

City Manager's

# **Bi-Weekly Report**

May 28, 2021 · Vol. 5 · Issue 10



# City Officials

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



Mayor

**Gregory J. Oravec** 



Vice Mayor, District 3 Councilwoman

Shannon M. Martin



District 1 Councilwoman

Stephanie Morgan



District 2 Councilman

**David Pickett** 



District 4 Councilwoman

Jolien Caraballo



City Manager

Russ Blackburn

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

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#### ON THE COVER

Treasure Coast Arts & Mindfulness Fest May 22-23, 2021



#### SUBSCRIBE TODAY

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



#### **QUESTIONS?**

Email the Communications
Department with questions or
comments about this publication at
pslcommunications@cityofpsl.com.

# **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.



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

# Coming Up

MAY 28 - JUNE 11, 2021



#### June 1

Hurricane Preparedness Expo, virtual event

#### June 2, June 9, June 16, June 23, June 30

Healthy Cooking 101, Port St. Lucie Community Center

#### June 2

HealthyU: Gender Violence, Port St. Lucie Community Center

#### June 7

Mobility Fee Community Meeting, virtual and in person, Port St. Lucie Community Center

#### June-July

Junior Golf Summer Camp, The Saints Golf Course

#### June 7-Aug. 6

Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County Summer Camp-A-Thon, MIDFLORIDA Event Center

#### June 8-Aug. 6

Parks & Recreation Summer Camps, MIDFLORIDA Event Center, Minsky Gym, Port St. Lucie Community Center



#### **CALENDAR**

To see all upcoming events, visit the City's website at: www.cityofpsl.com/calendar.



## **Half-Cent Sales Tax**

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





### 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.

# CALIFORNIA BOULEVARD WIDENING FROM ST. LUCIE WEST BOULEVARD TO CROSSTOWN PARKWAY

Construction starts in FY 25/26.

#### **SIDEWALKS**

Fairgreen Crossings Neighborhood (Import, Galiano, Cadima, Fairgreen): Bids opened and are being evaluated.

Sandia Drive (Thornhill to Crosspoint): Construction is underway.

#### REPAVING

Gatlin Boulevard: Repaving starts in FY 26/27.

#### TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION ALONG PORT ST. LUCIE BOULEVARD

Adaptive traffic signal implementation along Port St. Lucie Boulevard starts in FY 27/28. The City is attempting to expedite this project through the use of bond proceeds. A revised schedule for implementation is currently under development.

#### LANDSCAPING & BEAUTIFICATION

U.S. 1 landscaping and beautification starts in April 2022. This will follow the completion of FDOT's resurfacing and safety improvement project that is ongoing. Staff is coordinating with FDOT to attempt to begin landscape installation before completion of their project. If this becomes a viable option, a new schedule will be provided as soon as it is available.





#### Floresta Drive Improvements

# SOUTHBEND BOULEVARD TO ELKCAM WATERWAY (SEGMENT 1): CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES PROGRESS UPDATE

- The contractor continues to install drainage pipes.
- The contractor paved the temporary roadway and shifted traffic to the east, north of Port St. Lucie Boulevard, and west, south of Port St. Lucie Boulevard.
- The speed limit was reduced to 25 mph in the construction zone.
- Periodic lane closures will take place along Floresta Drive.
   Please use caution driving through the work zone. Lane closures will not be permitted from 6:30-9 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the weekends.
- Side streets, including Portage Avenue, Essex Drive, Academy Lane and Chapman Avenue, will have temporary closures as the contractor installs pipe across the roadway during daytime hours.
- The contractor will have closures on Thanksgiving Avenue at Floresta Drive for necessary roadway activities and construction of the roundabout.
- The contractor will be working in residential driveways to remove concrete and replace with temporary base rock.
- Work in the Kings Waterway is complete. The City installed baffle boxes to capture a wide variety of pollutants and help maintain water flow.
- The contractor will have nighttime lane closures, closing both lanes on Floresta Drive from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday, May 24 from Port St. Lucie Boulevard to Essex Drive, for drainage activities. Residents can use SE Wald Street and Essex Drive as a detour.
- The contractor will have nighttime lane closures, closing both lanes on Floresta Drive from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Tuesday, May 25 from Port St. Lucie Boulevard to Crescent Avenue, for drainage activities. Residents can use Glover Street, Chapman Avenue, Wald Street and Crescent Avenue as a detour.

#### **UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

- Drainage/outfall activities
- Traffic shift, sidewalk and roadway construction
- · Work on finalizing the Kings Waterway area
- · Roundabout construction on Thanksgiving Avenue
- Finalize Pond 1 area near Essex Drive with landscaping

## ELKCAM WATERWAY TO PRIMA VISTA BOULEVARD (SEGMENTS 2 AND 3)

- Design is underway. Segments 2 & 3 have been combined and are being designed together. Ninety percent (90%) plans have been received. The final submittal is slightly delayed to address minor comments received during the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) permitting process.
- A letter was sent to residents along the Phase 2 and Phase 3 corridor introducing the upcoming project and asking for residents' contact information to keep them updated as the project moves forward. Virtual and in-person one-onone meetings with residents will take place starting spring 2021.
- A meeting took place April 22 with residents near the SE Thornhill Drive and on April 28 with residents near Harborview Drive stormwater retention areas to give the residents the opportunity to view the pond area designs and ask questions.

# **1PSL System**





#### 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.



#### CALL 772-871-1PSL

Call a 1PSL Navigator 24/7. After hours calls are answered by Police Service Aides. For all emergencies, call 911.



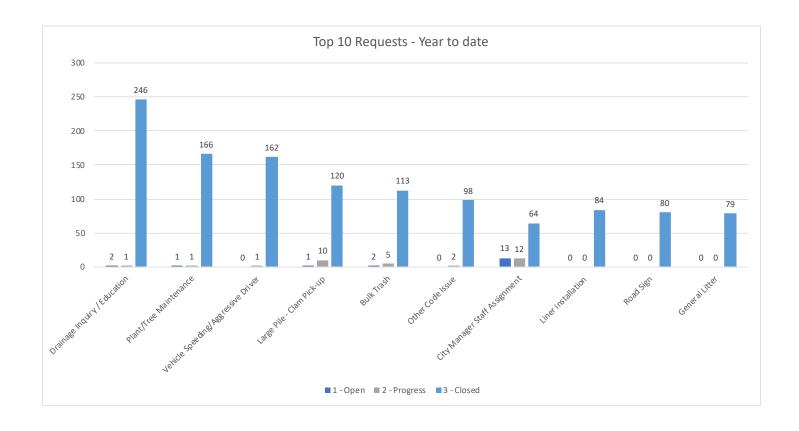
#### **DOWNLOAD APP**

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

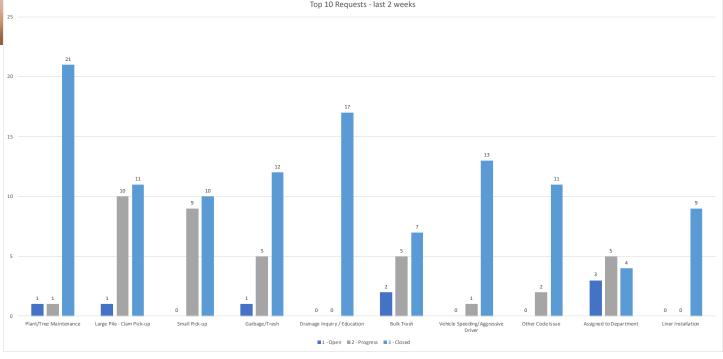


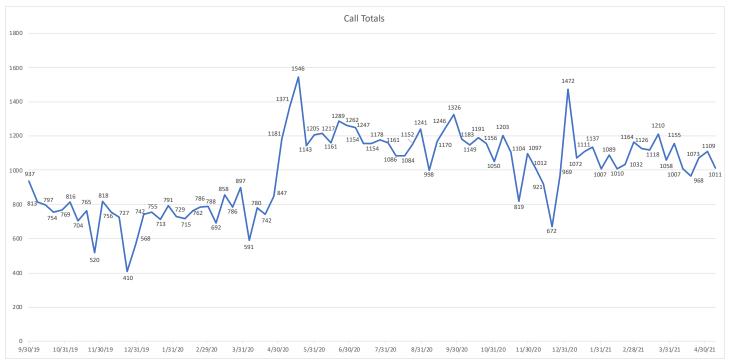
#### **WEB PORTAL**

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









# **Building Department**



#### **Highlights**

- · The Project Midway organizational meeting was held May 17.
- The percentage of online permits is now 69%.
- The Building Department participated in the "Before you Sign the Lease Program" on May 5.
- The Building Department hosted an "Open/Expired Permits" training May 20.

#### **RESULTS**

- · 31 participants registered to attend the class.
- 68% responded that expired permits have caused problems with sales and closings.
- 73% have experienced issues related to this subject in the past.
- 97% felt the information presented will help them with their business in the future.
- 94% will recommend this class to others.

#### COMMERCIAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

- · Checkers, 1298 SW Gatlin Blvd.: New building
- Riverland Valencia Grove, 12171 SW Brookside Falls Way: North water feature
- Blaze Pizza, 11175 SW Village Parkway: Interior renovation
- Reel Trims, 682 NW Enterprise Drive: Interior renovation

#### COMMERCIAL PERMITS

- Miyuki & Thai Restaurant,
   265 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd.; Interior renovation
- Renaissance Charter School at Tradition, 10970 SW Tradition Parkway: Canopy

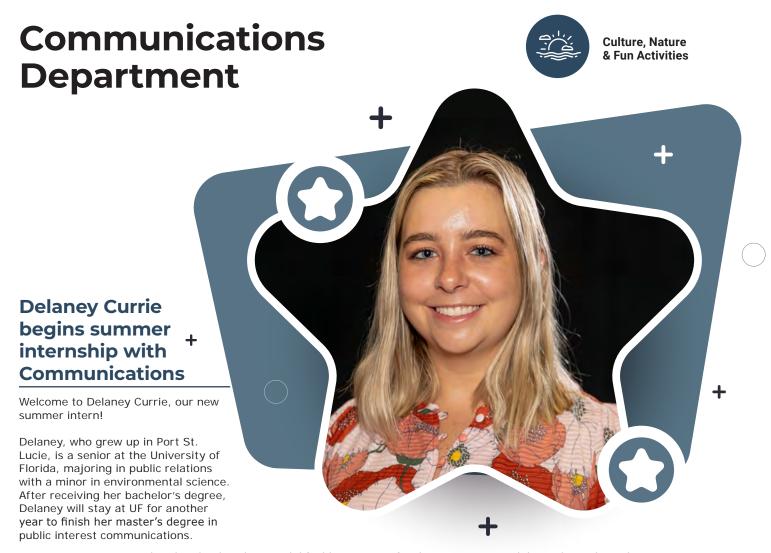
#### **Building Activities**

APRIL 22-MAY 6, 2021		2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Permits Issued	4,161	26,012	52,355	41,504	39,899	32,020
Single-Family Permits Issued	408	2,039	3,592	2,722	2,200	1,518
Certificates of Occupancy Issued (SFR)	220	1,467	2,893	2,711	1,824	1,382
Number of Inspections Completed	11,252	77,238	155,421	137,302	115,073	84,510
Number of Plans Reviewed	1,627	9,694	19,150	13,978	13,559	10,352
Number of Permits Applied for Online	2,800	16,325	26,855	18,395	13,421	8,346





Fedex



At Fort Pierce Westwood High School, Delaney solidified her passion for the environment while studying the Indian River Lagoon at the Marine and Oceanographic Academy through Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. Delaney says MOA is the reason she's majoring in communications and science because people encouraged her and showed her the best of both worlds.

Delaney is looking forward to working with the Communications staff on projects and campaigns that better her hometown such as the Hurricane Expo, which she watched being be filmed and produced. She says learning more about the communications field, while receiving real-world practice in the management of all those aspects, is priceless and she can't wait to learn more.

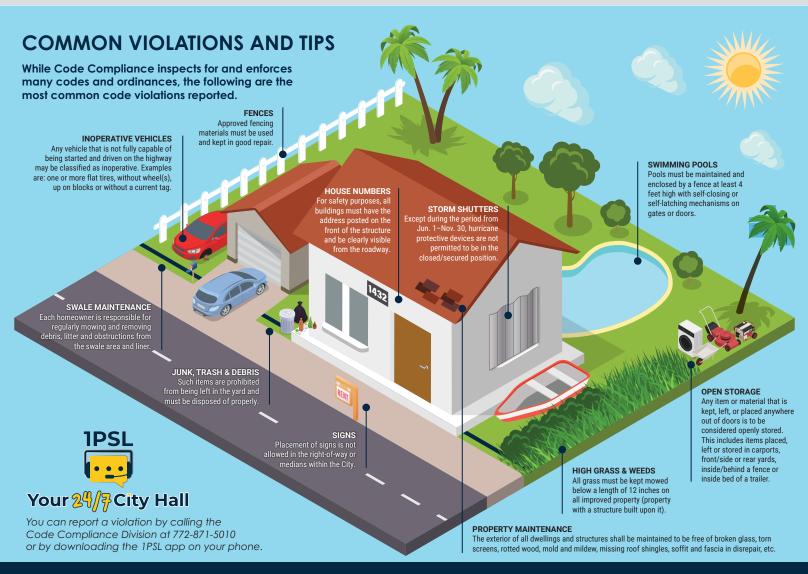
# Communications assists Building with new permit training class, webpage

The Building Department hosted its first-ever online training session focused on open and expired permits, and the Communications Department, including Patricia D'Abate, Avi Monina, Maureen Kenyon and Melissa Yunas, assisted in getting the word out as well as hosted the class via Zoom.

Besides a press release and two email blasts that were sent to more than 9,300 residents, a paid social media ad reached close to 17,000 Facebook followers. The ad was shared 58 times and had 31 comments, mostly followers tagging friends and family members to alert them about the course.

Because of this promotion, more than 140 people registered for the session, with 50 people watching it live. All the registrants received a link to watch the Zoom session on their own time as well.

There's also a new webpage (https://www.cityofpsl.com/government/departments/building/training) where visitors can watch the first session and future sessions. It's where residents will find announcements about other Building Department training classes, too.



#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Some common issues that are NOT handled through Code Compliance:



Call the Building
Department at
772-871-5132.



Call the Police Department non-emergency line at 772-871-5000.



FIRE SAFETY
Call the Fire Department at 772-621-3400.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Graphic illustrates 10 most common code violations reported

Web content and graphic specialist Patricia D'Abate created an infographic for Neighborhood Services that takes an indepth look at the 10 most common code violations reported by residents in the City.

Besides highlighting common code violations, the colorful, explanatory graphic, which can be found here, <a href="www.cityofpsl.com/codeviolations">www.cityofpsl.com/codeviolations</a>, also share an explanation of each regulation and offers tips to educate homeowners about how to keep their homes and properties in compliance with City code.



# **Community Redevelopment**





#### 'Where now meets next' in Port St. Lucie

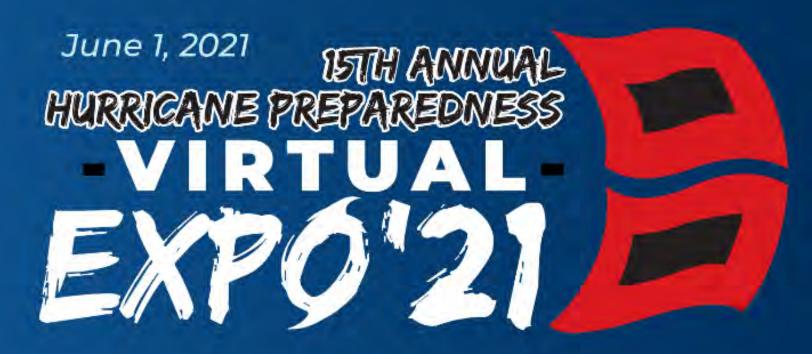
The 245,000-square-foot sortation FedEx facility is set to be open in late 2021, not only getting deliveries to you sooner but also bringing more than 450 jobs to the Southern Grove Jobs Corridor.



# **Emergency Management**







## **Human Resources**



#### Welcome to the City!

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



Robert Vargas Police Officer, Police Department



Christopher Greenman Professional Engineer, Utilities



Leonard Kubitschek. Police Officer, Police Department

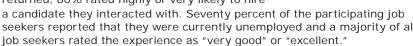


Abdul Rahmankhan, Professional Engineer, Utilities

#### City of Port St. Lucie **Community Virtual Job Fair**

In collaboration with CareerSource Research Coast (CSRC), the City of Port St. Lucie hosted a free virtual job fair May 20. Over 230 applicants signed on to meet with more than 110 area employers. Out of the 441 registered job seekers, the job fair realized a participation rate of 64.17%. CareerSource Research Coast stated this was the best job fair it has co-hosted since 2019. Out of the employer surveys returned, 80% rated highly or very likely to hire

seekers reported that they were currently unemployed and a majority of all job seekers rated the experience as "very good" or "excellent."



#### **Spotlight Training**

#### 1PSL CUSTOMER SERVICE

Attended by 16 employees, this training focused on the 1PSL Strategic Initiative, supporting our City's progress toward a high-performing government organization. This training series seeks to give our 1PSL navigators more knowledge and the tools necessary to fulfill our City's values of providing superior customer service to our community and organization.

Creating Schedules & Handling Exceptions: Attended by 32 timekeepers, this session explored technical aspects of Kronos, including how to create new schedules when onboarding employees and the importance of handling exceptions to support a seamless timekeeping process for our staff and our organization.



#### HR STATISTICS MAY 7-28

· New hires started: 8

· Total applications received: 431 • Job requisitions received: 19

Jobs posted: 27

Internal promotions: 2

· Reclassifications: 1

Personnel change forms processed: 153

Total training attendees: 132

#### **VISITS TO THE WATER COOLER**

· Water Cooler site visits: 4,705

• Employee benefits site visits: 1,136

PSL Forward training site: 429

#### **TRAINING &** DEVELOPMENT

#### COMPLETED TRAINING

May 4: Microsoft Excel Advanced: 15

May 5: Building Genuine Leaders: 21

· May 6: Time Management Tips for All Employees: 14

May 11: Veterans' Preference

· May 12: Munis: Requisitions and Receiving

 May 13: Kronos: Creating Schedules and Handling Exceptions

· May 19: Payroll/Timekeeper

#### **UPCOMING TRAINING**

May 25: Customer Service 101

· May 26: Building Genuine Leaders

· May 27: Conducting Effective Interviews

• June 3: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Creating the Advantage





## **MIDFLORIDA Event Center**



# Bringing art and inner peace to the community

In partnership with the St. Lucie Cultural Alliance, the MIDFLORIDA Event Center hosted the first-ever Treasure Coast Arts and Mindfulness Fest on Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23! This free event featured a wide array of activities from yoga and meditation classes to live drum circles and dance performances.

Participating alternative health practitioners also were in attendance to address areas of acupuncture, nutrition, massage, hypnotherapy, yoga, Pilates, reiki and tai chi. Attendees were able to browse nearly 100 vendor booths with plenty of art, meditation and wellness products. The Treasure Coast Arts and Mindfulness Fest will return to the MIDFLORIDA Event Center next year. More details to follow!

EVENT ATTENDANCE: 118,612 EVENT DAYS: 214

#### **Upcoming Events**

**JUNE 7-AUGUST 6** 

Boys and Girls Clubs Summer Camp-A-Thon

**JUNE 11** 

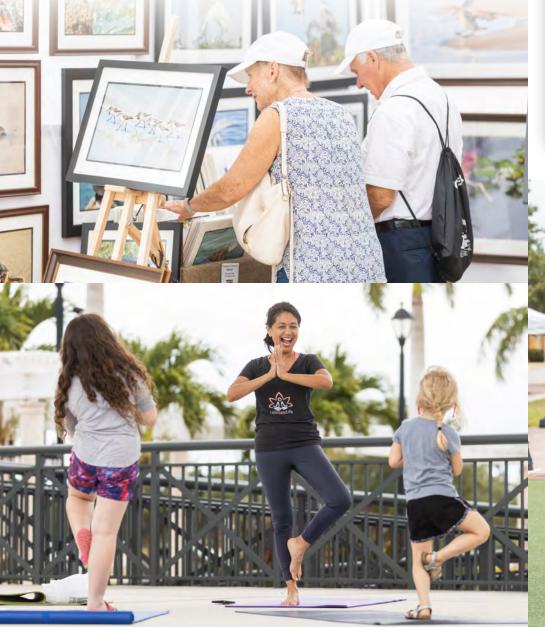
Keiser University graduation

**JUNE 13** 

Fabulous Feet dance recital

**JUNE 18** 

Florida Sports Hall of Fame Legends VIP reception & pairings party









## MIDFLORIDA Event Center unveils new pop-up art exhibit

On Tuesday, May 11, the MIDFLORIDA Event Center launched a special pop-up exhibit featuring masterpieces by Michael Alexander, an award-winning artist best known for his marine life and ocean paintings. His work spans many mediums from murals to custom airbrushing, as well as original fine art paintings.

This exhibit will be on display weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Thursday, June 3.



#### Treasure Coast's largest B2B networking event returns to Event Center

More than 1,000 business professionals from across the region filled the Event Center on Thursday, May 13 for the 13th annual Treasure Coast Business Summit, the Treasure Coast's largest business-to-business summit and expo!

The event featured the largest expo hall in the history of the Summit and a keynote presentation by Dr. Timothy Moore, president of Indian River State College. Attendees learned from a comprehensive line-up of regional and local experts and had the ideal opportunity to make new business connections.

The Treasure Coast Business Summit will be returning to the MIDFLORIDA Event Center on Thursday, May 12, 2022. For more details, visit www. tcbizsummit.com.











# Celebrating diverse cultures in our community

On Tuesday, May 18, thousands of people visited the Event Center for the annual Haitian Flag Day Festival. This free event transported attendees to the tropical country of Haiti through traditional food, drinks, live performances and the celebration of Haitian cultures!



#### **TESTIMONIALS**

"Linda, Meredith and the entire staff at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center are first class and the best in business!!!! Very professional, on point, expeditiously excited to serve and ensure 100% success with everything that they do!"

Lynette Marraffa, Treasure Coast Business Summit





# Summer Camp-A-ThOD



#### Boys and Girls Clubs Summer Camp-A-Thon returning for second year!

Summer is just around the corner, and while children all across the county are starting to squirm in their seats anxiously awaiting that final bell, staff at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center is eagerly awaiting the return of the Boys and Girls Clubs Summer Camp-A-Thon!

The Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County began utilizing the Event Center as a venue for its summer camp programming last year because of space restrictions brought on by COVID-19. Following a successful summer, the Port St. Lucie City Council approved a contract which would allow the Event Center to be the home of the Camp-A-Thon for an additional three years.

The Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp-A-Thon kicks off Monday, June 7. The nine-week program will welcome 500 children each day and will offer a variety of "get out and play" activities and games as well as performing arts activities, culinary classes, martial arts training, crafts, S.T.E.A.M. activities and more.

For more information, visit www.bgcofslc.org.

# **Neighborhood Services**



# Neighbor Services Department present at 13th annual Treasure Coast Business Summit

Earlier this month at the Treasure Coast Business Summit, Neighborhood Services was able to provide small business owners and vendors educational information about Waste Pro, commercial properties and the tremendous impact they could make to help small businesses throughout the City. At the event, the department also was able to build upon connections with local vendors who participate in community service opportunities such as providing assistance to transients within the City. Neighborhood Services Department also was able to continue growing interdepartmental partnerships, specifically with representatives from Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful and the Business Tax division. The department was grateful to participate in the business summit and will continue connecting with local businesses throughout the City.



#### **Bulky Waste drop-off event**

On Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16, the City and Waste Pro held a free bulky waste dropoff event. There were three collection sites set up around the City. They were located at the Public Works Compound at Cameo Boulevard and Crosstown Parkway, the MIDFLORIDA Event Center and Whispering Pines Park.

Simply put, it was a resounding success! Many residents thanked the City for setting up the event and asked if we were planning to do it again. Lois Cardinale, the City's Waste Pro liaison, visited the Whispering Pines location Saturday. While lines of trucks and cars waited patiently to drop off their bulky waste, Lois walked and talked to each resident in line and thanked them for participating. Everyone she spoke to was so happy and thankful the City and Waste Pro provided this opportunity.

A wide variety of bulky items were dropped off but the most common items were, mattresses, furniture, wood and appliances. In all, 18 loads were delivered to the St. Lucie County Bailing and Recycling Facility, totaling 30.84 tons.



#### Help Waste Pro employees by doing your part

With the growing number of improper bulky waste present throughout the city, like the one pictured, the Solid Waste division has a few helpful tips for residents:

- · Containerize as much as possible.
- · Stack all items into neat piles.
- If possible, try to set out bulk waste in smaller increments to reduce the amount of items that are present at once.
- Consider calling Waste Pro for a quote on a dumpster for the most effective, safe and sanitary method of containing large amounts of debris.







# Inaugural Employee Play for the United Way golf tournament

Around 50 City employees and their family members came out to support the United Way with a fun evening of mini golf at PopStroke. Through our efforts, we were able to raise around \$1,300 for the United Way!

The City would like to thank the St. Lucie West Home Depot, The Saints Golf Course, the MIDFLORIDA Event Center, Recovery Grill, Homewood Suites, the City Manager's Office, NICE and Communications for providing several great prizes and swag bags. We look forward to hosting future events such as this under the "Play for United Way" campaign and hope to have the continued support of our employees.



P. 22 WWW.CITYOFPSL.COM/NSD

## **Parks & Recreation**





#### **Parks**

Patrons who regularly enjoy the beauty of our parks may have noticed something new this month.

At Veterans Park at Rivergate on May 6 and at Fred Cook Park on May 8, the Parks & Recreation Department celebrated Mental Health Awareness. In doing so, it held two free yoga classes at these parks. The participants enjoyed the natural beauty the parks offered. Multiple participants complimented the Parks & Recreation staff on the cleanliness and care of the parks.



Welcome to our new P&R employee, part-time maintenance worker I, Hunter Moore, at the P&R at MIDFLORIDA Event Center, and our new part-time recreation aide at the Community Center, Cody Scott.

Summer Camp orientation will be Friday, May 28 and Saturday, May 29 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

Summer Camp begins June 7 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center, Community Center and Minsky Gym.

New summer pickleball schedule: Sundays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., starting June 6

The Community Center was the vaccination site for a first-dose COVID-19 vaccine May 7.







The Saints Pub is now open, offering full menu options and services every day and happy hour specials from 3-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Live entertainment is scheduled for Friday and Saturday nights. The drive-up (Grab-n-Go) window also continues to grow in business as guests become aware of the convenience of this great food service operation and the quality of the items being offered. Convenient menu options at the window include an array of sandwiches, coffee, fruit, danish, hot dogs, meatball subs, sausage rolls, drinks and more.

A grand reopening of The Saints Pub is Friday, May 28.

The Saints Golf Course is looking great while continuing to receive great reviews from guests. One testimonial is provided below:

"Hi Keith. Good talking with you today. I'd like to commend you on the progress of maintenance, upkeep and diligence I'm sure you've had a hand in spearheading. I've never seen the course look better, despite the rainwater and COVID-caused limitations."

The Saints Golf Course is looking great while continuing to receive great reviews from quests. Come out and play!

Considering the lack of rainfall experienced in our area over the past few months, our maintenance crew, led by Mark Gerstung, golf course superintendent, continues to perform at a high level in ensuring our 185-acre, 18-hole championship golf course is in tip-top shape. The maintenance crew is now performing full mowing patterns throughout the course. Beautiful definitions are clear and provides distinct outlines for the fairways, greens, tee boxes and approach areas.

With the onset of warmer months upon us, The Saints is still celebrating an average of over 148 rounds of play per day.



#### **Fitness**

More than midway through the month of nine programs commemorating Mental Health Awareness Month, our fitness team brought free yoga to the beautiful and tranquil, City-owned, Parks & Recreation-managed, The Saints Golf Course.

We had 25 participants join us from 6-7 p.m. May 20 at The Saints for this program, all of whom were treated to free yoga and, more importantly, a shared message that, during these challenging days, it is critical that we practice selfcare. This is done through physical and emotional well-being exercises, in whatever fashion, which YOUR Parks & Recreation Department is offering during May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Thank you to all who came out to The Saints to commemorate, relax and take care of themselves through the peaceful practice of yoga outdoors.



# **Planning & Zoning**



PLANNING AREA	BUILT SINGLE-FAMILY UNITS	BUILT MULTI-FAMILY UNITS	TOTAL BUILT UNITS	APPROVED UNITS	REMAINING UNITS TO BE BUILT
1	3,480	785	4,265	5,733	1,468
2	2,784	479	3,263	4,056	793
3	17,146	1	17,147	20,210	3,063
4N	16,635	677	17,312	22,444	5,132
45	11,063	26	11,089	15,296	4,207
5	2,212	12	2,224	2,961	737
6	4,568	1,214	5,782	6,237	455
7	5,621	2,267	7,888	9,532	1,644
8	5,362	1,661	7,023	7,523	500
9	3,465	2,005	5,470	11,092	5,622
10	1,019	223	1,242	7,200	5,958
11	0	0	0	4,000	4,000
12	1,353	58	1,386	22,410	21,024
13	0	0	0	0	-
14	405	0	405	579	174
TOTAL	75,113	9,408	84,496	139,273	54,777



# **Police Department**



#### **District 1**

On May 14, at approximately 2:23 a.m., Port St. Lucie Police Officers responded to the 600 Block of SW Violet Avenue about burglary attempts in progress. A witness reported two people exited a white vehicle and watched them attempt to enter cars in their neighborhood. The witness tried to get their attention, and the subjects fled the area.

Officers quickly located a vehicle matching the description. However, the driver refused to pull over for Officers. A short while later, K9 Officer Gibbins discovered the same vehicle driving toward Biltmore Street. Officer Gibbins observed the vehicle go into a vacant lot over a berm, and two occupants jumped out while the car was still moving. The car ended up colliding with a light pole, and at least one more occupant fled from the vehicle.

Officers descended on the area to create a perimeter. Shortly after that, K9 Officer Bianco and K9 Ciro arrived. After learning where two of the subjects were last seen fleeing, they began their track. They traversed through a fenced-in area near SW Cameo Boulevard and SW Crosstown Parkway, along a canal bank and a wooded lot. Officer Bianco observed a change in Ciro's behavior and knew they were close. As they were about to cross a canal, two subjects came out of a wooded lot and stated something to the effect, "Don't let that dog get us; we are coming out." At that time, an 18-year-old male and a 20-year-old male were taken into custody.

Once in custody, Officer Bianco and Ciro began tracking again and located a grey face mask and a black knit glove. The two suspects were taken for medical clearance before being taken to Jail. They were charged with resisting an officer without violence. Several more charges are pending for the third subject who was not located. Officers found at least one vehicle that had been entered and rummaged through on SW Violet Avenue. Great teamwork by everyone involved.



#### **District 2**

On May 10, Leonard Kubitschek and Norbert Vargas were sworn in as the department's newest Officers. Officer Kubitschek, born in Fort Pierce, recently graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy at Indian River State College. Officer Vargas, born in Cleveland, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2013. He was honorably discharged in 2020. Welcome to the PSL family!





Officer Kubitschek Officer Vargas



Assistant Chief Richard Del Toro, K9 Officers Krecic and Jaxson and a few members of the Traffic Unit took a few minutes out of their day to honor Nicole Collins, a sixth-grade E.L.A. teacher, at Forest Grove Middle School. Ms. Collins was nominated and won lunch during Teacher Appreciation Week. As we share an interest in the success of youth in our community, join us in congratulating Ms. Collins, who has been a teacher in St Lucie County for seven years.

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week, May 15, falls as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

There was an outpouring of supporting during the week of May 15 for our Police Officers. Lunch was donated by JYD BBQ. Aycock Funeral Homes presented breakfast. Earlier in the week, Texas Roadhouse brought dinner for our Officers. Staff and a few residents from Wickshire Port St. Lucie dropped off snacks to our Officers, and Christ Fellowship (Port St Lucie) surprised us with 260 care packages. Pastor Travis O'Neal offered a prayer and words of gratitude for all the men and women at PSLPD.

Thank you to our entire community here in Port St Lucie and our social media followers as well. We appreciate your support.









#### **District 3**

Case 2020-19468: On Sept. 26, 2020, a man reported to Road Patrol Unit that his sports car stolen from his house. The vehicle was found crashed near his girlfriend's house in Palm Bay. The male denied any involvement and claimed the vehicle loss on his insurance with a payout of over \$15,000. Through subpoenas and search warrants, it was determined that the car owner initially lied to officers, was driving to his girlfriend's house when he crashed his car and then filed a false claim with his insurance company. The suspect fled Port St. Lucie, and once the e-warrant was approved, he was arrested in Monroe County in May.

#### **District 4**

On May 13, The Port St. Lucie Police Department joined many local businesses and local/state leaders at the 13th annual Treasure Coast Business Summit. Parks Officers Frid and Moore, along with Officer Sohl, participated in the event at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center. Much networking was accomplished during the summit.





On May 15, at approximately 7:15 p.m., Officers responded to the intersection of Walton Road and Indian River Drive about a traffic accident. Officers arrived and observed two vehicles down the embankment in the Indian River waterway. A preliminary investigation revealed a silver Toyota driven by an adult female that was traveling east on Walton Road came over the railroad tracks and struck a silver Chevy at the stop sign on Walton Road and Indian River Drive. Both vehicles went down the approximate 30-foot

embankment into the Indian River waterway. Before going over the barrier, a silver Toyota truck was clipped in the rear.

A pedestrian drove over his side-by-side-ATV with a rope attached. Three PSLPD Officers initially went down the approximate 30-foot embankment to check on the occupants. St. Lucie County Fire District arrived and assisted in extracting the drivers and bringing both drivers from their vehicles up the wall with stretchers. Both drivers were adult females and transported to a local hospital. The driver of the car that caused the accident was pronounced deceased. The driver of the vehicle that was stopped at the intersection sustained severe injuries. The driver of the third vehicle, hit by the cars, did not sustain injuries and went down the embankment to assist in the rescue efforts.

It's our understanding that several witnesses assisted in the rescue efforts. We appreciate your assistance. There will be no further information released at this time as the investigation continues.



Chief of Police John Bolduc was a guest speaker at the Korean War Veterans Association-Treasure Coast Chapter 106 at the Botanical Gardens on Westmoreland Boulevard on May 18. Chief Bolduc discussed the challenges faced in law enforcement and provided a brief overview of the hot topics occurring throughout the City of Port St. Lucie. On Saturday, June 12, at 10 a.m., The 38th Parallel Memorial will be dedicated at Veterans Memorial Park.



Assistant Chief Richard Del Toro was on hand for theopening the TCCF Haitian Flag Day Festival May 18. Activities and food were provided until 10 p.m. at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center, and a great time was had by all.

#### **In Other News**

Officers Garcia and Tumblin traveled to Florida Memorial University on May 11 to speak with possible recruits for our agency and answer any questions these students may have.

#### School Resource Officer

School Resource Officer Pietrzak, who works at St. Lucie West Centennial High School, and School Resource Officer Casey, who is stationed at Port St. Lucie High School, were recognized by their schools during Police Memorial Week.

Our S.R.O.'s are dedicated to our schools and have great relationships with our children! Officer Improta and Principal Rains worked very hard to open their food/hygiene closet at Somerset Prep. Great job!



#### **Traffic Unit**

On May 13, at 11:30 a.m., Officers responded to the area of SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard and SW Paar Drive about a reckless driver. A witness observed a male go into a liquor store and exit with a bottle of alcohol. The male proceeded to "chug" the bottle and get back into his vehicle and drive away. Officers observed the vehicle traveling towards SW Savona Boulevard, unable to maintain its lane. The car turned on SW Utterback Street and pulled into a swale, only to back up over a mailbox. The driver consented to provide a breath sample. The results were twice the legal limit. He was charged with D.U.I. and operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license.



As the weekend approaches, we urge you not to operate a motor vehicle under the influence of any substance that could impair your driving. Please call a ride-sharing service, family member, or a taxi. Please help us keep our roads safe.

#### **PSL Police Athletic League (P.A.L.):**

Commander Niemczyk coordinated a donation for an Iron-Mike baseball pitching machine to the PSL PAL baseball program. Thank you for all your effort!

The Port St. Lucie Police Athletic League's Wrestling and Karate programs are seeing a great turnout.

P.A.L.'s boxer David Monroe was awarded most improved, and boxer Evan Puntes was awarded fighter with enthusiasm.



#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Karate: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 6-8 p.m.
- **Boxing conditioning:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6-8 p.m.
- Wrestling conditioning: Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6-8 p.m.
- Baton clinic at the P.A.L. Building: Saturdays, noon-5 p.m.
- Marching drum line: Sundays, from 3-5 p.m.
- Free fishing clinic at the P.A.L. building on Tiffany Drive: Saturday, June 5, 8-10 a.m.
- P.A.L.'s golf tournament at Gator Trace: Sunday, June 6, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds will benefit P.A.L.'s youth programs.

- Youth bowling at Superplay, U.S.A.: June 14, 21 and 28 and July 12, 19 and 26, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bowling, and shoe rental will costs \$60.
- Youth bowling at St. Lucie Lanes: June 16, 23 and 30 and July 14, 21 and 28, 11 a.m. Bowling and rental shoes costs \$60.
- RadKids (Resist Aggression Defensively) Session 1: June 14-18, 9-11 a.m. for children ages five to seven, and ages 8 to 12 will start 1-3 pm. No cost.
- RadKids (Resist Aggression Defensively) Session 2: July 12-16
- RadKids (Resist Aggression Defensively) Session 3: July 26-30
- P.S.L. Police Junior Police Academy: June 14 to July 2 (Boys and girls, ages 12-14) 20 spots available. Fee is \$250 per child.

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

## **Public Works**



#### **Projects**

SW Cashmere Boulevard	St. Lucie West Boulevard to SW Crosstown Parkway
	or racio most bodiciala to sin Clossicial I alkway
SW Heatherwood Boulevard	SW California Boulevard to SW Cashmere Boulevard
Torino Torino	Completed - 5/12
NW Reserve Park Trace	
St. Lucie North (S)	Start Date - Tentatively Scheduled for 06/01
NW Edgewater Avenue	NW Emblem Street to NW Empress Circle
NW Evanston Avenue	NW Emblem Street to NW Empress Circle
NW Edgerton Terrace	NW Emblem Street to NW N. Macedo Boulevard
NW Emblem Street	NW N. Macedo Boulevard to NW Edgewater Avenue
NW Empress Circle	NW Elaine Street to NW Elaine Street
NW Elaine Street	NW N. Macedo Boulevard to NW Edgewater Avenue
NW Ever Road	NW N. Macedo Boulevard to NW N. Macedo Boulevard
NW Erskin Terrace	NW Ever Road to NW Ever Road
NW Egret Avenue	NW Ever Road to NW Erskin Terrace
NW Eton Court	NW Erskin Terrace to End
NW Ironton Avenue	NW Jorgensen Road to NW Ever Road
NW Jorgensen Road	NW Archer Avenue to NW Granger Avenue
NW Irrington Terrace	NW N. Macedo Boulevard to NW Jorgensen Road
NW Granger Avenue	NW Jorgensen Road to NW Garbett Street
NW Gastonia Street	NW Granger Avenue to NW Gimlet Avenue
NW Glazebrook Street	NW Granger Avenue to NW Gimlet Avenue
NW Garbett Street	NW Granger Avenue to NW Hogate Circle
NW Gimlet Avenue	NW Jorgensen Road to NW Garbett Street
NW Hogate Circle	NW N. Macedo Boulevard to NW N. Macedo Boulevard
NW Hartney Way	NW N. Macedo Boulevard to NW Hegar Place
NW Hegar Place	NW N. Macedo Boulevard to NW Hershey Circle
NW Hershey Circle	NW Hegar Place to NW Hegar Place
NW N. Macedo Boulevard	NW Selvitz Road to NW St. James Drive
NW Duke Avenue	NW Daffodill Lane to NW Dorothy Street
NW Daffodill Lane	NW Dorothy Street to NW Duke Avenue
NW Dragon Street	NW Duke Avenue to NW Delmar Avenue
NW Dorothy Street	NW Duke Avenue to NW Daffodill Lane
NW Delmar Avenue	NW Daffodill Lane to NW Dorothy Street
NW Denargo Street	NW Daffodill Lane to NW N. Macedo Boulevard



SIDEWALK PROJECTS www.cityofpsl.com/sidewalks

None underway at this time.

## STREET PAVING PROJECTS www.cityofpsl.com/repaving

The street paving goal for FY 20/21 is 32.9 miles with 14.08 miles completed to date. See table.

#### **CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

#### **Hegener Drive Phase 1 Extension:**

Signed-and-sealed, approved for construction plan set, along with cost estimate and corresponding documentation, has been received and sent to potential funding source for review. Meeting scheduled with potential funding source to determine scheduling and finalize commitment to construction.





# Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful

#### **NEW KPSLB COMMITTEE MEMBER**

The City's Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful Committee is pleased to welcome a new committee member, Lois Cardinale. The date of her appointment was May 5, and she will serve on the KPSLB Committee for two years.

There now are eight current committee members with one open spot. Many thanks to Fred Knaggs, Jenny Tomes, Judith Sekscenski, Carl Whaley, Nicole Hricik, Bethany Partlo and Maney Gale for their hard work, participation and support with our past events and activities last year. KPSLB continues to value the commitment, expertise and involvement all our members.

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful Committee's mission is to improve our quality of life through education, beautification and litter control. It is a working committee, highly involved in events throughout the year, along with enthusiastically promoting beautification of the City through various programs, including an annual Cleanup Day, Adopt-A-Street Program, anti-littering education campaigns and many more initiatives. Additional information about the committee can be found at www.cityofpsl.com/kpslb. The committee meets at 3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month and the meetings are open to the public. The Committee complies with Florida Sunshine Law provisions.

KEEP PORT ST. LUCIE BEAUTIFUL WELCOMES KPSLB VOLUNTEER ALISON SIEGEL: 'A LIFE OFFERS INFINITE VARIABLES; CHOICES ARE OUR CHALLENGES

Alison Siegel is a global teacher at Academica Virtual Education (AVE) Dual Diploma Program and a new volunteer for the KPSLB.

Alison has been a part of the AVE family for 12 years. She was named Virtual Teacher of the Year for in 2014-15 and Teacher of the Year in 2010-11. Alison earned her bachelor's degree in education from Florida Atlantic University and lives in Port St. Lucie. This is her first year volunteering for KPSLB.

She is passionate about serving her community with her ability to motivate and inspire others to share in keeping the City beautiful. Alison takes pride in participating in activities that help to promote positive changes for the City and preparing for upcoming KPSLB events to engage the community. Her passion is helping students educationally and emotionally, and loves being able to help expand a student's knowledge and engage them in learning online. She is committed to a life-long service based on personal and professional experiences.



#### TREASURE COAST BUSINESS SUMMIT

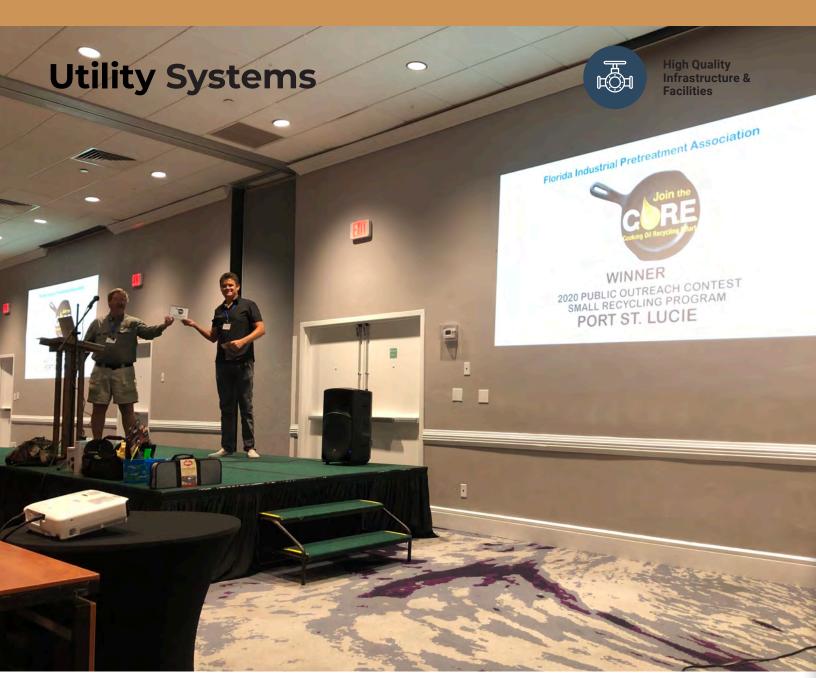
Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful participated in the Treasure Coast Business Summit on Thursday, May 13. The event took place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center. This is the third year KPSLB participated as an exhibitor. KPSLB Program Supervisor Georgette Beck connected with over 90 businesses and organizations

#### KELLER WILLIAMS RED DAY CLEANUP



Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful once again partnered with Keller Williams Realty PSL for a RED DAY project, a cleanup on Crosstown Parkway on Thursday, May 13. Michael Almeida, KPSLB contract program assistant, met up with 13 Keller Williams agents at Publix at Verano, 9335 Commerce Centre Drive. Accurate Home Inspections of South Florida, Inc. provided water and snacks. The volunteers picked up 13 bags of trash, which equated to 260 pounds. The volunteers contributed 26 volunteer hours.

Many other visitors stopped by the KPSLB table to learn more about the program, specifically the Adopt-a-Street volunteer program, details on the upcoming Drive-Thru Tree Giveaway and about the Lunch & Learn Workshop Series.



#### Coordinator awarded for his C.O.R.E.

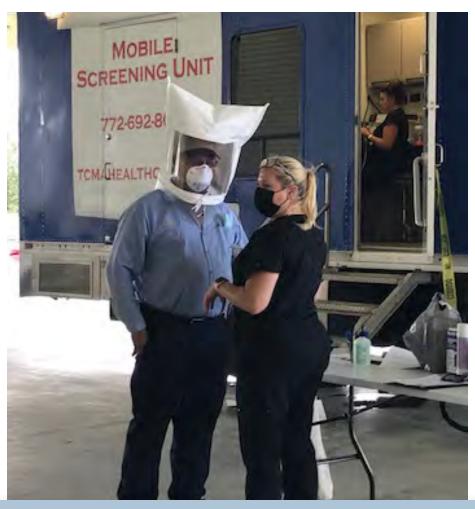
Pretreatment Coordinator Kevin Palmer was honored by the Florida Industrial Pretreatment Association (FIPA) for his cooking oil recycling efforts or C.O.R.E. (http://core.fipaonline.com/#xl\_xr\_page\_index).

At FIPA's spring event in Orlando, Kevin was presented with first-place recognition for his 2020 Public Outreach Contest Small Recycling Program. Kevin partnered with Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful (KPSLB) to add the collection of household cooking oil to its biannual Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Tire Amnesty Day event.

Since the partnership with KPSLB began, 119 gallons and 933 pounds of used cooking oil has been collected and kept from entering the sewer system. Keeping household fats, oil and grease, also known as FOG, out of the kitchen sink helps to protect the integrity of the City's vast sewer system, which includes over 1,000 miles of sewer main.

When FOG enters pipes, it cools and forms blockages, which prevents wastewater from flowing efficiently. It builds up over time and collects other flushed debris. The clogs create backups and damage infrastructure and ultimately, wastewater cannot be properly processed and treated to make reclaimed water, which is used for irrigation.

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



# Respiratory, hearing testing held at Utility facility

Utility Systems hosted the annual respiratory and hearing testing for City employees in April at the Prineville Water Treatment Plant.

More than 200 employees from Utility Systems, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Facilities, Police Evidence Lab and MIDFLORIDA Event Center were tested. This testing is necessary for those who could possibly experience breathing hazards while on the job.

Medical staff from the City's Employee Health Clinic performed the tests and supplied a mobile medical unit for the event. Employees were given a spirometry test, which shows how well air moves in and out of the lungs. This test also determines the length of time an employee can safely wear a respirator if they had to, or if they have the lung capacity to wear one at all. They were also fitted for N-95 respirators.

As part of the City's Hearing Conservation Program, employees who may be exposed to noises above a certain decibel level are given an annual screening. This screening helps compare results from previous years to see if conditions have changed.

#### Inspector retires after 49 years of service

After spending a combined total of 49 years with General Development Corporation (GDC), St. Lucie County and now the City of Port St. Lucie, Inspector Keith Fultz has retired from Utility Systems.

Keith literally helped build the foundation of Port St. Lucie and everything below it. He has seen decades of development and growth, leadership and change.

His fellow employees, as well as several contractors he's worked with over the years, came together to celebrate Keith in May and give him a proper sendoff.

Keith, we cannot thank you enough for your dedication to this utility. Your knowledge and experience has been such an asset. You will truly be missed!

ty of Port St. Lucie

Utilities Systems
Department

Keith Fultz (bottom row, second from left) retired after almost five decades of service.

# **Feature Story**



# City of Port St. Lucie auctions off 9 properties

On May 27, 2021, the City of Port St. Lucie will be conducting an online public auction of eight city-owned residential lots ranging in size from 0.34 to 0.41 acres and one office building with a parking lot within the city limits (0.46 acres).

"Regularly, the City reviews its inventory of real estate property to determine what land is in excess for its foreseeable needs," explained Assistant City Manager David Graham. "Land that is no longer needed for public purposes is declared surplus and then made available for sale."

Starting at 3 p.m., the public will have the opportunity to place bids on the residentially zoned lots available through the City's online auction. All interested bidders are required to register for the online auction and will be required to pay any applicable servicing charge.

Place your bids before 3 p.m. June 30, 2021. Participants are encouraged to thoroughly read the terms of the bid, such as payment methods and item descriptions, along with the terms and conditions. This webpage also includes appraisals and detailed information, including the opening bid price for each.

Properties sold during the auction will be sold as is and all successful bidders will receive a notification email shortly after the bid ends June 30, 2021. After the notice of award, payment for an awarded item must be received within five business days. Payments are collected by the PayMac Inc., the City's third-party payment processing company, through wire transfer or credit card only. Cash, checks or money orders will not be accepted.

It is the winners' responsibility to contact the City to execute the contract documents within 48 hours of winning the auction. The closings are expected to take place within 60 days after the close of the auction.



For more information call: 772-344-4055

#### How to bid

- 1. Register online: All interested bidders are required to register for the online auction and will be required to pay any applicable servicing charge.
- 2. View current auctions: Clicking on the auction title will take you to the bid page.
- 3. Enter the amount you want to bid and click "Submit." Before you make an offer on an item, thoroughly read all of the terms of the bid, such as payment methods and item description. Please read the terms and conditions carefully.