



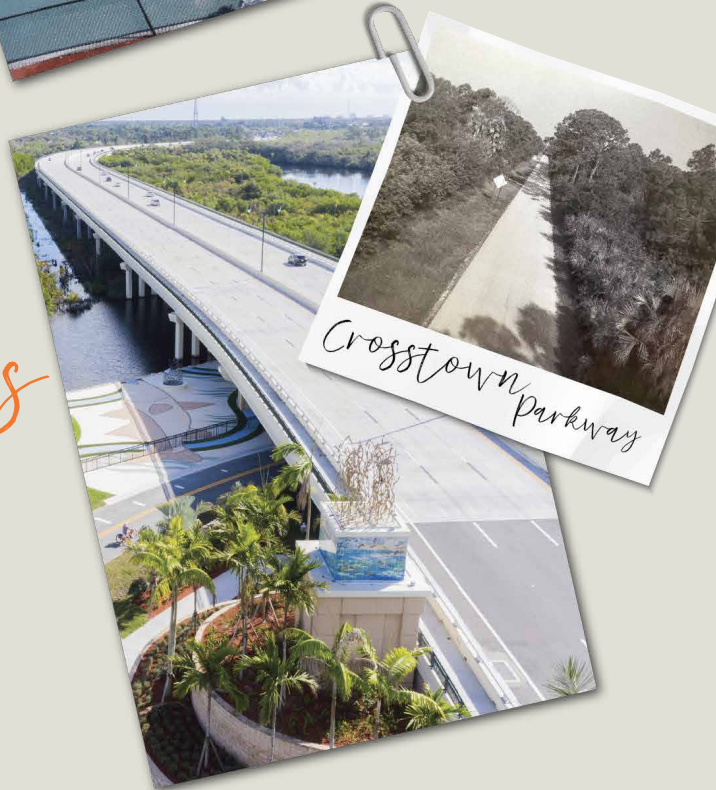
Port St. Lucie Sportsmans Park
Sportsmans Park



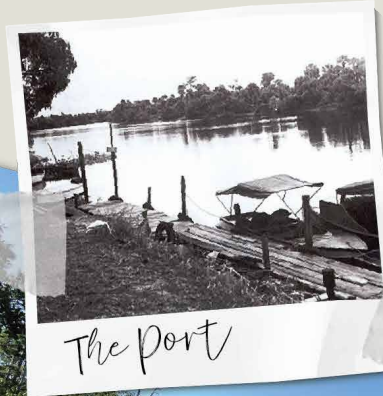
[2021]

City Manager's Annual Report

60 years of progress | a year in review



Crosstown Parkway



The Port



McCart's Ranch Preserve



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mission | vision | values

VALUES: ACCOUNTABILITY • DIVERSITY • CUSTOMER SERVICE • TEAMWORK • ETHICS • STEWARDSHIP



strategic goals

Safe, Clean and Beautiful

Vibrant Neighborhoods

Quality Education for All Residents

Diverse Economy and Employment Opportunities

High Quality Infrastructure and Facilities

Culture, Nature and Fun Activities

High-Performing City Government Organization

mission

Our mission is to provide **Exceptional Municipal Services** that are **Responsive to our Community** while **Planning for Smart and Balanced Growth** that is managed in a **Financially Responsible Manner**.

vision

Port St. Lucie has **Great Neighborhoods**; excellent **Educational Opportunities** for lifelong learning; a **Diverse Local Economy and Employment** options; **Convenient Transportation**; unique **Natural Resources**, including the **St. Lucie River**; and **Leisure Opportunities** for an **Active Lifestyle**.

"Port St. Lucie is a Safe, Beautiful, and Prosperous City for All People - Your Hometown."



Dear Residents,

Incorporated in 1961, our City has come a long way in the past six decades. I am honored to be a part of Port St. Lucie's story – especially in my new role as your mayor. I want to thank the citizens of Port St. Lucie for their support and confidence, and for entrusting me to serve in this very important position. It's an honor to serve our community, and I look forward to leading our City Council in making our City the very best it can be.



When you look at Port St. Lucie today, with our population over 214,000, it's hard to imagine how it looked in 1961, when less than 300 people lived here. As this report looks back to that time and the City we have grown into, it's not surprising to see why people want to live here and to be a part of our community. We have an award-winning government organization, and a City Council that follows a citizen-driven Strategic Plan that guides all our major initiatives. We are the safest large city in Florida, and have been for many years, thanks to a Police Department that has true community connections. We pride ourselves in keeping Port St. Lucie beautiful. We are also transforming our local economy with higher-paying jobs brought by national companies investing in our city, including Amazon, FedEx, TAMCO, and Cheney Bros.

It truly is an exciting time to live in Port St. Lucie. Because of all these great attributes, we have seen substantial growth in the past year alone. I want to assure our citizens that responsibly managing both our fiscal and physical growth is the top priority for the City Council. We are working every day to manage the growth we are experiencing today and to plan for what we will see in the future.

While we look forward, it's also important to look back at our history to understand where we are today. We're not your typical City. Back in the 1960s, General Development Corp. (GDC) divided our city up into 80,000 single-family lots and sold it as a retirement haven. When GDC went bankrupt, our City leaders were left with the residential lots, but not a lot of infrastructure, like sidewalks and a well-planned roadway network. Our leaders, over the past six decades, have successfully overcome many obstacles to become the City we are today.

But there is still work to be done. You will read about many of our current planning and growth management efforts in this report. Some of these focus on traffic, including our PSL Blvd. South and Floresta Drive projects, the Multimodal Plan and the new Mobility Plan, which addresses impacts on our city from new growth and development. Another example is our Stormwater Management Plan, which helps us prevent flooding and protect natural resources, while keeping some of the green spaces that I know many residents value. In fact, in the past year, we've identified new ways to use green spaces to better benefit our residents. In addition to green spaces, we also have our 10-year Parks Master Plan which addresses our need for more public parks for all of our residents to utilize and enjoy.

I hope the highlights described in this report, and all the progress we've made in the past year (and the past 60 years) give you a sense of pride in your hometown. Your participation and input will help shape the next chapter of Port St. Lucie's history. If the City Council or I can be of assistance, please contact us at 772-871-5159.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Martin".

Shannon M. Martin, Mayor



Jolien Caraballo
Vice Mayor,
District 4 Councilwoman



Stephanie Morgan
District 1 Councilwoman



David Pickett
District 2 Councilman



Anthony Bonna
District 3 Councilman



city letter manager

Residents of Port St. Lucie,

It is my privilege to present Port St. Lucie's 2021 Annual Report. This year's theme, "60 Years of Progress," reflects the fact that our City celebrated its 60th Diamond Anniversary in 2021. Port St. Lucie has come a long way in those 60 years. When I look back specifically on the past year, it seems like almost every aspect of our work at City Hall is moving forward at full steam.

As you will read, the progress Port St. Lucie experienced in 2021 was significant:

- By November 2021, the City had surpassed the total amount of building permits issued in all of 2020 by nearly 8,000 permits.
- Amazon broke ground on a new 1.1 million-square-foot non-sortable fulfillment center at Midway Business Park, which is expected to bring more than 500 jobs. And FedEx built and opened its doors to its 245,000-square-foot sorting facility in Tradition's Southern Grove, which is expected to bring 500 jobs.
- The City experienced a smooth change in leadership with the election of a new mayor and District 3 Councilman.
- Major transportation initiatives moved forward to manage current and future growth, including a new Mobility Plan and Fee on new development to replace road impact fees.
- The City's partnership with a local pulmonologist resulted in thousands of COVID-19 vaccines for residents.

I invite you to take time to read through this report to learn more about each of these issues and how the City is managing our growth in other ways.

I am also particularly proud that the City organization now has five functions that are fully accredited by national and international accreditation organizations. These are: Parks & Recreation, Building, Public Works, Police and Code Compliance. This means these departments must all comply with rigorous standards and benchmarks in their areas of expertise. It is my hope this gives our citizens a high level of confidence and pride in the work conducted by city staff.

We continue to utilize the National Community Survey™ (The NCS™) to gather statistically valid input from our residents while planning for our coming year and the future. In 2021, at least 80% of respondents rated Port St. Lucie as an excellent or good place to live or retire, and the overall quality of life in the city. The City as a place to raise children and the overall image or reputation of Port St. Lucie also performed well, with about three-quarters responding with high marks. Finally, over 85% indicated they were either very likely or somewhat likely to recommend living in Port St. Lucie or remain in the city for the next five years.

It is my goal to ensure those positive trends endure as the City continues to experience rapid growth. Port St. Lucie has become one of Florida's premier cities in a remarkably short time because of the hard work of staff and citizens. It

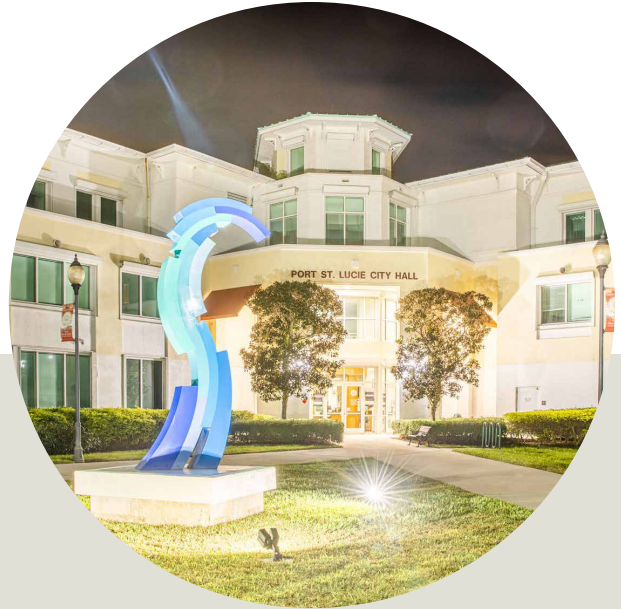
is my pleasure to serve the City Council and the citizens of Port St. Lucie, and I hope our work today will help positively shape PSL's next 60 years.

Sincerely,

Russ Blackburn, City Manager

Port St. Lucie's

Top Moments of 2021



Challenge yourself
with PSL trivia on
postcards like this one.
Answers on page 70

[If 1961 had a top 5 list ...]

- 1. PSL incorporated, new City Council holds its first meeting:** The first City Council, entirely made up of General Development Corp. (GDC) employees, held its first meeting on May 11, 1961 and appointed William C. Farmer as they City's first mayor.
- 2. Port St. Lucie Country Club opens with the Saints & Sinners Golf Courses:** The opening of this Club (which also included two tennis courts, clubhouse, pool, 19th Hole Lounge, pro shop and marina) was a major event with the governor attending. Forty years later, the City of PSL bought the Saints Golf Course.
- 3. Council debates building a hospital at Walton Road and U.S. 1:** While this discussion started in the City's first years, the hospital did not become a reality until 1983.
- 4. Catch a ride around town on GDC Courtesy Bus:** While investing in new multimodal transportation opportunities continues to be a hot topic today, back in 1961 the City's original developer, GDC, offered a free bus that traveled to and from Fort Pierce.
- 5. City Council gives exclusive 30-year franchise to GDC Utilities to operate water & sewer facilities:** This franchise expired in 1991, the same year GDC filed for bankruptcy. The City of PSL now operates an award-winning water and wastewater utility.



Our Diamond Anniversary

Six decades ago, Port St. Lucie became a city April 27, 1961, with the passage of House Bill No. 953, proposed by State Representative Rupert Smith and approved by then-Gov. C. Farris Bryant. Throughout the month of April 2021, the City hosted a series of 60th events to allow all residents participate in this milestone. Throughout this report, we will feature stories of those who have witnessed the transformation of PSL.

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PSL votes in new mayor and Councilman



Shannon Martin, who has served as a Port St. Lucie City Council member since 2010 and Vice Mayor since 2016, was sworn in as the City's new mayor during a special City Council meeting in September 2021. Voters also choose Anthony Bonna to serve as District 3 Councilman – a seat that opened up when Shannon Martin choose to run for Mayor. The special election was necessary after former Mayor Gregory J. Oravec resigned on June 30 to become City Manager of Islamorada, FL.



City's partnership with local doctor helps vaccinate thousands

[page 53]

The City partnered with pulmonologist Dr. Mark Pamer to distribute vaccines in neighborhoods throughout the City. Dr. Pamer and his staff co-facilitated more than 25 vaccination points of distribution in cooperation with the City – administering more than 5,500 vaccines.



Several national companies announced plans in 2021 to open major, new facilities in Port St. Lucie, bringing hundreds of new jobs. Most of this new activity occurred in the City's Southern Grove "Jobs Corridor" in Tradition, but also in northern Port St. Lucie near Midway Road.

PSL grows its job base with new national companies

[page 14]

City maintains its Safest Large City status

[page 10]



The Florida Department of Law Enforcement released the Uniform Crime Reporting statistics for 2020 and the City of Port St. Lucie continues to have the lowest crime rate for any City in the State of Florida with a population greater than 100,000 residents.

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[section]

one



Quality *Life*



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

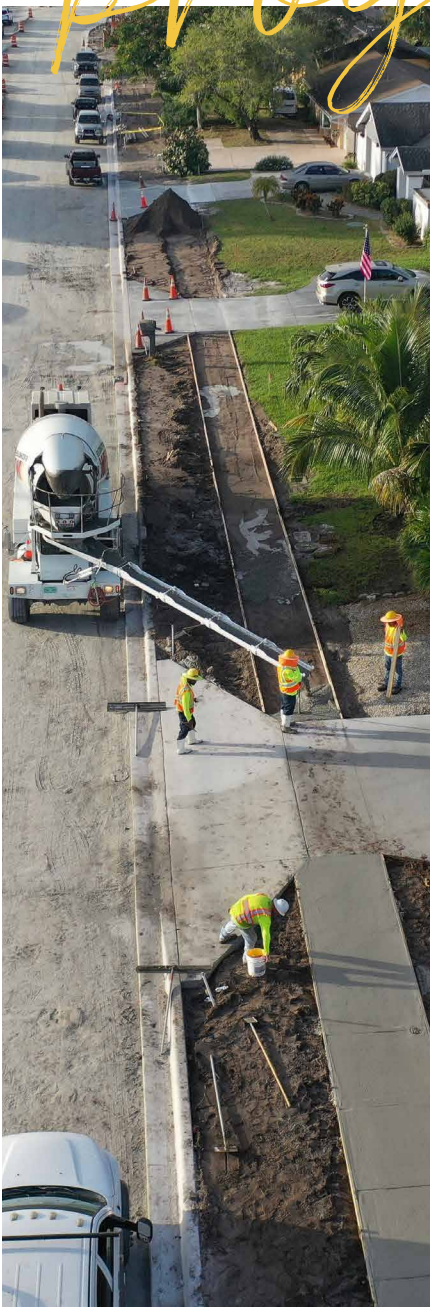


Torino Parkway Roundabout



St. Lucie North repaving

progress in psl



Floresta Drive sidewalk installation

Sales tax dollars help improve Floresta, Torino

In 2018, City voters approved a half-cent sales tax, which is helping Port St. Lucie complete major roadway and sidewalk projects. The progress on these sales tax projects did not slow down in 2021.

City staff worked with contractor, Rosso Site Development, Inc., to complete new roundabouts at both the Torino Parkway and California Blvd and Torino Parkway and Cashmere Blvd. intersections. These roundabouts included pedestrian crosswalks, lighting, and extensive landscaping.

The sales tax dollars also helped fund the first phase of the Floresta Drive Improvement Project, from Southbend Boulevard to the Elkcarn Waterway. Construction started in September 2020 and the contractor made great progress during 2021.

Construction activities included drainage and watermain installation, intersection improvements at Port St. Lucie Blvd., utility coordination, roadway activities, roundabout work at Thanksgiving Ave. — and sidewalk along the corridor. The contractor worked closely with the residents along Floresta Drive on existing driveways and installing curb and gutter. The contractor also installed retention ponds on Floresta Drive between Essex and Academy and between Port St. Lucie Blvd. and Chapman Ave.

As part of the Floresta Drive Project, and with help from a grant from South Florida Water Management, the City was able to install baffle boxes in the Kingsway Waterway which outfalls into the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. The installation of the baffle boxes is part of the citywide effort to improve water quality. Baffle boxes are concrete structures containing series of sediment settling chambers, separated by baffles.

The contractor will complete Phase 1 of the Floresta Drive project in early 2022. The project will help accommodate projected traffic volumes while helping preserve the integrity of the neighborhood. The project also helps improve safety, enhance pedestrian and bicycle movements, alleviate congestion and provide more efficient traffic flow. The final project will include bicycle lanes, sidewalks, lighting, intersection improvements and landscaping. To learn more about future phases of the project, please visit www.cityofpsl.com/floresta.

Since 1998, PSL continues to remain the safest large city

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) released the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics for 2020, and the City of Port St. Lucie continues to have the lowest crime rate for any city in the State of Florida with a population greater than 100,000 residents. The Uniform Crime Reporting Program's function is to generate a reliable set of criminal statistics for use in law enforcement operations, administration, and management. The program is used around the nation and has become one of the country's leading social indicators as to the growth or decline in crime.

"To be clear, one crime committed against a citizen in Port St. Lucie is too many," said PSLPD Chief John A. Bolduc. "Our officers still have a lot of work to do, and we will continue to protect our citizens at all costs within the guidelines of the law."

As evidence to the resolve of the Port St. Lucie Police Department (PSLPD), the Crime Rate declined 15.6% from FY 2018-2019 and FY 2019-2020, achieving this annual Strategic Plan priority.

The PSLPD attributes the decrease in violent and non-violent crime to diligent and meticulous work by their officers and support staff, coupled with an unrivaled spirit of cooperation with our citizens. It is also a product of the City's strong support from City Manager Blackburn, Mayor Shannon Martin and the City Council.

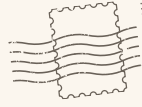
As PSL continues to expand, so will its sworn officer staffing and its commitment to strengthening partnerships with its citizens.



Growth spurs new Police District

District 5 – To address the rapid growth and expansion in the western part of PSL, the City Council identified the need to implement a new patrol district to maintain and improve law enforcement's customer service. The new police district also aims to decrease emergency response times, increase accountability, improve traffic enforcement and ensure optimum uncommitted time to practice community policing and build relationships with the new residents and business owners. The initial analysis assumes 24 patrol police officers, 6 Sergeants and 1 Lieutenant need to be hired to staff a new district minimally over the next five years. The new Police District will be built by incrementally adding patrol zones to existing districts until the span of control and caseload necessitate additional supervision and administration positions. The additional support function positions will be reevaluated annually. In FY 2020-2021, the department added four patrol officers. The implementation will continue to be reviewed to consider whether new resources should be allocated to maintain and enhance service levels.

What's the oldest park in the City of Port St. Lucie?



- a. Lyngate Park
- b. Rotary Park
- c. Kiwanis Park
- d. Sportsman's Park

Pierre Vignier, Project Coordinator, Utility Systems Department



Pierre Vignier moved to the City of Port St. Lucie in 1974 and recalls a series of abandoned roads with no names, west of Florida's Turnpike, where he learned to drive his first car, a Datsun.

Today, those intricate jumbles of roadways are neighborhoods, lined with homes, filled with families.

Vignier was hired in 1988 by the City as a plant operator to treat drinking water. But back then, even after being treated, water still had a yellow tint.

"Well production was limited, and water storage was inadequate," he said. "There was no room for treatment errors because of limited resources."

Just 10 years later, the City's first reverse osmosis system was developed, and it changed everything.

With it came an increased water supply and improved water quality, Vignier said. It also had a beneficial impact in hardening the City's infrastructure for reliability.

Vignier has watched the City grow from "the inside out," and he loves "seeing colleagues" careers change as the City expands."

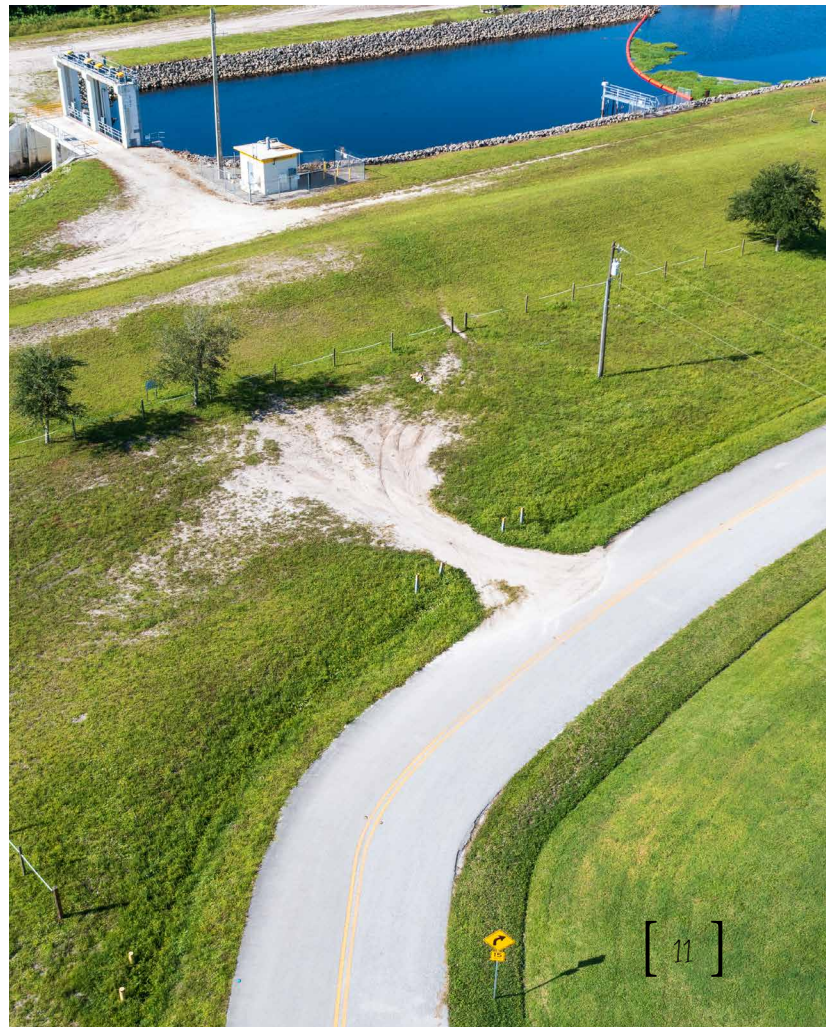
"For me, it's what makes a great working environment ... being about to share a unique business knowledge among us for a common goal and with some luck, influence upcoming young professionals."



here's a hint!

NICE Finalizes Plans for Pilot Pocket Parks Program

In 2019, the City's Neighborhood Improvement and Community Engagement (NICE) program polled residents and found the top request, and cause for concern, was the need to add and protect park, conservation or green space in their neighborhoods. After further analysis, and the adoption into the 10-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan, the NICE division identified two new green-space projects to address this need. In collaboration with Parks and Recreation, the NICE program has launched a "Pocket Park" pilot program at Duck Court Park in Crane Landing neighborhood and O.L. Peacock Sr. Park lake in the Rosser Reserve neighborhood. With input from future public planning sessions, the Conceptual Plans for these two pilot "pocket park" projects are scheduled to be completed in 2022. Possible improvements to these areas could include: a paved, multi-modal pathway, pergola with bench seating, water fountain and bicycle parking.



Duck Court Park will have enhancements thanks to NICE program.

[quality of life]

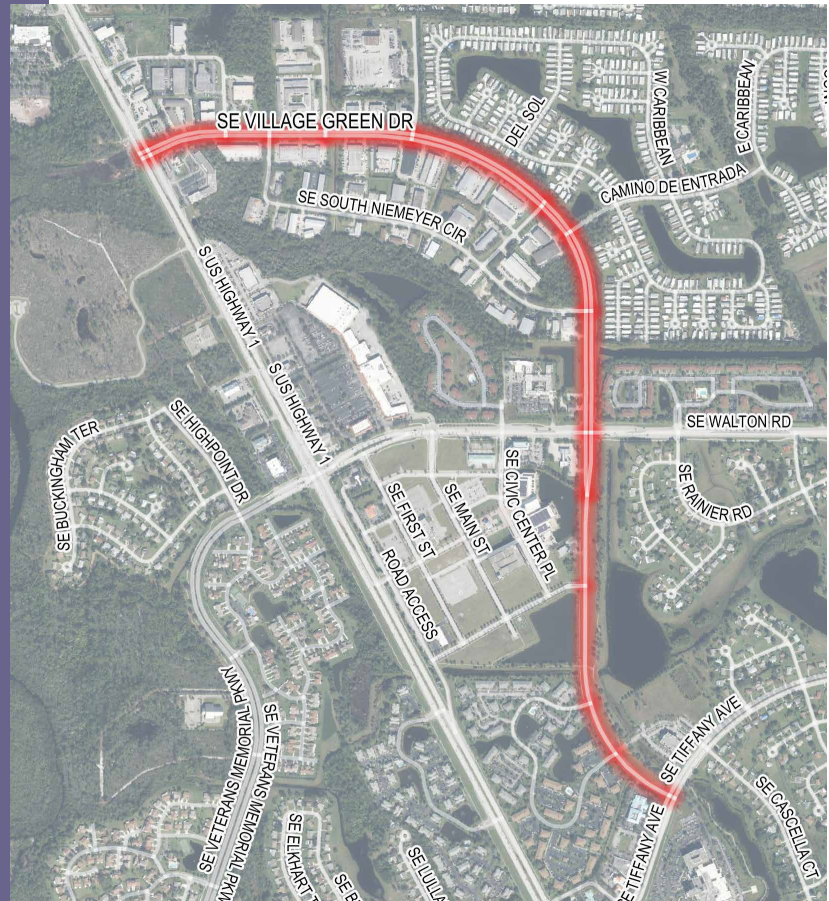
A new vision for the Village Green Drive corridor

The Village Green Drive Corridor Revitalization Project is intended to kick-start eastern Port St. Lucie's long-awaited renaissance and vision for a revitalized gathering place. The City imagined this area could be a "Complete Street" — a place where people could walk and bike to shops, where bus stops and street crossings would be safe, where air and water would be cleaner through sustainable design, and where economic growth would exist in tandem with livability for residents. In short, it would become a destination in Port St. Lucie.

Over the past year, the City and its consultant, Marlin Engineering, reached out to the community for ideas, suggestions, concerns and dreams for the Village Green Drive area. Residents, businesses and other stakeholders joined in creating the vision for a more people-friendly corridor. A walking tour of the area was followed by two virtual public meetings, public surveys were conducted and door-to-door canvassing of businesses along the corridor was held. An in-person open house was incorporated into the public engagement process (within the guidelines of COVID restrictions) during the City's Annual Citizen's Summit in March 2021.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the project team performed data collection and analysis, mapped the area for topographical and environmental features, including utilities and the built environment. Thanks to the community members and business owners who participated, as well as the staff of the City of Port St. Lucie, the final concept was presented to and adopted by the City Council in July 2021. The next phase of the process will be creating the documents for construction. The City appreciates the past involvement from our community and urge you to continue to work with us as we create a true sense of place along the Village Green Drive Corridor.

The complete Village Green Drive Master Plan is now available to the public on our website www.cityofpsl.com/villagegreen.



Village Green drive walking tour, gathering input from residents.

THE PORT DISTRICT

Port St. Lucie, FL

“The Port District

is where life meets the River ... Where one can explore nature, gather with a diverse community of people, and connect with the river in collection of authentic encounters.

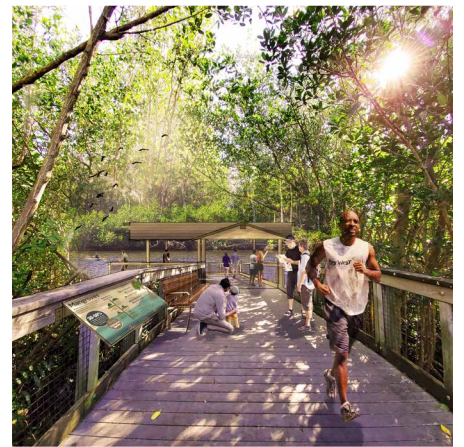


Bringing “The Port” to Port St. Lucie

Formerly known as The Riverwalk District, The Port District encompasses an area that hugs the North Fork of the St. Lucie River along the west side of Veterans Memorial Parkway and Westmoreland Boulevard. City staff, along with design consultant LandDesign, began development of The Port District Master Plan in October 2020 through a series of stakeholder meetings, public input meetings and online surveys. The Port District Master Plan offers recommendations to reinvigorate, celebrate and create a sense of place for this very diverse area.

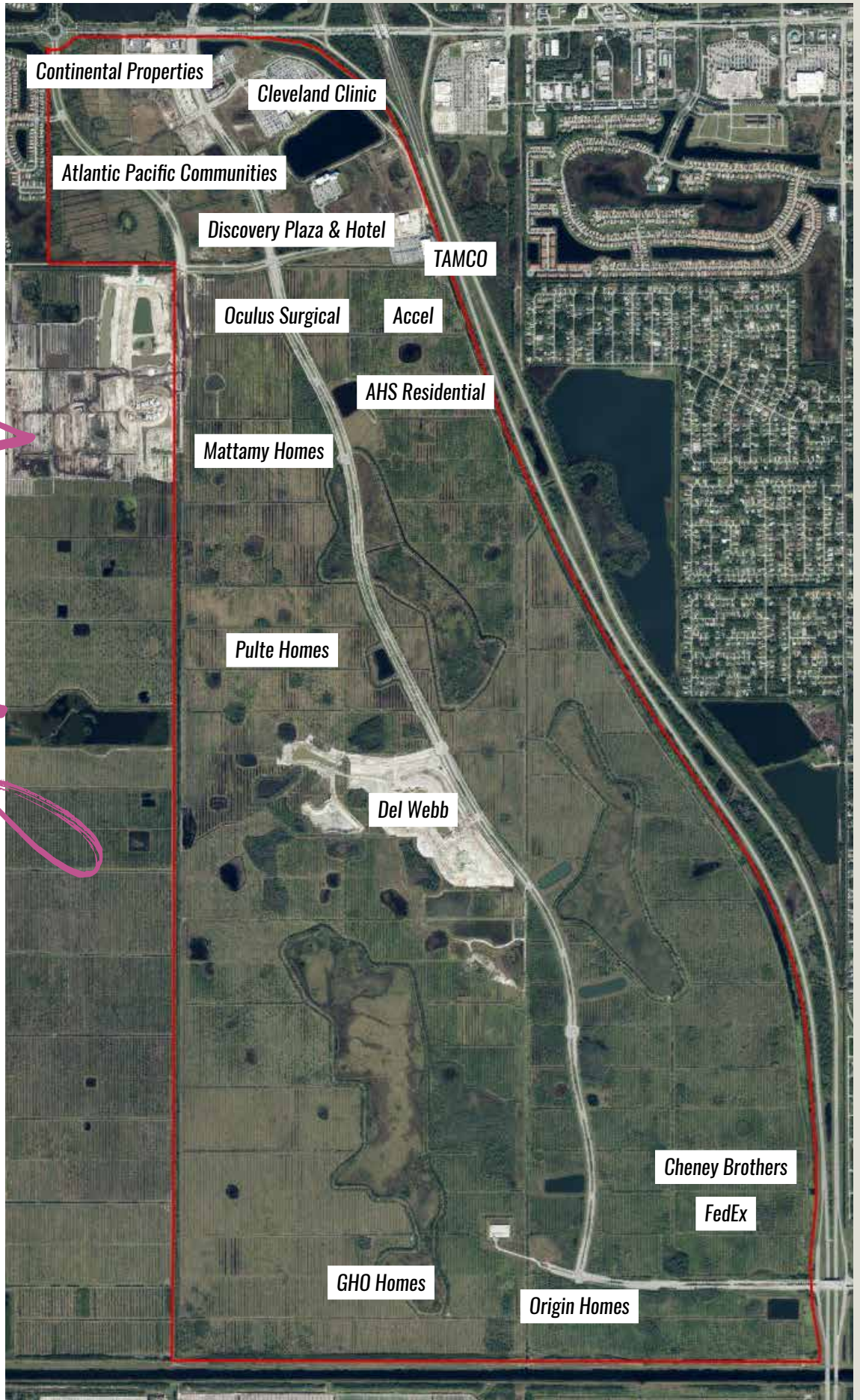
Explore, gather, and connect were the key guiding principles of the planning process for The Port District Master Plan. A few of the proposed amenities include new trails intertwining through preserve, upland pinewood flats and dense mangroves, unique dining opportunities, and gateway signage to frame the experience. These, along with the many other proposed elements, are sure to enhance what is already a very popular recreational area of the city.

The Port District Master Plan was adopted by City Council in July 2021 and, through these continued efforts to fully realize the potential of this beautiful area, The Port District is sure to become both the heart of Port St. Lucie and a spectacular place to explore, gather and connect! To read the master plan and learn more please visit, www.cityofpsl.com/theport.



Southern

gateway



Southern Grove Master Plan

Known as Port St. Lucie's "jobs corridor," Southern Grove is one of Florida's unique job opportunity areas for large-scale manufacturing, logistics and retail development. It has the largest swath of development-ready vacant land in all South Florida that fronts over four miles of Interstate 95, with interchanges at both Tradition Parkway and Becker Road.

City staff has been working hard to recruit both new jobs and homes to this area. At the same time, the city recognized this area needed an overall plan to guide its development. February 2021, the City Council adopted the Southern Grove Master Plan. This plan is intended to build upon the City's prior planning efforts and reorganize the land uses and infrastructure to produce a more sustainable, economically viable development program. The plan has several key goals:

- Develop a jobs corridor for the City that generates economic benefits and net new jobs;
- Create an integrated, multimodal and pedestrian-friendly transportation network that provides internal connectivity and access;
- Maintain an efficient water and sewer system with sufficient capacity and redundancy;
- Provide an interconnected master stormwater system to maintain appropriate lake levels, enhance natural systems, efficiently use the land, and enhance aesthetics;
- Complement surrounding neighborhoods and districts;
- Help establish a strong "sense of place" and identity for the City.



A place to call home

It's hard not to notice that the City's western front is seeing a BOOM of residential home building. With a total of nearly 7,400 residential units planned in Southern Grove over the next decade or so, developers like AHS Residential, Atlantic Pacific Communities, Continental Properties, Del Webb, GHO, Mattamy, Origin and Pulte are ensuring there are a variety of housing options to meet the needs of our growing city. Options include traditional apartment rentals, 1- and 2-story cottage style rentals, single family residential neighborhoods and age-restricted resort style communities. Having a variety of residential housing options in Southern Grove is designed to ensure that Port St. Lucie truly is "A City for All People".



Discovery Plaza and Hotel is situated on three acres at the northeast corner of SW Discovery Way and Village Parkway. Two single story retail buildings flank a four-story Tru by Hilton hotel. After a good night's sleep, guests will be able to enjoy a boutique nail salon, multiple food options and more!

Accel-erating manufacturing in Southern Grove

In late 2021, Accel International Holdings, Inc., broke ground on its new 150,000 square foot manufacturing facility situated on 10 acres in Southern Grove's Tradition Center for Commerce.

As a wire and cable manufacturer, Accel selected Port St. Lucie for its southeast Florida expansion and is expected to generate 125 new jobs. The Port St. Lucie facility will manufacture high-performance cables, wires and conductors serving the aerospace, medical, industrial and telecommunications marketplace with silver, nickel - and tin - plated copper and copper alloy products.

Founded in 2006, Accel operates three modern manufacturing facilities in Connecticut and Indiana, and has international activity in Canada, Mexico and China. With a vision for additional expansion, Accel acquired a total of 40 acres for future development activity and has made a total capital investment of \$55 million.

Creating a "legacy" in Southern Grove

With site clearing complete and infrastructure well underway, the Sansone Group held the Legacy Park at Tradition groundbreaking ceremony in April 2021. The well-attended event recognized not only the depth of family history with the Sansone Group, but the investment Sansone is making in Port St. Lucie. A 20-acre lake will serve as a backdrop to the entrance of Legacy Park and will serve as the City's southern gateway at the northwest corner of I-95 and Becker Road.



Founded in 1957 and based out of St. Louis, Sansone is a commercial real estate firm that specializes in management, brokerage and development of retail, industrial, office and residential properties. Its presence is seen in over 26 states, with over 24 million square feet of developed space and another 10 million square feet in the pipeline. The Sansone Group is looking to develop a Class A industrial park that will be known as Legacy Park at Tradition, consisting of 3.2 million square feet of building area in a phased approach. It will be responsible for all infrastructure development to serve each phase of the property.

With tenants such as FedEx, which will bring over 450 jobs to their Legacy Park sortation facility, and Cheney Brothers, Inc., which will bring nearly 400 jobs to Port St. Lucie, the southern end of Southern Grove is already living up to this area becoming a "jobs corridor". In addition, the initial phase of Legacy Park includes construction of 2,300 feet of Anthony F. Sansone Sr Blvd, which extends north from Becker Rd, as well as a separate 1,900-foot utility run extending east from Village Parkway. These improvements will support the future developments within the larger proposed business park.

In October 2021, the Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC) designated Sansone's FedEx project as the state's 2021 Urban Deal of the Year. FEDC recognizes outstanding achievement in the location/expansion of business in the state of Florida with awards given annually.



One of the fastest growing food service companies in the US targets Port St. Lucie

Cheney Brothers, Inc., a family owned broadline food distributor, has chosen Legacy Park at Tradition as the home for its newest distribution center. Originally known as "Project Bullet" during the development phase, the proposed 427,000-square-foot, \$55-million facility is anticipated to bring 380 new jobs to the area. Estimated wages per employee will exceed \$55,000, plus benefits, which is approximately 35% higher than St. Lucie County's average wage.

Founded in West Palm Beach in 1925, Cheney Brothers' annual sales now exceed \$2.5 billion across the southeast United States. The company currently has more than 2 million square feet of warehouse space in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. The new state-of-the-art distribution center will be constructed on 52 acres fronting Interstate 95, located just north of the FedEx facility. Once completed, the facility will service the restaurants, clubs and hotels in the region, and provide a safety net for supplies, if needed, when hurricanes strike.

FedEx is quickly bringing jobs (and packages) to Port St. Lucie



Legacy Park at Tradition's FedEx facility is shaping up fast, and FedEx's slogan of "where now meets next" could not be truer! The 245,000-square-foot regional sortation facility is set to be open in late 2021, not only getting

deliveries to you sooner but also bringing over 450 jobs to the Southern Grove "jobs corridor". Located on 22 acres along Interstate 95 at the southern end of Southern Grove, this facility represents FedEx's capital investment of \$44 million and the creation of 40 full-time employees at over 120% of St. Lucie County's average wage and 450 part-time positions, adding to employment opportunities in the City of Port St. Lucie's Southern Grove Jobs Corridor.



Gov. DeSantis awards PSL \$3.5 million grant for job growth

Governor Ron DeSantis in August 2021 awarded the City of Port St. Lucie \$3.5 million through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund for infrastructure improvements in Southern Grove. These funds will help create 1,800 jobs and can indirectly create another 4,000 jobs with employment opportunities in information technology, logistics and distribution, and manufacturing.

This money will be used to construct Anthony F. Sansone, Sr. Blvd, a 4,600 linear foot roadway including water, sewer and utility infrastructure in Legacy Distribution Park at Tradition.

"We want people to be free to choose what they do for a living, where they live and how they raise their families, and by growing our job opportunities in Florida, we are making sure Floridians have a wide range of options to choose from," said Governor DeSantis. "Today's announcement is another example of our commitment to keeping our economy strong."

The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund is an economic development program designed to promote public infrastructure and workforce training across the state. Proposals are reviewed by DEO and EFI and chosen by the Governor to meet the demands for workforce training or infrastructure needs in communities around the state.



Much-anticipated Winterlakes Neighborhood Park opens in Torino

City residents, and especially those who live in the Torino neighborhood, now have a new place to play at the Winterlakes Neighborhood Park, officially opened to the public on Saturday, January 23.

This 28-acre park is the City’s largest neighborhood park and is located at 5241 NW Jannebo Street in the Torino neighborhood in northern Port St. Lucie. This new park, previously a temporary school site, now boasts a newly refurbished covered basketball facility, restrooms, shaded playground, a dog park with areas for small, medium and large breeds, picnic pavilions, open space practice multipurpose and softball fields, tennis & pickleball courts, and a fitness station walking trail. And that’s just Phase 1 of this project!

Winterlakes Neighborhood Park Phase II amenities, funded at \$1.3 million in the Capital Improvement Plan Parks Impact Fees fund, and with funding assistance of \$200,000 provided by the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grant, are currently under design and will begin construction in 2022. Phase II amenities are anticipated to include volleyball courts, additional picnic pavilions, additional fitness trail, a fishing pier, a gazebo, bike racks, a maintenance building, and additional landscaping.

New economic development projects take off in northern PSL, too

While the Southern Grove jobs corridor is booming, it’s not the only place in Port St. Lucie attracting new jobs. The Midway Business Park on West Midway Road near Interstate 95 has attracted the attention of several employers – including Amazon’s first fulfillment center in Port St. Lucie, which will create more than 500 full-time jobs. This represents a \$100 million capital investment.

By the end of 2021, Amazon had already begun construction on the 1.1-million-square-foot building. Employees in the retailer’s non-sortable centers pick, pack, and ship bulky or larger-sized customer items, such as sports equipment, patio furniture, fishing rods, pet food, kayaks, bicycles, and larger household goods. Distribution to individual homes will not be made directly from the center, which is considered a “first-mile” facility.

Besides Amazon, the Midway Business Park will be home to Jan Steel, which will open a 60,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, and Total Truck Parts, which plans to open a nearly 40,000-square-foot distribution facility.



Sportsman's Park gets a playground refresh, outdoor fitness station

Residents of all ages and abilities have new opportunities for fun at Sportsman's Park. Its new playground reopened to the public on April 7, 2021. This brand-new playground encourages group play and coordination for all children. There are many exciting elements, including spinning activities, climbing and slides along with coordination and balance challenges. The centerpiece of the playground is a large climbing dome set atop the signature Port St. Lucie sunburst incorporated into the new shock absorbing surfacing.

This area of Sportsman's Park also now features a new state-of-the-art outdoor fitness area that includes cardio equipment, calisthenics, and space for stretching. The site offers cardio bikes, elliptical cross trainer, and an arm bike that delivers the level of quality and impact of a workout you would expect from an indoor fitness center and with the added benefit of all being blue-tooth compatible!

Sportsman's Park Playground and Fitness area was recently chosen to be featured in the 2021 FRPA Facility Showcase Journal.



C-23 Water Quality Project hits mid-project milestone

One of the City's largest projects, aimed at both protecting our rivers and ensuring a future alternative water supply, passed two major milestones in 2021.

The construction of Area 3 of the St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Project was completed in March. This 280-acre shallow reservoir is one of 6 areas of the project located at McCarty Ranch Extension. In 2021, Areas 1 through 3 stored 2.9 billion gallons of excess freshwater from the C-23 Canal and rainfall from the property. Area 3 received more than \$2 million in grant funding.

In addition, the City began construction on Area 4 in October, which is expected to be complete in May 2022.

When all areas of this project are complete, it will have converted 1,871 acres of former citrus groves, along with a 315-acre water impoundment, into a shallow water storage facility capable of receiving water diverted from the C-23 Canal. More than 42.3 billion gallons of water flow annually into the North Fork of the St. Lucie River from the C-23 Canal. This project is anticipated to keep up to 21% of excess freshwater C-23 Canal discharges from entering the North Fork.



What was the first church in Port St. Lucie?

- a. St. Lucie Catholic Church
- b. Port St. Lucie Methodist Church
- c. St. Andrew Lutheran Church
- d. Port St. Lucie Baptist Church

Dan Giesey, Manager, Public Works



When Dan Giesey started working for the City in 1982, the only signs of life west of Florida's Turnpike were blades of grass growing through unfinished roads.

And there certainly were no street signs. Well, until Harley came along.

According to Giesey, Harley was a local man who packed paint, brushes and stencils – supplied to him by the City – into a basket on his bicycle and rode out west, where he painted names on concrete markers installed there years earlier by General Development Corp.

"He would go west every day and paint those street names," Giesey said. "Sometimes they would be misspelled."

It was just a few years later, Giesey said, that GDC filed for bankruptcy, "and the City employees took over the City's infrastructure with pride and just kept moving in a positive direction."

For Giesey, it became one of the most significant changes in the City's 60-year history.

Among other substantial developments include the installation of water and sewer in the mid-90s and the elimination of septic systems.

Giesey also credits Public Works for reworking swales by installing plastic liners, fixing old, rusted-out culverts, repaving roads and landscaping medians.

"All of those changes made this City a much better place to live than the early years," he said.

Utility System resolves sewer overflows caused by aging force mains and lift stations

The City of Port St. Lucie provides wastewater collection and transmission services to residential and commercial customers on the eastern side of the City -- where annual weather events historically have been problematic for these systems. As a result, the City has made improvements to these force main transmission systems. Upgrades included:

- A new 8-inch main, 6,600 feet in length, was constructed on Melaleuca Blvd. from Lift Station SP-40 to connect to the 16-inch force main on Lennard Road to reduce flow surcharges at Lift Station SP-16 and Lift Station SP-40.
- An aging Lift Station, SP-16 is being replaced with a new lift station with higher flow capacity which will be completed by the end of 2021 and will prevent sewer overflows during significant rainstorms.

In another area of the City, along Veterans Memorial Parkway, a new 12-inch force main 820 feet long was constructed from Lift Station SP-05 to the 12-inch force main on Lyngate Drive. This relieved flow backups on an existing 8-inch force main that caused high level alarms and potential sewer overflows at the lift station during rain events.

In the Club Med area, at the golf course, multiple pipeline breaks on an old General Development 8-inch force main had caused sewage spills. Replacement of the pipeline is currently being completed, which will eliminate future problems.

In the River Park area near Floresta Dr. at Prima Vista Blvd., a manhole on Naranja Ave. had sewage overflow during a rainstorm, due to General Development area low pressure mains dumping into gravity lines. To address the problem, a new 8-inch force main 4,470 feet in length is being constructed to route the sewer flow directly to Lift Station NP-01 to prevent future overflow occurrences.

Grant program helps expand Septic to Sewer

The Port St. Lucie's Septic to Sewer Conversion Program aims to connect homes and businesses currently on septic systems to the City's wastewater collection and treatment system. The reduction and elimination of septic systems is one way we can proactively improve the health of our local waterways, inclusive of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon. As part of the 10-Year Septic to Sewer Master Plan, \$200,000 in grant money was offered to residents living in the Sagamore and Elkham hot spots, which are located within 50 ft. of a waterway, allowing for 67 conversions.

Westport Treatment Facility gets upgrades

The Westport Wastewater Treatment Facility is in process of upgrading the facility to reduce the effluent nitrogen nutrients. Once completed, these improvements could result in removal of 182,646 lbs of nitrogen from reclaimed water used for irrigation — water that could indirectly be released to the St. Lucie River. The City is making these improvements to comply with new requirements from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The upgrades consist of two phases. Phase one has been completed, and it involved improvements to the facilities existing aeration basins, piping modifications, the addition of two onsite pump stations and filter modifications. Phase two will improve the treatment process of the facility. Construction will begin in late 2022 and will require two years to complete.



Stormwater Management Plan sets goals for next two decades

This City has developed a 20-year Master Stormwater Management Plan that identifies conditions, constraints, opportunities, and resources needed to manage the City's stormwater system in a safe, compliant and sustainable manner.

The plan identified watersheds, inventories, current operations, and maintenance services; provided recommendations for potential operational and maintenance service enhancements; and prioritized projects identified by previous hydraulic studies that will improve flood protection and water quality.

The estimated costs for potential enhanced services and improvement projects was provided for review and consideration by the City Council. The total estimated cost for all proposed improvements is approximately \$200 million. These costs have also been considered in a recent stormwater rate study. As a separate effort, a consultant assisted and guided staff and City Council in identifying potential funding sources to support the Council's desired stormwater program. As a result, City Council elected to increase the Stormwater Fee by \$5 per household to assist with covering the costs. In addition, an education campaign has been launched to better educate residents on the City's stormwater system.

Rosser project aims to improve drainage

The Rosser Reserve stormwater improvement project stemmed from data gleaned from a "hot spot" map identifying a high concentration of drainage complaints to the City's 1PSL Customer Service System. To address this area of high-volume drainage complaints, City Council authorized the use of \$2 million to improve drainage and swale lines in the Rosser Reserve area of the City. By the end of 2021, the project was approximately 70% complete with the primary goal of seamlessly connecting the swale network to newly installed culvert pipes that directly stream into the City's primary canal system.



**YOUR STORMWATER
DOLLARS AT WORK**

Flood Prevention, Cleaner Water

We heard you! City focuses mobility options, speed limit reduction

On an annual basis the City of Port St. Lucie participates in The National Community Survey™, conducted by the National Research Center. When asked what were the top three priorities they would like the City to focus on in the next year, approximately 62% of respondents cited issues that had to do with mobility year over year. In response to the overwhelming citizen demand for mobility choices, the City Council adopted a new Multimodal Plan in October 2020.

The Multimodal Plan contains recommendations and prioritizes projects for all users and addresses mobility challenges. It also aims to reduce congestion, improve safety and promote the pedestrian environment and mobility choices. Since the adoption of the Multimodal Plan, staff has begun implementing one of its major recommendations: Areawide Local Roadway Speed Limit Reductions.

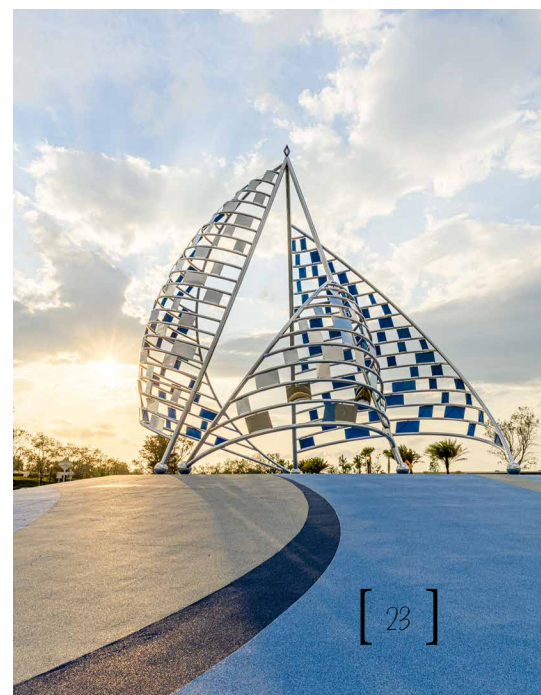
By City Council directive, the Areawide Local Roadway Speed Limit Reduction was adopted and took effect on July 26, 2021. It reduces select neighborhood roadways from 30 mph to a “blanket” 25 mph. This fulfills the goals of the Multimodal Plan and the desires of residents. The new speed limit signs reflecting the reduction are anticipated to be installed in the beginning of 2022 and to be completed and enforceable 6 months thereafter.

Public Art Master Plan showcases artistic creativity in PSL

Port St. Lucie’s public art program aims to beautify the city by bringing extraordinary art to everyday spaces -- like inside a traffic roundabout or under a bridge. Public art helps to uplift neighborhoods, create a sense of place and establish community meeting spots with opportunities to get to know your neighbors. In the Spring of 2021, the City Council approved Port St. Lucie’s first Public Art Master Plan. The Master Plan sets the standard for implementing public art in PSL, while also celebrating our community’s ingenuity and artistic expressions. The art installed as part of the City’s Art in Public Places Program is funded by developers, not taxpayers.

“Public art is one visible way Port St. Lucie is fulfilling its strategic goal to be safe, clean and beautiful,” Port St. Lucie City Manager Russ Blackburn said. “In the past few years alone, the City Council has approved some very stunning and exciting pieces of public art.”

In 2019, the City was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts that helped fund the Public Art Master Plan. The plan seeks to build upon the great work that has already been done to create a strong foundation for public art in Port St. Lucie. With a strong ordinance and consistent funding, the Art in Public Places program is on the brink of making major impacts in the City of Port St. Lucie. Through intention public art will help uplift the City, creating strong, beautiful places that will draw people together and meet the needs of residents and visitors.





Neighborhood Cleanups - 4

- » 64 volunteers
- » 1,220 lbs. litter picked up



Tree Giveaways

- » Total given away in 2021 - 1,110
- » Total given away since 2005 - 12,432

Household Hazardous Waste items



- » Collected in 2021: 38,309 lbs. with 905 vehicles participating
- » Since data collection began 2010: 360,588.20 lbs. collected with 7,074 vehicles participating



Litter Crew

- » Total pounds of litter picked up: 122,400 lbs. (6,120 bags)
- » Total misc. items picked up: 12,898



Community Litter Index – Score 1 (scoring system ranging from 1-4, “1” - being the best, “4”: being the worst)



KPSLB Caring Community Cleanup Day (Great American Cleanup) – April 10, 2021:

- » 7,460 pounds, 383 volunteers



Environmental Swale Contractors

- » Total litter picked up: 21,405 lbs. (1,070 bags)



St Lucie County Sheriff's Inmate Work Program

- » Total litter picked up: 2,100 lbs. (105 bags)
- » Total misc. items picked up: 102

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful helps City shine for 20 years

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful (KPSLB) has been a driving force behind keeping PSL clean and beautiful since April 20, 2001. From beautifying neighborhoods to the Adopt-a-Street program, KPSLB volunteers are always at the forefront of beautification and urban transformation. Taking its lead from Keep Florida Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful, KPSLB aims to improve our quality of life through education, beautification, and litter control.



Adopt-a-Street Program

- » Active groups: 164
- » New groups signed up: 20
- » Total Litter picked up: 51,605 pounds (2,580 bags)
- » Total volunteer hours contributed: 4,364

Grants received:

- Keep America Beautiful Cigarette Litter Prevention Program \$15K
 - » CLPP – 23 ash receptacle stands given away to businesses in 2021
 - » CLPP – 34 ash receptacle stands given away to businesses since 8/24/20 to present
- Arbor Day Foundation, Linde/NuCO \$15K (100 Live Oak trees planted & neighborhood cleanup (200 lbs. collected))
- Trees Forever \$700 (another 1,000 tree seedlings given away & presentation given to 124 Boys & Girls Club members (Youth Educational Program))



Reducing citizens flood insurance premiums

For the past several years, the City of Port St. Lucie has worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure residents receive a discount on their flood insurance premiums. The City is currently designated a Class 8 by FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) Program, which entitles residents in Special Flood Hazard Areas a 10 percent discount on their flood insurance premiums and all other citizens a 5 percent discount. Any reduced rates will automatically be reflected at the policyholder's next renewal date.

The City meets the three CRS goals, which are: (1) reduce flood damage to insurable property; (2) strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; and (3) foster comprehensive floodplain management.

In 2021, the City completed its 5-year verification audit cycle to re-affirm its commitment to implementing new flood hazard programs and projects to improve its CRS Class rating. Results from this verification cycle should be made available to the City's CRS Coordinator in early 2022. The City worked diligently on the audit to remain a Class 8, but with the intentions of lowering the City's rating to a Class 7, thus potentially increasing the City's resident flood insurance discount. The Office of Emergency Management worked closely with the Building, Planning & Zoning, Public Works, Information Technology's GIS Division and Communications Departments on this important cycle verification.

In 2022, the Office of Emergency Management will continue to work with other City Departments to implement additional CRS standards to lower the City's Class Rating further in the coming years. PSL's Office of Emergency Management is available to assist its citizens with flooding questions. A comprehensive website at www.CityofPSL.com/flood and brochure was designed to educate the public on flood hazards and mitigation.

New Park & Ride lot adds to PSL's mobility options

On Sept. 9, 2021, the City celebrated the grand opening of a new regional transportation facility, named the Jobs Express. This project was a true community partnership and was made possible through the work of several agencies: St. Lucie County Transportation Planning Organization, Florida Department of Transportation District 4, City of Port St. Lucie, Florida Power and Light, St. Lucie County and Area Regional Transit and South Florida Commuter Services.

Located south of Gatlin Boulevard, just east of Interstate 95, it features 162 free parking spaces, opportunities for carpooling, vanpooling and ride sharing, electric vehicle charging stations, a local bus stop for Area Regional Transit (ART) Route 5 and on-demand micro-transit connections and stops for regional bus services. A future connection to I-95 express public transportation route to West Palm Beach also is planned.



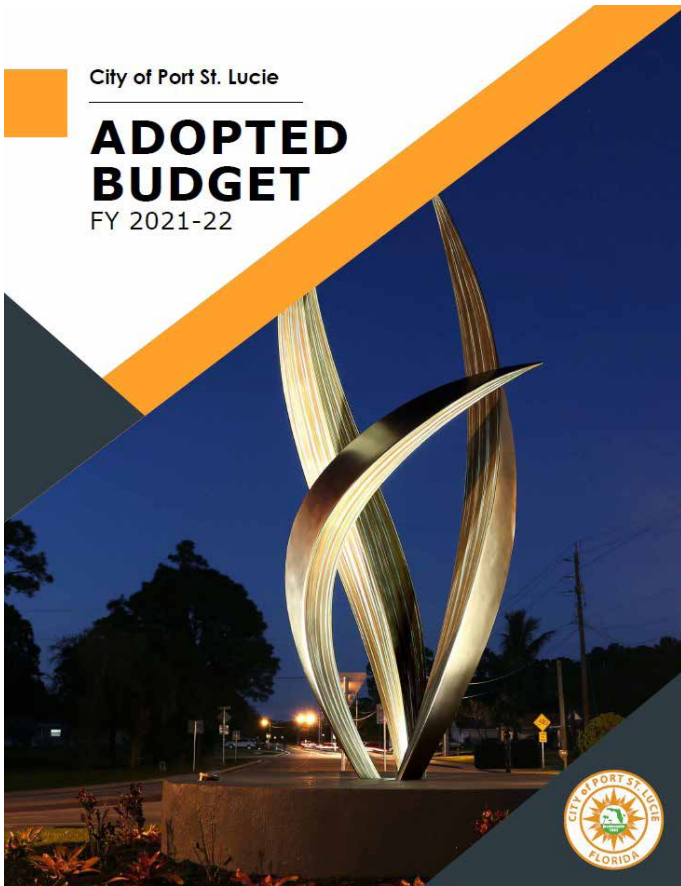
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TRANSPARENCY



ACCOUNTABILITY

OUR BUDGET *in brief*



City's millage rate decreases for the sixth year in a row

The Port St. Lucie City Council in 2021 approved a budget that included a reduction in the City's property tax millage rate. This was the sixth year in a row that Port St. Lucie's millage rate decreased for the portion of residents' property tax bills that the City Council controls. The adopted \$610,594,228 budget supports the City's strategic goal to be a high-performing organization and its initiative to reduce the City's tax rate, while ensuring a balanced budget that still provides excellent service for City residents.

"We believe this budget should equip the City for growth now and in the future. This budget provides the resources and tools needed for staff to do the necessary work of the City and make us proud every day of what City Council and staff have accomplished," Mr. Blackburn said. "I am confident we have developed a conservative, reasonable and responsible spending plan for the 21/22 fiscal year."

The total FY 2021-22 City budget represents an increase of 14.37% compared to the FY 2020-21 adopted budget. The change is primarily related to increases in capital projects. Capital projects include \$36 million of utility infrastructure improvements; and \$50 million for a new Public Works building, two regional parks and a new Police training facility. Also adding to the increase are the growing taxable values and the addition of 30 new staff members to the General Fund. These include 15 new sworn police officers.

The budget included an overall total millage rate of 5.6000. The millage rate is the rate of tax per \$1,000 of taxable property value. When looking at a tax bill in St. Lucie County, it is important to keep in mind that the City of Port St. Lucie's millage rate represents just one portion of it. Because of that and rising property values, the total amount paid by homeowners can vary every year. Other local taxing authorities include the St. Lucie County School District, St. Lucie County, St. Lucie County Fire District and the South Florida Water Management District.

The City Manager's full proposed budget can be found at www.cityofpsl.com/budget.



ADOPTED BUDGET IN BRIEF

FY 21/22

121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd. | Port St. Lucie, FL 34984 | www.cityofpsl.com



The Fiscal Year 21/22 Adopted Budget allocates resources to support Port St. Lucie's Strategic Plan goals.

BUDGET

FISCAL YEAR

21/22

14.37%

INCREASE FROM FY 20/21 DUE TO INCREASED CAPITAL PROJECTS

TOTAL BUDGET
\$610,594,228

GENERAL FUND

-0.86%

DECREASE FROM FY 20/21 WHICH IS -\$1,075,123

TOTAL BUDGET
\$124,060,775

Crosstown Voter Debt Reduced

The voter-approved debt service millage for Crosstown Parkway is reduced to 0.7193 in FY 21/22 from 0.9193 in FY 20/21.

Operating Millage Reduced

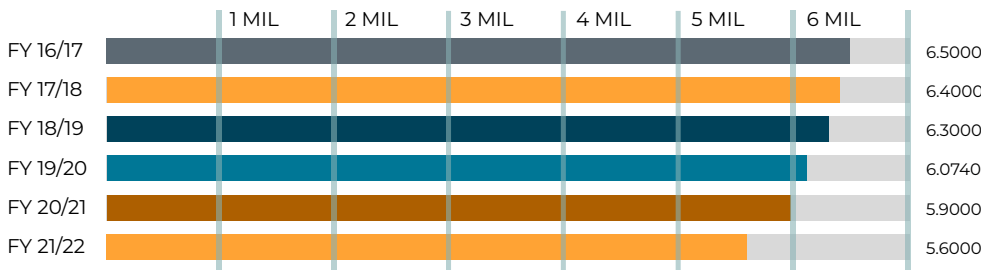
Operating Millage reduced by 0.10000 for a new total of 4.8807.

Tax Base Increase

The tax base increased by 12.99% over the final adjusted value, due to increased growth and property appreciation, from FY 20/21 at \$11.8 Billion to FY 21/22 at \$13.3 Billion as of June 2021 estimate.

MILLAGE RATE

Millage rate is the rate of tax per \$1,000 of taxable property value. The City's Operating Millage rate is **4.8807** per thousand for **FY 21/22**. The total millage rate is **5.6000**. This is the sixth year that the millage rate is reduced.



STORMWATER

Stormwater User Fees are increased to **\$168.00** for a residential lot and **\$126.00** for an undeveloped lot, an increase of \$5/yr and \$3.75/yr respectively.

SOLID WASTE

The annual rate remains **\$281.92**. Per contractual agreement, the City will charge an increase of **\$2.82** to the fees collected from Waste Pro.

SOUTHERN GROVE

Southern Grove debt and tax payment equal **\$3.7 million** from the GFC Fund, a reduction of an estimated **\$1 million** for debt, due to activity from sales of property.

Median single family home value in Port St. Lucie

\$243,766

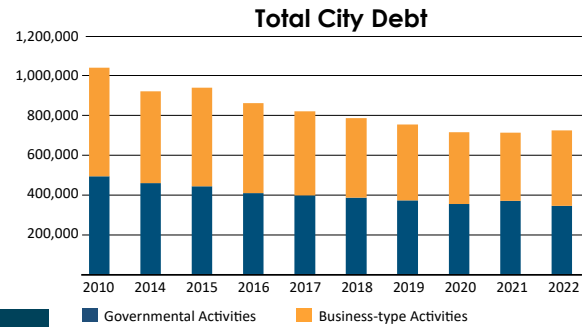
IMPACT OF MILLAGE REDUCTION ON CITY TAXES FOR A MEDIAN HOME WITH A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION INCREASED BY THE SAVE OUR HOMES LIMIT OF 1.4%

	FY 20/21 Tax Year City Taxes	FY 21/22 Tax Year City Taxes
Assessed Value	\$240,400	\$243,766
Exemption Amount	50,000	50,000
Taxable Amount	\$190,400	\$193,766
City Total Millage Rate (Per \$1,000 of value)	5.9000	5.6000
Total City Taxes per Year	\$1,123.36	\$1,085.09
Difference with Proposed Millage Reduction		-\$38.27

DEBT REDUCTION

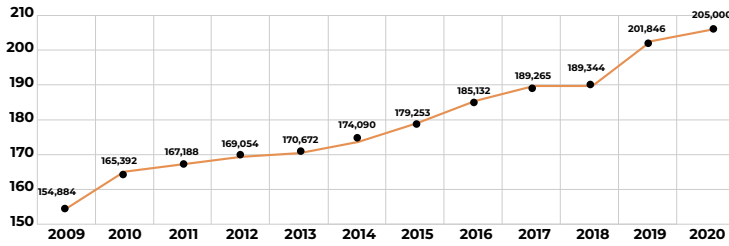
The City's long-term debt has been reduced as a result of principal payments and refinancing, when appropriate.

From a high of more than \$1.042 billion debt in FY 09/10 to a **projected \$724 million for the FY 21/22** based upon budgeted principal payments. This will represent a **30.5% reduction in debt** over the last ten years.

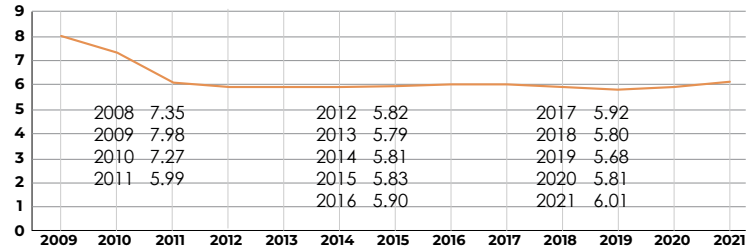


STAFFING

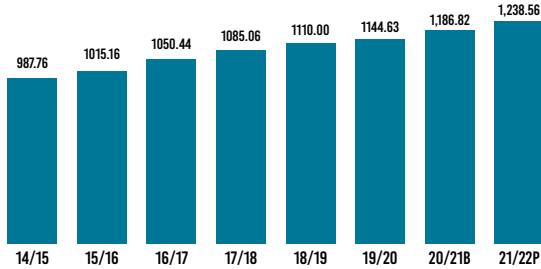
Population Growth Data from U.S. Census Bureau | Units in Thousands



Employees per 1,000 Residents Units in Thousands



HISTORY OF AUTHORIZED POSITIONS



FY 21/22 Full-time Employees is 1,238.56, which is a net increase of 51.74 Positions

STAFFING INCREASES FOR FY 21/22:

Employee increases are directly related to rapid growth in the city, funding district five of the Police Department.

GENERAL FUND:

Police Department:

- 1 Records Specialist-Body Worn Cameras
- 1 BodyCam/Radio Fleet Coordinator
- 1 Crime and Intelligence Analyst
- 1 Training Coordinator Officer
- 1 Detective: Forensic Examiner
- 1 Detective: Missing Persons/Threat Assess.
- 5 Patrol Officers
- 4 Shift Lieutenants

Information Technology:

- 1 Business Intelligence Analyst
- 1 Fiber Infrastructure Administrator

Parks & Recreation:

- 1 Maintenance Worker/Winter Park
- 1 Project Manager
- 2.851 Increase Hours for Various P/T Positions

City Attorney:

- .50 Part-time Administrative Secretary

Human Resources:

- 1 HR Analyst/Recruitment

Planning:

- 1 Electronic Records/Impact Fee Specialist
- 1 Planner III

City Manager:

- 1 Executive Assistant/Project Coordinator
- 1 Grants/Strategic Initiatives Project Manager

Financial Management:

- 1 Assistant Assessment Property Tax Manager
- 1 Assistant Payroll Manager
- 1 Business Tax Compliance Officer

BUILDING FUND:

Building Department:

- 2 Building Inspectors
- 2 Building Plans Review

GOLF COURSE FUND:

- .39 Increase Hours for Various P/T Positions

PUBLIC WORKS FUND:

- 1 Project Coordinator
- 1 Construction Inspector
- 1 Project Coordinator
- 1 Executive Project Manager

UTILITY FUND:

- 1 Utility Connection Support Specialist
- 1 Utility Billing Clerk
- 1 Project Coordinator
- 1 Data Communication Supervisor
- 1 Administrative Secretary
- 2 Utility Locator
- 1 Maintenance Mechanic Water Treatment
- 3 Field Technician Trainee
- 2 Field Technician

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The City is prudently planning projects while slightly increasing the current debt load. Projects planned over the five-year period are projected to cost \$363,931,690 million. Issuing new debt for Utility Projects, approximately \$36 million. \$50 million for new Public Works Building, two Regional Parks and Police Training Facility.



Your City tax bill explained

If you own property in Florida, you pay taxes. It's a fact of life and the basis of our state's revenue structure. In Florida, we don't pay state income taxes, and property taxes are the single largest revenue stream for city and county governments. In the fall, when the tax bills are published, local elected officials hear a lot of comments, concerns and questions about property taxes. And because your City Council is the elected body closest to the people, City officials especially get a lot of these questions during budget season.

As you open your tax bill, there are a few facts to keep in mind. A major misconception that City officials frequently hear is that some residents believe the City Council is responsible for their entire tax bill – or at least a significant majority of it. In fact, if you look at your entire tax bill, you will see more than a dozen different taxing authorities in St. Lucie County. In the end, the City Council is responsible for the millage rate for only two lines on your bill: City of Port St. Lucie and City of PSL Voted Debt, which was voter approved to pay for the Crosstown Parkway. If you do the calculations, those two portions make up less than 25% of your total tax bill. Some of the other major taxing authorities on your bill include St. Lucie County and the St. Lucie County School District.

The millage rate is your property tax rate, which is the rate of tax per thousand dollars of taxable value. The budget approved by the City Council this year included a millage rate reduction for the sixth year in a row (www.cityofpsl.com/budget.) But tax bills can be complicated and despite that effort, your overall tax bill may have gone up. That could be the result of several factors including: your property value may have increased or another taxing authority could have changed or increased its millage rate.

Property taxes are based on the value of a homeowner's property. Every year, the county property appraiser issues an assessed value for your home. That, minus exemptions, makes your taxable value. A major exemption in Florida is the Homestead Exemption, which is up to \$50,000 on a primary residence. There also are property tax discounts based on age, disability or veteran status. Florida's Save Our Homes provision allows you to transfer all or a significant portion of your tax benefit, up to \$500,000, from a home with a homestead exemption to a new home within the state that qualified for a homestead exemption. If you and your neighbor have almost identical homes – but pay significantly different tax bills – those could be the reasons why. In the end, the Port St. Lucie City Council has worked hard the past six years to decrease the part of your bill that they can control. The City's overall millage rate has dropped from 6.6289 in the FY 2015/16 to 5.6000 for FY 2021/22.



CHRIS CRAFT County Tax Collector
TAX COLLECTOR
 ST. LUCIE COUNTY

P.O. Box 308
 Fort Pierce, FL 34954-0308
 772-462-1650
www.tcslc.com

ACCOUNT ESCROW

2021 REAL ESTATE
NOTICE OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

Skip the trip and pay at www.tcslc.com

- echeck (electronic payment from your checking account with no fee)
- Credit card (2.5% convenience fee applies)
- Print your receipt instantly online!

Port Saint Lucie, FL 34953-3057

AD VALOREM TAXES						
TAXING AUTHORITY	MILLAGE RATE	ASSESSED VALUE	EXEMPTION AMOUNT	TAXABLE VALUE	TAXES LEVIED	
County Parks MSTU	772-462-1670	0.2313	243,765	50,000	193,765	44.82
Co Public Transit MSTU	772-462-1670	0.1269	243,765	50,000	193,765	24.59
Erosion District E	772-462-1670	0.1763	243,765	50,000	193,765	34.16
Law Enfl/Judl Judicial Sys	772-462-1670	2.9824	243,765	50,000	193,765	577.85
Co General Revenue Fund	772-462-1670	4.2077	243,765	50,000	193,765	815.30
Childrens Service Council	772-408-1100	0.4544	243,765	50,000	193,765	89.05
St Lucie Co Fire District	772-821-3342	3.1000	243,765	50,000	193,765	581.34
FL Inland Navigation Dist	561-627-3386	0.0320	243,765	50,000	193,765	6.20
City of Port St Lucie	772-871-5069	4.8807	243,765	50,000	193,765	945.71
City of PSL Voted Debt	772-871-5069	0.7193	243,765	50,000	193,765	138.35
School Discretionary	772-429-3970	0.7480	243,765	25,000	218,765	163.64
School Capital Improvemnt	772-429-3970	1.5000	243,765	25,000	218,765	328.15
School Req Local Effort	772-429-3970	3.8050	243,765	25,000	218,765	788.65
School Voter Referendum	772-429-3970	1.0000	243,765	25,000	218,765	218.77
Mosquito Control	772-462-1670	0.1352	243,765	50,000	193,765	26.20
S FL Wtr Mgmt District	561-686-8800	0.2572	243,765	50,000	193,765	49.84
MILLAGE CODE 0011	TOTAL MILLAGE 24.0564	TOTAL AD VALOREM TAXES		\$4,832.64		

NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS		
LEVYING AUTHORITY		AMOUNT
PS81 Port St Lucie Stormwater Improv/Maint	772-871-5069	168.00
PSSW PSL Solid Waste Assessment	772-871-5069	281.92
TOTAL ASSESSMENTS		\$449.92
COMBINED TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS		\$5,282.56

Pay One Amount (Discount Already Deducted) | If Postmarked By Please Pay | Nov 30, 2021 \$5,071.26 | Dec 31, 2021 \$5,124.08 | Jan 31, 2022 \$5,176.91 | Feb 28, 2022 \$5,229.73

RETAIN THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS



CHRIS CRAFT County Tax Collector
TAX COLLECTOR
 ST. LUCIE COUNTY

P.O. Box 308
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I am paying the following amount (check only one box):

Nov 30, 2021	\$5,071.26
Dec 31, 2021	\$5,124.08
Jan 31, 2022	\$5,176.91
Feb 28, 2022	\$5,229.73
Mar 31, 2022	\$5,282.56

Checks payable to St. Lucie County Tax Collector
 U.S. funds only through U.S. bank
 No postdated checks - Print receipt online

City of Port St. Lucie's Bond ratings improve in 2021

S&P Global Ratings (S&P) — one of the world's big three credit agencies — has upgraded the City of Port St. Lucie's approximately \$50 million in Capital Improvement and Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2021 bond rating from A+ to AA, the third highest possible S&P rating. This rating is the highest the City has achieved in approximately 33 years and will allow the City to issue debt at lower borrowing costs.

The S&P rating upgrade is largely attributable to the City Council's prudent fiscal policies and direction, stable and strong senior management team, sustainable budgeting and financial policies and practices, improved reserve position to weather the next down-cycle and robust tax base. These ratings indicate the bonds issued are high quality and low risk.

The bond ratings reflect the economic stability of the City of Port St. Lucie and the fact that the City has been a good steward of citizens' tax dollars. This higher bond rating means \$600,000 to \$1 million in present value interest savings over the life of the 30-year bond. While focusing on reducing the City's debt, the successful bond issue will increase resources for the following projects:

- New Public Works building
- New Police training facility
- Torino Regional Park
- Tradition Regional Park
- Adaptive traffic light system

In addition, credit rating providers Fitch Ratings and S&P have upgraded the City of Port St. Lucie's rating for its use of approximately \$36 million in revenue bonds to finance various Utility Systems' capital improvement projects.

Fitch assigned the City a "AA-" and S&P assigned a "AA," moving the bond rating to a positive outlook and high grade investment. These ratings also indicate that the bonds issued to Utility Systems are high-quality and low risk. The credit rating scale forecasts an organization's ability to pay off future debt and determines the cost of interest.

The bonds will be used for the acquisition, construction, and/or equipping of the following projects:

- Two western Floridian wells at the James E. Anderson Water Treatment Plant
- Phase 2 of the Western Raw Water Main to connect three of the four new wells at the James E. Anderson Water Treatment Plant
- Prineville Deep Injection Well is a required backup
- Floresta Phase 3 to relocate utility lines from Crosstown Parkway to Prima Vista Blvd.
- Northport Booster Force Main to Glades Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades to accommodate future growth
- Mandated required upgrades to Westport Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Tradition Reuse Line to provide reuse to future customers

Additionally, the Utility Systems 2014, 2016, and 2018 bond series have also been upgraded from a "AA-" to "A+," according to the Fitch report which states, "the city maintains rate-setting autonomy and very strong rate flexibility attributable to the low cost of service relative to household income levels amid a growing customer base."





Mobility Plan and Fees addresses future transportation needs

On Sept. 13, 2021, the City of Port St. Lucie adopted a Mobility Plan and Fee. As the City of Port St. Lucie has grown to more than 214,000 residents, City leaders are working to implement strategies to manage the growth and smartly address future challenges brought by new residents and new development, especially concerning traffic, mobility and transportation.

City leaders have heard from residents who are concerned about a lack of mobility as the city grows.

According to our 2021 scientific community survey, about 70% of survey respondents gave high marks to the ease of travel by car and the ease of public parking in Port St. Lucie. However, respondents were more critical of other mobility characteristics in Port St. Lucie and were assessed below the national benchmark. Ease of walking and the overall quality of the transportation system received either excellent or good marks from only about 4 in 10 respondents, while ease of travel by bicycle was scored positively by only 31% of community members.

The City's Budget Advisory Committee analyzed the current road impact fee system and recommended Port St. Lucie move away from an inequitable and rigid impact fee system for roads to a more flexible mobility plan/fee system. The Mobility Plan and Fee provides the City Council greater flexibility to determine when, what types of projects and how quickly projects will be built in and close to Port St. Lucie. The Mobility Fees provide a greater range of options for use of the funding than impact fees, including bike lanes, sidewalks, trails and roads. The Mobility Plan/Fee system is approved by the Florida Legislature for use by all cities and counties.

Residents and property owners do not pay this fee. The mobility fee would be paid for by builders/developers on new construction in lieu of the road impact fees they now pay.

"This will be a significant change to how business has been conducted in the past for the transportation impacts of new development and redevelopment," said Port St. Lucie City Manager Russ Blackburn. "Our residents will be the primary beneficiary of this change: it will inject more transparency into the process, provide greater personal transportation mobility options, and secure quicker and more certain mobility improvements to our transportation system network."

City tackles solid waste collection issues

The City was tasked in 2021 with stepping up in many ways to address issues our contractor Waste Pro had with waste collection throughout the City. In fact, Port St. Lucie's homeowners did not see an increase in their annual property tax bill for solid waste. The City Council unanimously voted to utilize funds from fines assessed against Waste Pro for poor performance under the contract to pay for the \$2.82 per customer contractual adjustment. City Council took this measure to give back to every resident who has received inconsistent services.

One of the biggest ways staff addressed service issues was the Neighborhood Services Department partnered with the Public Works Department to assist in the collection of yard waste throughout the City. In total, more than 60 employees participated in a sweep over the course of several weeks to collect yard waste that had gone previously uncollected by Waste Pro. During this sweep, the department was also able to partner with the Information Technology Department to create maps that tracked our progress and let citizens know where our forces were collecting yard waste.

To ease the waste accumulation and to provide residents with another option rather than waiting for service, the City also established four self-serve drop-off sites. These free, bulky and yard waste drop-off collection sites remained open for several weeks as several hundred residents took advantage of the opportunity to quickly dispose of their bulk waste.

The City's Communications Department took extra steps to keep customers informed about the status of waste collection, including weekly email, frequent social media posts and website updates and two citywide printed mailers.

The Neighborhood Services department also is looking at the future of solid waste collection to identify new long-term and short-term solutions. The City partnered with the national behavioral scientist consultants, Behavioral Insights Team (BIT), to provide support and resources to help address issues related to waste management, trash, and recycling. The City also formed a citizen-driven Solid Waste Task Force to gather input on proposed City solid waste program modifications to current and future contracts. The Solid Waste Advisory Task Force will provide recommendations to the City Council in 2022.





City receives high honor for performance management

The City has been recognized with a Certificate of Excellence in Performance Management from the International City/County Management Association. This award is a testament to the City's efforts to incorporate performance management into its public reporting, training, and planning. This is the highest level of recognition from ICMA – and the first year the City has applied for it!

In addition, City Manager Russ Blackburn's work to promote and grow talent within the City of Port St. Lucie organization was honored in 2021 by the Florida City County Management Association. The Michael J. Roberto Award for Career Development recognizes a FCCMA member who has made a significant contribution to the development of new talent in professional local government management, including fostering mentoring and internships. This award is a memorial to Mike Roberto, a past president of the FCCMA and a recognized leader in the development of public management careers.

PSLPD earns CALEA "Accreditation with Excellence" and CFA Excelsior Status

The Port St. Lucie Police Department is the only agency accredited by both the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) and Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) in St. Lucie County.

Since 1991, the PSLPD has maintained its initial CALEA accreditation, joining the 5% of law enforcement agencies throughout the country accredited through CALEA. In 2021, during a formal review by CALEA, which occurs every four years, the PSLPD was awarded with the designation of "Accredited with Excellence". The CALEA Accreditation with Excellence Award is intended to provide agencies the chance to be recognized for the effective use of over 400 mandatory and elective standards for enhanced public safety services and management professionalism.

Since 1997, PSLPD has been accredited by the State of Florida's C.F.A. and currently holds an "Excelsior" status. Excelsior Status is the CFA's highest form of recognition for continued excellence in the field of law enforcement accreditation. To achieve Excelsior status, a Florida agency must have achieved initial accredited status and then achieved five successful re-accreditation assessments without conditions. Assessments are conducted at three-year intervals, therefore the Excelsior process takes approximately 15 years for an agency to acquire.

Undergoing the voluntary national and state accreditation processes provides PSLPD with a quality assurance review and encourages intense self-scrutiny, resulting in more efficient and effective daily operations. For citizens, the reaccreditation process provides a clear indication of the department's commitment to professional law enforcement.





Parks & Recreation earns CAPRA Accreditation

The Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation Department in 2021 joined the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA.) To receive CAPRA accreditation, PSLPRD must meet 92%, or 142 of the 154 CAPRA standards, and must continually meet additional criteria in their future reaccreditation. In addition, the department had to demonstrate compliance for 36 fundamental standards and 106 of 118 non-fundamental standards for this initial accreditation.

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

PSLPRD is proud of this achievement and is committed to providing a physical environment for the personal space to increase the overall health and inspiration while creating opportunities for high-quality programs for the City of Port St. Lucie.



Staff help save life in dramatic rescue

On Friday, July 2, 2021, the actions of several City employees contributed to saving the life of a construction worker.

Several Utility Systems Commercial Development employees watched as contractors set the wet well base in Veranda Estates North of Becker Road. The 8-foot diameter base is housed 31 feet deep. Project coordinators AnneMarie Ludlum and Colleen Jacobsen went to lunch, and while off-site, inspectors Anthony Campagna and Christian Philips sent pictures to Colleen of the second piece being set.

The photos showed water covering the base.

Colleen knew water intrusion or debris could destabilize the base and compromise the integrity of the project and she immediately called her boss, Laney Southerly, and Kinan Husainey to inform the engineers of the water intrusion. Then, she and AnneMarie then went back to the site.

As they approached the massive 30-foot deep open pit, with water pouring in, they noticed an employee of the contractor, Ed, stuck in the mud now above the base previously installed. The contractors were attempting to pull Ed out with the crane. AnneMarie, concerned for his life, asked if anyone had called 911 but received a negative response.

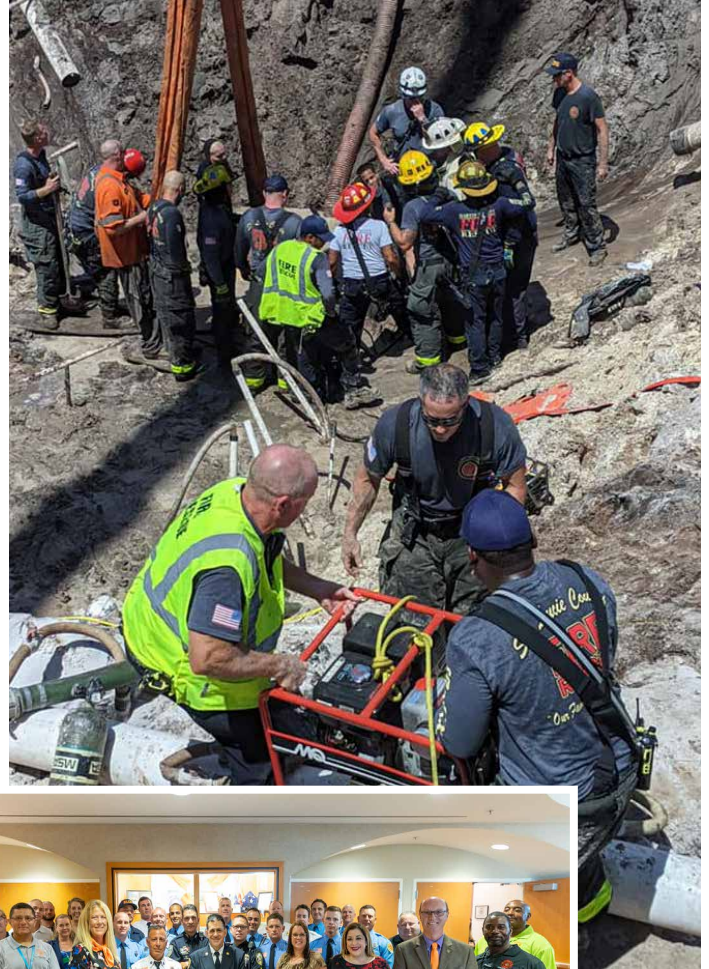
Colleen watched one attempt to pull Ed out of the mud from the crane already onsite for the scheduled work, and when that attempt failed, she called 911. The dispatcher requested guidance to direct first responders as the construction site is far back from Becker Road and hidden behind a tree line. Separate requests were made from 911 dispatchers through Connection Support and Emergency Management requesting immediate response from any and all pump trucks (vacuum). Public Works and Utilities routed all available equipment to the scene.

Over the next 90 minutes, Anne-Marie directed first responders (EMS, St. Lucie County Fire District, Martin County Fire Rescue and the Port St. Lucie Police Department) and the Utilities Department and Public Works fleet responding to assist in rescue efforts. Ed was now completely submerged, but Fire Rescue divers were with him.

If Colleen had not called 911 when she did, EMS may not have arrived to the site on time. USD staff arriving on site reported back a very grim situation, and although Fire Rescue was able to provide Ed with a SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) to stay alive, first responders could not get the vacuum trucks close enough to the massive excavation site.

USD and PW staff used their training and expertise to devise an alternate plan to assist the first responders by connecting the vacuum truck stacks to try to reach the trapped worker, specifically to use the water jet on the vacuum truck to blast away the dense soil around him. While USD and PW employees were running this equipment, a few more were supporting and re-positioning the vacuum truck stacks on the slope of the site, and one was actually in the water using hand signals with the first responders and the crane operator to synchronize the jetting and the lifting of the employee.

Ed remained submerged for more than two hours, but thanks to the training and immediate response by first responders and City employees, Ed is alive today.



Chuck Proulx, Director (retired), Parks & Recreation



In 1981, when Chuck Proulx joined the City, Port St. Lucie's population hovered around 15,000. When he retired 30 years later, close to 165,000 people called our City home.

"We had to keep up with that surge of people," Proulx said. "The City just kept growing."

When the Parks and Recreation departments merged in the early 1990s, Proulx was named Director. During his tenure, several parks were developed, including McChesney, Sandhill Crane and Charles E. Ray parks.

Proulx also led the creation of the popular Bonfire Hayride. Today, it takes place at McCarty Ranch Preserve, but its original home was in a field on Darwin Boulevard.

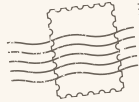
"It was an old cattle ranch where Treasure Coast High School is now," he said. "We did quite a bit of development in the years I got there."

But Proulx's the first to admit he was just a player in the entire process. He credits City management, employees and citizens as "the key parts to any well-run operation."

That camaraderie and the joy he felt watching families have fun at City parks, are some of Proulx's fondest memories.

"I'm a big advocate of parks and their importance to a community, especially a growing community," he said. "It helps develop a sense of identity for the folks who live in the City. It was very rewarding to watch all of that happen."

Which James Bond movie was filmed along the St. Lucie River?



- a. Live and Let Die
- b. Moonraker
- c. A View to a Kill
- d. The Man with the Golden Gun



PSL closer than ever to creating a new City Center

The year 2021 was pivotal for the property known as City Center, located at the southeast corner of Walton Road and US Highway One. In late 2020, City Council authorized the City Manager to negotiate a Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) for the acquisition of 21 privately-owned City Center parcels, which are currently held in Receivership by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

After successful negotiations with numerous taxing authorities in early 2021, settlement agreements were executed to remedy outstanding taxes and tax certificates on the 21 City Center parcels. The City is hopeful that the PSA will be fully executed by the end of 2021 and both parties can move forward to a swift closing.

The City's acquisition efforts represent the most viable option for bringing City Center back to life. Once in City ownership, the City will be initiating a master planning effort to include strong public engagement on developing City Center, which will determine which parcels will be held for civic use and which parcels will be marketed for redevelopment.

New City Clerk takes helm in 2021

The City Clerk's Office works to preserve and archive the actions of City Council and its Boards and Committees for future generations to research and study. After more than 27 years of service to the City of Port St. Lucie, City Clerk Karen Phillips retired in 2021. Sally Walsh, who has served in the Clerk's Office since 2006, was sworn in as our new City Clerk.

Sally, who served as Assistant City Clerk since 2014, received her Certified Municipal Clerk Certification (CMC) from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in November 2013. She continues to be a member of the Florida Association of City Clerks and continues annual trainings with the Florida Department of State Bureau of Archives and Record's Management, Florida Institute of Government, and the Florida Commission on Ethics.

Sally has lived in the City Port St. Lucie since 1988. She's worked for the City of PSL since 2001, when she began as a customer service specialist in the Utility Systems Department.



City Clerk by the Numbers 2021

65 Council Meetings
Attended

24 Elections Processed
- Street Lighting and
Candidate Elections

267 Board and Committee
Meetings Attended

684 Internal Written,
Verbal and
E-Mail Requests
for Records &
Research

710 Records Processed
(Boxes)

1.87 Average initial response time
for public records requests
-Excluding City Attorney's
Office & Human Resources
days

Clerk's Office expands digital program

The City Clerk's Office has been utilizing an electronic agenda creation software called Legistar since 2019. The program has been a major asset to the organization throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and has allowed residents to have direct online access to all information regarding City Council and Advisory Board meetings. Driven by this success and the continued desire to advance with the changing culture, the City Clerk's Office has expanded its electronic platform to include an electronic way for citizens to review vacancies and apply for various Advisory Boards/ Committees. This application process has simplified the ability of our residents that wish to offer their services to make the City a better place to live. The end goal of the City Clerk's Office is to have a completely electronic process that reduces the reliance on paper while ultimately saving thousands of dollars each year.



PSL continues to be a Best Place to Work

The City of Port St. Lucie was recognized as one of the “Best Places to Work” in St. Lucie County – the fourteenth year the City has earned this prestigious honor. Port St. Lucie has earned the Best Place to Work from the St. Lucie County Human Resource Association, for years 2003-2009 and 2015-2020, for providing a first-class work environment for City employees. The award is given to local employers whose personnel practices are considered the best in the county. Employers are evaluated based on the number of employees, and with more than 1,200 workers, Port St. Lucie is considered a leader in establishing a professional working environment.



PSL staffer named HR Professional of the Year

For the first time, Personnel Dynamics also selected a Human Resources Professional of the Year for the Treasure Coast that was awarded at the Best Places to Work ceremony. According to Personnel Dynamics, the award was to “recognize an outstanding HR Professional’s achievement in successfully implementing change initiatives within their organization.” Human Resources Director Natalie Cabrera was one of two recipients selected for that honor; she was selected due to her focus on cross training, organizational development, succession planning, and implementation of a training program, among other areas of significance.

84%

of employees rated PSL as a place to work as excellent or good.
(higher than benchmark)

91%

of employees said they were very or somewhat likely to recommend working for the City.
(higher than benchmark)

90%

of employees said they strongly or somewhat agree on overall job satisfaction.

95%

of employees rated strongly or somewhat agree on working for the City a year from now.

Employee survey provides insights into PSL's organization compared to others across the nation

Port St. Lucie's Human Resources Department partnered with the National Research Center/POLCO and invited staff to participate in the National Employee Survey. The survey provided opinions of employees regarding their satisfaction on the job and other key characteristics of a quality work environment. The survey captured employee's opinions within the six aspects of organizational climate: Job Satisfaction, Supervisor and Work Group, Executive Leadership, Workplace, External Customers and Support Services. The survey compared Port St. Lucie against other national municipalities and in many categories, and the City received results similar to or higher than industry benchmark for the second consecutive year.



88%

of employees rated strongly or somewhat agree on their values matching or fitting with the values of the City.
(higher than benchmark)

72%

of employees rated receiving recognition or praise in the last seven days.
(higher than benchmark)

71%

of employees rated coaching or mentoring employees positively.
(higher than benchmark)

67%

of employees rated opportunities to develop a career path positively.
(higher than benchmark)

Communications Department named Storytelling Changemakers



Results for America announced that the City of Port St. Lucie's Communications Department received the 2021 Sharman Stein Award for Storytelling Changemakers. This national award, which honors the memory of What Works Cities' founding Director of Communications, recognizes a city official or team that draws on the power of public communication to cultivate trust and collaboration between local government and residents.

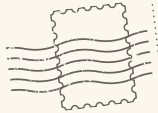
PSL's Communications Department is only the third in the nation to receive this honor. It recognizes the team's commitment to advancing Stein's vision for cities to engage the community to build trust and to become actively involved in civic life. A few of the Department's achievements include:

- According to the National Community Survey, more than 60 percent of resident participants rated the City's availability of information, use of social media, and quality of video as excellent or good.
- The team's creative outreach efforts dramatically increased attendance at the Citizen Summit, including for its virtual event this past year. Outreach included a website and Feedback Report Video.
- Helped the city achieve its goal of exceeding its 2010 response rate in the 2020 US Census through a targeted data-centric Census educational and marketing campaign, ultimately helping Port St. Lucie to exceed the county, state and national response rate in 2020.
- Created an extensive COVID-19 outreach program, including Facebook Live Town Halls with state and national representatives, weekly update videos with the City Manager, direct emails to residents, and a constantly updated website landing page, targeted to both residents and businesses.

Lorraine Prussing, Office Manager, Planning & Zoning

Where was City Hall
first located?

- a. Prima Vista Boulevard
- b. U.S. 1
- c. Morningside Boulevard
- d. Port St. Lucie Boulevard



Lorraine Prussing joined the team in 1983, and during that first year, she and her colleagues began work on the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Consultants would send chapters electronically, and staff would make changes and updates to the documents.

However, adjustments needed to be made to the workflow, especially during the summer.

"The afternoon lightning storms would cause power surges, and we'd lose everything we were working on," Prussing said. "Those chapters were retyped many times."

That's because 38 years ago, there was no back-up system. Employees tried to avoid entering information into computers after 3 p.m., at least during the rainy season, Prussing said.

Eventually, technological advances allowed Planning & Zoning to "go paperless," making the department more efficient in retaining and sharing records.

"It improved communication with our citizens and allowed them greater involvement in the development of their city."

Prussing has borne witness to good City planning, "from the beginning applications to driving by completed buildings." It also helps that the diversified, rewarding work is constantly challenging.

"I get to work with a variety of people every day ... citizens, developers, fellow staff members, the City's boards and committees," Prussing said. "I've enjoyed working with a great staff."



2021



PERSONNEL HANDBOOK RULES & REGULATIONS

WWW.CITYOFPSL.COM/WATERCOOLER



The Personnel Rules & Regulations have been updated by HR and consolidated into one comprehensive rule book. The rule book was approved & adopted by City Council, via Ordinance 21-51, on June 14, 2021.

New Rules & Regulations provide updated, comprehensive citywide policies and procedures

One of the strategic goals of the Human Resources Department was to overhaul the Personnel Rules and Regulations and to update all policies and procedures. The City historically utilized two versions of the Personnel Rules for its workforce: One for bargaining unit employees (the "blue book") and the other for non-bargaining unit employees (the "white book").

When those two documents were adopted, a significant number of employees were not represented by a bargaining unit. However, due to the relatively recent unionization of a majority of the City's workforce, the utility of maintaining separate Personnel Rules for a minority subset of non-bargaining unit employees had diminished. On June 14, 2021, the City Council passed and adopted the revised Personnel Rules and Regulations, which include up-to-date and comprehensive policies and procedures that comply with federal, state, and local laws. The revisions also reflect the current standards of the City's operations and remove obsolete and legally outdated policies and procedures.

New guide helps staff navigate training offerings



The Human Resources Department launched its inaugural comprehensive city-wide training program. The City of Port St. Lucie is committed to providing exciting and diverse training opportunities for our staff. The training program consists of training for every level within the organization from personal development, supervisory up-skills, compliance training and health and wellness. Training adds value and long-term benefits for both the employee and the organization. Training is available to ALL City employees and on average the City spends upwards of \$1,000 per employee on training annually. In 2021, the City added its inaugural edition of the 80-page Training & Development Catalog.

Planning for a resilient community

Through two dynamic documents, the City of Port St. Lucie's Office of Emergency Management is identifying risks from natural hazards and developing long-term strategies that will reduce the impacts of future dangers on its citizens, their property and the environment.

PSL Emergency Management Office serves on St. Lucie County's multi-jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) committee. The committee, through St. Lucie County's Board of County Commissioners, Florida Department of Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), recently approved the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS), an "all-hazards" plan to assist the community in identifying, evaluating and planning for natural disasters. The LMS is intended to reduce St. Lucie County's long-term vulnerability to natural and technological hazards through various forms of mitigation. The LMS plan includes a Prioritized Project List, which is a listing of projects within the entire county, ranked by priority, submitted for grant funding whenever various FEMA mitigation grants become available. In the past several years, the City of PSL has received over \$6 million in grant funding, from City projects that were listed on LMS's Prioritized Project List

Additionally, to ensure that citizens have the highest level of service, PSL's Emergency Management Office drafted a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The newly developed CEMP is the "playbook" on how the City will handle all-risk emergencies and disasters. The detailed plan identifies essential employees, positions and responsibilities when an emergency is declared and how the City coordinates with St. Lucie County, the State of Florida and the federal government agencies. The plan also describes the Incident Command System (ICS) to be used to manage all emergencies within the City and has been approved by the County Public Safety Department as being compliant with all State requirements as well as coinciding with the County's CEMP. The plan is slated to be adopted by City Council in 2022 and will be shared on the City's Emergency Management webpage at www.CityofPSL.com/EM.

Innovation Academy spurs efficiency improvements

The City of Port St. Lucie is the first to employ a virtual training offering of national Innovations Expert Brian Elms' proven process improvement methodology designed specifically for governments. The curriculum is largely modeled after Denver's Innovation Academy, which Brian Elms co-founded and led to save \$30 million for the City and County of Denver. Port St. Lucie has embarked upon training all employees in this Innovation Academy, introducing and reinforcing proven techniques that draw upon industry best practices, process improvement and empowers employees to make meaningful and impactful organizational change. After three cohorts consisting of 15 employees each, PSL employees have created 28 different innovations across a multitude of departments that have been implemented and will be measured for their impact.

The PSL FORWARD Innovation Academy engages our most valuable asset as an organization – our employees – and provides them with the simple tools and techniques they need to tackle small, everyday problems and deliver big results to make innovation and continuous process improvement the future of our City.

All employees have access to the PSL FORWARD Innovation Academy, a training that combines innovation, lean and process improvement methodologies, and change management practices while using existing staff and monetary resources.

60 employees have attended the series from 14 different departments resulting in 30 different ideas and innovations.

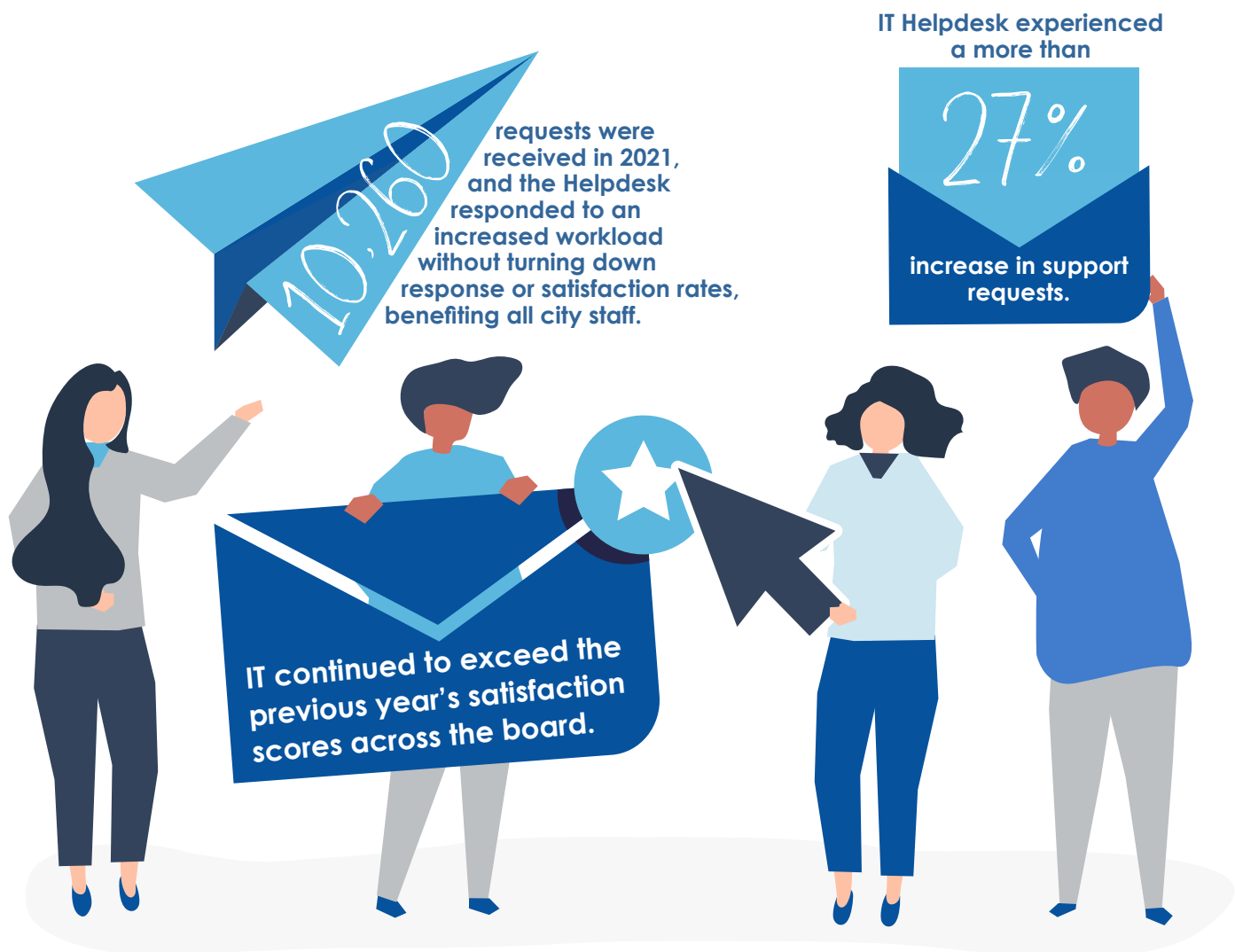
Communications saved over 250 hours of staff time tracking and editing document revisions using project software.

IT standardized and organized their programming script library to minimize creating duplicate script and making it easier to locate code and maps for GIS processes.

Neighborhood Services Division streamlined the Lien Order process and saved 121 extra hours to the department per year for other tasks.

The Building department standardized permit/revision applications and streamlined the pickup process, saving 104 hours a year for other tasks.

Finance modified the travel expense reimbursement process to an online process, and it saved 10 minutes to process the reimbursement and 15 minutes for Accounts Payable to process the check request for each travel request.



IT innovations advance employee collaboration

They may work mostly behind-the-scenes, but the Information Technology Department staff is crucial in keeping the City's systems safe and secure and in promoting organizational efficiencies through technology. In 2021, the IT department:

- Introduced, installed and trained users to advance the organization's utilization of Microsoft Teams. This was a huge effort by all members of the IT team, which has increased workplace productivity across City Hall. Microsoft Teams has allowed employees easier access to each other to collaborate virtually and promoted a remote work environment.
- The Programming Team developed software applications to assist Planning and Zoning, as well as Public Works, Utility Systems and Building Departments in their development review efforts. This has not only benefited city staff but also the citizens of Port St Lucie.
- The Programming Team created an application to aid the PSL Police Crime Scene Investigation Team with intake and management of their cases and associated lab work results.
- The Programming Team developed an application that helps the Neighborhood Services Department manage the various aspects of Code Compliance cases on properties throughout Port St. Lucie, such as violations, inspections, legal documentation and more.

Facilities Department made key improvements in 2021

The City's Facilities Department is essential to not only keeping buildings in excellent condition, but also many other organizational elements, including the City's fleet of vehicles and even fountains. In 2021, it developed a new work order system for streamlining services and increased efficiency. 81% of employees rated Facilities Management Services overall positively and 81% of employees rated Maintenance and Repair Services positively, higher than national benchmarks according to the National Employee Survey. In 2021, the Facilities Department:

- Completed major design projects for MIDFLORIDA Event Center's interactive fountain underground controls relocation, the Police building architectural renovations, the City Hall sculpture and City Hall generator replacement.
- Completed major construction projects for the Police Building entrance storefront replacements, MIDFLORIDA Event Center's Florida Sports Hall of Fame and other miscellaneous renovation projects, including replacement of aging air conditioning equipment at several facilities.
- Developed databases for building emergency generators and roofs for maintenance protocols.
- Improved process with the Procurement Division to surplus and auction vehicles to minimize storage time at the Public Works compound.
- Continued to develop staff and manage Capital Improvement Projects for all City departments.



Building Department maintains highest standards, shares knowledge

The City of Port St. Lucie's Building Department is proud to be one of four Building Departments in Florida that is accredited by both the IAS Accreditation Criteria for Building Code Regulatory Agencies and Third-Party Service Providers (AC251). Not only did the City's Building Department achieve the national standard, but their reaccreditation report indicated they exceeded almost all their service goals, including timeliness, accuracy and customer service. Furthermore, the majority of the goals were achieved with 100% compliance. The reaccreditation process involved an assessment of the department's goals, policies, and procedures, as well as permitting, inspections and plan reviews.

With achieving these accreditations, the Building Department prioritizes knowledge sharing. Their innovations and best practices have been exchanged with the City of Palm Bay's Building Department, and at the Building Officials Association of Florida's Emerging Technologies Conference, and the Best Practice Stakeholder meetings. The Building Department will present at the 2022 Building Officials Association of Florida's annual conference on customer service best practices.



Oct. 22 - Nov. 4, 2021		2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Permits Issued	2,421	60,343	52,355	41,504	39,899	32,020
Single-Family Permits Issued	236	4,721	3,592	2,722	2,200	1,518
Certificates of Occupancy (SFR)	159	3,107	2,893	2,711	1,824	1,382
Inspections Completed	7,986	174,594	155,421	137,302	115,073	84,510
Plans Reviewed	729	21,733	19,150	13,978	13,559	10,352
Online Permits Applied	1,852	41,757	26,855	18,395	13,421	8,346

Permitting activity continues to rise

The Building Department continues to see increased permitting activity every year – and 2021 was no different. By November 2021, the Department had issued 60,343 permits. Of those, 4,721 were for single-family residences. Even with two months left in the year, those tallies exceeded the number for all of 2020. To help make the permitting process more convenient for customers, the Building Department expanded its online permitting program to include all commercial permits. Over 85% of all building permits now are received electronically. Another innovation is the requirement of virtual reroofing inspections, which reduces City staff traveling time to each job site and eliminates inspector's risk of injury.

Grants & Advocacy Team secures \$35 million in funding for PSL priorities

The City's Strategic Plan envisions exciting projects and programs informed by the needs of our residents and designed to improve quality of life. Each year, the City includes funding in its budget to advance these priorities. One way the City team is working to leverage and accelerate projects identified in the strategic plan is to obtain federal, state and philanthropic grants through the Grants & Advocacy Team. Led by the City Manager's Office's Strategic Initiatives & Grants Team, the Grants & Advocacy Team includes representatives from all City departments seeking grants who strategically identify opportunities, work with our grants consultant Sustainable Strategies to prepare applications, advocate to our federal and state legislative delegation and implement a vast array of projects with support from each of the respective departments and the Finance Department. The Mayor and City Council help advocate for these funds on an annual basis at the federal and state level, working to bring more dollars to support PSL. In 2021, the City's Team secured over \$35 million in grant funds, advancing a wide range of projects both large and small, including:



- \$3,500,000 – Florida Job Growth Grant: To support infrastructure in the Southern Grove jobs corridor
- \$12,369,713 - American Rescue Plan Funding: The City Team received \$12,369,713, the first tranche of the \$24 million in funding directly allocated to the City of Port St. Lucie. Funding will support the City's ongoing emergency response to the pandemic, provide mortgage assistance and will support investments in broadband, water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure.
- \$5,000 – Florida Humanities Grant: To support bringing the Museum on Main Street Smithsonian's Water/Ways grant to the MIDFLORIDA Event Center and associated programming
- \$2,417,118 was awarded to the Public Works Department for various projects

Through working collaboratively and strategically seeking grants, the team is working to advance the City's High Performing Government Organization strategic goal.



High-Performance Public Spaces Team

In response to the needs of our growing City and requests of residents, the City has identified several important projects involving public spaces – from parks, to stormwater ponds to conservation lands and open green space. With limited land and funding, the City team has turned to a new approach: High-Performance Public Spaces (HPPS). The concept was brought forth from Dr. David Barth, who the City has worked with on strategic planning and park planning. Dr. Barth defines a HPPS as “any publicly accessible space that generates economic, environmental, and social sustainability benefits for their local community.”

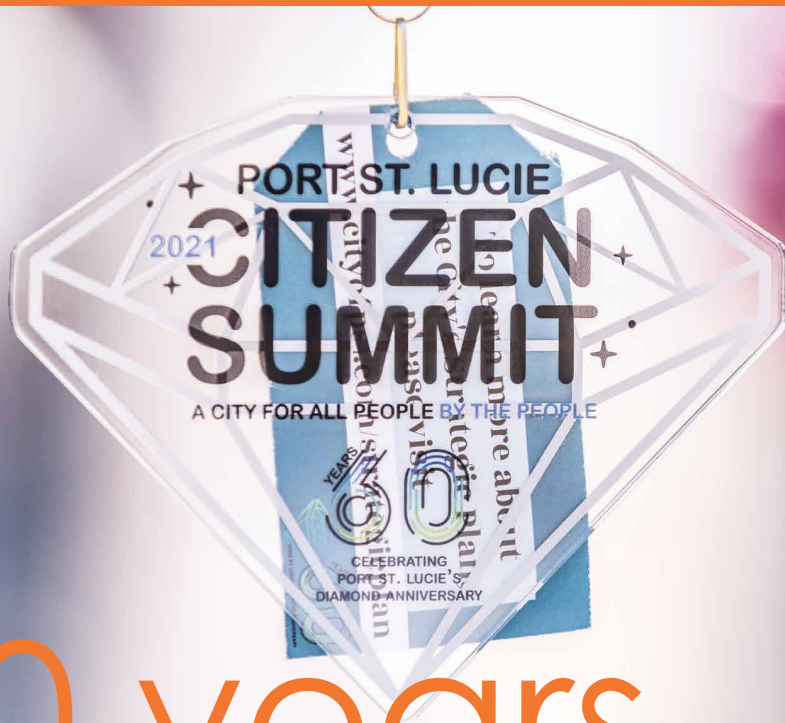
A HPPS can be a park, trail, square, green, natural area, plaza, or any other element of the public realm that generates all three types of benefits and meets 80% of the criteria identified. As the City Team works to identify land and projects and respond to resident requests to preserve and set aside more green spaces, the team is increasingly looking at ways to incorporate HPPS or multiple public benefits– and perhaps design a stormwater pond to also work as a small park, or a trail to incorporate stormwater design. The team looks at projects collaboratively during the planning and design process to make sure all potential benefits are considered. This year, the HPPS team worked with The Conservation Fund to perform a Rapid Open Space Assessment to identify ways to conserve and activate undeveloped lands. This identified potentially suitable lands currently owned by the City, as well as private lands that would strategically expand the open space. The team will be working on bringing projects and potential land purchases forward in the coming year.

In addition, the team helped support the design of the Wilderness Trail and future trail development, the new design for O.L. Peacock Park and Duck Court and a myriad of other projects. The team looks forward to delivering more high quality projects that deliver multiple benefits to residents.

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three



Community
Connections →

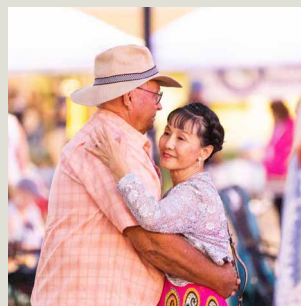


60 years *young*

It was a happy birthday, indeed, for the City of Port St. Lucie as hundreds of residents helped to celebrate our 60 years of incorporation at a birthday bash April 27 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center. It's estimated about 500 people attended the celebration.

More than a month of planning between the Communications and Parks & Recreation Departments culminated in a three-hour celebration that featured live music from The Authentics, two food trucks, two cash bars, lots of birthday cake and a free photo booth. Residents also signed four giant birthday cards and played a 10-question trivia game for prizes that included Port St. Lucie Police Challenge Coins, rounds of golf

at The Saints, fitness center memberships, tickets to the Event Center's We Love Lucie concert series and more! Staff also held a raffle for 60th anniversary commemorative hats, hid 60 diamond-shaped stress balls throughout the venue for a "gem hunt" and presented prizes to our social media scavenger hunt winners, who were invited to attend the party. First prize was four day passes to Club Med! Communications also gave away T-shirts, books and diamond pens. The City received nothing but positive feedback from residents and visitors who attended the celebration, saying they were excited to be able to get out during a weeknight and relax with others during such a special occasion.





Saints celebrates 60 years, too!

While the City celebrates its 60th Anniversary, there is one special place in Port St. Lucie which shares in the celebration: The Saints Golf Course. Opening alongside its then sister course, The Sinners, players were first introduced to The Saints Golf Course in 1961. The course, then part of the Port St. Lucie Country Club, became a destination for golf in South Florida, attracting the likes of Perry Como, Jerry Lewis, Margaret Trudeau and Dean Martin. The Saints has also hosted legendary golfers Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, Sam Snead and Mickey Wright.

In 2021, The Saints not only celebrates its 60th birthday, but also its 20th Anniversary as a City-owned facility. In 2001, the Port St. Lucie City Council approved the purchase of the course and placed its operations and maintenance in the capable hands of the Parks & Recreation Department. Since then, The Saints has been restored to its original glory, serving as a public, family-friendly, championship destination for golf, in the heart of the City's Sandpiper Bay neighborhood. This year, The Saints is also proud to have been named the "Best Golf Course on the Treasure Coast" by TCPalm.

The best is yet to come at The Saints. Continued course improvements and plans for new amenities, such as a modernized driving range and practice facility, ensure that the rich history of The Saints Golf Course will continue throughout the next 60/20 years!





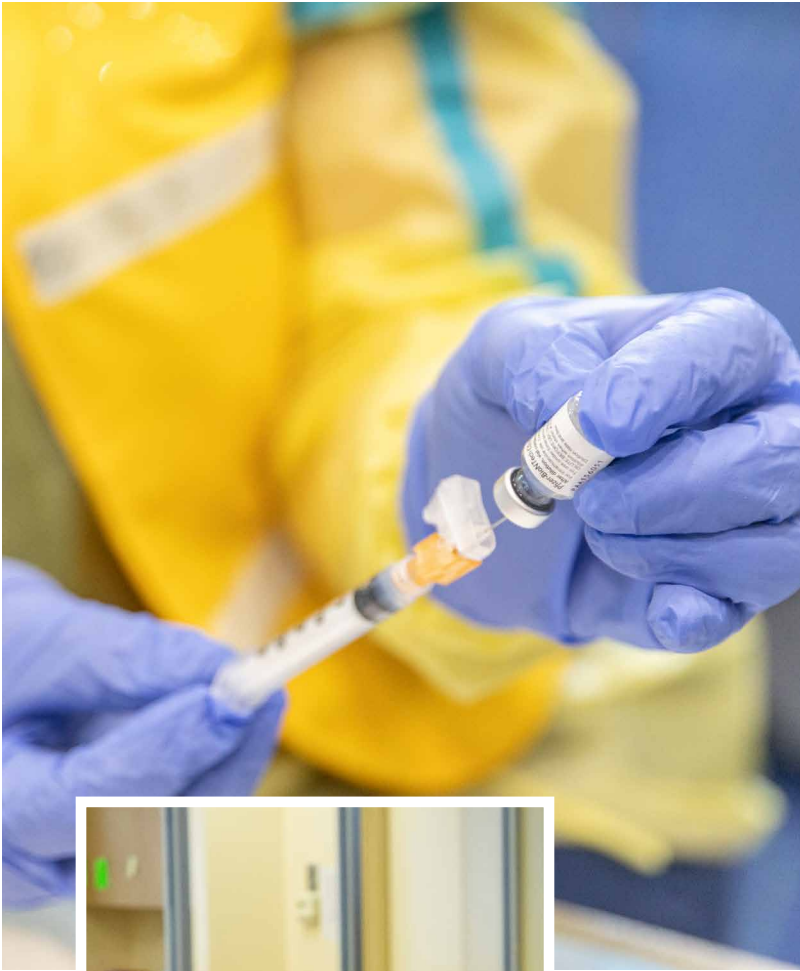
PSLinLights brings Holiday festivities for all to enjoy

The City's PSLinLights engagement program continues to grow with its celebrations for all ages! The family-friendly program had a string of fun activities, including dazzling lights and displays, a destination photo-op contest, a Facebook live holiday lights event, a residential outdoor holiday-decorating contest, a holiday lights map and seven festive outdoor events.

To start, residents were encouraged to snap a photo in front of one of the twelve life-size Holiday displays for a chance to win prizes. On December 17, 2021, the sixth-annual PSLinLights Holiday Outdoor Decorating Contest garnered over 100 residents for a chance to win tiered prize categories, including "New Kid on the Block," which was for first-time residential entries only. "PSL Showstopper" was a category for best overall PSL residential light display. Finally, "Light up the Neighborhood" was a category where residents were encouraged to gather at least six of their neighbors to enter their homes on the map for the City's most festive NICE neighborhood award. Once participants entered the contest, their information was displayed on a designed Google Map, which included pictures of the light displays.

Last and certainly not least, we wrapped up the festivities with the PSLinLights party. This free outdoor event included entertainment by Southern Sole Society, Somerset Academy Chamber choir, Treasure Coast Community Singers, Adrian Stoney with the Caribbean American Cultural Group and Preston Contemporary Dance Theatre. The night also served the crowds' appetite with yuletide refreshments such as steaming cups of hot cocoa, cookies, candy canes, and food trucks. Children's activities, an interactive tour of the most decorative residential holiday lights, and even a visit from Santa made the night even merrier! The event also brought its first-ever festive pet costume contest, where pet owners paraded their beloved pet in their 'holiday best' costume! PSLinLights Party garnered over 1,000 attendees.





Localized walk-in vaccine clinics continue

To lower the number of COVID-19 case numbers, severe illnesses and deaths, a localized immunization plan was established through the City of Port St. Lucie's Office of Emergency Management. Since March 2021, over 5,500 vaccines have been administered at no cost through a public-private partnership with Dr. Mark Pamer. The clinic administers Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots to eligible individuals.

On Nov. 8, 2021, the City recognized Dr. Pamer and his staff for their continuous efforts to vaccinate citizens, especially the most vulnerable. Over 25 clinics were established at various PSL locations, including houses of worship, local schools and colleges and city owned facilities.

The City's commitment to public health was a combined effort from the Facilities Department, Neighborhood Services Code Compliance Division, Port St. Lucie Police Department, Risk Management Department, Water Utilities Department, Public Works Department, and Human Resources Department directly supporting the vaccination points of distribution on site as well as remote support from the City Manager's office, the Communications

Department and the rest of the City's personnel. Personnel provided support with registration, traffic control, planning products, financial tracking and setup, and breakdown for the venues.

Through newsletters, social media and a comprehensive website, the Office of Emergency Management continues to communicate the many ways to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine now that the vaccines are widely available at many locations and times across the Treasure Coast. To search for a vaccination location, visit www.CityofPSL.com/vaccine and www.Vaccines.gov.



Residents vote to renew City tax-abatement program

Port St. Lucie residents on Dec. 7, 2021 voted “yes” to reauthorize the City to use a tax abatement tool for another 10 years. The program allows Port St. Lucie to compete with other cities across the country in creating new higher-paying jobs by expanding existing and new businesses.

The referendum passed overwhelmingly, 58.94% to 41.06%.

The Communications teamed up with the City Manager’s Office, Community Redevelopment Agency, City Council; the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce; the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County; the Realtors Association; and consultant Vancore Jones to create an educational outreach campaign to inform residents about the tax abatement program.

In just three months, the City developed the campaign, implementing tools such as news releases; email newsletters; guest columns in local newspapers; social media; City-wide banners and pull-up banners; digital ads; video; radio show interviews; direct mail; and in-person presentations.

A long-term goal of the City of Port St. Lucie is to support the growth of businesses to provide options for residents to work here in PSL. Currently 79,000 of our residents leave to work in counties to the south of us. Growing jobs in PSL has been a well-defined goal in the City’s Strategic Plan for many years. In recent years, the City has been making progress in bringing new businesses paying above average wages to the City — especially in our Southern Grove Jobs Corridor.

One of the reasons for this great progress is because the State of Florida has provided a crucial tool for cities and counties. This tool allows Port St. Lucie to compete with others across the country in creating new jobs by expanding existing and new businesses. This tool is in the form of an abatement (also known as reduction) of some property and intangible taxes for no more than 10 years. After year 10, the property is totally taxable. In order for a business to qualify for any abatement, the new jobs must pay greater than the average wage of the County.

This tool temporarily abates property taxes for the targeted businesses if they meet several criteria. It does not affect homeowner’s property taxes.

Thank you to Port St. Lucie voters for approving to renew this important tax abatement tool that will bring higher-paying jobs to our City!

Port St. Lucie residents elect new mayor and District 3 Councilman

Shannon Martin, who has served as a Port St. Lucie City Council member since 2010 and Vice Mayor since 2016, was sworn in as the City’s new mayor during a special City Council meeting in September 2021.

City voters elected her to serve as mayor during a special election on September 21. She received more than 65% of the votes cast.

“I want to thank the citizens of Port St. Lucie for their support and confidence and for entrusting me to serve in this very important position,” Mayor Martin said. “It’s an honor to serve our community, and I look forward to leading our City Council in making our great City the very best it can be.”

The special election was necessary after former Mayor Gregory J. Oravec resigned on June 30. Per the City Charter, Martin had to resign her District 3 City Council seat in order to run for mayor. After a run-off election on December 7, PSL voters choose Anthony Bonna to serve as the new District 3 City Councilman.



Who was Port St. Lucie's first mayor?



- a. William C. Farmer
- b. Eugene Kavanaugh
- c. Robert E. Minsky
- d. William B. McChesney

Sharon Herman, Building & Police departments



Sharon Herman remembers the grand opening of the City's first McDonald's.

"I never saw people so excited in my life," she remembers.

A lot has changed since the early '80s when Herman moved to Port St. Lucie – most notably, the influx of more than 180,000 residents -- but despite that boon, she still considers the City a bedroom community, one that "still has a little bit of that small town feel to it."

"This City is very homogenous. People seem to be very like-minded, which makes life very easy to live," Herman said. "It's still quiet. It's still peaceful."

Back in 1984, jobs were few and far between. People either worked at a bank, in the food industry or for the City, Herman said.

Too young to retire and in search of a job that allowed her to do multiple things, Herman joined the City as a police service aide. A year later, she transferred to the Building Department as a permit clerk, eventually retiring in 2009 as a supervisor.

Herman's 23½ years at the City were fulfilling and exciting, and she passed on that passion to her son, Kacey Donnell, now a lieutenant in the Police Department.

"I always had a great sense of pride in working for the City," Herman added. "I still take pride in saying I retired from the City."

Homebuilder, City partnerships allow 2 homes to be donated to PSL Gold Star families

In time for Veterans Day, on Nov. 10, 2021 the City organized a PSL's Gold Star Home Giveaway to award a home to the surviving family of Brendon Sandburg, Petty Officer, a Naval Hospital Corpsman. Thus, making the dream ownership became a reality for Kathi and Gene Sandburg, who lost their son in a Search and Rescue helicopter training exercise on Aug. 16, 2007.

Coordinated by the Neighborhood Services Department, GL HOMES agreed to build a 2,435-square-foot home with a forgivable mortgage. The City was proud to donate the lot to the selected family, vetted through St. Lucie County's Veterans Service Division. The new home consists of two-bedroom, two-bathroom, two-car garages, including a den, which will be completed in July 2022 and then donated to the Sandburg family.

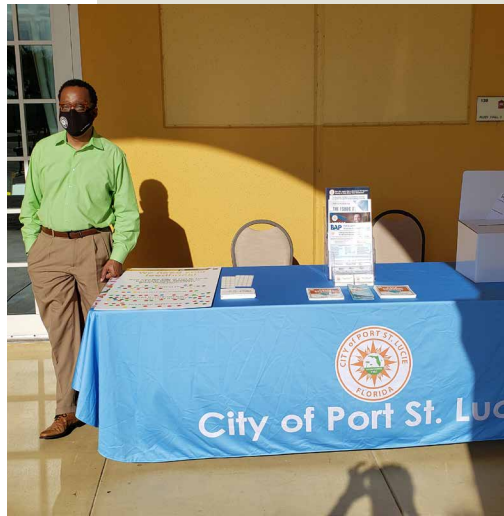
The home will be in the Woodland Trails neighborhood at 4602 SW Inagua St. in Port St. Lucie, Florida 34953. The Sandburg Family will live just two houses away from the Heintz family, Lisa, and her two sons, Dierk and Dominik, were the recipients of the inaugural PSL's Gold Star Family Home Giveaway in which Synergy Homes donated a brand new house on a lot donated by the City. Believe with Me Foundation will decorate and furnish the entire home. The City is honored to continue this important initiative and offer the American dream of homeownership to a deserving family.



Small Business Development a Priority for the PSL

To further the City's Strategic Priority to support small businesses, the City Council approved the Small Business Plan, which implements small business assistance workshops and new business orientation programs. In addition, the City Council approved \$50,000 for the St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce to provide small business assistance, including entrepreneurial training, business consulting, business navigation services, and small business promotion and vendor development.

Additionally, the Spring 2021 Business Accelerator Program offered 16 businesses a ten-week, three-hour course designed to guide them in building a firm foundation for successful and sustainable operations. Therefore, seven companies ranging from an online retailer, wellness and personal care services were approved for small business grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and totaling \$21,000 in grant commitments. Additionally, South State Bank provided a matching \$25,000 funding for the small business grant program.



In 2021, the City also supported the business community through:

- The St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce assisted 11 businesses that participated in Commercial Space Support Program. The Florida Small Business Development Center at Indian River State College (IRSC) counseled 299 small businesses.
- Small Business Development Center provided entrepreneurial training to over 20 small businesses in Port St. Lucie.
- Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) CARES Act & Export Center received CARES Act funding for one year for a full-time consultant to assist minority businesses impacted by the pandemic. Economic development partnered with MBDA to secure office space in the Enterprise Hub at IRSC.
- MBDA CARES Act and Export Center also provided business counseling to 40 minority businesses and entrepreneurial training to 55 minority businesses.
- Economic Development received approval from the Department of Economic Opportunity for the Florida Job Growth Grant totaling \$3.5 million to fund the construction of Anthony F. Sansone, Sr. Blvd, a 4,600 linear foot roadway including water, sewer, and utility infrastructure in Legacy Distribution Park at Tradition.
- FedEx Sortation Facility, Amazon Fulfillment Center, Cheney Brothers, Inc. and Jan Steel are projects that fostered job growth in Port St. Lucie.

City of PSL shares civic insights with schools during Government Week

Every October, the Florida League of Cities celebrates Florida City Government Week, and once again, the City of Port St. Lucie's Communications Department, with help from several City leaders, put together another successful Virtual Youth Town Hall.

A five-person panel – Mayor Shannon Martin; Communications Director Sarah Prohaska; Port St. Lucie Police Officer Fred Knaggs; Deputy City Attorney Ella Gilbert; and Strategic Initiatives Director Kate Parmelee – answered 44 questions from eager, energetic students at six different schools in Port St. Lucie. Most questions and answers were geared toward the District's civics curriculum.

There were six participating schools including: Somerset Preparatory Academy; Tradition Preparatory High School; Treasure Coast High School; Rivers Edge Elementary; Port St. Lucie High School; and Allapattah Flats K-8.

The three-hour Virtual Town Hall via Zoom was a huge success! Kate Ems, K-12 social studies TSA, shared this message with our staff: "The teachers have already started to share with me how excited their students were to participate."



Neighborhood Services assists in distributing rental and mortgage assistance

In 2021 more than \$9.9 million in financial assistance was made available to St. Lucie County residents through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and Mortgage Assistance Program to aid those who have been negatively financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both programs provided up to 12 months of financial assistance to be used for rent (past due, current month or up to three months of future rent, not exceeding a total of 12 months) and utilities, dependent on available funding.

The program was available to residents who qualified for unemployment or experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced a financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic on or after April 1, 2020. The City of Port St. Lucie's Neighborhood Services Department worked with St. Lucie County to make this assistance available to qualified city residents.

In addition, The City was awarded \$259,000 in rent relief funds through the Federal HOME program, managed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Seniors, age 62 or older, residing or working within the City limits, not earning more than the federal income limits, were eligible to apply for a minimum of 12 months of rental assistance.

Crosswalk Flag Pilot Project aims to improve safety

To improve pedestrian safety at selected crosswalk intersections, the Public Works Department implemented a See Me Flags Pedestrian Crosswalk Pilot Program. Flags have been provided for added visibility when crossing two-lane roadways and they are located at:

- Selvitz Road and N Macedo Blvd. intersection (marked crosswalk on the north side)
- Selvitz Road between Lybia Lane and Peachtree Blvd. (midblock marked crosswalk)
- Green River Parkway and Melaleuca Blvd. intersection (marked crosswalk on the south side)



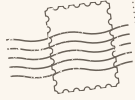
The pilot project, approved by the City Council, directed staff to evaluate crosswalk flags at three select locations. The flags are provided for use by pedestrians while crossing at the three locations to increase visibility and safety. The available flags can be picked up from a container on one side and then deposited in another container once pedestrians have completed crossing the roadway.

The key to the program's success is educating the public about pedestrian safety in Florida. Together, motorists and pedestrians can make safety a priority by following the state's pedestrian crosswalk law. Studies completed by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) determined that crosswalk flags are up to 80% effective at stopping cars when used by pedestrians using them at crosswalks (Source: <https://www.seemeflags.com>).



How many homes existed in Port St. Lucie in 1961?

- a. 750
- b. 400
- c. 250
- d. 100



Dorothy "Dottie" Wing, 49-year resident of Port St. Lucie



Dorothy "Dottie" Wing remembers just a one-lane road in and out of Port St. Lucie when she arrived nearly half a century ago.

Wing retired to Port St. Lucie from Rhode Island in 1972 with her husband, Howard, and they were some of the first homeowners in the Spanish Lakes retirement community.

If Wing wanted to shop for more than groceries, she remembers driving to Palm Beach County because "there was just a Sears Roebuck."

"There weren't any other stores," she said.

That's not the case anymore. In 2021, Port St. Lucie was home to more than 1,000 retail businesses, and residents are passionate about letting City officials know which of their favorites they want to see here in the future.

Wing, who turned 104 in September, has been living at Harbor Place in Port St. Lucie for the past four years. Her husband, Howard, passed away in 2001.

The reason Wing loves living in Port St. Lucie: "The good weather, most of the time, and the good people."



Community connections, academies key to helping keep PSL safe

The Port St. Lucie Police continues to build relationships within the community with the Citizens Police Academy. The Citizens Police Academy is an eight-week program, two nights a week, with Saturday field trips, that provide an overview of the structure and responsibilities of each division within the department. The department conducted a Citizens Police Academy in the Spring of 2020 and a Police Camp for youth in June 2020.

The Police Department has conducted 26 Citizens Police Academy classes with over 400 graduates. Many who complete training go on to become active police department volunteers within the agency; however, the vast majority, if not all, return to their community as better informed supporters of the agency's overall mission.

Adults aren't the only ones who can have this type of behind-the-scenes experience. The department in 2021 also continued its Junior Police Academy, for those ages 12 to 14. The Junior Police Academy is a two-week summer camp-style program designed to accomplish the same objectives for youth as the Citizens Police Academy does for the parents. To learn more, watch this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRjuyITbhCY>.



Your event *destination*



MIDFLORIDA Event Center hosts Smithsonian's traveling Water/Ways Exhibition

The MIDFLORIDA Event Center was expressly chosen by Florida Humanities to host "Water/Ways" as part of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program—a national/state/local partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to cultural organizations.

Florida Humanities awarded the City of Port St. Lucie a \$5,000 grant to execute this program. "Water/Ways" explores the endless motion of the water cycle, water's effect on landscape, settlement and migration and its impact on culture and spirituality. It looks at how economic planning have long been affected by access to water and control of water resources. This special exhibit was free and open to the public throughout November and December 2021 inside the event center's lobby.

City staff used this opportunity to team up with additional agencies to highlight this important topic in other ways, too. In addition to the exhibit, and in partnership with the Oxbow Eco-Center and the St. Lucie County Public Library System, "Water/Ways" featured numerous educational programs throughout the duration of the exhibit, including guided docent tours.

In partnership with the St. Lucie Cultural Alliance, a special art showcase also exhibited alongside the "Water/Ways" exhibition, featured masterpieces by legendary landscape photographer Clyde Butcher. Butcher, a self-taught professional photographer who is known for his remarkable black and white and landscape photographs, composes his work throughout the United States and helps the public experience scenes out of reach and untouched. "Living Waters and the Florida Landscape," a traveling show by the Aquatic Preserve Society, was unveiled at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center was on display through the duration of the "Water/Ways" Exhibit.



Florida Sports Hall of Fame now open at Event Center

Florida sports fans can enjoy the Florida Sports Hall of Fame at the MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Event Center. Founded by the Florida Sports Writers Association, the Florida Sports Hall of Fame honors the most significant sports figures and events to promote fitness awareness, education and sports activities among Florida's youth and adults.

The attraction includes more than 60 memorabilia exhibits from some of Florida's most well-known sports stars, including legendary golfer Jack Nicklaus; Coach Bobby Bowden; National Hot Rod Association legend "Big Daddy" Don Garlits; golfer Andy Bean, tennis great Chris Evert, football legend Bob Griese and many more. Each year, the exhibit is updated with new classes such as Tiger Woods, Pat Riley, Alex Rodriguez, Al Leiter, Alonzo Mourning, and Dara Torres inducted as part of the 2020 class.



Molly Hatchet & The Fabulous Thunderbirds open 2021 We Love Lucie Concert Series

Molly Hatchet and The Fabulous Thunderbirds co-headlined the first show in the 2020-2021 "We Love Lucie" Concert Series Saturday, November 20th.

Multi-platinum band Molly Hatchet firmly cemented its place in music history in the late 1970s after the release of its self-titled debut album in 1978. A perfect mixture of English invasion rock, blues, country and gospel remains the unique sound of Molly Hatchet. The band continued its worldwide tour in Port St. Lucie, performing classic hits such as "Flirtin' with Disaster," "Devil's Canyon," "Gator Country," "Whiskey Man" and "Dreams I'll Never See." After 40-plus years, the band is still workin' hard, playin' tough, livin' fast and Flirtin' with Disaster!

For over 30 years, The Fabulous Thunderbirds has been the quintessential American band. The group's distinctive and powerful sound, influenced by a diversity of musical styles, manifested itself into a unique musical performance via such barnburners as "Tuff Enuff" and "Wrap It Up."

The "We Love Lucie" Concert Series was created after residents who participated in the City's Annual Community Survey and Citizen Summit ranked bringing live music by national acts as a high priority for the future of the City.

MIDFLORIDA Event Center continues to expand cultural offerings and special events

Leaders at the MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Event Center know that partnering on diverse cultural events and with a variety of organizations helps build an inclusive community. In 2021, the Event Center celebrated the events and partnerships listed below as a way to bring people together and enable visitors to see the world through the lens of diverse experiences. The Event Center supports programs, exhibitions, and artists that enrich our communities and inspire new ways of thinking.



New signature special events

- Treasure Coast Seafood Festival
- Treasure Coast Garlic Festival
- Port St. Lucie Strawberry Festival
- Easter Family Fun Day
- Coastal Championship Wrestling
- Newbreed Ultimate Jiu jitsu Challenge
- Port St. Lucie Wine, Beer & Spirits Festival
- Treasure Coast Kids Expo
- Sanctuary Productions Spirit Fest Florida
- Exotic Bird Expo
- Smithsonian Waterways Exhibition
- Treasure Coast Women's Day
- Events 4 All Christmas Bazaar

Other Event Center Highlights:

- Puerto Rican Association for Hispanic Affairs (San Juan Festival & Freestyle Summer Fest)
- Treasure Coast Cultural Festival/ Haitian Flag Day
- Treasure Coast Puerto Rican Day Parade
- Caribbean American Cultural Group Ball
- St. Lucie Cultural Alliance – Celebrando, The Art of the Season
- Port St. Lucie Arts League Artists Exhibition
- Port St. Lucie Arts League Spring Pop-Up Art Show
- St. Lucie Cultural Alliance - Art & Mindfulness Festival
- Treasure Coast Photography - From the Heart
- Michael Alexander Photography
- The BEZO Show
- Clyde Butcher Photography - Living Waters and the Florida Landscape



2021 Special Events



Oktoberfest



Festival of Lights



Festival of Lights



Fall Fun Fest



Freedomfest



St. Patrick's Day Festival



River Nights



Harvest in the Gardens



Annual Citizen Summit draws hundreds of participants virtually and in person

After months of planning amid a global pandemic, the 2021 Virtual Citizen Summit, held Tuesday, March 2, in Council chambers, was a resounding success. More than 400 people registered via Zoom for the interactive virtual Citizen Summit, which was hosted live by Communications Director Sarah Prohaska and Director of Strategic Initiatives & Innovation Kate Parmelee. More than 200 unique viewers tuned in, 156 of them remained online for the duration of the two-hour event, and 2,000 views on Facebook were reached (and counting).

The Citizen Summit is a popular Port St. Lucie event where residents engage in fun and educational activities to learn about the City's seven Strategic Plan Goals and provide City leaders with valuable feedback. At the virtual Summit, after learning about the Plan and asking questions to project managers, attendees also participated in polls, a trivia contest to win prizes and were asked to share their ideas through a survey at the end of the event.

Besides the virtual Summit, residents could participate in the City's first-ever Strategic Plan Trail. Attendees were invited to take a socially distanced walk at the City's newest park, Winterlakes Neighborhood Park on Saturday, March 6, 2021, and learn about the City's Strategic Goals. Over 250 residents participate in person. As residents strolled along the sidewalk, they learned about current and future projects in this year's strategic plan while reading large signs along the path. Attendees were given a storybook along with an envelope with sticker circle dots, \$100 in play money, and suggestion cards. The stickers were used to answer questions along the trail, the play money was tallied by goal highlighting what attendees deem most important. Project managers were on hand to answer any questions and solicit feedback. There were fitness demonstrations and children's activities. At the end of the trail, a prize tent enticed citizens of all ages. Overall the residents enjoyed the outdoor fun. Two other smaller "pop up" Citizen Summit events were held in 2021 to give even more people a chance to offer the City their feedback.



Public Wi-Fi master plan in the works

To expand wireless connectivity for all residents, the City of Port St. Lucie, led by the Information Technology Department, is creating a new Wi-Fi master plan. This tool will help the City map out and create a timetable to expand Wi-Fi services within City parks. The goal will be to provide fiber connections and Wi-Fi coverage at six to eight parks per year for three consecutive years.

The background of the page is a solid gold color. Scattered across the page are four gold trophies, each with a cup and two handles, resting on a tiered base. The trophies are positioned in the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners. The word "Awards" is written in a white, cursive script across the center of the page, overlapping the trophies.

Awards

City staff were recognized for excellence by a variety of associations and esteemed groups, internally and externally throughout the United States — even internationally. The collective recognition in 2021 includes:

Building Department:

- Raising the Profile Award to Building Official Joel Dramis from the International Code Council
- Building Inspector of the Year Awarded to John Wolf from the Building Officials Association of Florida
- Department of the Year from the City of Port St. Lucie STAR (Special Thanks & Recognition) Awards

City Manager's Office:

- Certificate of Excellence in Performance Management from the International City/County Management Association
- The Michael J. Roberto Award for Career Development from the Florida City County Management Association
- Director of Strategic Initiatives Kate Parmelee was named Employee of the Year from the City of Port St. Lucie STAR Awards

Clerk's Office:

- Assistant City Clerk Bryan Pankhurst was presented with the Customer Service Award from the City of Port St. Lucie STAR Awards



Communications:



- Florida Public Relations Association, Treasure Coast Image Awards
 - » Image Award: 2020 Census Campaign
- American Advertising Federation
 - » Gold: 2020 Annual Report
 - » Gold: Welcome Guide
 - » Gold: Why I Wear A Mask Video
 - » Gold: The Port Logo
- Association of Marketing & Communication Professionals, Viddy Awards
 - » Gold: Homes for PSL Heroes
 - » Platinum: Our Water - The Evolution of Improving Water Quality in St. Lucie County
 - » Honorable Mention: Sylvia Harris - A life in law enforcement
- Association of Marketing & Communication Professionals, Dot Comm Awards
 - » Gold: Our Water: Video series tells the story of St. Lucie County's water history
 - » Gold: Speeding Prevention Website
 - » Platinum: Annual Report: Resiliency through Teamwork
 - » Honorable Mention: PSLinLights Video
- Association of Marketing & Communication Professionals, AVA Digital Awards
 - » Gold: 2019 Annual Report
 - » Gold: Welcome Guide
 - » Honorable Mention: 2020 Census Webpage
 - » Honorable Mention: Breaking Down Taxes Video
- Hermes Creative Awards
 - » Gold: State of the City video
 - » Gold: 2020 Annual Report
 - » Platinum: 2020 Census Campaign
 - » Platinum: Welcome Guide
 - » Platinum: Our Waters Video Series
- Telly Awards
 - » Bronze: Keep our Kids Safe PSL Speeding PSA
 - » Communicator Awards
 - » Award of Excellence: Welcome Guide
 - » Award of Distinction: Septic to Sewer Conversion
- Innovations Strategist Avi Monina was presented with the Duct Tape Award in the City of Port St. Lucie STAR Awards

Facilities:

- Building Facilities Coordinator Omar Bryan was presented the Stewardship Award from the City of Port St. Lucie STAR Awards

Finance:

- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. The City has earned this annual award for 31 consecutive years. For the second year in a row, the City received the Special Performance Measures Recognition as part of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for fiscal year 2020/21.
- Accreditation for Quality Public Procurement Departments, National Institute for Governmental Purchasing
- Award for Excellence in Public Procurement from the Florida Association of Public Procurement Officials
- Tyler Excellence Award for its use of Tyler's PACE program to help develop innovative ways to streamline processes.

Human Resources:

- Director Natalie Cabrera was named Human Resources Professional of the Year by Personnel Dynamics
- The City of Port St. Lucie was recognized as a Best Place to Work by the St. Lucie County Human Resource Association
- HR Manager Tracey Skinner was awarded the Fidge Award for Cyber Awareness in the City of Port St. Lucie STAR Awards

Parks & Recreation:

- Best in Innovation in Health Award for Healthy U: A Series of Conversations, National Recreation & Park Association
- Innovative Programming Award Community Building for Healthy U: A Series of Conversations, Florida Recreation & Park Association
- State Champions, eSports "Rocket League, 3v3," Florida Recreation & Park Association



- Best Golf Course on the Treasure Coast, Saints Golf Course, Best of the Treasure Coast by TCPalm.com

- National Champions, eSports "Rocket League, 3v3," Awarded by Mission Control
- Facility Showcase Award – Sportsman's Park Inclusive Playground Project and Outdoor Fitness Station, Florida Recreation & Park Association

Police Department:

- Award for Outstanding Agency for 2020 to the Animal Control Division from the Florida Animal Control Association.
- Based on a nomination by State Rep. Toby Overdorf, Assistant Chief of Policed Richard Del Toro was sworn in as "Officer of the Day" in the Florida House of Representatives.
- Lt. Michelle Steele spent nearly three months at the Southern Police Institute (S.P.I.) at the University of Louisville. She was one of 38 students in the 145th Administrative Officers Course. Overall, 32 agencies from 17 states were represented. Lieutenant Steele also received the B. Edward Campbell Award for Outstanding Service.
- Det. Rafael Rodriguez was named Port St. Lucie Police Department's Detective of the Year.
- Officer Jesse McInerney was named the Department's Officer of the Year.
- Gretchen Raziela, Model Traffic Stop Coordinator, was named Civilian of the Year.
- Shelia Taylor was named the Department's Volunteer of the Year.



Public Works:

- Rick Perkins, Facility and Fleet Maintenance Project Manager, received the Meritorious Service Award from the Florida Chapter American Public Works Association
- Port St. Lucie named a 2021 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. The City also received a Tree City USA Growth Award for the 15th year for demonstrating environmental improvement and higher level of tree care.

Keep Florida Beautiful Awards:

- Adopt-A-Program Recognition (Del Webb at Tradition)
- Outstanding School/Education Involvement (Buddy Bench)

Crosstown Parkway:

- American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials
- Pre-Construction Engineering \$100 million or Greater, Most Value-Added Proposal
- Florida Transportation Builders Association
- Florida's Best in Construction, Local Agency Program
- Engineering News Record (ENR) - Southeast Region
- Highway/Bridge, Best Project
- Design Build Institute of America (DBIA) – Florida Region



- Transportation – Structures, Project of the Year and Best Overall Project
- Roads & Bridges (Leading Trade Publication)
- Top 10 Bridge Projects for 2020, 8th Place
- Engineering News Record (ENR) - National
- Highway/Bridge, Best of the Best
- American Council of Engineering Companies - FL
- Design Build Project, Outstanding Project
- American Public Works Association - FL
- Transportation – Structures, Project of the Year – More than \$75 Million
- Design Build Institute of America (DBIA) – National
- Transportation - Award of Merit and Award of Excellence

Utility Systems:

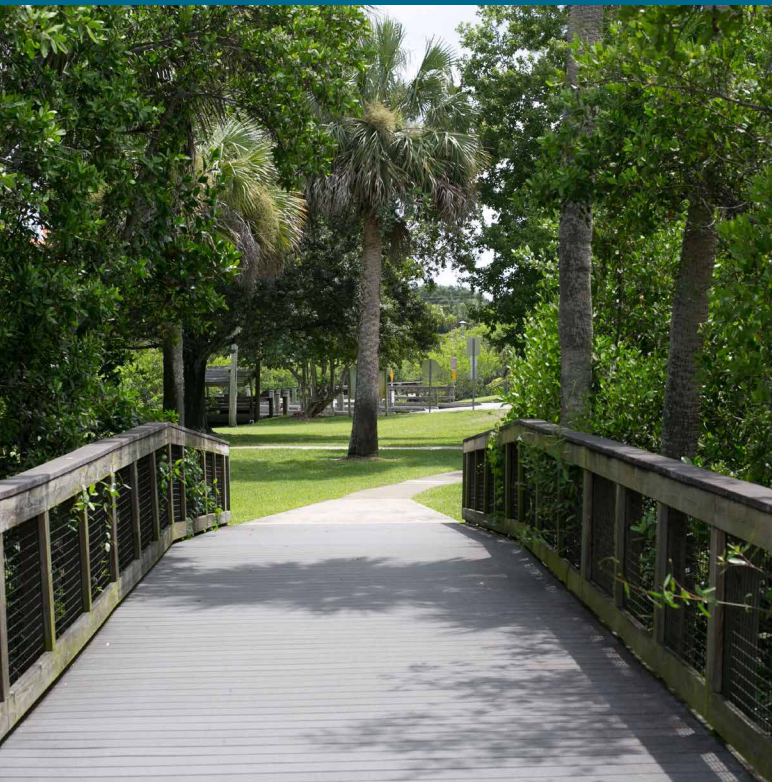
- **The Florida Water and Pollution Control Operators Association Awards:**
- **Tim Vanasdale, Chief Operator of the James E. Anderson Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant, was honored with the Raymond Bordner Award for his 35 years of outstanding service.**
- **Pretreatment Coordinator Kevin Palmer received the Robert Heilman Industrial Pretreatment Award for his Industrial Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) Program.**
- **The Utility Systems website was recognized with the Walt Smyser Outstanding Website Award for its user-friendliness.**
- **Florida Industrial Pretreatment Association (FIPA) Award:**
- **Pretreatment Coordinator Kevin Palmer presented with first place recognition for his 2020 Public Outreach Contest Small Recycling Program.**
- **Florida Public Relations Association of the Treasure Coast Image Award:**
- **Utility Marketing Coordinator Jenny Tomes, APR received an Award of Distinction for the Little Lessons Online Video Library**
- **Outreach Coordinator Jenny Tomes was named Humanitarian of the Year in the City of Port St. Lucie STAR Awards**

Other City of PSL STAR

Award winners:

- **Team of the Year: HR COVID Team & Becker Road Rescue Team**
- **Project of the Year - The Water Cooler (HR & IT) internal website**
- **Russ Blackburn Mentorship Award - Jasmin Padova & Natalie Cabrera**

Buzz about PSL



Top Lists for 2021

The City of Port St. Lucie made headlines across the country in 2021. The City's positive attributes were recognized in numerous national lists throughout the year! To read all the good news, visit www.cityofpsl.com/goodnews.

- US News & World Report:
- #47 Best Place to Live in the U.S.
- #8 Best Place to Retire in the U.S.
- #8 Best Place to Live in Florida
- #8 Fastest Growing Place in the U.S.
- #11 Safest Place to Live in the U.S.

Trivia Answers

Page 11: D

Page 37: B

Page 55: A

Page 20: B

Page 41: C

Page 59: C

Others:

The City ranked 31st among 2021's best-performing large Tier 2 cities in America, moving up four spots from 2020, according to the Milken Institute, a nonprofit, non-partisan policy institute. Tier 2 cities stood out this year for their job and wage growth performance, according to the institute.

- #3 in Top 25 U.S. Growth Cities by U-Haul
- #41 top Boomtown in the U.S. by SmartAsset
- #23 Safest City in America for Young Drivers by DrivingTests.com
- #29 Best Mid-Sized City to Buy A house in the U.S. by WalletHub
- #53 Happiest City in America by WalletHub
- #3 Best City to Retire in the U.S. by Travel & Leisure
- #6 City Where More Young Residents Are Buying Homes by SmartAsset
- #20 Safest City to Raise a Child in the U.S. by SafeWise

