

# UPDATE **St. Lucie**



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

November 2024

## Q&A Session on Millage Rates and Taxes Nov. 14 at the Lewis Library

Residents who have questions about St. Lucie County's taxes and Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices are encouraged to attend a public question and answer session on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Paula A. Lewis Branch Library, located at 2950 SW Rosser Blvd. in Port St. Lucie. St. Lucie County Deputy Administrator Jason Davis and Budget Manager Jennifer Garrity will provide an overview of the budget and millage rates for the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, covering topics such as special taxing districts, the difference between city and county services, as well as Community Development District (CDD) taxes. The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

## Sunshine Kitchen Student Culinary Cook-Off Rescheduled to Dec. 3

Due to Hurricane Milton, the 4th Annual Student Culinary Cook-Off at the Sunshine Kitchen has been rescheduled to Tuesday, Dec. 3, starting at 10 a.m. Presented by the Treasure Coast Education and Research Development Authority, this student cooking contest will pair Indian River State College students with St. Lucie Public School students as they compete for \$1,500 in scholarship funds. Prep work will begin at 9:50 a.m., cooking starts at 10:05 a.m., judging will take place at 11:05 a.m. and awards will be presented at noon. Two \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded with funding provided by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners. Scholarships will be paid to the St. Lucie County Public Schools Education Foundation and Indian River State College Education Foundation.

The public is invited to attend and enjoy this free event. Refreshments will be provided by middle school students enrolled in culinary programs through St. Lucie Public Schools. Those interested in attending should register by emailing: [mccantsre@stlucieco.org](mailto:mccantsre@stlucieco.org) or calling 772-467-3107. The Sunshine Kitchen Food Business Incubator is located at 7550 Pruitt Research Center Road in Fort Pierce. For more details, visit: [www.sunshinekitchenslc.com](http://www.sunshinekitchenslc.com).

## Celebrate Autumn at the 4-H Farm Nov. 16

St. Lucie County 4-H will be hosting its annual 4-H Fall Farm Festival on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 2 - 5 p.m. at the 4-H Farm located at 1901 S. FFA Road. This is a family-friendly event full of fun fall and Halloween activities. Children of all ages, along with the young at heart, are welcome. Activity booths will be hosted by students from local St. Lucie County 4-H clubs and feature a new "Safety Booth," games, photo opportunities, candy and more. The 4-H Farm is an educational field trip destination and home to goats, sheep, pigs, cows, horses and a variety of bird species. Costumes are encouraged.

The cost is \$5 per child (ages 2-18). Parents/adults are free although donations are always appreciated. Money raised supports 4-H Farm operations throughout the 2024-25 school year. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please note that this is a cash-only event at the gate. Pre-sale tickets are available through 4-H Online, <https://slc4hfallfarmfestival2024.4honline.com>, prior to noon the day of the event.

## Holiday Closings

- St. Lucie County offices, libraries and attractions will be closed Monday, Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day.
- St. Lucie County offices, libraries and attractions will also be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29.

## QUICK STATS

### Building Permits

Overall building permit activity in unincorporated St. Lucie County increased by close to 18% in August with 1,293 permits submitted compared to July's 1,096.

### Home Sales:

According to the Florida Realtors Association, the median home sale price in St. Lucie County was \$405,000 in August - 2.5% higher than it was one year ago; while condo values increased by 1.4% with the median price at \$319,500.

### Tourism Tax:

St. Lucie County's tourism revenue increased by 10.7% in August compared to the same timeframe a year ago. Year to date, collections are 8.8% lower than last fiscal year.

### Unemployment Rate:

St. Lucie County's unemployment increased slightly in August to 4.2% compared to last month's 3.7%. Statewide the unemployment rate was 3.3%. The largest increase in the labor force on the Treasure Coast was in Professional Business Services, followed by Education & Health Services and then Construction Trades. According to CareerSource, in August non-agricultural jobs reached 176,100, an increase of 6,000 job or 3.5% over the past year.