

# CITY MANAGER'S Bi-Weekly Report

October 23, 2020

*Volume 4 • Issue 21*



# City Officials



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**Stephanie Morgan**  
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**Russ Blackburn**  
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**“Port St. Lucie is a safe, beautiful  
and prosperous City for all people  
– your hometown.”**

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.

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## ON THE COVER

COVID-19 Mobile Testing  
on October 23, 2020



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Receive regular updates of the City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report, a magazine-style publication released every other week, highlighting the City of Port St. Lucie's latest news, events and projects.

# Strategic Goals



The City's Strategic Plan is the guiding document that the City Council and staff use to fulfill a strategic vision to be a safe, beautiful and prosperous City for all people. The entire organization is focused on carrying out the strategic plan, which is updated every year based on citizen input through the annual Citizen Survey and Citizen Summit. An essential part of bringing the plan to life is measuring performance through objective indicators and reporting those results back to citizens.

In the City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report, we will 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" will indicate the strategic goal that each project, program or event advances, as everything that we do at the City of Port St. Lucie aligns with our Strategic Plan.

For more information, please visit: [www.cityofpsl.com/strategicplan](http://www.cityofpsl.com/strategicplan).



**Safe, Clean & Beautiful**



**Vibrant Neighborhoods**



**Quality Education for All Residents**



**Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities**



**High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities**



**Culture, Nature & Fun Activities**



**High Performing City Government Organization**



# Highlight of the Week

Culture, Nature  
& Fun Activities



## COVID-19 Mobile testing bus rolled into Port St. Lucie October 23-24



The Florida Department of Health, in cooperation with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, deployed a mobile testing bus stationed Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-24 in Port St. Lucie for walk-up COVID-19 testing. The mobile testing bus was able to test up to 500 persons daily and process them within 48 hours, if not sooner. A nasopharyngeal swab was administered to residents at no cost on a first-come, first-serve basis. [Read the original press release.](#)

# Strategic Plan Highlight

## Strategic Plan 4th Quarter Progress Report

At the Oct. 19 Special City Council meeting, staff provided an update on the progress of the Strategic Plan. In the last issue of the City Manager's Biweekly Report, we shared our progress on Goals 1-4. Following are highlights of some of the progress we have made in Fiscal Year 2019/20 in Goals 5-7.



### Goal 5: High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities

#### » PLAN ROADWAYS FOR FUTURE NEEDS

##### Accelerate and Redesign Port St. Lucie Boulevard South:

- **Segment 1 (Becker Road to Paar Drive):** Design is programmed in FDOT Work Program for FY 2020/21. The design has been awarded and FDOT is preparing the design schedule and NEPA re-evaluation. Property Acquisitions scheduled in FDOT Work Program for FY 2022/23.
- **Segment 2.1 (Alcantarra Boulevard to Darwin Boulevard):** Design is ongoing. Targeted design completion: March 2021. Construction funding by FDOT in FY 23/24. City sought to execute a Locally Funded Agreement with FDOT to advance construction to FY 20/21, impacts of state budget currently being evaluated.
- **Segment 2.2 (Paar Drive to Alcantarra Boulevard):** Design is ongoing. FDOT is finalizing right-of-way certification. Targeted design completion: March 2021. Estimated construction schedule FY 24/25 (subject to funding)
- **Segment 3 (Gatlin Boulevard to Darwin Boulevard):** Final design plans have been submitted to FDOT for its approval. Staff is currently procuring CEI services. Per FDOT JPA, construction will begin March 2021 and is scheduled to be complete in February 2022.
- **Crosstown Connector(s) Exploratory Report:** Preliminary report will be complete by Dec. 31 with a final report anticipated to be presented to Council at the 2021 Winter Retreat.
- **Walton Road (Concept Plan) Partnership with County:** An update was presented at the Oct. 19 Special City Council meeting and will be discussed as part of the Nov. 16 discussion on the County Legislative agenda.

**READ  
MORE**





## » ADVANCE MOBILITY

- **Implement Public Transit Enhancement Plan/PSL Intermodal Facility:** The Treasure Coast Connector deployed a new micro-transit program for the Gatlin Boulevard area in December 2019. A new bus route (Route 8) was deployed in March 2020 providing an express bus service along Airoso Blvd., St. James Blvd. and 25th Street. The Port St. Lucie Intermodal Enhancement Plan will be developed by St. Lucie County, in partnership with the City. RFQ for PSL Intermodal Planning & Design was advertised in October 2020. Deadline for signed/sealed plans no later than March 30, 2021. Final RFP for Construction in 2021. Advantage Ride Pilot Project is scheduled for November 2020, County received \$250K from Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. System Rebrand is in progress.
- **Implement Multimodal Plan:** The Multimodal Plan is complete and was adopted by the City Council at the Oct. 19, 2020 Special Meeting.
- **Bus Shelter Public Art Improvements:** A Call to Artists ranking was presented to City Council. Staff is revising the process to meet Council direction and an updated schedule is in the process of being developed.



## » IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

- **St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Project at McCarty Ranch:** Areas 1 and 2 complete, Area 3 under construction. Area 4 is currently in permitting.
- **Septic to Sewer Conversions and Master Plan:** A portion of the \$100,000 from the general fund was used during FY 19-20 for the Sagamore Hot Spot Pilot Program. During FY 20-21, the Utility will use \$100,000 allocated in the General Fund to help fund grants to owners in the Elkcam Hot Spot whose properties are within 50 feet of a waterway. A \$100,000 grant received from FDEP will also be used to fund Elkcam Hot Spot conversions. A Septic to Sewer Master Plan is being developed that will be presented at the February 2021 Winter Retreat, which will help guide future grant requests and provide further overall direction for the longstanding conversion program.
- **Stormwater Management Master Plan:** Consultants are finalizing review of the draft plan which was completed by staff. The draft plan recommends potential programs to enhance services as well as improvement projects identified in hydraulic studies. During the Council Winter Retreat, staff will present the plan. Following City Council directive, staff will initiate the services, budgets, and funding sources to support the program and any enhanced services.
- **Stormwater Education Program:** Working with an interdepartmental team that includes the Communications Department and Government Innovation expert Brian Elms to create a stormwater education program and other innovations to reduce the number of requests for services for the “blocked swale” category, with training from the PSL Forward Innovation Academy.





## GOAL 6: Culture, Nature & Fun Activities

### » THE PORT & PIONEER PARK

- **Boardwalk:** Westmoreland segment was opened to the public on Sept. 14, Southern Segment of the Boardwalk, adjacent to the Preserve, is 70% complete. The Port St. Lucie Boulevard segment is currently in permitting with FDOT. Construction of the Rivergate Boat Ramp Segment of the Boardwalk is currently budgeted for FY 2023-24. FIND grant will provide funding for design and permitting.
- **Speed Zone:** City is applying for a zone.
- **Pioneer Park Playground:** Conceptual plan finalized. Seeking a \$200,000 FRDAP Grant as part of this project. Next steps include development of construction documents, of which 50% drawings are expected by the City in January 2021.
- **Historic Village:** Lease with Port St. Lucie Historical Society for the two historic structures approved was at the Sept. 14 City Council Meeting. Seeking grant funding to support renovations in addition to funding allocated in the CIP.
- **Restaurant:** City staff continue to meet with interested parties regarding the waterfront restaurant site. In the meantime, area will be developed as part of overall site improvements as a pad-ready site and parking lot for a restaurant.
- **Overall Site Improvements:** Budgeted for FY 2020-21. It is anticipated this project will run 18-24 months.
- **Naming/Branding:** Final branding options/concepts approved by Council.
- **The Port District Master Plan:** Under the Cone of Silence, currently in the negotiation process, pending award in the next 30 days.

### » IMPLEMENT THE 10 YEAR PARKS & RECREATION SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

- **Adventure Park:** Design update to be provided at Oct. 19, 2020 Special Meeting.
- **O.L. Peacock, Sr. Preserve Improvements:** Planned improvements in FY 2020-21 include a new shade structure and park entrance improvements with asphalt millings.
- **Bikeways & Trails Concept Plan:** Criteria in development for priority corridors following adoption of the Multimodal Plan, initial/model engineering designs to be developed.
- **Parkland Acquisition Study:** A Park Site Evaluation Study is underway, scheduled to be complete by January 2021.
- **Tradition Regional Park:** Mattamy began public engagement in July 2020 and is developing Master Plan at their costs. 2025-2027: Phase 1 is scheduled for Design/Construction
- **Environmental Lands Protection Program:** Update planned for November 2020.
- **Torino Regional Park:** Design is scheduled for FY 23-24 and FY 24-25 for construction.



## GOAL 7: High Performing Government Organization

- **Reduce Millage:** The City Council reduced the millage rate for the fifth year in a row while improving services
- **1PSL:** As of Sept. 26, 2020, over 47,358 calls have been processed. Voice Assistant integration is currently under development. Ai Chatbot is still being evaluated.
- **Organizational Development:** Development of a training program for the remainder of 2020 and 2021 is underway. The Recognition Program was approved in the upcoming FY 20/21 budget. The City's redesigned "Watercooler" page was launched along with an online version of orientation for new hires. Launched the PSL Forward Academy, the City's training and development program, with Brian Elm's virtual Process Improvement Training. Created and released two health/wellness videos for EAP and 211 resources. An Organizational Development Plan, succession planning, Recognition Program, Comprehensive Training and Development Program and Recruitment Process Redo are priority projects for FY 20/21.
- **County Legislative Program:** The Council will consider adoption of the County Legislative Program at the November Special Meeting. Joint meetings with the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners have been scheduled for Jan. 26, 2021 and March 9, 2021.

For more updates on the Strategic Plan, visit [www.cityofpsl.com/strategicplan](http://www.cityofpsl.com/strategicplan).



# Half-Cent Sales Tax Projects



PHOTO ABOVE:  
TORINO ROUNDABOUT



[CITYOFPSL.COM/SALESTAX](http://CITYOFPSL.COM/SALESTAX)

Stay up to date on  
Half-Cent Sales Tax Projects.

## St. Lucie West Boulevard Intersection Improvements

- Construction starts in FY 25/26 for California Boulevard.
- California Boulevard widening from St. Lucie West Boulevard to Crosstown Parkway: Construction starts in FY 25/26.

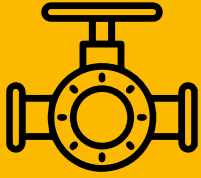
## Sidewalks

- **Torino Boulevard** (California Boulevard to Cashmere Boulevard; Villa Vizcaya to Midway Road): Construction is currently underway.
- **Torino Boulevard** (California Boulevard to Topaz): Construction is currently underway.
- **Delwood Drive** (Torino Boulevard to Winterlakes Park): Construction is currently underway.

## Repaving

- Gatlin Boulevard: Repaving starts in FY 26/27.
- Crane Landing/Paar Estates (SW Darwin Boulevard from SW Paar Drive to SW Jeanne Avenue): Completed Oct. 6, 2020.





## High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities



### Traffic Signal Coordination

- Adaptive Traffic Signal Implementation along Port St. Lucie Boulevard starts in FY 27/28.
- Adaptive Traffic Signal Implementation along Crosstown Parkway is complete and fully functional.

### Floresta Drive Improvements

[www.florestadrive.com](http://www.florestadrive.com)

#### Southbend Boulevard to Elkcarn Waterway (Segment 1):

The contractor kicked off construction activities by clearing the stormwater pond treatment areas near Essex Drive and Academy Lane and north of the Port St. Lucie Boulevard Intersection.

The team met with the St. Lucie County School Board Transportation team and discussed bus stop locations in the project corridor and came up with a plan to safely accommodate students and school bus traffic.

Lane closures will not be permitted from 6:30-9 a.m. and from 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the weekends. Motorists can anticipate temporary closures and delays on Floresta Drive. Please use caution while driving through the work zone.

Additional construction activities include:

- Locating utilities and utility relocation activities
- Staging materials and equipment delivery
- Drainage/outfall activities
- Installing pipes for water main
- Directional drilling to install underground utilities

#### Elkcarn Waterway to Crosstown Parkway (Segment 2):

Design is underway. Segments 2 & 3 have been combined and are being designed together. The plans are currently 60% complete.

#### Crosstown Parkway to Prima Vista Boulevard (Segment 3):

Design is underway. Segments 2 & 3 have been combined and are being designed together. The plans are currently 60% complete.

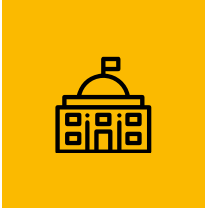
### Torino Boulevard Intersection Improvements

Construction for the California Boulevard and Cashmere Boulevard roundabouts is now complete. All lighting components have been installed and the meters have been set by FP&L. The lighting is now fully functional.

### Landscaping & Beautification

U.S. 1 landscaping and beautification starts in FY 20/21.

# 1PSL System



High Performing  
City Government  
Organization



## Your 24/7 City Hall

### What is 1PSL?

1PSL is your 24/7 City Hall. This all-in-one system allows residents to connect with the City either via mobile app, phone or web portal. Residents can use 1PSL to request services, ask questions, pay bills, 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.

Visit [www.cityofpsl.com/1PSL](http://www.cityofpsl.com/1PSL) for more information.



### Call 772-871-1PSL

Call a 1PSL Navigator 24/7 at 772-871-1775 (1PSL). After hours calls are answered by Police Service Aides. For all emergencies, call 911.



### Download App

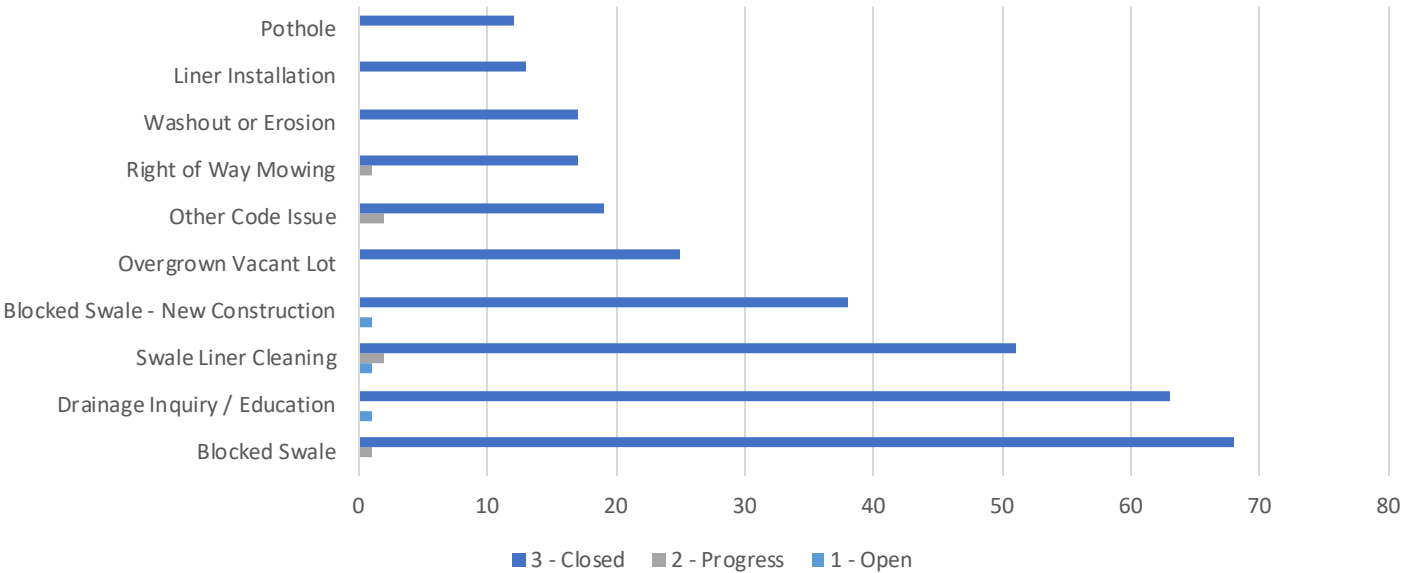
The 1PSL mobile app is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.



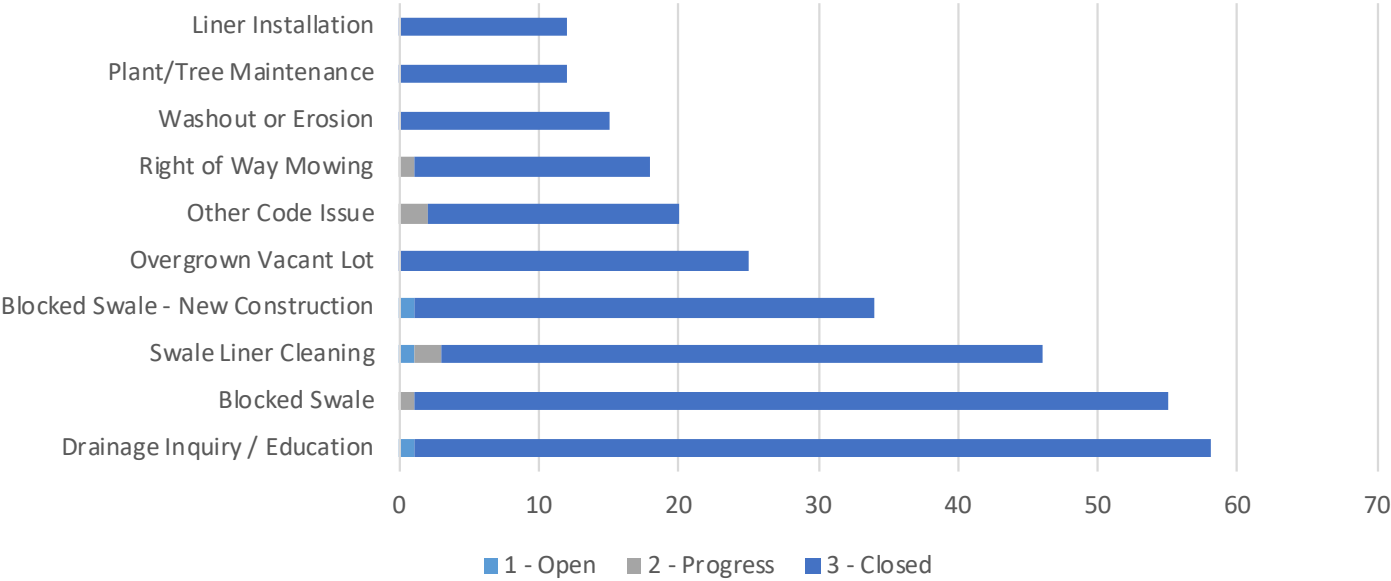
### Web Portal

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

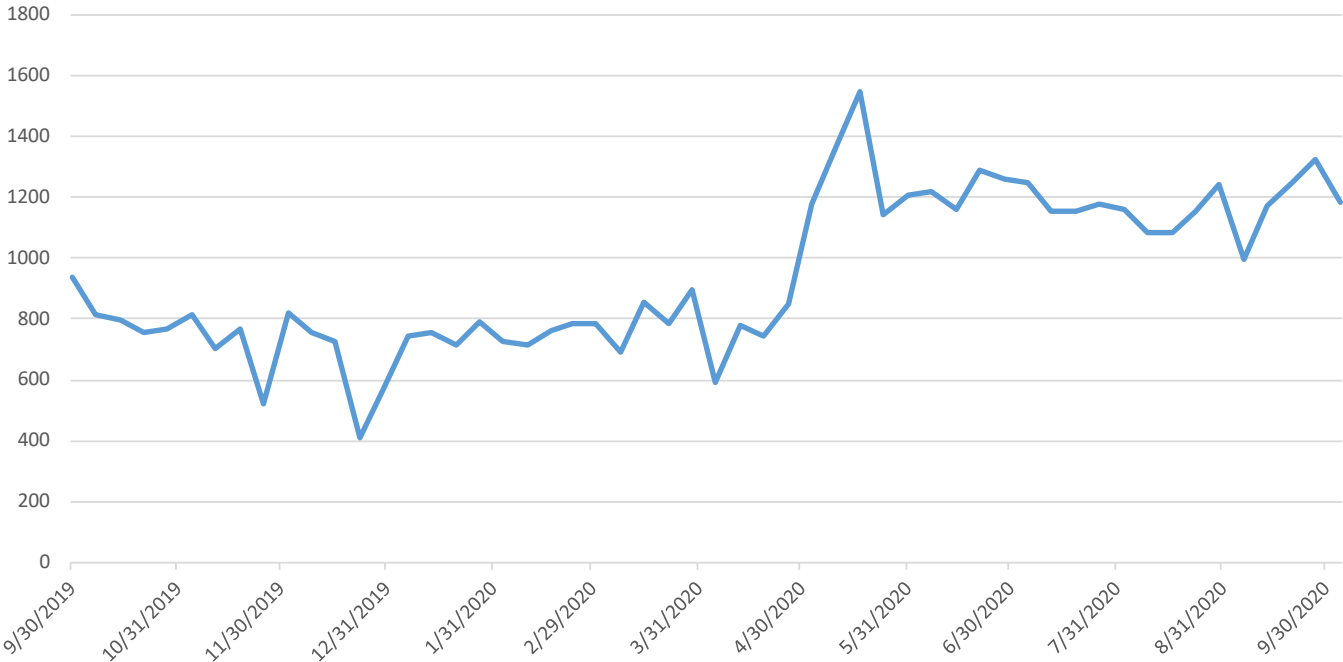
Top 10 Requests October 1-15, 2020



### Top 10 Request Types October 2-15, 2020



### Call Totals



# Building

Diverse Economy  
& Employment  
Opportunities



## Building Highlights

- Building had a roofing contractor stakeholder meeting Oct. 19.
- City Ordinance 150 rewrite was approved through City Council on Oct. 12. New changes will go into effect Oct. 22.
- Seventh edition of the Florida Building Code goes into effect Jan. 1, 2021.
- Permit lobby wait times have been an average of 4 minutes.

## Building Activities

	Oct. 2-15, 2020	2020	2019	2018	2017
Permits Issued	2,331	43,387	41,504	39,899	32,020
Single-Family Permits Issued	196	2,925	2,722	2,200	1,518
Certificates of Occupancy Issued (SFR)	95	2,408	2,711	1,824	1,382
Number of Inspections Completed	5,959	128,564	137,302	115,073	84,510
Number of Plans Reviewed	868	16,086	13,978	13,559	10,352
Number of Permits Applied for Online	1,272	21,768	18,395	13,421	8,346

### Commercial Certificate of Occupancy

- Riverland Valencia Cay Clubhouse and Pool: 11251 SW Winding Ridge Blvd.
- City of PSL: Human Resources Interior Renovation, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd.
- LGI Homes Info Center: 1173 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd.
- Carvel Ice Cream: Interior renovation, 1091 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd.

### Commercial Permits

- Popeyes: 9025 S. U.S. 1
- Whit's Frozen Custard: Interior renovation, 1284 SW Gatlin Blvd.
- Circle K: Store, fuel canopy, car wash, 10780 SW Crosstown Parkway
- 7-Eleven: Store, fuel canopy, car wash: 9575 SW Crosstown Parkway



# Communications



High Performing City  
Government Organization

## Year-in-Review presentation shows off City's economic development projects

The Communications Department worked with City Manager Russ Blackburn to create a Year-in-Review presentation, which he shared Oct. 15 with members of the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce at the 12th annual Treasure Coast Business Summit.

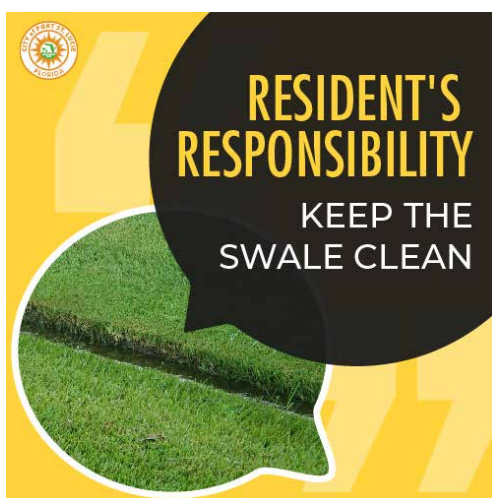
The presentation included information about ongoing and future economic development projects throughout the City, including Southern Grove, the Florida International University-Torrey Pines partnership, The Port district and the City's Public Art Master Plan, among other exciting endeavors.



The informative, interactive presentation was well received by Business Summit attendees and the Chamber. [Watch Video](#) | [View Presentation](#)



High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities



Learn tips about how to maintain your swale by visiting: [www.cityofpsl.com/swale](http://www.cityofpsl.com/swale).

## Reminding residents about the importance of helping to keep stormwater flowing

The rainy season's still in full swing and the City has been sharing friendly reminders about the importance of keeping swale liners clear of debris and other obstructions, emphasizing it's the homeowner's responsibility to keep their swale clean.

Through email blasts, an updated swale webpage ([www.cityofpsl.com/swale](http://www.cityofpsl.com/swale)), PSA videos, marketing materials like door hangers, monthly social media posts and infographics, the City aims to educate residents about how, with their assistance, the City can maintain the drainage system. Proper maintenance protects streets and homes from flood damage.

Mayor Gregory J. Oravec also discussed swales during the Oct. 9 Coffee with the Mayor, sharing the PSA produced by the Communications' video team. Watch the Mayor's swale talk here: <https://youtu.be/wvfe1g4hEEw>

Eventually, the City plans to host virtual town hall meetings, produce radio spots and even share swale "slam poetry", all to educate citizens about the importance of maintaining the stormwater drainage system.

# TELLING PSL'S STORY



Safe, Clean & Beautiful

## Communications, Police partner for speeding prevention campaign, webpage overhaul

A new speeding prevention campaign launched recently, which is a joint effort between the Police Department and Communications.

There's an updated webpage ([www.cityofpsl.com/speeding](http://www.cityofpsl.com/speeding)), complete with graphics and statistics about the dangers of speeding, how important it is for citizens to understand the significance of obeying speed limits, especially through residential areas, as well as how to report speeding in neighborhoods.

Along with the webpage overhaul, Communications created several graphics about the dangers of speeding that can be shared throughout the year on the Police Department's social media platforms.



The video team also filmed a PSA with police officers' children who asked residents to slow down when driving through City neighborhoods. Watch the video here: [https://youtu.be/\\_PctmGBztJM](https://youtu.be/_PctmGBztJM)

**KEEP OUR ROADWAYS SAFE**

# SPEEDING PREVENTION

**REPORT RESIDENTIAL SPEEDING (NON-EMERGENCY)**  
Are people frequently speeding on your residential street? If you are aware of a dangerous condition or a continual traffic violation, please use IPSL's mobile app, phone or web portal. Please be as detailed as possible so we may better be able to resolve the problem. *NOTE: If this is an emergency, please call 911 to immediately report the problem.*

**3 WAYS TO REPORT THE PROBLEM TO THE CITY**

- Call a IPSL Navigator at 772-871-1775 (IPSL)
- Use the mobile app on Google Play and App Store
- Access the web portal at [www.CityofPSL.com/IPSL](http://www.CityofPSL.com/IPSL)

**IPSL**  
Your 24/7 City Hall

**GATHER INFORMATION**

- Where is the problem occurring?
- What's the property address or block?
- What time(s) of the day is the problem occurring?
- What day(s) of the week is the problem occurring?

**REPORT A DANGEROUS DRIVER**  
If you see a reckless driver (swerving, speeding, texting or behaving aggressively), you should call 911. Only call 911 if the driver is posing a danger to other drivers; 911 is intended for urgent situations.

**IF YOU DO CALL 911**

- Pull over first so you stay safe and do not become a danger to others.
- Tell the operator your location, a description of the vehicle and their direction of travel.
- Do not attempt to follow the car or take cell phone pictures as these actions could increase the hazards of the situation.
- Be sure to exercise caution and maintain a safe following distance from the dangerous driver.
- Safely record the license plate number, state of origin and vehicle make, model and color, this will be useful for police to locate the offender.

**IT'S 30 MPH FOR A REASON IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND NEIGHBORHOODS**

**SPEED LIMIT 30 MPH**

[WWW.CITYOFPSL.COM/SPEEDING](http://WWW.CITYOFPSL.COM/SPEEDING)



# Community Redevelopment

Safe, Clean  
& Beautiful



village  
GREEN DR  
PORT ST. LUCIE



## We've got the green light on Village Green Drive!

Earlier this summer, the City engaged MARLIN Engineering to assist in master planning efforts along the Village Green Drive corridor. This project is intended to kick-start eastern Port St. Lucie's long-awaited renaissance and vision for a revitalized gathering place. Improvements to Village Green Drive and surrounding areas will improve connectivity, accessibility and aesthetics between Crosstown Parkway and the key economic, community and healthcare hubs along this corridor.

A canvassing day was held in September where representatives from MARLIN visited several businesses along the Village Green Drive corridor to solicit comments, concerns and desires for improvements. In addition, MARLIN hosted a walking audit in early October that included nearly

30 socially distanced participants from various City departments and local project partners. This activity afforded participants the opportunity to incorporate necessary infrastructure feedback that will complement and support the design elements of the master plan.

Feedback from canvassing day and walking audit activities were presented Oct. 8 at a public information meeting. Participants learned more about the status of the master planning efforts and took part in an interactive poll on desired project elements. MARLIN recently released a survey to further gather public input on desired improvements along the Village Green Drive corridor.

For more information on this project, and to take the project survey, visit [www.cityofpsl.com/villagegreen](http://www.cityofpsl.com/villagegreen).



# Emergency Management

Safe Clean  
& Beautiful



## DRIVE THRU FOOD PANTRY ON OCT. 15

In another partnership with the Treasure Coast Food Bank, Christ Fellowship Church and the Port St. Lucie Police Department, a drive-thru food pantry operation was conducted Oct. 15, at Clover Park in St. Lucie West. About 400 vehicles were provided meals.

## ABOUT TREASURE COAST FOOD BANK

If you or somebody you know needs food assistance, the Treasure Coast Food Bank can help. Register for emergency food assistance by visiting [www.stop hunger.org](http://www.stop hunger.org), calling the Treasure Coast Food Bank at 772-489-3034 or emailing [info@tcfoodbank.org](mailto:info@tcfoodbank.org).





# Human Resources

## Training & Development: Be In the Know!

The second session of the series entitled, “The Strategic Plan: How Do I Fit In,” focused on the Strategic Plan and how it relates to our supervisors and managers and their connection to the organization and its vision. Facilitated by Kate Parmelee, Strategic Initiatives Director, this session was attended by 23 managers and supervisors.

## Virtual Benefits Fair

This year’s Employee Benefits Fair went virtual! Twenty vendors provided short educational videos for employees to watch and scavenger hunt cards were provided for the employees to answer a question from each video for a chance to win a prize. Another vendor provided a virtual trivia game to test employees’ knowledge of the plans offered. The Virtual Fair was Oct. 12-15 on the Water Cooler 24/7. Employees who participated and are eligible for the Wellness Program will receive an incentive.

## HR by the Numbers

October 2 - 16, 2020



4 New Hires



221 Job Applications Received



16 Job Requisitions Received



37 Jobs Posted



## Welcome to the City!

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



**William Weinshank**  
Operations Administrator,  
Emergency Management



**Daniel Garcia**  
Software Developer I,  
Information Technology



**Lillian Boles-Rees**  
Contract Budget Analyst,  
Public Works



**Adam Roth**  
Field Technician  
Trainee-Sewer,  
Utility Systems

# MIDFLORIDA Event Center

Culture, Nature  
& Fun Activities



FY 2020/2021  
Attendance: 3,118  
Event Days: 31



## St. Lucie Cultural Alliance and Event Center announce county-wide partnership

**Inaugural event held Oct. 1, 2020:**

St. Lucie Cultural Alliance and MIDFLORIDA Event Center recently teamed up to launch a county-wide partnership designed to support and enhance St. Lucie County's cultural landscape. The two cultural powerhouses have combined forces to spotlight, feature and promote the County's immense talent. In addition to the ongoing arts exhibitions, the collaboration will bring live entertainment and art fairs to MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

## Raffle Winners at Treasure Coast Business Summit

Susie Caron, Trustee, Indian River State College, and Chere Ramirez, Marketing Manager, SkyBlue Jet Aviation, won two tickets each to the We Love Lucie Concert Series during the Treasure Coast Business Summit. The TCBS is the premier business-to-business expo on the Treasure Coast, representing diverse and unique networking, educational and sales opportunities.







## Consumer shows make successful return to Event Center

The Port St. Lucie Home Show returned earlier this month showcasing top home improvement companies, all under one roof. Hundreds of unique home improvement items were on display including patio furniture, kitchen design, flooring, home decor and more.

Southeast Spas recently returned for another great Spa & Hot Tub Expo. The Emerald Ballroom was stocked with a complete line of hot tubs designed to entice every one of the senses while offering the ultimate in relaxation, recreation and wellness. Keep an eye out: Southeast Spas will be back soon with another show.





# 4 NIGHTS

## SIX AMAZING PERFORMANCES

#**THE Show**  
GOES ON  
SMART. SAFE. ENTERTAINMENT.



FOGHAT SAT., JAN. 16, 2021

SAT., FEB. 13, 2021



MOLLY HATCHET



THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS



LITTLE RIVER BAND

FRI., MARCH 26 2021

SAT., APRIL 10, 2021



JO DEE MESSINA



TRACY BYRD

Presented by



TICKETS ON SALE NOV. 2 AT 10 A.M.

MIDFLORIDA Event Center Box Office, Online: [etix.com](https://www.etix.com),

Charge by Phone: 1-800-514-3849



MIDFLORIDAEVENTCENTER.COM

9221 SE Event Center Pl., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952



# Neighborhood Services



Vibrant Neighborhoods



## City University goes virtual!

We had a little setback with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and our spring program was cancelled. Nonetheless, City U came back bigger and better on a virtual platform. We were able to double our number of participants for a single class and work to get dedicated students through the program. There was a mixture of online learning sessions, interactive tours and videos and a few in person events, outdoors, socially distanced and following all CDC guidelines, of course!

Learn more about City U by visiting [www.cityofpsl.com/cityu](http://www.cityofpsl.com/cityu).

## Want to improve your neighborhood?

Here's your chance at Port St. Lucie's NICE Neighborhood Meetings

Parks!

Sidewalks!

I agree!



### The strength of our City is in our 35 neighborhoods!

Join us and together we'll develop goals, including:

- Fitness stations
- Green space/parks
- Recreational opportunities
- Clean-up groups
- Crime watch groups
- Bike racks/benches
- Pet waste stations
- and more!

Find your neighborhood and next meeting date! Call 772-871-7395 or visit [CityofPSL.com/NICE](http://CityofPSL.com/NICE).



## NICE Meetings Update

The Neighborhood Services and Communications Departments partnered to update the NICE homepage, as well as design various graphics for promotional outreach purposes.

### What are NICE Neighborhood Meetings?

Residents can discuss ways to improve their neighborhood by developing goals with City staff such as fitness stations, crime watch groups, recreational opportunities, green space/parks, bike racks, benches, pet waste stations and much more!

The strength of our City is in our 35 neighborhoods! Learn where your neighborhood is and join the next NICE Neighborhood Meeting by visiting [www.cityofpsl.com/nice](http://www.cityofpsl.com/nice).

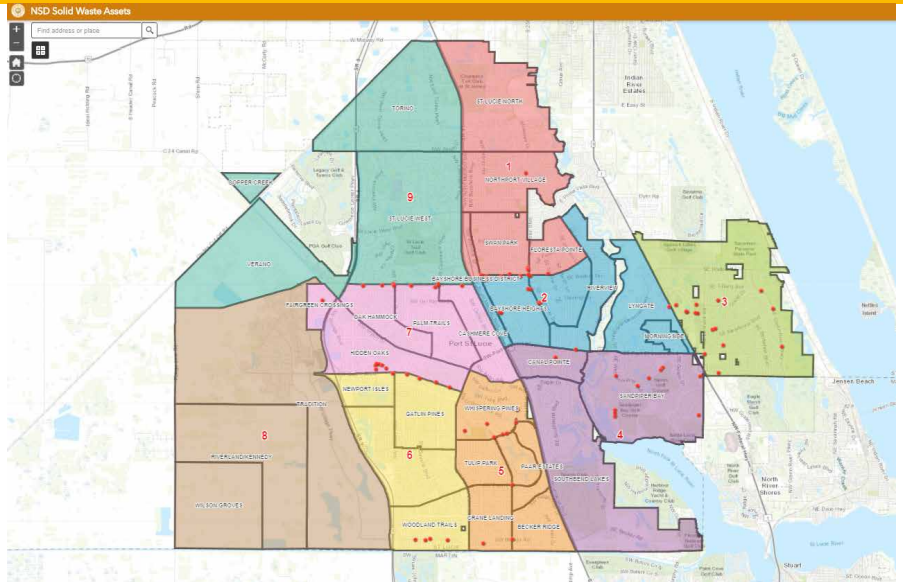
# Solid Waste Asset Mapper

This interactive tool maps out all the City’s solid waste assets, such as pet waste stations, trash cans and recycling bins.

A placard was created with a unique zone and location identifier that is affixed to the asset. A telephone number and email address are included, so residents can call to report damage for servicing needs.

The interactive mapper allows field staff to record and save data such as:

- Day of service
- Location and neighborhood
- Trash or recycling volume observed at time of service
- Number of bags replaced (pet waste stations)
- Type of assets serviced
- Comments section



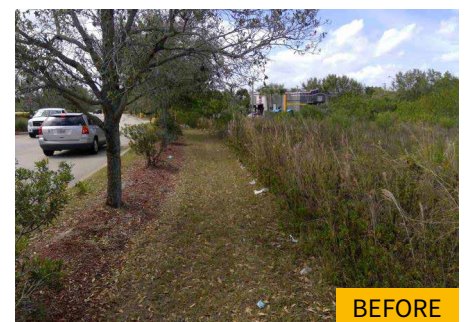
## Code continues partnership with local commercial property

During a Road Patrol on March 10, Code found a commercial property with increases in litter around the property’s landscaping zones and drainage areas. Code Specialists volunteered to spend a few hours clearing litter at the back of the property, and Code Supervisor McElveen and Specialist Rouselle worked with the property managers to successfully address the litter issue. In addition to the litter, Code also worked with the property management to remedy landscaping and mildew violations.

In a partnership that has lasted the past few months, Code was able to walk the property with the

management team and use the site plan to provide guidance on the missing landscaping and irrigation. Litter issues also were addressed and now a litter control team cleans the property on a regular maintenance schedule. The mildew issues on the walls of the property also were cleaned.

As a result of this partnership, Code was able to secure a local contact from the national chain to address violations on other properties owned by the same property throughout the City. Both the property management and local point of contact are supportive in continuing to bring all their properties into compliance.



BEFORE



AFTER

# Parks & Recreation

Culture, Nature  
& Fun Activities



## Announcements

- The Parks & Recreation Department continues to move forward with the governor's statewide COVID-10 Phase 3 recommendation, including increasing social-distancing capacity limits at the Community Center.
- The Community Center and the MIDFLORIDA Event Center are getting ready to host early voting for the general election from Oct.19-Nov. 3.
- River Nights resumed for the season.
- The adult and co-ed softball leagues are heading into their respective post seasons.

## Recreation Programs Update

- eSports season 3 begins Oct. 26. We have added two new game titles to our offerings, PGA 2K21 and Fortnite. We also are offering the latest version of existing leagues such as Madden21, NBA 2K21 and FIFA 21.
- MIDFLORIDA recreation team gets crafty for Halloween! During Toddler Drop Off on Oct. 29, traditional trick-or-treating will be replaced with a Monster Hunt, where children will stroll around the building looking for boxes decorated as monsters with candy surprises hidden inside, while maintaining social distance.
- It will be all hands on deck from 4-9 p.m. Oct. 31 as our Special Events Team will be doing trick-or-treating at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.
- New things in bloom at the Community Garden! Youth Garden Club launches Nov. 3.
- Pickleball has returned to full operating capacity.
- The MIDFLORIDA Event Center Recreation's Great Kids After School Program has resumed from 2-4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with advance registration.
- Open Gym is back and available daily in two-hour time slots, on a first-come, first-served basis, and is subject to availability. Reservations can be made in advance through the Mindbody app.

## Upcoming Events



### Community Center and MIDFLORIDA Event Center:

- Oct. 19-Nov. 3: Early voting

### MIDFLORIDA Event Center

- Oct. 25: One Stop Shop
- Oct. 26-29: Great Kids After School Program
- Oct. 26, Oct. 28-29, Nov. 2 & Nov. 4-5: Pickleball
- Oct. 27 & Nov. 3: Homeschool PE Elementary
- Oct. 27, Oct. 29 & Nov. 5: Toddler Drop Off
- Oct. 29 & Nov. 5: Dance Combo
- Oct. 29 & Nov. 5: Homeschool PE Middle/High
- Oct. 30-31, Fall Fun Fest
- Oct. 23, Oct. 27 & Oct. 30: Volleyball rental
- Nov. 3: Kids Day Out Camp
- Nov. 3: Art from Nature
- Nov. 3 & Nov. 6: Youth Garden Club

### Community Center

- Nov. 5: Life Line Screening
- Nov. 6: P&R New Employee Welcome Program





Sportsman's Park Playground Demo



Sportsman's Park Playground Demo



Charles E. Ray Park Playground Demo

## Parks Update

There have been developments with park improvement projects over the past few weeks. At Sportsman's Park, demolition of the existing playground and a replacement playground, which will feature sensory/inclusive elements, is underway. Additionally, an outdoor fitness station will also be installed near the playground area. This project is funded in the FY 2020-2021 departmental Capital Improvement Plan, and has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP).

At Charles E. Ray Park, a similar project is being simultaneously started. This project includes the demolition of the current playground there and the new playground will soon be installed. Also included in this project will be work to improve drainage to the playground area at Charles E. Ray Park.



New Shade Structure at Woodland Trails Park



New Sign at Woodland Trails Park





# Fall Classic Golf Tournament

## October 24-25

**Ages 16 & older** *Flighted by Age*

2601 SE Morningside Blvd. | 772-398-2901

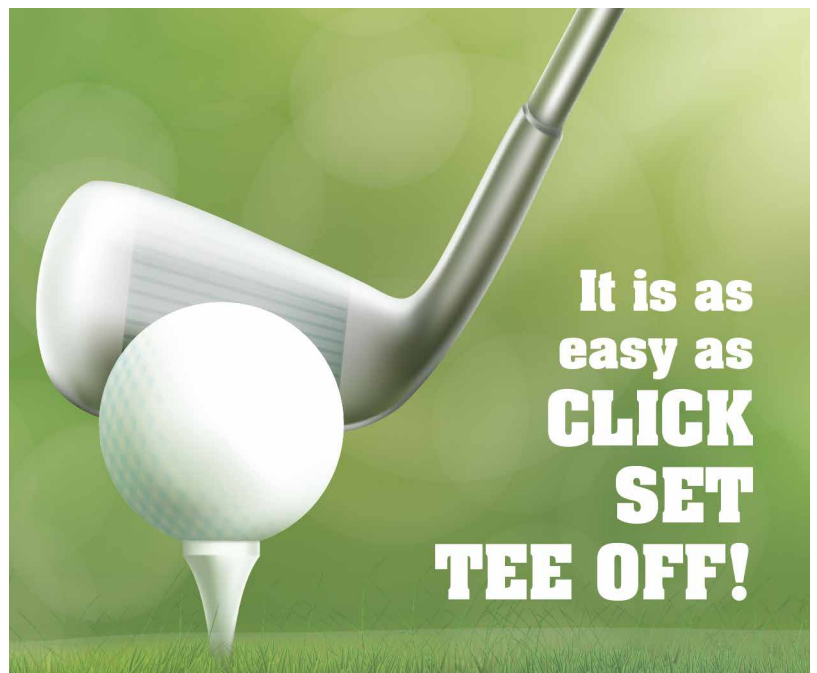


- So far, there are 40 players for the Fall Classic, with anticipation of 50 for the tournament, which is Oct. 24-25. The tournament is a two-day individual stroke play tournament, flighted by age, and is open to men, women and juniors older than 16.
- The golf course is installing cart partitions in all golf carts as it transitions to two golfers per cart as staff continues its COVID-19 precautions to protect guests and staff as we enter the busy season.
- Golf course conditions continue to improve as the maintenance staff is focused on the playing services, which include greens, fairways and tees. It also is focused on weed prevention by applying a pre-emergent to eliminate them throughout the golf course.

### Book Tee Times Online! Visit [www.saintspsl.com/teetime](http://www.saintspsl.com/teetime)

The Saints Golf Course consists of an exceptional 18-hole championship course, driving range and practice area. The Saint's clubhouse houses a fully-stocked pro shop and rentable banquet room.

Our goal at the Saints is to provide you with a great golfing experience every time you tee up the ball. Our staff is dedicated, helpful and friendly. Please let us know how we can be of service. We hope you enjoy the game and our beautiful course.



# Planning & Zoning

Diverse Economy  
& Employment  
Opportunities



[www.cityofpsl.com/comingsoon](http://www.cityofpsl.com/comingsoon)

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

**Volaris Port St. Lucie at Veranda (P20-173)**

300 multi-family units proposed to be located south of Becker Road and west of Veranda Gardens.

**Tradition Regional Business Park (P20-181)**

245,000-square-foot warehouse/office building proposed to be located east of Village Parkway between Becker Road and the Paar Drive R-O-W.

## Dwelling Units in PSL as of September 2020



[View Planning  
Areas Map  
\(PDF\)](#)

PLANNING AREA	BUILT SINGLE FAMILY UNITS	BUILT MULTI-FAMILY UNITS	TOTAL BUILT UNITS	APPROVED UNITS	REMAINING UNITS TO BE BUILT
1	3,398	774	4,172	5,598	1,426
2	2,740	473	3,213	4,060	847
3	16,911	1	16,912	20,210	3,298
4N	16,281	677	16,958	22,364	5,406
4S	10,704	26	10,730	15,294	4,564
5	2,119	12	2,131	2,865	734
6	4,559	1,214	5,773	6,237	464
7	5,552	2,267	7,819	9,532	1,713
8	5,320	1,653	6,973	7,523	550
9	3,360	1,887	5,247	11,092	5,845
10	818	211	1,029	7,200	6,171
11	0	0	0	4,000	4,000
12	983	54	1,037	22,410	21,373
13	0	0	0	0	-
14	351	0	351	579	228
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73,096</b>	<b>9,249</b>	<b>82,345</b>	<b>138,964</b>	<b>56,619</b>



# Police

Safe Clean &  
Beautiful



## District 1



Lisa Smith was recognized for her hard work with a Do Your Job award.

## District 2

Case Number 2020-19834: On Oct. 2, three subjects entered a shooting center located on NW Concourse. During their visit, the three subjects worked together to steal two Glock handguns from a display case. A B.O.L.O. was generated, and two of the subjects were identified. A warrant was issued for one of the suspect's arrest Oct. 8, 2020. During the early-morning hours of Oct. 13, 2020, he was apprehended during a routine traffic stop. Post Miranda, he admitted to being present at the shooting center, and he is the subject in the B.O.L.O. He further acknowledged the vehicle pictured in the incident was his as well. He denied taking part in the theft of any firearms and refused to identify his accomplices. The suspect was booked into the St. Lucie County Jail, and the investigation continues.

## District 3

On Oct. 2, officers responded to SW Gastador Avenue about several residential burglary attempts. The victims said that at approximately 10:30 p.m., they heard someone at their front doors. All the victims independently observed a thin-built male with no shirt who was acting erratically. At one of the residences, the male kicked the door very hard and broke the front window to the home, recorded on video. Officers on scene observed blood that went from one house to the next. On Oct. 6, the videos were uploaded to social media, and the suspect came into the Port St Lucie Police station with his mother to turn himself in.

Post Miranda, the teenager said he was high on acid, which he purchased earlier in the night from an unknown person at a local convenience store. The male said after taking the acid, he went home, and his mom confronted him about appearing to be "high," so he left the residence. The suspect said he got lost and began to look for his house, but he went to the wrong house three times.

The suspect violated FSS 810.02 (3C) for attempted burglary of an occupied dwelling, FSS 806.13 (1B2) for misdemeanor criminal mischief under one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and FSS 876.43 for trespassing.



A truck accidentally struck a power pole, causing it to fall, on the 2000 block of SE Camilo Street on Oct. 14. At least two power poles fell and needed to be repaired. Thankfully, no injuries were reported. If you lived in the area, your power was most likely affected. A small portion of SE Camilo Street was blocked off for a few days, so FP&L could make the necessary repairs to the power line.

## District 4



Sgt. LaGrega entered her dachshund, Molly, in the inaugural Wiener Dog Race during Oktoberfest at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center on Oct. 10. Molly won the first race and took second place overall! Everyone had a great time.

## In Other News



Port St. Lucie Police Chief John Bolduc, City of Port St. Lucie City Manager Russ Blackburn and many others stopped by to celebrate the retirement of Officer James MacMillan on Oct. 9. Officer MacMillan was hired in 1997 and has served our community for almost 23 years. Officer MacMillan served as a Road Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer and, most recently, Municipal Complex Officer. We thank Officer MacMillan for his service and dedication to protecting our community. We wish him well during retirement.



Master Officer Scott Johnson was named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the St. Lucie County Hundred Club for his outstanding work in 2019. Officer Johnson is a Police Department Training Coordinator. In addition to the in-service training evolution in which Officer Johnson completed over 10,000 staff hours, he conducted several training sessions for the community and other City employees. Officer Johnson held more than 10 training events for civilian response to active shooter, with more the 300 students in attendance. Officer Johnson is always there for his fellow officers and co-workers as a mentor, advisor and friend. Anyone who knows him is aware he always puts this agency and the community first, never saying no to help anyone that asks.



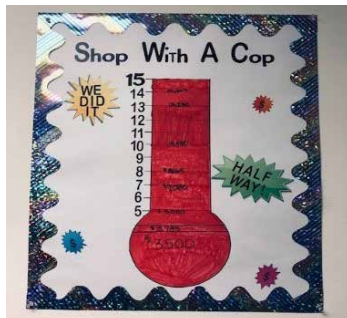
Members of the Port St. Lucie Police Department participated at the 12th annual Treasure Coast Business Summit to showcase our various crime prevention programs. Recruiters were on hand as well to speak with potential job candidates. Contact Officer Victor Garcia at [vgarcia@cityofpsl.com](mailto:vgarcia@cityofpsl.com) if you are interested in becoming one of PSLPD's Finest. For your crime prevention needs, contact Gretchen Raziela at [graziela@cityofpsl.com](mailto:graziela@cityofpsl.com).



Port St. Lucie Police Assistant Chief Richard Del Toro participated in a lively discussion about race, law enforcement and the community. Community leaders from various organizations also participated in the talk called "Bridge the Gap."



District Support Elves are working around the clock to plan out significant events for our community. Because we could not have our typical National Night Out, we decided to make Parks & Recreation's "Street of Treats" even sweeter. With a generous donation of \$500 from Joe Edge, we purchased additional bags and candy for 1,375 children. We can always count on our residents. See everyone on Oct. 31 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.



Elijah Wooten, Business Navigator, stepped up to assist us with our fundraising efforts and put us in contact with several local businesses. These businesses graciously provided financial support for our annual Shop with a Cop. A special thank you to Walmart, Seacoast Bank, Wally Findley Galleries, Sina Companies, Accel International and Tambone Tradition, LLC., just to name a few. We can't do it without your support. Shop With a Cop is funded through the proceeds collected from our raffle and donations!

The Shop With a Cop application process is now open! If you are aware of a family in need, please urge them to complete an application at [forms.cityofpsl.com/swap](https://forms.cityofpsl.com/swap). We hope not to turn any child away.



Even more exciting, we have partnered with Port St. Lucie Volunteer Ambulance, who will be collecting toys for us. We will be bagging them up and distributing them to our "Elves on Patrol" to distribute to children while on patrol.

Fill A Fence is also in full swing, and the toy donation bins will be placed around the City shortly. All the toys collected will be distributed to children of Port St. Lucie on Dec. 12. The location of the event is to be determined.

Shop With a Cop isn't the only big event where we collect donations. The department is working on several new programs. District Support has obtained a PayPal for the Port St. Lucie Police Foundation. This account will make it easier for the community to donate for the various fundraisers throughout the year. For more information, call 771-871-5000.

## Crossing Guards

Port St. Lucie has so many fantastic, caring crossing guards. Crossing Guards Herb Coyle and Teresa Gasparre at Floresta Elementary and St. Lucie K-8 were hard at work, helping the children cross safely while directing traffic to guarantee their safety while crossing busy intersections.

Crossing Guard Milton Harrelson assisted a Northport K-8 teacher with his car after the vehicle would not start.

## Crime Prevention

Our Crime Prevention Specialist has completed five more convenience store inspections and will be speaking at the Crime Prevention Conference on Oct. 20.

## Parks

Did you know our parks officers wear several hats? Parks officers are responsible for not only handling calls and investigations within our parks but also have ancillary duties. They are responsible for working closely with other City departments. These officers create operational plans for all City events, work the events and complete the post-event evaluations for supervisory review.

Officer Knaggs is the most senior parks officer within District Support. He is a member of the following teams: Emergency Management; Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful; Disaster Preparedness; Litter Eradication Team; member of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team; an agency instructor; assists with Parks & Recreation staff training; assists Parks & Recreation with the initial accreditation process; City event planning; and aids with sex offender investigations.

Officers Peto and Moore also are responsible for our truancy program. These officers track, follow-up on truant students, meet with schools and parents and work with the school board to establish best practices on how to get students back in school and keep them there. Officer Moore also serves as an Explorers advisor.

Officers Jackson and Cimino are responsible for assisting with the Marine Unit. They patrol our waterways and provide safe boating tips.

Officer Dailey is responsible for tracking all sex offenders and works closely with probation and parole.





## School Resource Officer



School Resource Officer Camara completed the Stranger Danger presentation at Somerset Elementary for 147 kindergarten and first graders. Officer Camara explained the inherent dangers that strangers may pose.



Treasure Coast High School's pantry will begin the week of Oct. 19. The Treasure Coast Food Bank will deliver additional items such as canned food, snacks, toiletries and toilet paper. Thank you, Officer McCarty, for taking such an interest in our students.

On Oct. 27, 2020, Somerset Elementary and SRO Camara will be hosting a K-9 demonstration at the school, where students can learn about police K-9 work and how they keep us safe.

## Upcoming Events

- Oct. 24, 8 a.m.-noon: Waste collection
- Oct. 30: Fall Fun Fest, MIDFLORIDA Event Center
- Oct. 31: Street of Treats, MIDFLORIDA Event Center
- Nov. 7: Bonfire/Hayride, McCarty Ranch



## Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) Upcoming Events



PAL hosted a free fishing clinic at the PAL building Oct.3. Many children enjoyed the fishing event and caught, then released, a ton of fish! Great job, kids!

- **Karate Program:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6-8 p.m.
- **Boxing Conditioning:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.
- **Wrestling Conditioning:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.
- **Baton Clinic at the P.A.L. building:** Saturdays, noon-5 p.m.
- **Marching Drumline:** Sundays, 3-5 p.m.

At 10 a.m. on Nov. 28, Men at Arms, in conjunction with Port St. Lucie PAL, has scheduled a toy run to give back to the community. All proceeds and toys will be distributed to local children and PATCHES. If you are interested in attending, meet the Men of Arms motorcycle riders at Sandhill Crane Park at 2355 SE Scenic Park Drive. A brief safety speech will be given before the ride. Admission to join the ride is \$10 for a single rider and \$15 for a rider with a passenger, including lunch. Unwrapped toys are accepted.

# Public Works

High Quality  
Infrastructure  
& Facilities



## Roads & Bridges' Top 10 Bridges 2020 Award

The Roads & Bridges editorial staff selected the Crosstown Parkway Extension Design-Build project for eighth place in its Top 10 Bridge Projects for 2020.

## Fairgreen Crossing Traffic Calming

A public information meeting was held in September 2019 to present the conceptual traffic-calming plan. Those attending expressed concerns about cut-thru traffic and speeding throughout the neighborhood. Based on input from residents, the design engineer developed a new and expanded study area to include Salvatierra Boulevard, Fairgreen Road, Cadima Street and a portion of Galiano Road. The City sent ballots to residents to gauge their interest in the proposed plan. City Council then gave direction to implement the traffic-calming plan as presented. As of Oct. 12, asphalt, signage, curbing and plantings are complete at the nine locations. Roadway striping is scheduled for the week of Oct. 12.

For further information regarding traffic calming, including the Fairgreen Crossing project, visit [www.cityofpsl.com/trafficcalming](http://www.cityofpsl.com/trafficcalming).

## Construction Projects

**Hegener Drive Phase 1 Extension:** Project design kick-off meeting was June 17. The BUILD Grant for construction was not awarded; still awaiting response for EDA Grant. Sixty percent (60%) design plans have been reviewed by City staff. A meeting was held with the design team and City staff to discuss the comments provided on the 60% design plans. Task 3 (90%) design deadline remains Oct. 16.

## Sidewalk Projects

[www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks](http://www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks)

**Paar Drive (Savona Boulevard to Daemon Street):** Construction is underway.

## Street Paving Projects

[www.cityofpsl.com/repaving](http://www.cityofpsl.com/repaving)

The street paving goal for FY 19/20 was 29 miles, with all 29 miles completed. The street paving goal for FY 20/21 is 32.9 miles, with 3.49 miles completed to date. See table below.

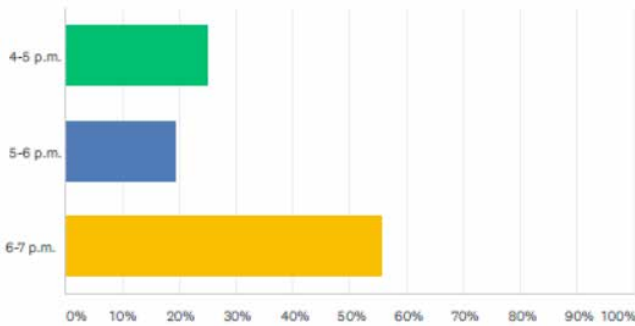
<b>Sandhill Crossing (Industrial Park)</b>	<b>Completed: 10/6/20</b>
SE Huffman Road	SE US-1 to SE Village Green Drive
SE Hollbrook Circle	SE Village Green Drive to End
SE Brandon Circle	SE Village Green Drive to End
<b>Palm Trails</b>	<b>Completed: 10/9/20</b>
SW Advana Street	SW Del Rio Boulevard to SW Jacqueline Avenue
SW Anderson Street	SW Del Rio Boulevard to SW Jacqueline Avenue
SW Cloverleaf Street	SW Del Rio Boulevard to SW Jacqueline Avenue
SW Cochran Street	SW Del Rio Boulevard to Jacqueline Avenue
SW Angelo Street	SW Del Rio Boulevard to SW Jacqueline Avenue
SW Cremona Street	SW Del Rio Boulevard to SW Jacqueline Avenue
SW Jacqueline Avenue	SW Advana Street to SW Cremona Street
SW Glade Street	SW Del Rio Boulevard to SW Jacqueline Avenue
SW Jacqueline Avenue	SW Glade Street to SW Cashmere Boulevard
<b>Sandpiper Bay</b>	<b>Completed: 10/12/20</b>
SE Canora Road	SE Pine Valley Street to SE Elrose Street
SE Dominic Avenue	SE Elrose Street to SE Pine Valley Street
SE Adair Street	SE Westmoreland Boulevard to SE Elrose Street
SE Elrose Street	SE Westmoreland Boulevard to SE Dominic Avenue
SE Ebb Court	SE Elrose Street to End



# Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful



Safe Clean & Beautiful



## America Recycles Day

Thank you to all who voted in the survey for our upcoming virtual presentation, “Repurposing with Damon Carson.” The vote is in, and by popular demand, this event will be 6-7 p.m. Nov., 13. Please join us for a unique, fresh take on the perennially hot topics of sustainability and zero waste. Residents also will hear from the Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful and Neighborhood Improvement and Community Engagement (NICE) programs.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Tire Amnesty Day

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Tire Amnesty Day

Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 a.m. to noon  
Public Works Facility, 450 SW Thornhill Drive

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful makes it easy for St. Lucie County residents to get rid of their unwanted household chemicals and hazardous waste by providing a convenient place and time where the materials can be handed over to experts, free of charge, for proper disposal. St. Lucie County Solid Waste accepts most household waste items year-round; a small fee may be charged for certain items.



## KPSLB Adopt-a-Street Ambassador Program

KPSLB is pleased to announce its newest Adopt-a-Street Ambassador! Wayne Landry has been amazingly dedicated to the Adopt-a-Street Program since he joined in May 2019. We have been beyond impressed by the number of recruits he has gathered for his Adopt-a-Street group, Del Webb at Tradition, and the focus he has placed on guiding younger individuals. He has responded to every volunteer request made by KPSLB, from counting Adopt-a-Street shirts to leading Cigarette Litter Prevention Program (CLPP) scans and folding flyers for upcoming events. He has shown great dedication, community involvement and City-oriented pride. We have no doubt Wayne will make a great Ambassador for the Adopt-a-Street Program!



# Utility Systems

High Quality  
Infrastructure  
& Facilities



## Asbestos not detected in water

Port St. Lucie Utility Systems' drinking water distribution system was recently tested for asbestos. The results came back "ND," which stands for "Not Detected," and indicates the substance was not found by laboratory analysis. Results are reported in Million Fibers per Liter (MFL), and again, no traces of asbestos were detected.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires utilities to test its distribution system for asbestos every nine years. To be proactive, the Utility has decided to sample every 4.5 years.

General Development Corporation (GDC) installed asbestos concrete (AC) pipe when developing Port St. Lucie in the 1960s, which was common practice and used extensively in water distribution systems throughout the country.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), asbestos fibers may be hazardous when airborne, which is why one replacement method used by the City has the AC pipe remain in the ground when being replaced with a new pipe. If traditional methods are used,

certified staff is required to remove and dispose of the AC pipe at a licensed hazardous landfill.

Beginning in 2021, \$1 million will be budgeted annually for the AC pipe replacement program. Utility Systems also has applied for the Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program Grant for \$2.97 million, plus the Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Program Grant for \$5 million.

Approximately 174,782 linear feet, or 33 miles of AC pipe, remain in our 1,231-mile water distribution system.



## Lots of rain causes little issue at lift stations

Thanks to the great efforts of staff, the four-day heavy rain event in early October did not cause any of our 270 lift stations to overflow. However, the rain did cause 11 lift stations to experience high-level alarms, but because the wastewater lift station maintenance and wastewater collections divisions collectively monitored and resolved these alarms, potential overflow issues were avoided. Staff used additional pumps and vacuum pumping trucks to keep the levels in the lift stations down.

Our two wastewater treatment plants experienced more than a 30% increase in flow at each, yet continued to operate normally. No potable water or wastewater force main breaks occurred. The new Southport Unit 5 Vacuum System & Station on SE Sidonia Street performed as designed, whereas the previous General Development Utility (GDU) system would have experienced issues during heavy rainfall.

Utility Systems will continue to upgrade aging lift stations and force mains, according to available funding. We also will concentrate the annual \$1 million budgeted to address infiltration and inflow issues to ensure our system can withstand any kind of weather.



## ‘Human firewall’ awarded for her efforts

Marielly Blanco-Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant of the Utility Systems Department, was presented with the prestigious “Challenge Coin” by the Information Technology (IT) Department for her exemplary service and shared support of the cybersecurity mission and training programs. IT Director Bill Jones called Marielly the “human firewall,” after she took on an active role in ensuring our employees completed the required training during the 2020 annual campaign. Marielly sent weekly emails to commend those who completed the training and encouraged those who hadn’t yet done so. Her positive promotion of the idea that “cybersecurity is our shared responsibility,” was apparent as we watched our completion ranking climb. Marielly sets a wonderful example for her fellow employees and exudes great leadership qualities! Congratulations!



# Feature Story

High Quality  
Infrastructure  
& Facilities



## New On-Demand Transit Service for SW Port St. Lucie Running Well

The Treasure Coast Connector On-Demand micro-transit service for residents in the southwestern portion of Port St. Lucie has been wildly successful in its first eight months, transporting 358 registered users on 3,415 passenger trips.

This comes in spite of the coronavirus pandemic that shut down many aspects of Florida life three months after the service debuted. With mobility ramping up after the initial virus shutdown, ridership continues to increase monthly and passengers rave about the new service.

“It helps me so much because I used to walk from my house to the bus stop, and I was always so hot and tired when I got on the bus,” said Lenora Copeland, who rides transit weekdays to get to work across town in Port St. Lucie. “It helps my whole family, too. They use it to go shopping and get to the drugstore. It’s changed our whole lives.”

Similar to ride-hailing services, Treasure Coast Connector – On Demand uses a smartphone app for riders to schedule customized curb-to-curb trips in the Gatlin Road area of Port St. Lucie. A small, neighborhood-friendly van will pick up riders and drop them

off wherever they wish to travel within the defined pilot program areas of Port St. Lucie, including businesses and offices in Tradition and near Interstate 95 on Gatlin Boulevard. Areas being served include: Becker Ridge; Paar Estates; Sawgrass Lakes; Crane Landing; Woodland Trails; Tulip Park; Rosser Reserve; Gatlin Pines; Whispering Pines; Newport Isles; and Tradition. Along the way, the shuttle may pick up other passengers who also request a ride. The service conveniently accommodates people with disabilities.





Rachelle Joachim registered for the service to help her disabled uncle become more independent. She books rides for him on her smartphone and lets him decide where to go each week.

“It saves a lot of time and it’s convenient,” said Joachim, who used to drive her uncle to parks and stores for shopping, exercise and entertainment. “Ninety percent of the time it’s been very consistent, and not much of a wait. He’s been taking it all year and it’s really lifted his spirits.”

The average wait time for an on-demand pickup is only 25 minutes, compared to hourly service for typical bus routes. It’s also a curb-to-curb trip, so there’s no wasted steps to reach a rider’s destination. In St. Lucie County’s pilot area, the No. 1 destination for riders is a Walmart and Sam’s Club shopping center, followed by a bus stop at CVS and a Publix shopping center. The most popular time for rides is 9 a.m., followed by 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Riders have expressed much enthusiasm about the new program, saying it’s saved them money on transportation, and in some cases, prevented the need to buy a second car – an expense that costs an average of \$10,000 yearly.

St. Lucie County’s objective is to create a technology-driven, demand-response, public transportation system that is completely integrated with transit-fixed bus route service. If successful in the initial area after three years, the program will be expanded throughout the entire region. The software that’s being used tolerates the complexity of a growing, diverse service area and has an intuitive learning ability to optimize vehicle routing and trip planning. As a result, this will promote sharing of vehicles and decrease the cost per trip while ensuring a favorable rider experience.

The decision to choose transit often starts with the first (or last) mile. By more conveniently connecting suburban customers to the county’s transit system, the county can increase the number of riders it brings into its fixed-route bus network, increasing economies of scale.

To find out more about the Treasure Coast Connector and the new micro-transit program for Port St. Lucie’s southwestern residents, call 772-462-1778 or visit [www.slcride.org](http://www.slcride.org).