



*Wednesday, March 16, 2016
News Release #7-16*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veterans' nursing home and Port St. Lucie Riverwalk Boardwalk gain state funding

Several important Port St. Lucie projects have been funded in the new state budget. The Ardie R. Copas Veterans' Nursing Home, Riverwalk Boardwalk extension design and the city's Historic Preservation Grants Program will all receive state funding in the upcoming fiscal year.

The state's seventh nursing home for veterans, now known as the Ardie R. Copas Veterans' Nursing Home, was provided with \$6,753,268 for continued construction of the 120-bed facility in Tradition.

The funding of the Riverwalk Boardwalk extension design will move the city closer to the creation of a riverfront attraction expected to increase tourism, improve the quality of life and provide a positive economic impact on area restaurants and retail stores. The \$250,000 from the state will be matched by the city and will fund professional design and permitting consultant services. The extension will add an additional 2,000 feet to the existing boardwalk south along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

The Historic Preservation Grants Program includes \$350,000 for the Peacock Home Relocation and Preservation Project. Three historic structures owned by the Peacock family during the early 1900's are being relocated from western Port St. Lucie to a 9.7-acre city-owned parcel next to the Botanical Gardens, along the eastern shoreline of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. This property is adjacent to the proposed extension of the Riverwalk boardwalk.

Other approved state funding that will directly or indirectly benefit City of Port St. Lucie residents includes construction of the Treasure Coast International Airport, Everglades restoration, affordable housing programs, the Literacy Jump Start Program and the continuation of the Crosstown Parkway Extension Bridge through the Florida Department of Transportation Work Program.

Funding for the Ardie R. Copas Veteran's Nursing Home, the Riverwalk Boardwalk extension design and the Historic Preservation Grants Program were not included on Governor Rick Scott's list of vetoes made public March 15.

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