (Boys and Girls Club of St. Lucie County, St. Lucie Round Table HYPE Youth and St. Lucie County Transit Department) to get the 2024-25 Youth Council off to a great start.





The Youth Council followed with its first meeting of the year, including a new app that will serve as a communication tool for members to stay current on council-related information.

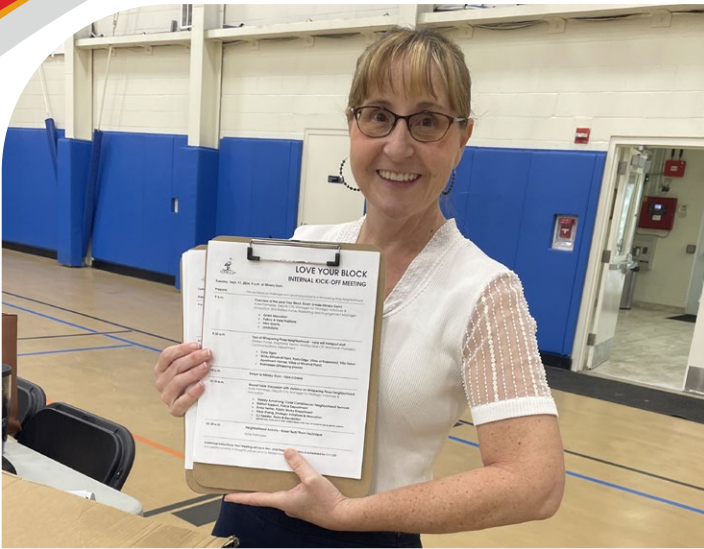


PSL NOW highlights upcoming events

It's event season in the City of Port St. Lucie and PSL NOW highlights all the upcoming fun. From National Night Out and River Nights to Oktoberfest and Harvest Hayride and Bonfire, hosts Maritza Diaz-Ott and Benjamin Elliott what's happening in Port St. Lucie on [this episode of PSL NOW](#).

Also, learn more about the new, state-of-the art police training facility, the grand opening of the 12-acre Riverland Paseo Park and how Port St. Lucie Police Officer Amanda McCarty keeps our students safe as a school resource officer!





Love Your Block off to a strong start

In May, the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University [announced the City of Port St. Lucie](#) was one of 16 cities from across the country to receive a Love Your Block grant. The program funds resident-led neighborhood revitalization projects that can improve communities.

Love Your Block is off to a fantastic start in Port St. Lucie, with the Communications Department's engagement team actively collaborating with multiple departments. Its joint efforts aim to further enhance the Whispering Pines neighborhood through various community-driven projects.



PSL on the Mic focuses on school safety and Crosstown anniversary

Port St. Lucie Police Officer Amanda McCarty joined the show on Episode 32 to talk about her role as a Student Resource Officer at Treasure Coast High School. She talked about how SROs not only help create a safe learning environment, but also foster positive relationships with youth, handle criminal complaints and routine calls for service on campus, teach classes, mentor at-risk youth and lots more, including offering hugs when needed!

On Episode 33, Beth Zsoka, Public Works executive project manager for community outreach, and Frank Knott, project manager with the Community Redevelopment Agency, celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Crosstown Parkway Bridge opening and share information that proves the bridge is doing its job: alleviating traffic on two of the City's most heavily traveled roads.

Listen and watch at www.cityofpsl.com/Podcast.





City U participants continue to learn about Port St. Lucie

With more than 80 residents attending the weekly sessions, City U is halfway through its 2024 season. The upcoming sessions include preparedness tips from Emergency Management, police demonstrations, a visionary walk-through of The Port District and an experience at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center. City staff has actively engaged with and educated the residents, leaving them impressed with the services provided.





Podcast team presents during FMCA webinar

Social Media Manager Maureen Kenyon and Innovation Strategist Avi Monina were presenters during a Florida Municipal Communicators Association webinar titled, "The Power of Podcasting." Maureen and Avi were asked by FMCA to a part of the webinar because the City's official podcast, PSL On The Mic, was awarded the 2024 Outstanding Podcast of the Year by FMCA. Lisa Holder, of the City of Sanford, also presented.

Maureen and Avi talked about why the City created PSL On The Mic, how the team built the set and budgeted for the podcast, how they find content for episodes, the type of equipment used to produce it and what they're planning for the future of the podcast.

Minutes after the webinar, Kara Irby, senior communications specialist with the Florida League of Cities, said she was already receiving compliments about the session from FMCA members.

Founded in 2018, the Florida Municipal Communicators Association is a professional network of individuals who provide communications leadership and support in Florida's cities, towns and villages. It offers communications professionals opportunities to learn, share and develop innovative solutions for the municipalities they serve.

THANK YOU!

Website: www.cityofpsl.com/podcast
Listen: Spotify and Apple Podcasts
Watch: www.youtube.com/CityPortStLucie

Maureen Kenyon: mkenyon@cityofpsl.com **Avi Monina:** amonina@cityofpsl.com



Colorful banner beautifies Cameo drop-off site



In an effort to help residents and visitors keep Port St. Lucie clean and beautiful, Graphic Designer and Digital Content Specialist Ann-Marie Watkoskey collaborated with the Office of Solid Waste and Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful to create a 400-foot banner to beautify the fencing surrounding the Cameo Drop-Off site.

The team based the idea off a KPSLB campaign, Please Stop Litter.

Combining her fine art and design skills, it took Ann-Marie a few months to envision, illustrate and produce the banner, which was printed and hung at the site in September.

The banner features areas of interest and events throughout the Port St. Lucie, including Clover Park, the Crosstown Parkway Bridge, Woodland Trails and Jessica Clinton parks, McCarty Ranch Preserve and the Caring Community Cleanup. It also includes wildlife such as roseate spoonbills, sandhill cranes, manatees and turtles.

Thank you, Ann-Marie! It looks amazing!





COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Continued Redevelopment in Port St. Lucie!

A Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) earns revenues based on the increase in taxable values within an established community redevelopment district. In the City of Port St. Lucie, there are four separate and unique districts generating revenue: Original U.S. 1, East Lake Village, Port St. Lucie Boulevard/Port District (formerly known as Riverwalk) and Southern Grove.

The CRA is a dependent special district and must comply with Florida Statutes, which requires the governing body of each special district to adopt a budget by resolution each fiscal year. Adopted on Sept. 23, 2024, the FY 2024/25 CRA budget reflects the total amount available from taxation and other sources, including balances brought forward from prior fiscal years) equaling the total of appropriations for expenditures and reserves.

This year, all four districts continued to recognize increases in taxable value in the most recent assessment cycle. Property valuation in all four districts totaled just over \$1.48 billion, representing approximately 7.42% of valuation of properties in the City. Some debt service remains in the districts for special assessments, constructed infrastructure and related improvements.



The CRA has continued to look at long-term solutions for funding the debt and completed master planning the area formerly known as City Center, which was recently rebranded as Walton & One. The CRA is also working on the redevelopment and revitalization of the Village Green area, and targeting additional revitalization opportunities along the U.S. 1 corridor. With the recent completion of the riverfront park along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, staff will continue to implement additional projects within The Port District. The Southern Grove Jobs Corridor is nearly built out, and staff's focus will shift to the much-anticipated retail and ancillary commercial development to complete The Southern Grove Master Plan.





The Port District Master Plan wins Major Award!

In 2021, the City journeyed through a master planning process with a local landscape architecture firm, LandDesign, for the area along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. At the end of the journey, [The Port District Master Plan](#): Where Life Meets the River was born. This plan incorporated existing park projects and development with new opportunities to connect residents and visitors to one of the City's greatest assets: our river. This project was presented for nomination to the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

In its nomination, LandDesign included the following award narrative:

"Situated on the St. Lucie River, Port St. Lucie is the third largest city in South Florida and a regional destination for nature enthusiasts. The City's history as a suburban tract development left the community without an authentic downtown experience and its greatest asset underutilized — the riverfront. After many attempts to activate the water's edge, the City saw the need for a cohesive vision for a community destination offering a rich public realm that protects the local environment. In partnership with a landscape architect, they created The Port District Master Plan, a framework for the programming and preservation of a 1.5-mile stretch of riverfront that maximizes access to nature and water, while minimizing impact to the land."

ASLA Florida is the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the national association representing the industry of landscape design. Founded in 1959 for the advancement of knowledge, education and skill in the art and science of landscape architecture as an instrument of service in the public welfare, it continues in pursuit of that purpose six decades later. The ASLA Florida Design Awards Program encourages the advancement, expansion and recognition of the landscape architecture profession by honoring projects that blend environmental and artistic principles that emphasize beauty, function, and the sustainability.





EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

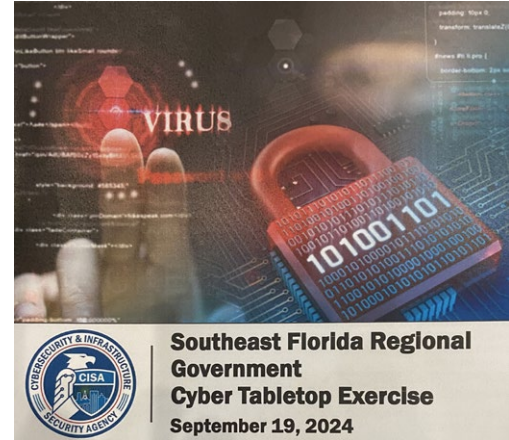
Office of Emergency Management takes part in cybersecurity exercise

The City of Port St Lucie's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) attended the Southeast Florida Regional Government Cyber Tabletop Exercise on Sept. 19.

Representatives in this tabletop exercise included Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA); IT security staff for various governments throughout Southeast Florida; Palm Beach Sheriff Real-Time Crime Center staff; as well as fire rescue, emergency management and others involved in cyber security in Southeastern Florida.

The exercise is a role-playing activity in which players respond to scenarios presented by one or more facilitators. Players usually play their organization's leadership, IT lead or communications rep, but they also can play other roles to fill in gaps. Facilitators present facts to the players who appear innocent or safe but could later turn out to have signaled a serious issue. The goal of a tabletop exercise isn't for all players to perform perfectly. The goal is to work as a team and to work out any problem areas before an incident occurs.

These agencies plan and work together to provide support to impacted communities during a protentional cyber security incident, by serving as a force multiplier for local agencies.





Office of Emergency Management attends Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop

The Office of Emergency Management attended an Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop on Sept. 11. The Department of Homeland Security and Florida's Division of Emergency Management work with emergency management partners to enhance the effectiveness of emergency management efforts, which leads to better-prepared jurisdictions and organizations.

The workshop focused on integrating training and exercises into a coordinated planning approach for the community stakeholders, and ensured capabilities are not only built, but also sustained and effectively delivered when needed. The workshop helps local governments and organizations optimize their efficiency, resources, time and funding by focusing on integrating training and exercises into a coordinated planning approach.

The Office of Emergency Management will continue to communicate and coordinate with local community organizations and their training and exercise efforts to ensure that the skills and knowledge needed for effective disaster response are developed and maintained, creating a more resilient community.





Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and it's a way for public and private sectors to work together to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity.

Over the years it has grown into a collaborative effort between government and industry to enhance cybersecurity awareness, encourage actions by the public to reduce online risk and generate discussion about cyber threats on a national and global scale.

The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is working to build a safer digital world. Whether at home, work or school, CISA recommends four simple actions, listed below, to make us more secure when connected.

4 Easy Ways to Stay Safe Online

Use Strong Passwords and a Password Manager
Turn on Multifactor Authentication
Recognize and Report Phishing Attacks
Update Your Software



Recognize and report phishing

- Be cautious of unsolicited messages asking for personal information.
- Avoid sharing sensitive information or credentials with unknown sources.
- Report phishing attempts and delete the message.

Use strong passwords

- Strong passwords are long, random, unique and include all four-character types (uppercase, lowercase, numbers and symbols).
- Password managers are a powerful tool to help you create strong passwords for each of your accounts.

Turn on multi-factor authentication (MFA)

- You need more than a password to protect your online accounts and enabling MFA makes you significantly less likely to get hacked.
- Enable MFA on all your online accounts that offer it, especially email, social media and financial accounts.

Update software

- Ensuring your software is up to date is the best way to make sure you have the latest security patches and updates on your devices.
- Regularly check for updates if automatic updates are not available.

Take time to discuss them with family, friends, employees and your community, so everyone can become safer online. For more information and resources for Cybersecurity Awareness Month, visit cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month





FINANCE

Retirement Statistics - Attendees

Aug. 30-Sept. 30		Year to Date
Keys to Retirement Attendees	14	163
MissionSquare One-on-One Appointments	25	283
Financial Wellness Class Attendees	163	255
New 457 Plan Sign-ups	5	65
New Police Officer Retirement Orientation	0	22
Participants Entering the DROP	0	7
Participants Exiting the DROP	0	3
Total DROP Participants		23

Upcoming Financial Wellness Classes*

What: Retirement: Investing, Income and Taxes

When: Noon, Oct. 16

Where: Building B Training Room

Presenter: Buttelman & Associates Financial Services

What: Understanding Medicare

When: Noon, Nov. 14

Where: Building B Training Room

Presenter: Valery Insurance Agency

Register today on PSL Forward Powered by Absorb!

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





HUMAN RESOURCES

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

NEW HIRES



Vincent Caiazzo,
School Crossing Guard,
Police Department



Zakariyah Sherman,
Executive Project Manager,
Parks & Recreation Department



Darlene Gurr,
School Crossing Guard,
Police Department



Anthony Solino,
Building Plans Examiner I,
Building Department



Gerald Lakatos,
Maintenance Mechanic Trainee,
Utility Systems Department



Dawn Smikle,
Code Compliance Officer I,
Neighborhood Services Department



Ivelisse Martinez,
Utility Billing Clerk,
Utility Systems Department



Raymond Volchko,
Parks Maintenance Worker,
Parks & Recreation Department



Franc Muniz,
Maintenance Worker I,
Facilities Maintenance Department



Brandon Williams,
Field Technician II,
Utility Systems Department



Ivette Negrón,
School Crossing Guard,
Police Department

PROMOTIONS

Daron Subryan, Licensing Investigator,
Building Department

Matthew Verlinger, Industrial Electrician I,
Utility Systems Department



HR Statistics

Aug. 27-Sept. 27		YTD
New Hires	21	198
Total Applications Rec'd	1,141	5,304
Job Requisitions Received	39	141
Jobs posted	58	240
Internal Promotions	14	113
Reclassifications	9	39
Personnel Change Forms Processed	314	1,780
In Person New Hire Orientation	16	167
Life Scan Participation	NA	217
Total Training Sessions	10	101
Total Training Attendees	1208	3,301
Water Cooler Site Visits	12,720	110,872
Employee Benefits Site Visits	1,276	14,283
PSL Forward Training Site Visits	727	6,722

Training & Development

Oct. 4: Innovate PSL Academy Green Belt

Oct. 8: Microsoft PowerPoint Advanced:
The Wow! Factor

Oct. 10: Change Management

Oct. 11: Leading Today's Workforce: Maintaining
Performance & Talent

Oct. 16: Records Coordinators Collaboration Training

Oct. 17: Munis: Contracts Entry

Oct. 21: Self-Help Debt Elimination

Oct. 23: Trust CPR: Creating Productive Relationships

Oct. 28: Munis: Project Ledger

Oct. 30: Behavioral Interviewing: Select the Right Fit
Every Time

Oct. 31: Building Successful Teams

Training Spotlight

**Change Management
Thursday,
Oct. 10, at 1:30 p.m.**

In an ever-evolving work environment, the ability to manage and adapt to change is critical for organizational success. This training session delves into the dynamics of change management, offering insights into its fundamental principles and the critical role it plays in guiding organizations through transitions. Participants will explore strategies for effectively communicating change, overcoming resistance and ensuring stakeholder engagement. By understanding the intricacies of organizational change, attendees will be better equipped to contribute to initiatives that enhance resilience and drive progress within our community. This training, conducted by adjunct professors from IRSC, is designed for those who want an introductory, educational approach to change management and implementation.





HR invited to be a panelist at the 2024 International City and County Managers Association Conference

Corrie Johnson, Organizational Development Project Manager, was invited by POLCO to be a panelist at the 2024 ICMA Conference for the Education Session titled "The Secret Ingredients to Employee Retention and Wellness in Local Government."

The ICMA annual conference brings together local government professionals from around the world. Corrie shared several initiatives aligned with organizational development such as:

- The City's orientation and onboarding process known as "Keys to the City"
- The City's benefits and wellness programs
- The Innovation Academy and the comprehensive training program available to all employees to name a few.

Organizational development falls under the City's Strategic Goal 7: High Performing Government Organization.



Port St. Lucie joins 100 Percent Club

On Aug. 30, the City of Port St. Lucie became the first municipality in Florida to achieve induction into the 100 Percent Club, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody's campaign to end human trafficking to build a safer, stronger Florida.



The Training and Development Division of Human Resources, in collaboration with City staff and the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking, took 52 days to deliver human trafficking training to 100% of our City employees, increasing awareness and building capabilities of how to spot and report human trafficking to strengthen the safety of our community.

Human trafficking is a global crime that trades in people and exploits them for profits. Florida ranks second in the nation for the number of reported cases. Known as the world's most invisible crime, human trafficking is significantly underreported because of lack of awareness and how to report it. Our membership in the 100 Percent Club signifies our commitment to end human trafficking in our community by raising awareness, providing training and saving lives.



KEEP PORT ST. LUCIE BEAUTIFUL

Tree giveaway at Clover Park was a home run!

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful distributed 500 trees Sept. 21. Residents lined up bright and early to receive their Barbados cherry and avocado trees. KPSLB would like to thank the Port St. Lucie Police Department for its expertise and assistance at this event. Thank you to Clover Park staff for sharing its space with us again.



www.CityofPSL.com/KPSLB • 772-871-7000 • KPSLB@cityofpsl.com





Adopt-A-Street spotlight

Port St. Lucie Crosstown Running Club has been keeping the St. Lucie West neighborhood clean and beautiful since 2022.



Cat rescued at Cameo Convenient Drop-Off!

Justin Gerdes from the Office of Solid Waste, with assistance from Nicole Grieve at Animal Control, rescued this week a cat now called Cammie from the Convenient Drop-Off Center on Cameo Boulevard. This little furball seems to like her new forever home!

Household hazardous waste drop-off coming Oct. 19

Don't miss our upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, On Oct. 19. Residents of Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie County residents (IDs required) can bring household hazardous waste to the Public Works Complex, 450 SW Thornhill Drive, for proper disposal.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

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



Saturday, Oct. 19 • 8 a.m.-Noon
450 SW Thornhill Dr.



- Ammunition
- Automotive Fluids
- Batteries (rechargeable lithium & vehicle)
- Bug Sprays
- Computers/Electronics
- Drain Cleaners
- Fire Extinguishers
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs/Tubes
- Fuels
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Lighter Fluid
- Mercury Thermometers
- Oil-based Paint
- Propane Tanks (20 pounds or less)
- Prescription Drugs, No Liquids
- Solvents/Thinners
- Thermostats
- Fats, Oil and Grease (F.O.G.) - 5 gallon container or less



- Bio-hazard/Medical Waste
- Containers larger than 5 Gallons
- Explosives
- Flares
- Paint (Water-based or Latex)
- Sharps
- Household batteries (Alkaline)
- Tires
- Smoke detectors



CITYOFPSL.COM/KPSLB



MIDFLORIDA CREDIT UNION EVENT CENTER

PORT ST. LUCIE FLORIDA

Caribbean American Cultural Group Fire & Ice 40th Anniversary Ball

The CACG Ball was back again this year at the Event Center on Sept. 7, where members and non-members enjoyed cocktails, a formal dinner and entertainment by DJ Andrew Fresh. Guests also enjoyed participating in the Trips of a Lifetime auction. The annual ball plans to return for its 41st gala next year.



Mosaic art classes

These amazing workshops allowed guests to make beautiful mosaic lamps, just like magic! Guests learned to create their own beautiful mosaic lamps, were taught painting and mosaic techniques and were assisted in picking colors and making patterns. Special treats included Turkish tea, Turkish coffee and Turkish delight candies. Five of six sessions were sold out, and the Craft for Art group will return to present classes again in January 2025.



9/11 remembrance ceremony

The City of Port St. Lucie welcomed residents to the Event Center on Sept. 11 for its annual 9/11 remembrance ceremony. Marking the 23rd anniversary since the attacks, this ceremony was created to honor and remember the lives lost and forever impacted on Sept. 11, 2001.

Mayor Shannon M. Martin, along with members of the Port St. Lucie Police Department, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, St. Lucie County Fire District and retired NYPD 1st Grade Detective Rafael Diaz assisted with the ceremonies.



OCB Mid-Florida Nationals pro qualifying bodybuilding

This preeminent bodybuilding event held in the Emerald Ballroom featured attendees competing professionally for cash prizes in categories including Classic Physique, Figure, Bikini and Men's and Women's Bodybuilding.

OCB Events are considered the most competitive and respected titles in natural bodybuilding.

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.midfloridaeventcenter.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 26-Dec. 13:

St. Lucie Cultural Alliance
Art Exhibit

Oct. 4: CCW Wrestling-
Breaking Chains

Oct. 5: Newbreed
Ultimate Challenge

Oct. 5-6: Port St. Lucie
Home Show

Oct. 12: First Annual
Trump Day Dinner

Oct. 12: Carenet Walk
for Life

Oct. 25-27:
Fall Fun Fest

Oct. 26-Nov. 2: Early
Voting

Oct. 30: Candlelight:
Featuring Vivaldi's Four
Seasons and More

Oct. 30: Candlelight:
A Haunted Evening of
Halloween Classics

Event Center Visitors:
139,942

Event Days: 413
(as of Sept. 27)

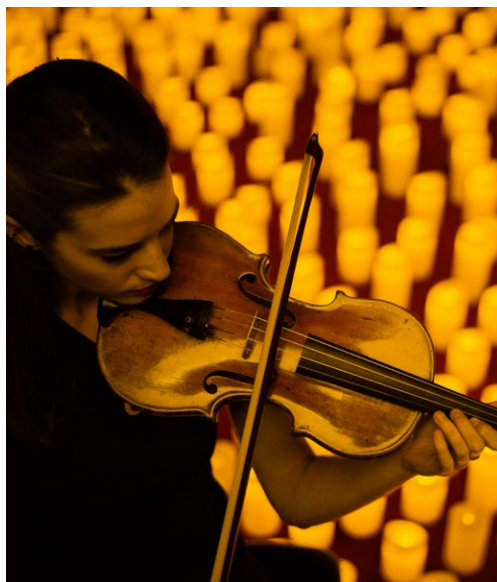
SLC Rock & Gem Presents Handcrafted Jewelry Expo, Oct. 19-20

Returning to the MIDFLORIDA Event Center for another year, guests can enjoy the festivities and the shopping at the 47th annual Jewelry, Rock and Gem Show on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to the show is \$5; children with an adult are free.

You'll see:

- Artisans and vendors selling their wares, including handcrafted jewelry created from beads, rocks, silver, copper and more; slabs and cabochons of exotic rocks; and faceted gemstones from around the globe.
- Club members demonstrating various techniques with bead weaving, faceting, cabochons, wire wrapping and weaving, and chainmail.
- Raffles for jewelry custom-made by club artisans and hourly raffles for items contributed by vendors.
- Treasure outlet with numerous unique items including jewelry, beads, stones, books or equipment.
- Kids' Corner, a special area where children can learn about gemstone identification and make their own jewelry.
- Gold and silver valuations on site

For more information, visit www.slcrockandgem.org/show.



Candlelight: A Tribute to Coldplay on Strings

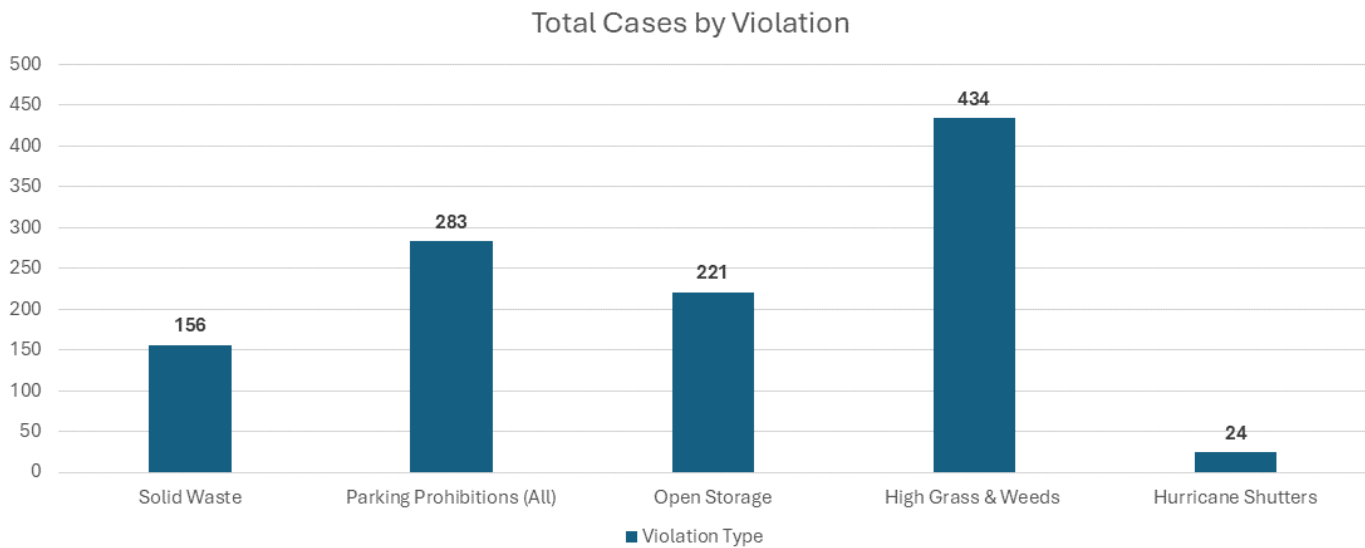
Candlelight was back again Sept. 20 with a Tribute to Coldplay. The popular fan favorite returns on Oct. 30 for "A Haunted Evening of Halloween Classics," sure to be another sold-out event!





NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Top 5 Code Compliance Violations Aug. 25-Sept. 21



NSD Solid Waste Code Case Data Aug. 25-Sept. 21

	Solid Waste Stats for Aug. 25-Sept. 21
All Code Cases Opened	1440
Solid Waste Cases Opened	156 (10.8% of all code cases opened from Aug.25-Sept. 21)
Percentage of 8/25 to 9/21 Solid Waste Cases in Compliance	88.8%
All Active Code Cases	1451
Active Solid Waste Cases	144 (9.9% of total active cases)





Heart of PSL Team of the Year networking lunch and celebration

In September, the Neighborhood Services Department attended a luncheon to celebrate the City's Team of the Year award. During the Summer Workshop, City Council recognized representatives from the Boys & Girls Club and City staff as recipients of the Team of the Year award for their efforts in establishing the Boys & Girls Mobile Club.

This collaboration between the City and the Boys & Girls Club demonstrates a strong partnership and dedication in addressing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. By using special COVID-19 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, this initiative was kick-started to expand Boys & Girls Clubs services outdoors. The impressive outreach efforts, reaching 6,054 children across various locations since February 2021, underscore the team's dedication to serving the community and making a tangible difference.

The activity has been recognized nationally as one of the best new programs by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and also the organization Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA). The project serves the City's Strategic Plan by furthering youth education initiatives, healthy communities and intergenerational connectivity.





NSD attends Council of Social Agencies Annual Showcase of Services

Mendy Solorzano represented NSD at the Council of Social Agencies (COSA) Annual Showcase of Services on Sept. 17 at the Fenn Center.

This event, designed for the community to network and learn about available services in their area, included many local organizations in the St. Lucie County area.

Neighborhood Services attends the Florida Alliance for Community Solutions Summit

On Sept. 30, Neighborhood Services attended the 20th anniversary Summit of the Florida Alliance for Community Solutions: Creating Better Communities, hosted by the City of Riviera Beach.

This year's a summit focused on Partnering for an Equitable Future and NSD was honored Deputy Director Alessandra Tasca was a part of the panel entitled, "Partnering with Private and Government Funders," alongside the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Health Foundation of South Florida and the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

To find out more about the Florida Alliance for Community Solutions, visit <https://www.flacdc.org>.

This event, designed for the community to network and learn about available services in their area, included many local organizations in the St. Lucie County area.





OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

City Council approves FY 2025 adopted budget

City Council unanimously approved adoption of an \$851 million budget on Sept. 23 for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

The Office of Management and Budget presented the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Proposed Budget for Adoption to Council during the budget hearings Sept. 9 and Sept. 23.

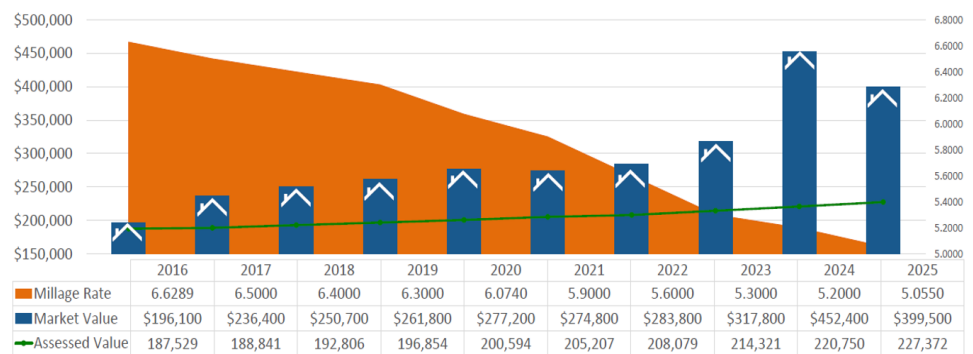
The adopted budget includes a total millage rate of 5.0550, which is a reduction of 0.1450 from the previous year. This means property owners are saving \$0.145 for every \$1,000 of taxable property value. The chart below shows property values in the City have steadily increased while the millage rate has declined each year over the past 9 years.

Property Values and Millage Rate

Example for a property owner that benefits from the Save Our Homes law

St. Lucie Property Appraiser adjusts Property Values. The City **does not control** Property Values.

Market Value, Assessed Value and Millage Rate Trends



Over 9 years, Market Value increased by **103.7%**. Averaging **11.5%** annually.

Assessed Value increased by **21.2%**. Averaging **2.4%** annually.

During the same period, Millage Rate decreased by **23.7%**. Averaging **2.6%** annually.

This is the ninth consecutive year City Council has reduced the millage rate. Council's direction advances the City's goal of being fiscally responsible while meeting the demands of our growing City as a high-performing government organization.

For more information about the FY 2024-25 budget visit www.cityofpsl.com/budget.

Formal Procurements Submitted to City Council

Sept. 1-30, 2024	Period	Year to Date
Amendments	3	19
Awards	8	42
Co-Ops / Piggybacks	1	18
Sole Sources	2	7
Other: Contract Adjustments	1	2
Other: Ordinance Change	0	1
Surplus	0	4
Total	15	93





Bid Opportunities, Recent Bid Awards

Week ending Sept. 27

Bid #	Description	Status
20240082	Floresta Drive Improvement Project – Phase 3	Active Bid Opening: 10/17/24
20240172	Floresta Drive Phase 3 CEI and Geotechnical Services	Active Bid Opening: 10/17/24
20240154	Vulnerability Assessment Consulting	Active Bid Opening: 10/14/24
20240152	Maintenance and Repair of Irrigation Systems	Active Bid Opening: 10/04/24
20240136	Water & Sewer Improvements Becker Road Corridor–Phase II	Active Bid Opening: 10/01/24
20240120	Preventive Pump and Maintenance Services	Awarded to: Sullivan Electric & Pump, Inc.
20240054	Direct Purchase of Materials for the McCarty Ranch Preserve Potable Water Main Extension	Awarded to: Ferguson Waterworks
20230046	Disaster Debris Removal Services	Awarded to: AshBritt, Inc. Ceres Environmental Svcs. Crowder-Gulf Joint Venture
20230118	Design, Permitting, and Final Plan Services for Bayshore Blvd. Multimodal Corridor Improvements Project	Awarded to: SCALAR Consulting Group, Inc.
20230114	Professional CEI & GEO Services for Tom Mackie Blvd. Extension Project	Awarded to: Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.
20230045	Debris Monitoring Services	Awarded to: Tetra Tech, Inc Thompson Consulting Services
20240066	Janitorial Services	Awarded to: General Building Maint. of FL d/b/a Pritchard Industries
20240046	Professional Design Services for a New Public Works Administration Building	Awarded to: BEA Architects, Inc.

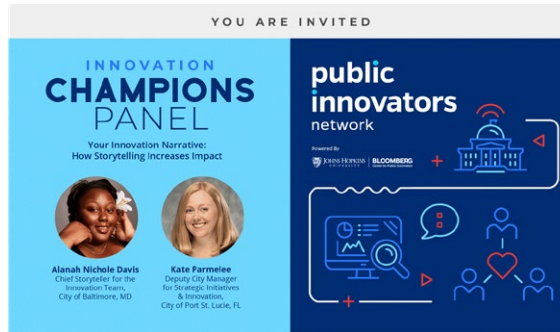
For more detailed information about active solicitations and awards, please visit the Procurement Division's website: www.cityofpsl.com/procurement

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.





OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES & INNOVATION



Sharing Our City's vision and story of innovation

Deputy City Manager for Office of Strategic Initiatives & Innovation Kate Parmelee was asked to speak on two global panels this month and share some of our work in Port St. Lucie with cities around the world.

On Sept. 18, Kate joined an Innovation Champions Panel for the Public Innovators Network, powered by the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University. Through the virtual panel, she shared more about the City's innovative approaches to strategic planning and engagement, including our annual #IAMPSL Citizen Summit.

On Sept. 23 Kate was invited to speak on a panel entitled, Trust Matters: How Data and Engagement are Strengthening Local Government, at the International City County Management Association Conference. She shared how Port St. Lucie is using data and involving residents to better inform our strategic plan and deliver for the residents we serve.

Welcome Bloomberg Harvard City Fellow, Nikki Xiaoyu Zheng!

We're happy to welcome Bloomberg Harvard City Hall Fellow Nikki Xiaoyu Zheng, who is joining our team as a Fellow for the next two years as a member of the City Manager's Office Strategic Initiatives & Innovation Team.

Nikki began her work with the City as a Bloomberg Harvard Summer Fellow, supporting the work of the Innovation Team on increasing resident's access to nature and high-performance public spaces, a top priority at the 2023 Citizen Summit. A graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the University of Florida, Nikki will help deliver for our community, focusing on research and analysis and the implementation of a multitude of ideas that will help acquire land, engage volunteers and activate public spaces.

We are thrilled Nikki will be continuing her work with us at City Hall for two years with a fellowship supported by the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative.

Learn more at www.bloomberg.org and cities.harvard.edu.



The City of Port St. Lucie is working to center the needs of residents like never before in this year's strategic planning process.

For the past year, the City has been one of 40 cities in the world participating in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative. The City was chosen for the program's innovation track and a team of City employees learned new human-centered design techniques, supported by the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University and the Centre for Public Impact. The team used these techniques at the City Council Strategic Planning session and the Strategic Initiatives & Innovation Team has been working to spread this approach to all departmental strategic plans.

In the past few weeks City departments, including the MIDFLORIDA Event Center, Parks & Recreation, Planning & Zoning and Public Works have used human-centered design to review resident feedback and innovate toward better services, in alignment with the City's Strategic Plan.

In addition, the Strategic Initiatives & Innovation Team has been guiding all Strategic Plan project managers through learning the "Path to Innovation" in new Strategic Plan projects. Staff learned how to create concept papers and better understand resident needs at workshops this month so we can create more impactful solutions.





PARKS & RECREATION



Work begins to repair Tom Hooper Park Riverwalk Boardwalk

Repairs have begun on the lower section of the Tom Hooper Park Riverwalk Boardwalk, situated within The Port District. Work will include the dismantling and replacing of the existing boardwalk system, which extends from Veterans Memorial Park at Rivergate Boat Ramp to the Port St. Lucie Boulevard Bridge underpass. Upon completion, this 3,818-foot section of the riverwalk will provide a continuous connection from Rivergate Park to Pioneer Park within The Port District.

Recreation programs offer fun for kids

- Kids Day Out Camp will take place Oct. 14 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.
- Outdoor Homeschool PE is now available at Pioneer Park starting Oct. 2.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Center

Oct. 15: Coffee with the Council, 8:15-10 a.m.

Oct. 16: Super Spooky Special Populations Dance, 6-8 p.m.

McCarty Ranch Preserve

Oct. 19: Harvest Hayride and Bonfire, 2-8 p.m.

McChesney Park

Oct. 5: Oktoberfest, 2-9 p.m.

Pioneer Park

Oct. 10: River Nights, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Oak Hammock Park

Oct. 12: Pokepark Gym Challenge, 2-5 p.m.





New driving range awning helps golfers stay cool

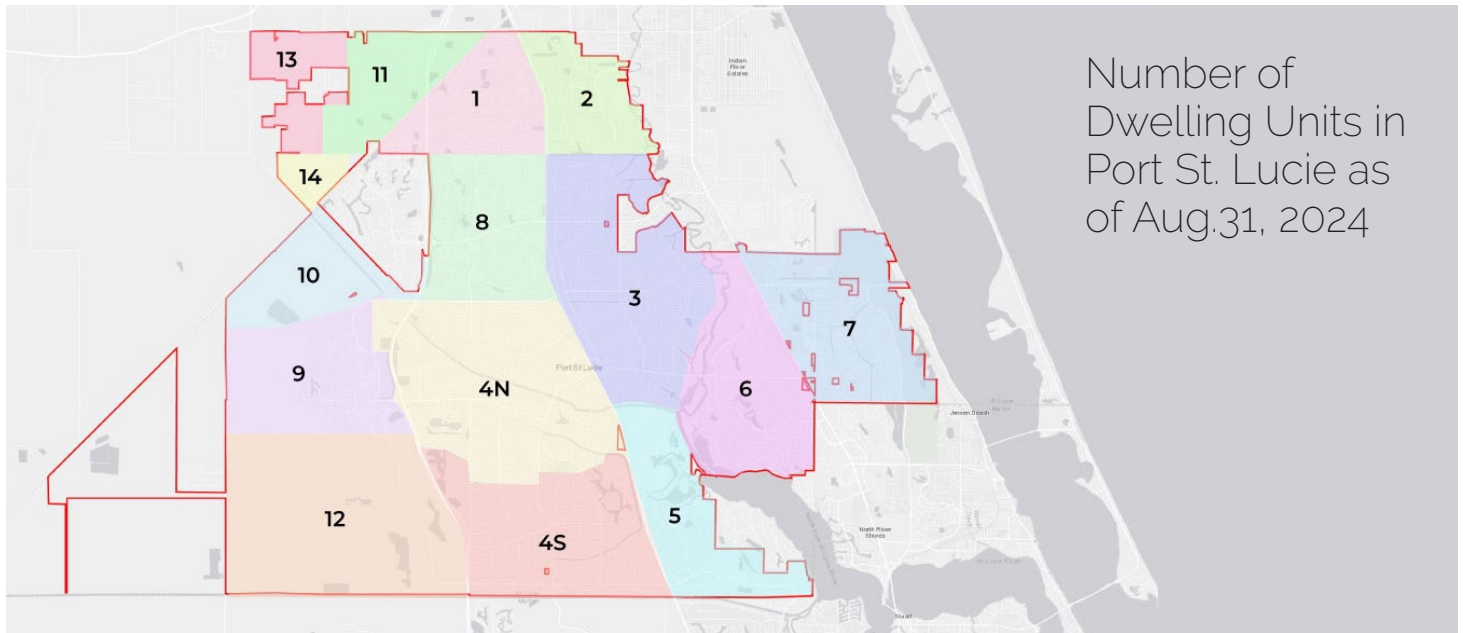
At The Saints Golf Course, construction of the new awning to cover the driving range hitting area was completed Sept. 20. This is an exciting new amenity at The Saints that offers golfers much-needed shade while at the driving range. Members and guests have been expressing their excitement to see this project come to completion and are pleased with the new driving range.

Even with several rain events in the last few weeks, the maintenance staff at The Saints has continued to keep the course in beautiful condition, all at the delight of members and guests. Come out today and enjoy all that The Saints has to offer.





PLANNING & ZONING



PLANNING AREA	BUILT SINGLE FAMILY UNITS	BUILT MULTI-FAMILY UNITS	TOTAL BUILT UNITS	APPROVED UNITS	REMAINING UNITS TO BE BUILT
1	4,026	866	4,892	5,760	868
2	3,086	611	3,697	4,188	491
3	18,284	1	18,285	20,210	1,925
4N	18,477	677	19,154	22,435	3,281
4S	12,940	26	12,966	15,296	2,330
5	2,990	435	3,425	4,513	1,088
6	4,712	1,346	6,058	6,506	448
7	6,083	2,267	8,350	9,532	1,182
8	5,367	1,661	7,028	7,523	495
9	4,341	3,177	7,518	11,092	3,574
10	2,546	617	3,163	7,200	4,037
11	277	0	277	4,000	3,723
12	4,062	562	4,545	22,410	17,865
13	0	0	0	0	-
14	575	0	575	579	4
TOTAL	87,766	12,246	99,933	141,244	41,311





Coming Soon to Port St. Lucie

P13-008-A2 St. Lucie HCA Hospital:

A six-level parking garage containing 671 parking spaces proposed to be located south of SE Tiffany Avenue.

P24-003 Darwin Square-Mavis Tire:

A 6,136-square-foot automotive services facility proposed to be located south of SW Darwin Boulevard and east of SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard.

P24-003 7 Brew:

A 778-square-foot drive-thru coffee shop proposed to be located at the northeast corner of SW Gatlin Boulevard and SW Kensington Street.

P24-032 SLW Industrial Park Lot 8:

An 82-space covered recreational vehicle storage facility proposed to be located south of NW Mercantile Place.



PORT ST. LUCIE POLICE



District 1

On Sept. 29, at about 3:08 p.m., PSLPD responded to a residence in the 600 block of NW Marion Avenue for an in-progress domestic violence incident.

The preliminary investigation revealed officers encountered an adult female, children and an adult male suspect upon entering the residence. The adult male suspect was armed with an explosive device, and at some point, an officer-involved shooting occurred. The adult male suspect was pronounced deceased shortly after that.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is on the scene and has taken over the investigation. There is no threat to the community, but the scene remains active.



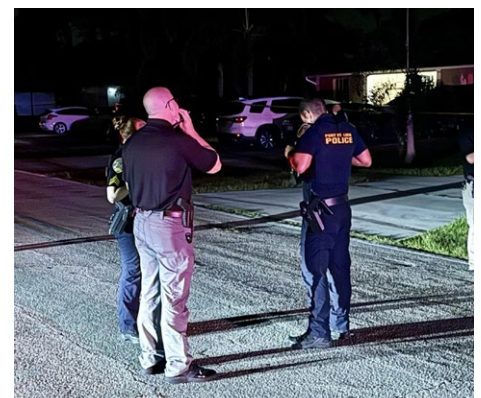
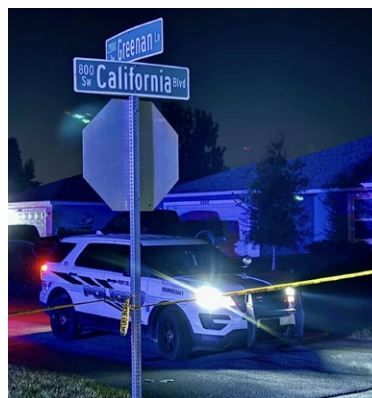
District 3

In a combined response by PSLPD road patrol, the Major Crimes Unit, the Gang Intelligence Unit, Crime Scene Investigators and Traffic Homicide Investigators, PSLPD announces the arrest of three suspects within hours of the early-morning fatal shooting of a 53-year-old motorcyclist on SW California Boulevard.

Those arrested were a 23-year-old male, charged with first-degree premeditated murder for shooting the victim from a car as the victim drove his motorcycle; a 25-year-old male, charged with first-degree premeditated murder for driving the suspect vehicle during the shooting; and a 21-year-old female charged with accessory after the fact life felony for providing misleading information to detectives during the investigation and attempting to have a bar receipt forged to establish an alibi.

While the motive for the murder is still under investigation, the evidence suggests the victim was targeted, and this was not a random act of violence.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to call the PSLPD Major Crimes Unit at 772-871-5001 or, if you wish to remain anonymous, call Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 800-273-8477.





District 3

PSLPD detectives arrested and charged a 57-year-old female of Port St. Lucie with first-degree attempted homicide in a domestic violence-related shooting of a 42-year-old victim that occurred in the 2600 block of SW Acco Road.

The shooting stemmed from an argument between the suspect and the victim about the victim moving out of the home they shared since their romantic relationship had ended. During the argument, the suspect armed herself with a 9-mm handgun and shot the victim four times.

District 4

On Sept. 11, 2001, our world was irrevocably changed by an act of terrorism that claimed nearly 3,000 lives and left a mark on the heart of the nation. On this solemn day, members of PSLPD, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office and St. Lucie County Fire District came together to remember the victims who lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Flight 93, as well as the countless heroes who rushed to their aid.

We honor the courage and selflessness of first responders, emergency workers, and ordinary individuals who exhibited extraordinary bravery in the face of unimaginable adversity. Their sacrifices remind us of the resilience and unity that can emerge from the darkest times. #NeverForget





On Sept. 12, at about 9:30 a.m., PSLPD responded to a residence in the 1000 block of SE Albatross Avenue regarding a welfare check on a 67-year-old male resident. The man had not shown up to work for several days, and his coworkers were concerned, as that was out of the ordinary for him.

Upon arrival, officers found the individual deceased inside his home with obvious signs of violent trauma to his body. A crime scene was established, and the PSLPD Major Crimes Unit responded and took over the investigation. There is no suspect information.

Anyone with information on this incident is urged to call the Port St. Lucie Police Department Major Crimes Unit at 772-871-5001 or, if they wish to remain anonymous, Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 800-273-8477.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

The Port St. Lucie Police Department looks forward to this event every year because it's an opportunity to meet residents and help raise awareness about crime and drug prevention and show support for local anti-crime programs. It's also a chance to foster community spirit.

This year, National Night Out took place at The Port District, and the new venue was the perfect backdrop to showcase presentations from several PSLPD specialized units, including the SWAT Team; Crime Scene Investigation; Explorer Post 411; Animal Control; School Resource Officers; Honor Guard; Traffic Unit; Drones; Police Athletic League; Marine Unit; School Crossing Guards; Recruiting Department; and Crisis Negotiations Team. Guests also could receive information about how to start a new career or volunteer with PSLPD.

Other City departments, including Parks & Recreation, the Office of Solid Waste and Communications, as well as local organizations and nonprofits also shared the venue. The Treasure Coast High School Marching Band and the M&M Sweeties performed, too.





In Other News

Members of PSLPD's SWAT Team and K9 Unit conducted demonstrations for Leadership St. Lucie, Class 41. Participants observed the SWAT Team enter and clear a simulated house learned how our drones operate when deployed, and met two of our K9s, Hoot and Bodhi.



Congratulations to Detective Jim Jones, who was recognized as our Detective of the Month at the St Lucie County Chamber of Commerce Business Bowl and Breakfast. Detective Jones was selected because he has been the backbone of our computer forensics department for several years and, at times, our only resource for computer forensic-related cases. He has been exposed to egregious images that nobody should have to see involving our most vulnerable victims. He has helped build our computer forensics lab from a one-person show with minimal equipment to a highly efficient lab with 3 full-time professionals. Additionally, and because of his investigative efforts on a National Center for Missing and Exploited Children cyber tip, he revealed more than 30 images and videos that were collected and reviewed, resulting in the defendant being sentenced to 21 life terms in prison, plus 800 years for the crimes against her own two children. Luckily, the victim survived and is currently in stable condition.



Congratulations to Officer Michael Brown and Officer Rheanna Vaughan who recently completed the Field Training Program! Officer Brown started his solo assignment on Saturday, Sept. 28, and was assigned to the Evening Shift, District 1, Zone 11. Officer Rheanna Vaughan, who began her solo assignment Saturday, Sept. 21, is assigned to the Midnight Shift, District 1, Zone 12. Good luck and be safe out there!



We celebrate our five Crime Analysts on National Crime and Intelligence Analyst Appreciation Day. Their dedication and expertise are essential in understanding and combating crime, ensuring public safety, and supporting law enforcement efforts.

We recognize their hard work, critical thinking and commitment to our communities. Their ability to analyze data and uncover patterns is vital in making informed decisions on where and how we deploy our resources to solve and prevent crimes. Thank you all for your unwavering dedication and support in making Port St. Lucie one of the safest cities in the United States! Your work does not go unnoticed!

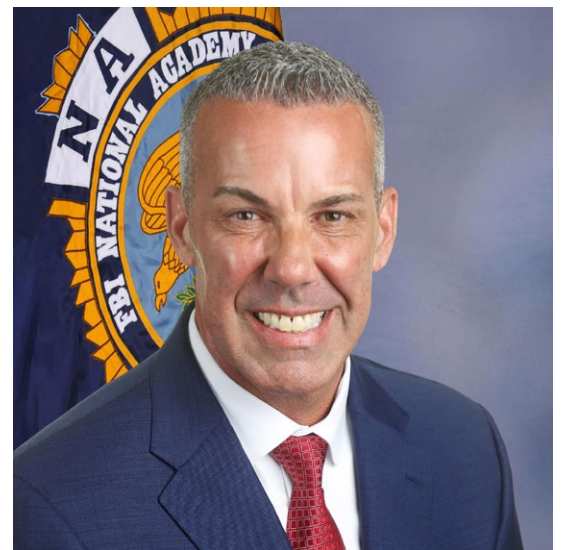




National Forensic Science Week ended in September, and we are reminded that it is a time to celebrate the vital role forensic science plays in the criminal justice system. This week highlights the importance of forensic professionals in gathering evidence, processing evidence, and working with detectives to solve crimes. Join us in recognizing the hard work of our Crime Scene Investigation Unit members, who consistently go above and beyond!



Congratulations to Captain Robert Fonteyn, who graduated from the 291st session of the FBI National Academy on Sept. 12 at the National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Nationally, fewer than one percent of officers have the opportunity to attend the program. Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy offers 10 weeks of advanced communication, leadership and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agency to attend. Captain Fonteyn was one of 201 law enforcement officers consisting of men and women from 46 states and the District of Columbia, 24 different countries, five military organizations, and six federal civilian organizations.





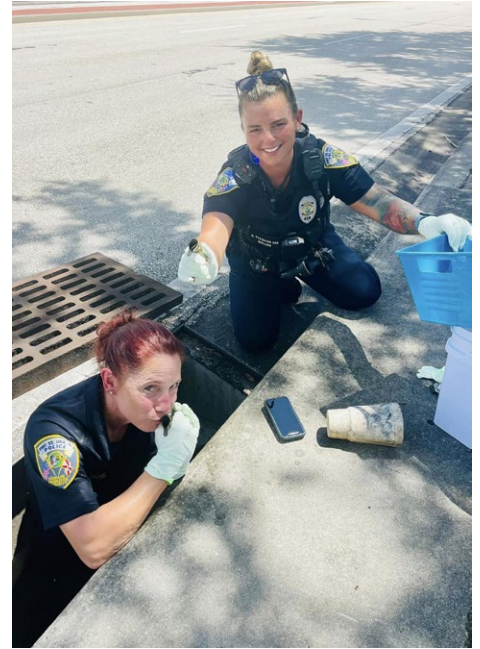
Animal Control Officers have a variety of responsibilities while enforcing the City of Port St. Lucie's ordinances concerning the welfare and protection of domestic animals and wildlife within the city. One of those primary responsibilities is reunification of lost pets with their owners. Long gone are the days of the "dog catcher," who shows up and takes people's pets away from them. Today's Animal Control Officers at the Port St. Lucie Police Department are trained and dedicated to returning lost pets to owners.

Did you know?

- Animal Control Officers are equipped with microchip readers and scan every domestic animal they pick up.
- Having identification on your pet in the form of a pet license, rabies tag, name tag or microchip significantly increases the odds of your pet being returned to you quickly.
- After capturing a domestic animal, officers spend additional time on the scene to look for the owner and contact residents who may be able to assist in locating the owner.
- 60% of the domestic pets picked up by Animal Control are returned to their owner within five days. The national average is around 13% per Animal Shelter Counts 2023 Analysis.
- Domestic pets not returned to their owner within five days of impoundment are transferred to the Humane Society of St. Lucie County, a no-kill shelter, and placed for adoption.

Please do your part by ensuring your pets have identification and are licensed with the City of Port St. Lucie. Animal Control's goal is to increase return-to-owner rates and reduce the number of lost pets that end up in shelters within our County.





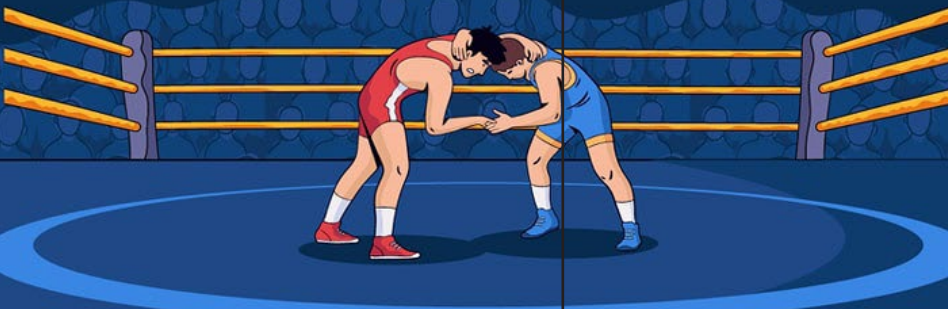
In recognition of National Policewomen Day, we want to acknowledge and celebrate the women of PSLPD who took the oath to serve their community! We thank you for your dedication to your profession and for the contributions you make to law enforcement!





PORT ST. LUCIE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

Fall Wrestling & Conditioning Program



Boys & Girls ages 6-14 (Max. 25 youths)

September 10 to December 12, 2024

Registration at PAL Building on September 5, 2024
from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday sessions: 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

No session: October 31 & November 5 & 28, 2024

Coaches & Coordinators:

Kevin Mimnaugh and Carlos Cruz.

Cost: \$100 donation
per youth (all sessions).

Each youth will supply and
maintain their own training
equipment (shoes &
headgear)
with coaches approval.

CONTACT PSL POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE:

Officer Jerry DeJean • 772-398-9436 • www.cityofpsl.com/PAL
PAL Gym: 2101 Tiffany Ave., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952



PSLPD has recently seen reports of a new Bitcoin scam where the victim is contacted via email by the suspect, who claims that they have evidence that the victim has visited adult content websites. The suspect claims the adult website had malware installed on it that enabled the suspect to remote into the victim's cellphone camera and record audio and video of the victim. The suspect will claim to be able to access the victim's cellphone contacts, emails and social media accounts. They will also provide the victim with their home address and cellphone number, including a photo of their home (all of which can be accessed via public information searches).

The suspect will demand a Bitcoin-only payment of thousands of dollars, or they will share the victim's alleged incriminating evidence with their contacts. Please be advised that this is a scam. If you believe you have been a target of this scam, please contact PSLPD.





PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works preparing for a storm

Public Works takes steps all year to help prevent flooding and to ensure our infrastructure is maintained in preparation for weather events and other unforeseen conditions. Each year, projects are identified to help improve outdated infrastructure. In addition, employees working every day to maintain swales, drainage rights-of-way and 200 miles of waterways and City-owned canals.

In the event of a weather event, staff travels citywide to clear storm drains and grates to allow discharge in advance. Staff monitors the water levels of our water control structures to support in necessary storage for rain events. Following the storm, we support with outages at traffic signals and road repair. We help clear the roadways for emergency responders and utility companies. We also support in necessary cleanup of debris.

As Public Works prepares for possible hurricanes and weather events, so should you. Be sure to plan ahead. To find out more visit www.cityofpsl.com/hurricane.

U.S. 1 landscaping project complete

The U.S. 1 beautification project is now complete and it provides improvements, including landscaping and irrigation, from the Martin County Line to 150 feet north of SE Huffman Road. The project has been a longtime priority in the City's Strategic Plan and was funded by the Half-Cent Sales tax and mobility fees. The contractor, Superior Landscaping and Law Service, installed large and small plants and turf as well as irrigation in some areas and stamped colored concrete.





Staff attends annual Environmental Management and Chemical Spill Response Training

John Dunton, Deputy Director; Robert Carlsen, Supervisor; Jose Serbia, Crew Leader; Chris Corrado, Crew Leaders; and Kevin Stone, Crew Leader, attended the annual Environmental Management and Chemical Spill Response Training by Sigma Consulting and Training Inc. The Public Works representatives earned their incident commander/OSHA Level V rating. The class is only offered once a year.

OSHA requires spill response training for employees responding to an emergency. The spill response training helps prepare our Public Works Department to respond to emergencies. The class included information on spill response procedures, decontamination, personal protective equipment, respiratory protection, chemical storage and handling and more.

Stormwater infrastructure repairs on Veterans Memorial Parkway

Hinterland Group recently completed the lining of pipe across Veterans Memorial Parkway, northeast of Lyngate Drive. By curing the pipe in place, the City was able to repair the pipe, and extend the pipe's lifespan without having to perform a traditional dig. Traditional pipe repairs involve digging up and replacing the damaged pipe. The cure-in-place method helped minimize impacts on the traveling public as work can take place outside of the roadway. This method also is more cost-efficient and takes less time to repair.

In addition to lining the pipe, Southern Underground replaced the sidewalk and handrail to support pedestrian safety. The project was overseen by Leroy Cooper, Project Coordinator as part of the ongoing effort to improve aging stormwater infrastructure throughout the City.

Traffic calming public meeting for Grand Drive

Public Works hosted a public meeting Sept. 25, regarding traffic calming for residents who live on Grand Drive from Lennard Road to SW Walton Road. Residents could learn more about proposed traffic calming and provide input. There were great discussions with residents about concerns about speeding and safety for pedestrians. To learn more about our traffic calming process visit www.cityofpsl.com/trafficcalming.





Understanding the importance of a stormwater drainage system

Our Public Works National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Project Manager Bret Kaiser reminds us about the importance of our stormwater drainage system. Many residents might not realize the importance of a stormwater drainage system, especially when it is operating efficiently.

Stormwater drainage systems include curbs, ditches, pipes, gutters, culverts and, of course, storm drains, all of which collect the stormwater runoff and carry it to its discharge point, away from roads and structures.

When working properly and without obstruction, the stormwater drainage system prevents flooding of roadways, buildings and parking lots.

Throughout the City, there are different types of storm inlets. They all have the same purpose: to collect stormwater and direct it into an underground storm system. This storm system then transfers the runoff to a canal or lake, eventually leading to the river.

Whatever pollutants are not removed in the process by settling in the canal or lake or removed by the vegetation, will be deposited in our rivers. The City of Port St. Lucie has an ongoing water-quality testing program that samples the outfalls of our drainage canals into the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.



Public Works celebrates October as Pedestrian Safety Month

October is Pedestrian Safety Month, sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Highway Administration.

Public Works plans and implements improvements to support strengthening and improving safety for pedestrians. We can all do our part. Take a moment and rethink your driving. Are you alert and focused? Always look out for people crossing the street while you are driving. Driving at safe speed limits will also help with your reaction time.





Public Works gathers to celebrate Department of the Year

Public Works was named the Department of the Year. To celebrate, staff gathered to eat lunch, including grilled hotdogs and hamburgers. Public Works staff work hard every day to manage and plan for the future to keep the City safe and functional, all while improving the quality of life for residents. The Public Works Department focuses on traffic, growth, mobility, drainage, aging infrastructure and safety, overseeing the essential services for the City and its residents.

The City is the heart of the Treasure Coast and Public Works is the heart of the City. Public Works supports the City's goals of keeping the city safe, clean and beautiful; vibrant neighborhoods; smart and connected; diverse economy and employment opportunities; high-quality infrastructure and facilities; culture, nature, and fun activities as well as high-performing government organization.

Congratulations to all of the hard-working Public Works team members and thank you for all you do for the community.





Port St. Lucie Express bus service

Port St. Lucie has a new express bus service that will connect Port St. Lucie to West Palm Beach.

Palm Tran, in collaboration with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), launched the new bus service to connect the Gatlin Park and Ride to West Palm Beach Intermodal. The first trip took place Monday, Sept. 23.

Palm Tran will be providing four daily trips, Monday through Friday, for \$3 per ride using coach-style buses. Commuters can pay through the Paradise Pass app, smartcard or other contactless payment methods. The buses offer free Wi-Fi, phone and laptop charging, air conditioning, wheelchair accessibility and luggage storage. The shuttle service will be a direct trip to/from Port St. Lucie and West Palm Beach, providing connections to Area Regional Transit (ART) buses, Tri-rail, Palm Beach International Airport and Palm Tran transit.

Sidewalk Projects

www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks

Construction is complete on Abingdon Avenue sidewalk.

The contractor, McTeague Construction Co., Inc., completed the Alcantarra Boulevard Sidewalk Project that constructed a 6-foot-wide concrete sidewalk on the south side of Alcantarra Boulevard. This project included earthwork, clearing and grubbing, drainage modifications, swale relocation, driveway culvert replacements, replacement of driveways and utility relocations. The project was funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Local Agency Program (LAP). The project was managed by Emily Seitter, CIP Administrator, CIP and Sales Tax Project Groups.

Roadway Resurfacing Projects

www.cityofpsl.com/repaving

The Capital Improvement resurfacing goal for FY 23/24 is 29.17 miles with 20.78 miles completed to date. Below are the areas that will be resurfaced this fiscal year. Residents will be notified in advance of resurfacing.

- **Hidden Oaks (West):**
Complete
- **Hidden Oaks (East):**
Complete
- **Gatlin Pines (West):**
Complete
- **Gatlin Pines (East):**
Complete
- **Floresta Gardens (East):**
Complete
- **Floresta Gardens (West):**
Complete
- **Village Green Drive:**
Complete
- **Bayshore Boulevard (Northbound):**
Complete
- **Commerce Centre Drive:**
Complete
- **Palm Trails**
- **Sandhill Crossing**
- **Rosser Reserve (West)**





UTILITY SYSTEMS

SFWMD learns how Utility Systems teaches water conservation

The South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) water conservation coordinators meeting included a presentation from Utility Systems Department (USD) Assistant Manager for Community Outreach Jenny Tomes. Jenny shared how she teaches kids and adults about water conservation.

She described the successful ways she gathers feedback, measures learning gains and uses partnerships to help spread water conservation messages. Jenny's best practices for implementing these concepts include seeking educational opportunities and evaluating and measuring what participants glean from each presentation. This group meets quarterly to learn from and support one another to help educate the public on water conservation.





APWA accreditation evaluation scheduled for October

The Utility Systems Department is in the "Evaluation Phase" of the American Public Works Association (APWA) accreditation process, led by Accreditation & Performance Manager Summer Burdick. The current phase includes an onsite visit from APWA accreditation representatives, scheduled for October 22-24, who will provide feedback on the department's standard operating procedures, increased efficiencies and focus on continued improvement. Any necessary adjustments will be made, thus leading Utility Systems into its final accreditation phase.



PORT ST. LUCIE UTILITY SYSTEMS

ACCREDITATION PIPELINE

The American Public Works Association (APWA) Accreditation Program provides an opportunity for agencies to earn an accreditation after completion of an evaluation and review process.

The Utility Systems Department is voluntarily and objectively evaluating, verifying, and recognizing compliance with the recommended management practices.



PHASE 1: SELF ASSESSMENT

Utility Systems must develop an implementation plan, assign chapters to staff and seek training on the accreditation process. Utility Systems must also review current practices.

PHASE 5: ACCREDITATION

APWA will notify Utility Systems of results and the Utility Systems Department will present the accreditation to the City Council.



RE-ACCREDITATION

Utility Systems is required to apply for re-accreditation every four years to ensure the agency is keeping up to date information and continuous improvements are being made.

POST-ACCREDITATION

Utility Systems must submit a mid-term report on year two of accreditation.



PHASE 2: APPLICATION

Utility Systems must submit application package and await acceptance letter from APWA.

2

3



PHASE 3: IMPROVEMENT

Utility Systems must update or create new practices dependent on Phase 1 findings. Conduct a peer review with a Florida Utility to gauge current progress.

4



CURRENT PHASE PHASE 4: EVALUATION

APWA will conduct a site-visit and provide feedback on our assessment. Utility Systems will review the feedback and make necessary changes to progress to phase 5.



HIGHLIGHT

New public transit opportunities available in Port St. Lucie

Port St. Lucie residents will have two new options for public transit.

ART (Area Regional Transit) is pleased to announce the expansion of ART On Demand service hours, which are now available on weekdays from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. in all three zones.

To access ART On Demand to book rides, residents can download the app from either Apple Store or Google Play.

Commuters between West Palm Beach and Port St. Lucie have a convenient new way to travel. The Port St. Lucie Express is a weekday premium express coach service that offers a convenient and affordable non-stop commute between downtown West Palm Beach and Port St. Lucie for just \$3 per ride.

Administered by St. Lucie County's Transit Department, ART is a fare-free, award-winning public transit system serving the cities of Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie Village, and the unincorporated areas of St. Lucie County. To learn more, please visit www.slcart.org or call 772-462-1778.



This time expansion coincides with the Port St. Lucie Express bus service between St. Lucie County and West Palm Beach to offer more convenient and flexible transportation options for the community.

The [Port St. Lucie Express](#) connects at the Gatlin Boulevard Park and Ride and to West Palm Beach Intermodal Transit Center near downtown, and back.

The Port St. Lucie Express bus service will have two coach buses that will do four trips daily from Monday to Friday. The buses have state-of-the-art features including free Wi-Fi, phone and laptop charging stations, air conditioning, extra comfort seats, and wheelchair accessibility.

Commuters can patronize this affordable, cashless service using the Paradise Pass app, smartcard, or other contactless payment methods. Travelers can also plan their trips and track their buses using the Palm Tran App.

For drivers, free park and ride locations are available at Gatlin Boulevard Park and Ride, and West Palm Beach Tri-Rail Station.

Palm Tran and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) are the main collaborators in this new bus service, including funding the operations for Port St. Lucie Express.



CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE

SPOOKTACULAR

HOUSE/YARD DECORATING CONTEST



CityofPSL.com/
SpookyPSL

JOIN THE FUN!

THE CREEPY CRAWL

SCAVENGER HUNT



LEARN MORE AT:

CityofPSL.com/
SpookyPSL

REGISTER AT PSLPARKS.COM

HALLOWTEEN HANGOUT



OCT. 31

\$10 PER PERSON

6-9 P.M.

AGES 13-17

MIDFLORIDA EVENT CENTER

FALL
2024

EVENTS

CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE



Give-a-Tree, Spread-the-Shade Tree Giveaway

**Saturday, Sept. 21,
8-10 a.m.**

Clover Park • 31 Piazza Drive

National Night Out

**Tuesday, Oct. 1,
5:30-8:30 p.m.**

The Port District
2454 SE Westmoreland Blvd.



Oktoberfest

**Saturday, Oct. 5,
2-9 p.m.**

McChesney Park
1585 SW Cashmere Blvd.

River Nights

**Thursday, Oct. 10,
Thursday, Nov. 14,
5:30-8:30 p.m.**

Event Lawn at The Port District
2454 SE Westmoreland Blvd.

Harvest Hayride & Bonfire in the Preserve

**Saturday, Oct. 19,
2-8 p.m.**

McCarty Ranch Preserve
12525 Range Line Road

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

**Saturday, Oct. 19,
8 a.m.-noon**

Public Works Complex
450 SW Thornhill Drive

Fall Fun Fest

Friday, Oct. 25, 5-10 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 26, Noon-10 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 27, 1-6 p.m.

MIDFLORIDA Event Center
9221 SE Event Center Place



Veterans Day Ceremony

Monday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m.

Veterans Memorial Park
2100 SE Veterans Memorial
Parkway



Port St. Lucie International Fest

**Saturday, Nov. 23,
Noon-9 p.m.**

MIDFLORIDA Event Center
9221 SE Event Center Place

CityofPSL.com/Events

CityofPSL CityofPSL CityPortStLucie

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