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# F O R T I N S I D E R





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# NOW ENROLLING

# 2019 CITIZENS ACADEMY



## SIGN UP NOW!

The Citizens Academy begins February 21. Come learn about the City in a fun and interactive setting!

Applications are online at:  
[www.CityOfFortPierce.com](http://www.CityOfFortPierce.com)

“

Citizens academy was a blast! I had no idea how the City actually ran with all the intricate parts and I would recommend the class to anyone. ~ Leah S.

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# Magic in the Air

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■ BY JOE SWEAT, MARKETING SPECIALIST

People are always saying how beautiful Christmas is in the Fort. They're not wrong, but this year was nothing short of magical. There are movies made about small towns that capture the essence of Christmas and they bring you right back to your childhood. It would be remiss of me if I didn't paint a picture of how Christmas in the fort was just like that,..well, to me and minus the snow, of course.

For me, Christmas started with the Annual Sights and Sounds Parade. My heart was warmed seeing thousands gather downtown with their families. Smiles from ear to ear lighting up the streets waiting to see the floats. Most were dressed in Christmas attire, dads carrying kids on their shoulders, and vehicles lined up in anticipation. Christmas had begun. I have never seen such a diverse crowd packing the street, enjoying each others company as

the holiday season was kicking off. The City of Lights Decorating Contest started around the time of the parade. The last two years have been amazing. Shyanne Helms (Communications + Economic Development Manager) and I went out looking for festive homes to enter the contest. There were many people that just wanted to share how much they loved Fort Pierce. When it came to the finalists, they all had their own passionate story as to why they do



what they do. It wasn't about the prize from the contest, but simply motivated by love. One home celebrated the season with over 180 inflatables, and allowed people to walk through to take it all in. Another home was dressed up as a gingerbread house. Brown tarps covered the home as the cookie portion, and was decorated with icing and candy canes.

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*“There are movies made about small towns that capture the essence of christmas and they bring you right back to your childhood.”*

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Another finalist added twice as many lights from the previous year, filling up her entire yard this year. “You needed sunglasses to see that one,” as Shyanne commented. Each contestant helped continue in creating that “movie set” experience, but it didn’t stop there.



The Christmas Trolley was back and hosted even more people than last year. When the trolley opened up for seating, phone call after phone call for reservations rang in. We encouraged participants to wear ugly sweaters, but we weren’t sure what to expect considering “Florida weather.” To our surprise, most were decked out in sweaters. Some had blinking lights, others with reindeer and santa hats and some with homemade attire. We were tickled. At the registration tent, children got to visit Mr. and Mrs.



*“...blinking lights, others with reindeer and santa hats and some with homemade attire.”*

Claus. There was hot chocolate and cookies to snack on and the Dancing Lights was within walking distance. Fort Pierce capitalizes on one thing day after day, year after year and that is authenticity which only comes from the people of Fort Pierce.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus didn't have to volunteer their time to dress up and stay out in the cold. The trolley didn't necessarily have to run; there are only a handful of us that put it together, but it puts a ton of smiles on faces. The lady with the gingerbread house didn't have to climb two stories to decorate. Our Public Works Department didn't need to add more lights but they wanted to. The home with the inflatables, they continue to add more every year. And one more neat thing, each night when the trolley went down the same streets, we saw more people adding to their displays or beginning to put up theirs as we passed by. The magic of Fort Pierce isn't just about the water, buildings or swaying palm trees, but the people that made this year merry and bright, festive and fun and without a doubt, magical!





■ BY AUDRIA WELLS, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Four-year-old Bentley Bennett could not contain himself when he laid his eyes on Santa Claus in the lobby of the Fort Pierce Police Department. Bentley yelled “Santa” and ran toward him to give him a great, big, old hug. Falling into Santa’s lap, Bentley kept repeating “Santa,” “Santa!”

It is moments like these that remind the officers and staff of the Fort Pierce Police Department how truly grateful we are to have the overwhelming generous support of our wonderful community. Because of the kindness of approximately 15 local business, individuals, and organizations, the Department was able to provide or deliver toys and gifts to more than 300 children through the Santa Cop, Shop With A Cop, and Courageous Kids community outreach initiatives. Bentley’s family was one of 40 families participating in this year’s Santa Cop



program. Established more than 25 years ago, Santa Cop's goal is to assure families that may have some challenges in their lives experience the "Spirit of Christmas" for their children. The families received a special invitation from Santa and Mrs. Claus to be their honored guest at the annual Christmas Party held at the Police Department.



When nine teenagers found out they had been selected to participate in Shop With A Cop, they were surprised. The teens, who volunteer to assist with the Courageous Kids outreach every Tuesday, were among approximately 40 children paired with a Fort Pierce Police Officer to go shopping at the Fort Pierce Walmart. While each child was encouraged to buy at least one thing special for themselves, they often chose to spend the money on gifts and necessities for their families. Sponsored by the Walmart Foundation, Shop With A Cop has become a yearly tradition that both Officers and the community have looked forward to since 2006. With just three days left before Christmas, Officer Eddie Dove showed Courageous Kids members, just how special they are. He delivered gift bags filled with toys to 65 children living around First Step Park, located at North 31st Street and Avenue G. By the end of the day, Saturday, December 22, 2018, Officer Dove had delivered all but one of the bags. It wasn't until Christmas Day that he was able to get in contact with family. To make sure the child was not left out, Officer Dove delivered the gifts to a very happy Courageous Kid. For a few families that thought they had been left off Santa's list or needed a little pick me up, Sergeant David Cuti, Officer Peter Berger, Officer Luke Montano, and Officer James Lalima were eager to fill the last minute requests, enabling those families to join in the age-old tradition of opening presents on Christmas day.



# HONORING OUR EMPLOYEES

■ BY KEVIN BROWNING, HR MANAGER

In an age when many organizations have experienced fluctuations in the length of time employees remain in jobs, the City of Fort Pierce took the opportunity to honor the longevity and dedication of its staff. An awards ceremony and breakfast at the River Walk Center was held on Thursday, December 13, 2018 to pay tribute to those who have devoted five, ten, fifteen, twenty and even twenty-five years to the City. The 2018 Employee Service Awards ceremony recognized a total of forty-nine employees.

The Honorees were not just employees from one or two departments, but from nearly all areas throughout the City's organizational structure. These departments included: City Manager, City Clerk, City Commission, Finance, Building, Planning, Code Enforcement, Human

Resources, Information Technology, Engineering, Police, and Public Works. The list of staff members also encompassed diverse levels within the departments themselves ranging from department heads to those workers who are regularly on the front-lines. Friends and family of the Honorees were invited to



attend the breakfast held for the Years of Service Awards. Everyone was served a hot delicious breakfast prior to presentation of the awards. Mayor Hudson, the City Manager, department heads and Human Resource representatives congratulated the Honorees as they received

their awards. Each employee received a Certificate of Recognition and was granted from one to five days off depending on the length of time that each had dedicated to the City. Honorees with five, ten and fifteen years of service also received engraved plaques while those with twenty years of service were acknowledged with engraved

acrylic awards. Two employees reached an exceptional milestone of twenty-five years of service, Dana Neville from the Finance Department and Barbara G. Moore from Human

Resources. Not only did they receive a large engraved acrylic award, but both Honorees were also presented watches in recognition of a quarter century service to the City of Fort Pierce.

We hope this event ignites a new flame of commitment which inspires new employees



and co-workers. Attendees have commented positively on the Years of Service Awards. Many Honorees have visibly displayed the awards in their offices. Coupled with the change in retirement vesting from ten to five years by the City Commission earlier this year, the City will undoubtedly inspire even more employees to reach these milestones. Congratulations to ALL of the 2018 Years of Service Award recipients. A list of the Honorees and their achievements are listed below.

**Five Years of Service Awards**

- |                      |                   |                 |                 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mayor Hudson         | Linda Cox         | Rebecca Grohall | Delbert Brunson |
| Jean LaFortune       | Maurice Parnell   | Diego Combe     | Michael Frazier |
| James Ippolito       | Laquesha Kleckley | Martha Lewis    | Armando Lopez   |
| Kyle MacCarthy       | Onese Rene        | Jean Sena       | Shayne Stokes   |
| Jeffrey Wackendorfer |                   |                 |                 |

**Ten Years of Service Awards**

- |                  |               |            |            |
|------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| LePauleon Thomas | Johnna Morris | Jackie Bea | Paul Cunzo |
| Tad Lindstadt    | Diego Palacio |            |            |

**Fifteen Years of Service Awards**

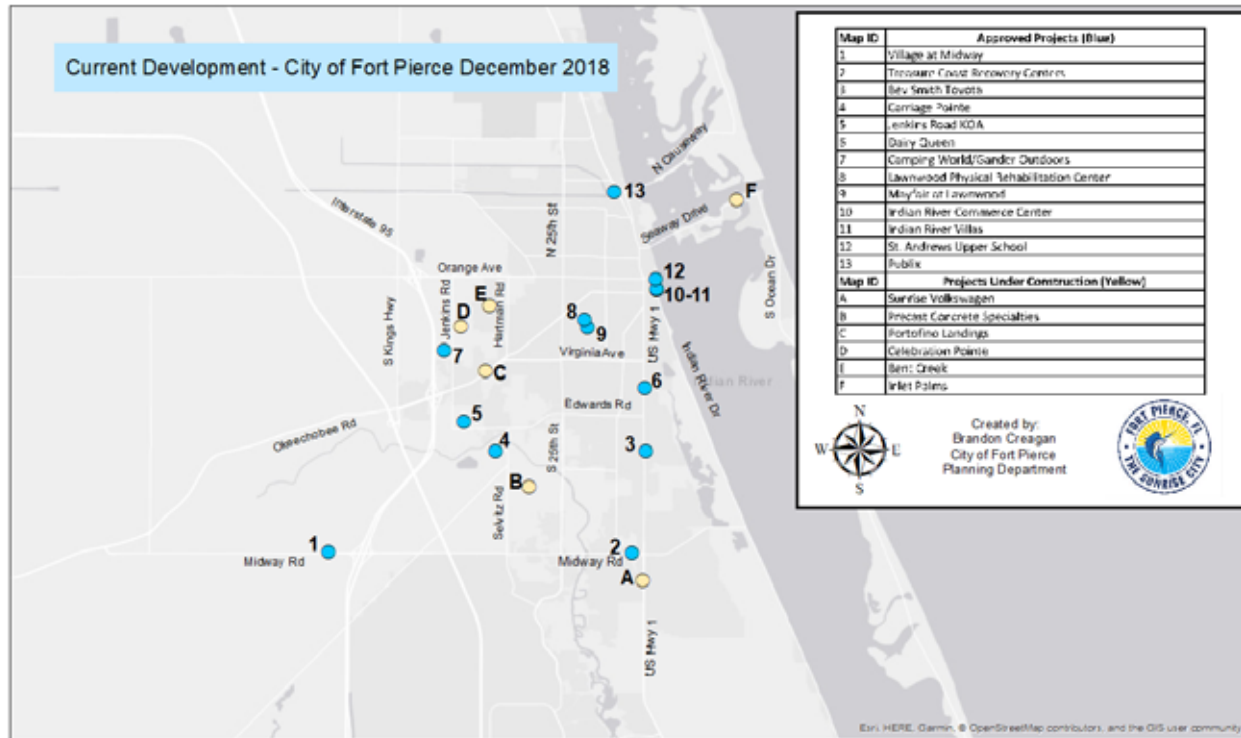
- |                       |                |                  |                   |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| DeVoshay Johnson      | Kenneth Nelson | Barbara Gasparre | Lamanda Czarnecki |
| Darren Karlson        | Torrin Walker  | Felix Moss       | Laurie Aguila     |
| Christoph Dreizehnter | Ralph Holmes   | Brian MacNaught  | Damian Spotts     |

**Twenty Years of Service Awards**

- |                   |                    |                  |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Nicholas C. Mimms | Kristie Kirstein   | Necole Cooper    | Robert Reals        |
| John McDermott    | Michael Whitehurst | Alicia Forbis    | Joseph Coleman      |
| David Cuti        | James Gagliano     | Christine Mayner | Celestine Roundtree |

**Twenty-Five Years of Service Awards**

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Dana Neville | Barbara G. Moore |
|--------------|------------------|



## TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER

The City Commission approved the construction of a Telecommunications Tower on December 17, 2018. The tower will be 130 feet in height and will be a slim stealth pole design. The tower will help to improve cellular service for everyone in this area and will provide opportunities for the city to utilize, should a public need arise (mounting of security cameras/use during natural disaster and or emergency).

## NEW GAS STATION SITE

The Board of Adjustment at their December 6, 2018 meeting approved a requested variance for a proposed 7 feet variance to reduce the landscape buffer along the north 95 feet of the northwest boundary of the properties located at 2496 & 2498 Edwards Road from 10 feet to 3 feet; based upon the justification presented by the applicant with respect to the criteria for granting a variance specified in Section 22-108. The property owner requested the Board of Adjustment approve a variance to deviate from Section 22-187 in order to construct a proposed 3,000 sq. ft. convenience store with gas. Currently there is a pawn shop on part of this site and that will be demolished to make way for the proposed convenience store and gas station.



## NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program ■

Virginia Avenue Outfall Canal (Heathcote to Indian Hills Recreation Area): Final stabilization of the damaged canal bank has been completed. The final product included the rock rip-rap stabilization of approximately 1,900 LF of canal. This canal sustained significant damage during Hurricane Irma and the City of Fort Pierce was fortunate to acquire federal funding in an amount equal to 75% of the construction cost from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

## CITY MARINA DREDGING ■

Gator Dredging has completed dredging 3,000 cy of the slated 5,000 cy of spoil material and pumped it into geotextile bags atop Tern Island for dewatering. Once the water in the bags has dispersed, Gator Dredging will utilize the dredged material for restoration of the front slopes of Tern Island. Upon the completion of the Marina Basin dredging, the contractor will commence the dredging of the entrance channel. Final completion is scheduled for February 15, 2019.





## ■ Sunrise Volkswagen

Sunrise Volkswagen is nearing the final stages of construction with the electrical and mechanical final inspections already approved. Sunrise Truck World is not quite ready for final inspections. Landscaping was being installed the day the pictures were taken and will be inspected for conformance with the site plan in the near future.

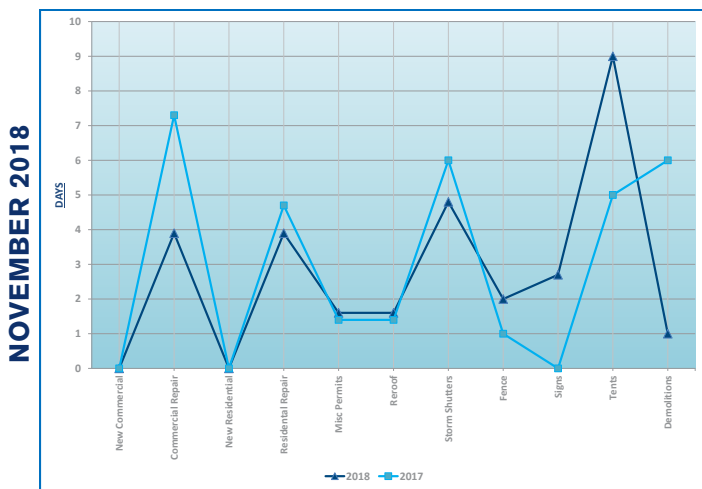


## LAWNWOOD ■

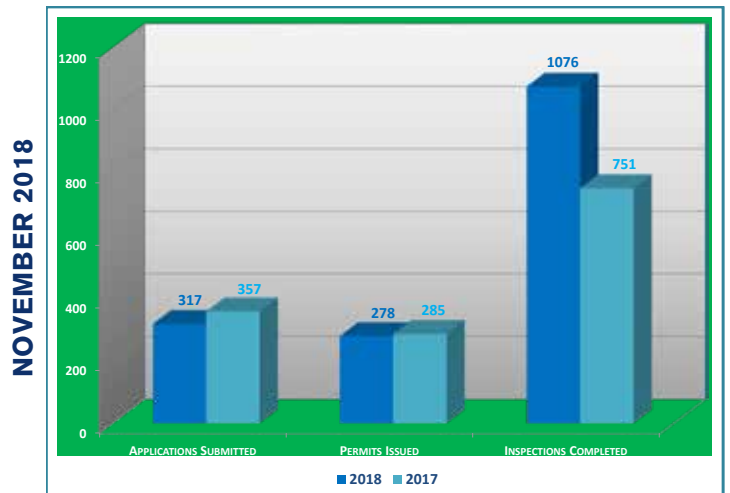
The Lawnwood Medical Center at the Lawnwood Pavilion is constructing a 13,000 square foot addition to their psychiatric unit. Although still in the early stages of construction, numerous structural, electrical and plumbing inspections have been approved for the addition.

### PLAN REVIEW PROCESSING TIME

For permits with 0 days, either the review was not completed within the month, or there were no reviews for the entire month.



### BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY REPORT





■ BY MIKE REALS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

**T**he long anticipated electric tram has arrived! On the afternoon of December 6th the 2018 15 passenger vehicle arrived at the Public Works Compound. Deputy Director Derrick Johnson and staff from the Fleet Maintenance Division were on hand to inspect the vehicle and take it for its first spin around the property.

Once the tram has been tagged and branded with the City logo it will be placed into service. Initially, it will run the traditional Saturday morning route downtown and through the PAD. Stops will include the Parking Garage, Public Parking Lot on Avenue A west of US1, the Intermodal Station at Avenue D and 8th Street, Public Parking Lot at Avenue D and Indian River Drive, as well as the Public Parking Lot along Indian River Drive between Orange Avenue and Avenue A (Marina Way). The tram is nimble and agile enough that on-demand stops are not out of the question and discussions have taken place about the possibility of a phone app to call for service. There are many opportunities to utilize this new asset such as transporting visitors to the Sunrise Theatre for shows or jurors to the court house to serve their civic duties. It is with great excitement that we look forward to the future of our micro-transit system.

As we venture into a new year with new opportunities and challenges, the Public Works Department is grateful for the wonderful year that was 2018. With a sigh of relief, the City of Fort Pierce was spared the effects of a hurricane and the Team was able to focus on routine tasks to Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful. The men and women of this Department are greatly appreciated, and they do a fantastic job of making Fort Pierce shine!





## RIVER WALK CENTER SALES REPORT

CLASSES .....	\$ 1581.21
PARK PERMITS .....	\$ 1050.00
SPECIAL EVENTS .....	\$ 1295.00
GARDEN CENTER .....	\$ 725.00
MARAVILLA CENTER .....	\$ 1150.00
OLD CITY HALL .....	\$ 1441.36
RIVER WALK CENTER .....	\$ 3588.49
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$ 10,831.06</b>

■ DANIEL VISCONTI, IHGC MANAGER

We will be hosting our own “Outings” here at The Hills on the SECOND SATURDAY of January, February, March and April. The day will commence with a continental breakfast and range balls at 7:00 am, followed by an 8:30 shotgun start! There will be prizes within both flights based on participation as well as closest to pin and long drive contests. All of this for \$40 per player!! You may stop by the Golf Shop to register as the field will be limited to the first 100 players paid.

We will be receiving new merchandise almost daily from Callaway, Footjoy, Puma and Titleist so please check us out for yourself, or that golfer in your life! We will be adding dates for equipment demo days in late January/early February if you’re in the market for golf clubs.

Our best advertisement is word of mouth and we appreciate all of the comments that have helped us improve our facility and regain much of our player base. Please “Like” and “Follow Us” on Facebook or Instagram to see almost daily updates on the golf course and our ongoing summer maintenance projects.

If you’re interested in hosting an event or outing at The Hills, please reach out to us here at the club. We have established a partnership with The Crafted Pie inside Sailfish Brewery so we can host your event here and head to downtown Ft. Pierce for the luncheon and awards afterwards!



## INDIAN HILLS SALES REPORT

	10/2018	11/2018
GOLF ROUNDS	1631	2447
GOLF FEES	\$32,594.18	\$53,911.27
RANGE TOKENS	\$816.69	\$1,467.64
MEMBERSHIP PASS	\$3,507.56	\$3,387.46
FOOD & BEVERAGES	\$3,833.53	\$5,841.97
MERCHANDISE	\$1,868.73	\$5,568.61
TOTAL	\$42,620.69	\$70,176.95



## CITY MARINA FINANCIAL REPORT

	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Dockage Reservations	57	74	171
Monthly Dockage	\$99,542.07	\$217,943.51	\$130,208.85
Transient Dockage	\$19,535.65	\$21,679.25	\$52,578.97
Electricity	\$1,526.23	\$2,174.00	\$4,251.00
Retail	\$10,657.33	\$11,469.08	\$4,886.61
Gas Sales	\$26,294.74	\$25,670.15	\$15,594.27
Diesel Sales	\$30,564.70	\$59,352.91	\$110,142.97
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$188,120.72</b>	<b>\$335,288.90</b>	<b>\$336,804.05</b>



# Sounds of the Season

SHARON ENGLE, Interim Executive Director

really enjoy the excited, young children that are coming to the Sunrise for the very first time.

The Sunrise Box Office has been busy and really getting into the groove of our season! DRUMline! Holiday Spectacular, kicked off our Holiday Season followed by Dave Koz & Friends. Both shows were amazing! Everyone left the theatre raving about how the shows brought the audience together and made the season bright!

The 2018/19 Annual Sunrise Theatre Volunteer Holiday Reception was held at the Black Box on Monday, December 10. Over 135 volunteer ushers, bartenders, and members of the City Commission attended the event. They are treated to an evening of holiday music, cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres and then served dinner and dessert by the Sunrise Theatre staff. This event is held to show appreciation to the volunteer staff for all of their support. The always festive event is welcomed by the volunteers and a great way to start the coming New Year.

On Friday, December 14th, the school buses lined up in front of the Sunrise Theatre with over 1,100 students to see the school time performance of The Nutcracker, performed by the Treasure Coast Ballet. This is always one of the most popular shows that we offer during the school time performance series. Many students got in the Christmas Spirit by wearing red, green outfits and some even with reindeer antlers! A wonderful time was had by the students and even our Sunrise Theatre Volunteer Ushers who





## SUNRISE THEATRE FINANCIAL REPORT

Date	Show	Ticket Sales	Bar	Sponsors	VIP Sales	Total Revenue
11/24	Drumline	\$ 14,346.12	\$ 809.00	NA	NA	\$15,155.12
11/28	Dave Koz & Friends	\$44,812.66	\$3,132.00	\$6,000.00	\$650.00	\$54,883.64
Date	Rental	Total Sales	Bar	Sponsors	VIP Sales	Total Revenue
11/2	Vanessa Collier	\$1,982.16	\$1,078.00	NA	NA	\$3,260.16
11/8	PACE	\$1,553.00	NA	NA	NA	\$2,233.00
11/30	We LEAP	\$84.00	\$32.00	NA	NA	\$116.00
11/1-30	Jazz Jam	\$1,000.00	\$636.00	NA	NA	\$1,636.00
11/1-30	Comedy Corner	\$3,185.00	\$1,157.00	NA	NA	\$4,342.00
<b>TOTALS</b>		\$66,962.94	\$6,844.00	\$6,000.00	\$650.00	\$81,625.92



## WELCOMING NEW BUSINESSES!

ALBEN CARE SERVICES, LLC	KINGDOM KREATIONS BY TIFFANIE,	SEA TERN OF HUTCHINSON ISLAND
AREA WIDE PROTECTIVE, INC.	KUBI ART AND BOAT MAINTENANCE	SEAWORTHY SEAMS
ATCHAWE, AMELIE RUFINE	MCCOY BLENDS BARBERSHOP, LLC	STAR III ENTERPRISES LLC
BLESS BLESS LEARNING ACADEMY	MINGS, CHRISTOPHER S., PA	SUNRISE CITY CAFE
BRIGHT STAR VIEWS, LLC	MLB BARBERSHOP 2 INC	TIDELINE STAFFING, LLC
CARDENAS, HOMERO	NDUKU, VALENTINE TEMBENG, D.O.	TOP MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SER.
DULCE FASHION BOUTIQUE, LLC	PEKING CHINESE RESTAURANT	TRUE PRESSURE WASHING, LLC
EMILY'S CLEANING RESIDENTIAL	PHATZ CHICK N SHACK	TRUE WOOD DESIGN INC
GOT YOUR SHINE MOBILE DETAILING	PINEDA PRODUCE, LLC	W.S PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
HOFFMAN, HANNAH, PA-C	PLEXENSEBIO, INC	WALLACE, JON M.
INNOVATION CONTRACTING, INC.	QUICK STOP FOOD MART	WORLD OF BEAUTY, LLC
JAO'S CARPENTRY INC	ROBERTS, DAVID M., PA	
JUNIORS SIDE JOBS	ROSS ISLAND REALTY LLC	



## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
FORT PIERCE FARMER'S MARKET	EVERY SATURDAY	8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	MARINA SQUARE
GREEN MARKET	EVERY WEDNESDAY	12:00 PM - 6:30 PM	MARINA SQUARE
AVENUE D MARKET	EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY	8:00 AM - 10:30 PM	AVENUE D PLAZA
FRIDAY FEST	1/4	5:30 PM - 9:00 PM	MARINA SQUARE
SLC FIRE DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE	1/11	5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	STATION 11 3501 SHINN RD
COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR	1/18	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	FORT PIERCE YACHT CLUB
MLK PARADE	1/21	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	AVENUE I & MLK BLVD
CHOW FOOD TRUCKS	1/29	5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK



## **Mission Statement**

*To provide community leadership, quality public service, and a safe environment for all citizens, by an empowered team of employees motivated by pride in themselves and their work.*

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