

Fowler's

Focus

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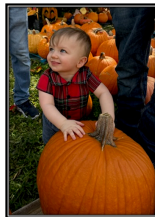
From the Commissioner's Desk..

Dear Friends,
I have so much to be thankful for! My beautiful son, Easton Cole, my supportive husband, Scott, my five four-legged fur babies, my family, friends and the trust and confidence of the citizens to represent them in our district and St. Lucie County.

I hope during this Thanksgiving season you are able to spend quality time with family and friends, experience special life changing moments, and find peace, love and happiness in your lives.

Here is wishing everyone a very happy and joyful Thanksgiving.

Best regards,
Jamie Lee Fowler



Dear Friends,
The impact of Hurricane Milton on our community has been truly devastating. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with the families mourning their loved ones, those who have lost their homes, those who have been injured, and everyone who has endured hardship during this difficult period in our history. I cannot adequately express my gratitude to the emergency response teams, law enforcement, Fire District, utility services, external agencies, county staff, and dedicated



volunteers who have tirelessly worked around the clock and continue to support our citizens in need. I want to reassure all of you that I, along with the Board of County Commissioners and our staff, are fully committed to restoring and rebuilding our community. We will do everything within our power to provide the necessary aid and resources to ensure our county remains strong, protected, and thriving.

Take care,
Jamie Lee Fowler



Improving for the Better!!

On April 23, 2024, the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners approved entering into a sales and purchase agreement to acquire a local motel for \$1.15 million, with plans to convert it into a shelter for homeless veterans. This initiative is a key part of the county's ongoing efforts to provide critical housing and services for residents in need. The shelter will not only offer temporary housing but also provide vital support services such as mental health counseling, job training, and housing assistance to help veterans transition into permanent, stable housing.



During the month of September, the County issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify an entity capable of managing the day-to-day operations of the shelter and is in the process of evaluating proposals. This partnership will ensure that veterans receive high-quality care and resources tailored to their specific needs. The project represents a significant step forward in the county's commitment to addressing homelessness and housing affordability.



DID YOU KNOW?!



Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law, also known as the Sunshine Law, was passed in 1967 to ensure that the public has access to government meetings and records. The law applies to all state, county, and municipal boards and commissions, and requires that:

- Meetings are open to the public
- Reasonable notice of meetings is given
- Minutes of meetings are taken and recorded promptly
- Actions taken at closed meetings are not binding



The law also guarantees the public's right to inspect and copy public records in a timely manner upon request, which includes any documents used by the government in the course of its business. This could include: letters, memos, texts, photographs, videos, letters, maps, computer records, books, data processing software, and sound recordings. However, some records may be exempt or confidential, and the release of these records may be discretionary.

[F.S. 286.011](#) states: All meetings of any board or commission of any state agency or authority or of any agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution, including meetings with or attended by any person elected to such board or commission, but who has not yet taken office, at which official acts are to be taken are declared to be public meetings open to the public.

To learn more read Florida Status Chapter 286. Link provided: [F.S. Chapter 286](#)



Commissioner Fowler hosted her second Shadow the Commissioner event with Anastacya Jahore, a graduate from Treasure Coast High School. Anastacya has completed her associate's degree and will be attending Florida Atlantic University this fall.



Anastacya's day consisted of meetings with the County Attorney, the County Administrator and his deputies, the Planning and Development Services director and a member of the Environmental Resources Department.

She received a personal tour presented by Commissioner Fowler, which included a walkabout of the Commission Chambers, discussions regarding the board meeting agenda, the duties and responsibilities of the County Commissioners and its staff, and an explanation of county and state laws, rules, and regulations that impact St. Lucie County.

Commissioner Fowler and Anastacya Jahore

Commissioner Fowler remains committed in her effort to bring greater awareness to the youth of St. Lucie County, on the responsibilities of local government leadership, and career paths that can lead to vital roles in maintaining local governments.

ENGAGED - INVOLVED - LEARNING

Commissioner Fowler joined by fellow Commissioners, the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Port St. Lucie during the Tradition Regional Park groundbreaking ceremony.



Commissioner Fowler speaking during a St. Lucie County Citizen's academy.



Commissioner Fowler attending the 2022 St. Lucie County Citizen's academy prior to her election.



Meet the Team —Meet Jennifer Hance. In 1995 Jennifer moved from Connecticut to Port St. Lucie and has lived in St. Lucie County ever since. In July 2007, Jennifer started working for the County's Housing division through a temp agency and by December of the same year, was hired as a full-time, permanent county employee. She rose through the ranks and currently serves as the Director of Community Services.

Her duties and responsibilities involve overseeing a variety of programs that address community needs. This includes managing affordable housing initiatives, leading human services efforts, and providing support to vulnerable populations like low-income families, veterans, and the homeless. Additionally, she oversees the proper appropriation of grants, partners with local organizations such as the Treasure Coast Homeless Service Council and Habitat for Humanity, and has oversight of the County's Veteran Services. As an advocate for quality-of-life ventures, she is spearheading several projects but one that she is particularly passionate about is the transformation of a motel into a veteran's homeless shelter which is scheduled to be complete in 2025.

She holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from Florida International University. She is married to, as she describes, her amazing husband Oscar Hance of 19 years, and has two children, a son and daughter.



JENNIFER HANCE



Highlight of St. Lucie County Resources

St. Lucie County Communications Division: The Communications Division of the county's Administration Department is tasked with providing up-to-date information about all Board of County Commission happenings and events to both the residents of St. Lucie County and area media outlets. Through press releases, public services announces, the County's website, social media and government access channel (SLCTV - Comcast 28 and U-Verse 99), the staff generates publicity for all departments from programs at the libraries to events at the Oxbow Eco-Center.



To access the Communications Division's web page click on the following link:

<https://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-and-services/communications-division>



Animal Safety, Services & Protection: St. Lucie County's Animal Safety, Services & Protection Division (ASSP) is dedicated to serving the unincorporated areas of St. Lucie County. The ASSP works to maintain protection and reduction of pets in the county by assisting law enforcement in animal cruelty cases, offering a Spay/Neuter Assistance Program for owned pets and Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return (TNVR) Program for community cats, and providing education through information and enforcement of state and local statutes regarding the possession, ownership, care and custody of our pet population in order to ensure public safety.



To access the Animal Safety, Services & Protection web page click on the following link:

<https://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-and-services/public-safety/animal-safety-service-protection>



Mosquito Control: The mission of the Mosquito Control District is to control mosquitoes and other arthropods of public health importance, using a combination of Ecosystem Management and Integrated Mosquito Management approaches.



To access the Mosquito Control Web page click on the following link:

<https://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-and-services/mosquito-control>

