

UPDATE **St. Lucie**



A monthly update from the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners

April 2018

Kilmer Branch Library Closes for Renovations

The Susan Broom Kilmer Branch Library will be closed for five weeks, beginning Tuesday, April 17 for extensive first floor renovations. Originally named the Fort Pierce Branch Library, this building hasn't experienced any major upgrades or renovations since it opened in 1999. Phase 1 of the renovations include painting, reupholstering, new flooring for the first floor, including the foyer, and new and improved service desk. There are more than 72,000 books and DVDs on the first floor of the Kilmer Branch, which have to be relocated to replace the carpet and paint the walls. Patrons will still be able to access materials from the Kilmer Branch by ordering them online and having them delivered to other branch libraries. For a list of other St. Lucie County Libraries' locations and times, please visit: www.stlucieco.gov/library.

Summer Camp Registration Ready at the Oxbow

The Oxbow Eco-Center has already begun accepting registration for its popular summer camps, which start in June. Designed for ages 6 – 15, the Oxbow offers a variety of hands-on, interactive camps that mix the great outdoors with arts, science and sports. Space is limited at Oxbow camps to ensure that each student has the best experience possible while learning about science, nature and making new friends, so register early. Visit www.oxboweco.com; click on the Summer Camps link and follow the instructions to complete your application. Please note that camps fill quickly, so we cannot process applications or hold camp spots without payment. For questions call 772-785-5833.

Recognition & Awards

■ The Sunny Southeast Chapter of the National Association for Interpretation has honored St. Lucie County's Senior Lands Coordinator Amanda Thompson with the 2018 Outstanding Interpreter Award. Thompson, a nine-year St. Lucie County employee, will be presented the award at the NAI Annual Regional Workshop on the Outer Banks of the North Carolina Feb. 27 through March 2. Thompson was selected from a group of candidates throughout the southeast region, including Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

■ St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara presented St. Lucie County's Natural Resources Coordinator Brion Pauley with a Lifesaving Award at the Sheriff's quarterly awards ceremony in March. Pauley was honored for his assistance in helping to locate a woman who was lost while hiking on one of the county's preserves after dark.

■ St. Lucie County's Communications staff was recognized by the Treasure Coast Chapter of the American Advertising Federation (AAF) with three Silver "Addy" Awards. The regional AAF chapter presented St. Lucie County's four-person Communications staff with Silver Awards for its work on the Procession of the Species event; as well as Hurricane Irma. This was the first year the Communications Division submitted entries into the Treasure Coast AAF's Addy Awards.

Events

Mark your calendar for the Oxbow's Annual Earth Day event on Saturday, April 21 at the Oxbow Eco-Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event features live music, environmental education displays, eco-tourism outfitters, food, animals and more. Visit www.oxboweco.com for more details or call 772-785-5833.

Tickets are on sale for the St. Lucie Mets' 2018 summer season at First Data Field, 527 NW Peacock Blvd., Port St. Lucie. Games are underway now through early September. Don't miss fun promotional events such as Ladies Night, Bark in the Park and Dollar Nights. For tickets call 772-871-2115 or visit www.stluciemets.com.

QUICK STATS

Building Permits:

Overall building permit activity dropped in January by 31 percent compared to December which was a record month with 1,289 permits. But January's 877 permits was still above average. Revenue for that timeframe decreased by 6%

Home Sales:

According to the Florida Realtors Association, the average median home sale price in January was just over \$209,000 – up 12% from last year, while condo sales only saw a slight change in value up 2% with the median price at roughly \$151,000.

Tourism Tax Collection:

For the 10th month in a row - revenue increased with January coming in 15 percent higher than the previous year.

Unemployment Rate:

St. Lucie's unemployment rate remained steady with January increasing slightly to 5.1 percent compared to December's 4.6 percent, but down from last year's 5.9%. Statewide the unemployment rate remained the same at 3.9%. There were 1,000 more jobs on the Treasure Coast compared to last year with the largest gains in Leisure & Hospitality; Education & Health Services and Government.