

DECEMBER 2019

FORT INSIDER





TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	FEATURED	17	FORT PIERCE CITY MARINA
6	POLICE DEPARTMENT	18	SUNRISE THEATRE
10	CONSTRUCTION SPOTLIGHT	21	UPCOMING EVENTS
12	BUILDING DEPARTMENT		
14	PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT		
16	INDIAN HILLS GOLF COURSE		

The City of Fort Pierce presents

CITY OF LIGHTS DECORATING CONTEST

UNTANGLE THOSE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND START DECORATING!

Put on those creative thinking caps, untangle those Christmas lights and get ready for the 4th Annual City of Lights Holiday Decorating Contest presented by the City of Fort Pierce!

REGISTRATION

Registration will be open until December 12 at noon online at www.CityOfFortPierce.com

Simply fill out the application, choose from one of two categories: single family or business. Be sure the decorated home or business is lit up at night for our voters. Each category winner will receive \$250 and a sign to display in their yard.*



TROLLEY TOURS

The Trolley tours are free and begin Sunday, December 15 through Wednesday, December 18. Reservations are required by phone: 772-465-4170. A free hot chocolate bar and holiday photo op will enhance the fun. Guests are asked to wear Ugly Christmas Sweaters and/or festive attire on the Trolley Tours.

2019 HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

DOWNTOWN FRIDAY FEST
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6th
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM
MARINA SQUARE
772.466.3880

HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
772.692.7599

CHRISTMAS ON MOORE'S CREEK
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14th
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
AVENUE D & 8TH STREET
772.462.2481

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
FORT PIERCE
YACHT CLUB
772.466.3880

MOVIES IN THE FORT
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6th
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
FORT PIERCE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
772.467.6801

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS ON 2ND ST.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
PARADE STARTS AT 4:00 PM
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
772.466.3880

CITY OF LIGHTS TROLLEY TOUR
DECEMBER 15th - 18th
6 PM, 7 PM & 8 PM
DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE
772.465.4170

HOLIDAY LIGHTS SPECTACULAR
DECEMBER TO JANUARY
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
MARINA SQUARE
772.467.3000



WWW.CITYOFFORTPIERCE.COM



F O R T F O R T H E H O L I D A Y S

BY JOE SWEAT, MARKETING SPECIALIST

For locals, it's easy to see why Fort Pierce is home for the holidays. The hustle and bustle is laid back and quiet, as our town naturally is. We tend to take the back seat and soak up the sights and sounds of everything. We're not crazy busy like other cities, nor crowded for that matter. We're just the Fort. A small town nestled on the east side of Florida, but slap in the middle of everything. You can truly go from Fort Pierce to anywhere within a few short hours, but why? Seriously.

As many times as I've been out of town for the holidays, there's still no place like home. Snow covered mountains are nice, but the weather is so cold that the firepit has to stay lit and it gets a

little darker quicker, but that is if you visit north. If you head south, expect road delays, people bumping into each other (which you'll get up north too), and the aggravating rush is swiftly felt. No offense to our neighbors to the south, but that kind of busyness is why some of us stay put, which is exactly my point. It's easy to get caught up in the holiday rush and forget to take it all in. The City of Fort Pierce strives each year to ensure that you and your loved ones experience that cozy, laid back feeling all year, but especially for Christmas. Who wants to sip coffee just to have it run down the front of you because you were bum-rushed by shoppers? Humbug!

Now, it could be different for you, but for me it's hearing the children run around at Marina Square laughing and playing while the Dancing Palms light up the waterfront with Christmas music. I know they are too excited for Christmas Day and there isn't enough energy to be let out.

Furthermore, it's the folks that get on to enjoy the Annual Trolley Tour. They come dressed in festive attire, ready to laugh, sing and go around looking at Christmas lights. Hot cocoa and cookies await before they board the trolley and often times a special guest in red pays a visit. Perhaps it's the thousands of people that gather in downtown for the Annual Sights and

Sound Parade. The kids are tickled to see Santa come riding in on a float. Everyone is shoulder to shoulder, but smiling ear to ear, enjoying the festivities, together.

Maybe it's how the streets of Fort Pierce are lit up with Christmas lights, poles wrapped in garland, while moving snowflake lights dance on the buildings in downtown; maybe it's the Holiday Boat Parade where you can sit along the riverfront and watch a parade of boats cruise by in an assortment of Christmas decorations, playing echoing Christmas music - you can't do that in the snow. What about Christmas on Moore's Creek. It's a charitable toy drive with lots of food, fun and vendors, but everyone is contributing together to bring gifts to children. It truly emulates the spirit of Christmas. A new event I'm looking forward to adding to my little book of memories is Movies in the Fort at the Fort Pierce Police Department. The FPPD is featuring the Grinch, the animated movie of 2018. I expect a big Christmas, Grinch kinda bash because our men and women in blue know how to throw a block party.

So whatever it is that makes your spirit bright, remember to take it all in this year wherever you are, and if you're here in the Fort for the Holidays, there's always something to do in the Fort, especially for the holidays.

For more information about holiday events, please call 772-467-3031



KID FOCUSED, COMMUNITY ENGAGED



Since the beginning of school year, the Courageous Kids weekly after-school program has expanded its focus to include helping children improve their reading skills. The move came after volunteers found out that one of the children failed summer school and was held back because he was having trouble reading. In stepped, Clorisse Stephens, who is the Community Resource Mom for the Lincoln Park Area with Helping People Succeed.

When Ms. Clorisse arrives at the park each week, the kids crowd around her car to help her unload the books and get set up. The children, between the ages of three and 14, are eager to read and to date they have read more than 178 books. As an incentive, the kids get to select a prize from the prize box and once a month they participate in a special activity. Ms. Clorisse first found out about First Step Park from one of the parents and she has been there ever since. When she started, there were approximately 10 children interested in reading. Now there are about 50 kids every week and with approximately five volunteers, about





four officers, and help from some of the older kids, they are managing the demand for help. If there is a line waiting to get help to read, the kids will get book and go find an officer and ask them to help them read, she said.

The reading program has been so successful especially for the young man who had to repeat third grade. At a recent Courageous Kids outing, he was so excited to show off his report card that displayed four "As" and a "B" he received.



On Veterans Day, the City of Fort Pierce joined the rest of our nation in pausing to celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Fort Pierce Police Department Officers were among several people who gathered for Veterans Day Ceremony hosted by the AMVETS Post 15 at the Fort Pierce Veteran's Memorial Park on Indian River Drive. To help us show appreciation to our local veterans, members of the American Heritage girls of Okeechobee and Lawnwood Elementary School made "Happy Veterans Day" cards and presented them to those in attendance during the event.

The holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on November 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" in order to account for all veterans in all wars. We thank our veterans for their service.

The Grinch is depicted in a red Santa suit with white fur trim and a red hat with a white pom-pom. He is running through a snowy landscape, looking back over his shoulder with a mischievous grin. To his right, Max the dog is running happily, carrying a wrapped gift box in his mouth. The background shows a snowy night scene with a Christmas tree and lights.

THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE PRESENTS
MOVIES IN THE FORT!

THE
GRINCH

HOSTED BY THE

**FORT PIERCE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH AT 6:00 PM

HALF CENT SALES TAX UPDATE:

**THANK YOU
SLC VOTERS!**

**THIS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IS FUNDED WITH
PROCEEDS FROM THE HALF-CENT SURTAX**



**BETTER ROADS,
MORE SIDEWALKS,
AND CLEANER RIVERS**

CityofFortPierce.com



On November 6, 2018, a referendum was held, and the voters of St. Lucie County approved a half cent increase to the local sales tax. This tax, referred to as the Infrastructure Surtax, is to be used to help improve roads, build more sidewalks and support water quality projects throughout the County. The City has collected \$1,158,361.01 in Surtax proceeds between March 2019 through November 2019. As stipulated by the ballot language approved by the voters, the referendum called for an independent oversight by a citizen committee, to review expenditures of the Surtax

proceeds. This committee is comprised of seven (7) members, five (5) direct appointments by each City Commissioner and two (2) at large members. The committee began meeting in September 2019, meeting once a month through November 2019. All projects that use the Surtax proceeds are reviewed by the committee to ensure all expenditures are consistent with the Florida Statutes and the will of the voters. Two projects are currently under construction that utilize the Surtax proceeds, South 7th Street Reconstruction and Avenue A and Avenue B

Reconstruction. Both of these projects were made possible by combining this new funding source with several other funding sources to accomplish total reconstruction as opposed to continued patching. Avenue A and Avenue B are nearing completion, we are anticipating the final work to be completed by the first week of December. The work included rejuvenation and replacement of utilities by FPUA, new concrete sidewalk, curb/gutter, and complete reconstruction of the pavement section.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Ohio Avenue and U.S. Highway 1 Realignment:

Construction of the long awaited Ohio Avenue realignment has begun.

Many residents and visitors know that this intersection, with its offset east and west legs, is a hazard to motorists attempting a left turn onto U.S. Highway 1.

The construction cost of this project is \$1,015,000 and is being funded with FDOT compensation and revenue generated from collected City of Fort Pierce road impact fees.

The design of the project includes the shifting of the Ohio Avenue, east of U.S. Highway 1, to the north to allow better alignment with the west leg of Ohio Avenue. In addition, the intersection will receive three (3) new mast arms with traffic signals which will eliminated the strand wire traffic system currently in place. Project improvements to Ohio (east of U.S. 1) include a new drainage system, a boulevard style street with landscaped islands, new sidewalks, curb & gutter and of course an entire new roadway.



Edgartown

COMMUNITY MEETING

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Riverwalk Center
600 North River Drive**

For more information,
contact Jennifer Hofmeister at
772-467-3730
jhofmeister@cityoffortpierce.com

The City of Fort Pierce invites you to share input, ideas and feedback regarding the historic Edgartown District on Thursday, December 12, 2019 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Riverwalk Center located at 600 N. Indian River Drive.

The meeting will give us the opportunity to discuss such topics as code and building issues, the district's current regulations, public spaces, neighborhood identity, landscaping, signage and lighting, and architectural design guidelines for the community.

***Please join us to contribute your ideas to the vision
of Edgartown Historic District!***

Refreshments will be served.

WHAT'S NEW?



TACO DIVE ON THE BEACH

Located at 2025 Seaway Drive on South Beach, Taco Dive is opening their fourth location, the second in Fort Pierce, in the space formerly occupied by the Bluewater Beach Grill. This picture was taken during the review of their Sidewalk Café Permit. A Sidewalk Café Permit is required anytime outdoor seating is provided within the City’s right-of-way. In addition to the Planning Department, the Building Department reviews Sidewalk Café Permits for compliance with the Florida Building Code. Two of the major considerations in the review of Sidewalk Café Permits is to verify emergency egress and that handicap accessibility is maintained.



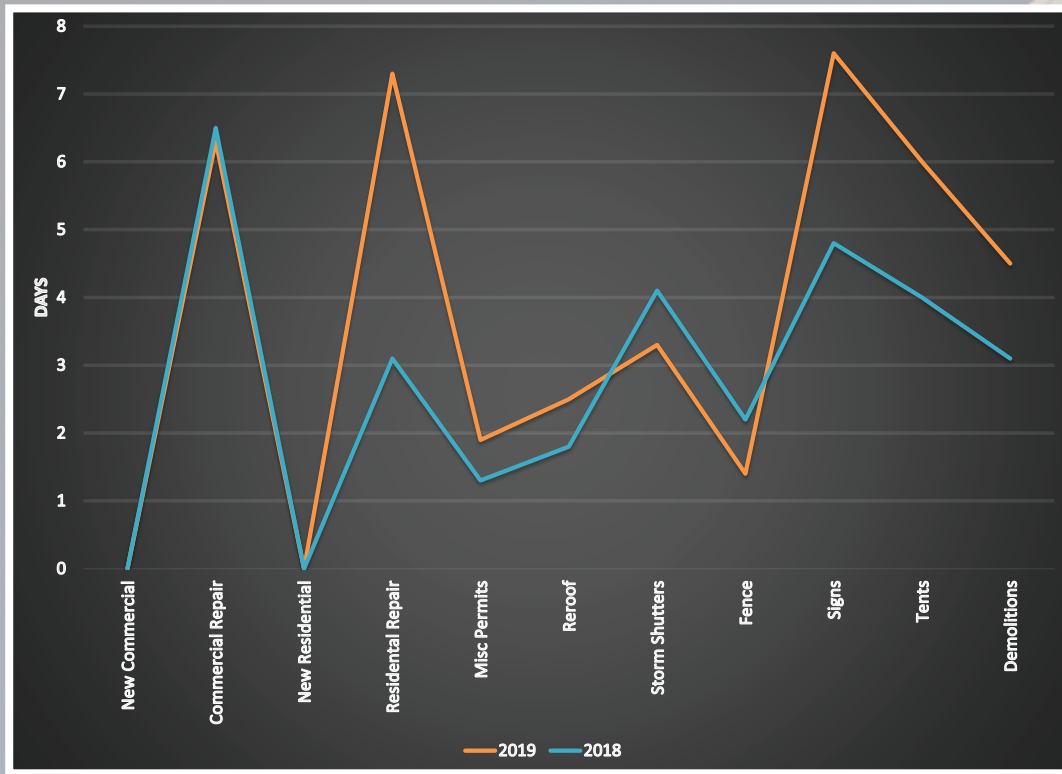
NEW ASSISTED LIVING

A new 28,000 square foot assisted living facility is being constructed between Fort Pierce Central High School and the Palm Lakes Gardens subdivision. The construction will be split into two phases. The first phase of construction will provide the majority of the sleeping rooms. At this time, permits have been issued for the first phase and a “shell building” permit has been issued for the second phase.

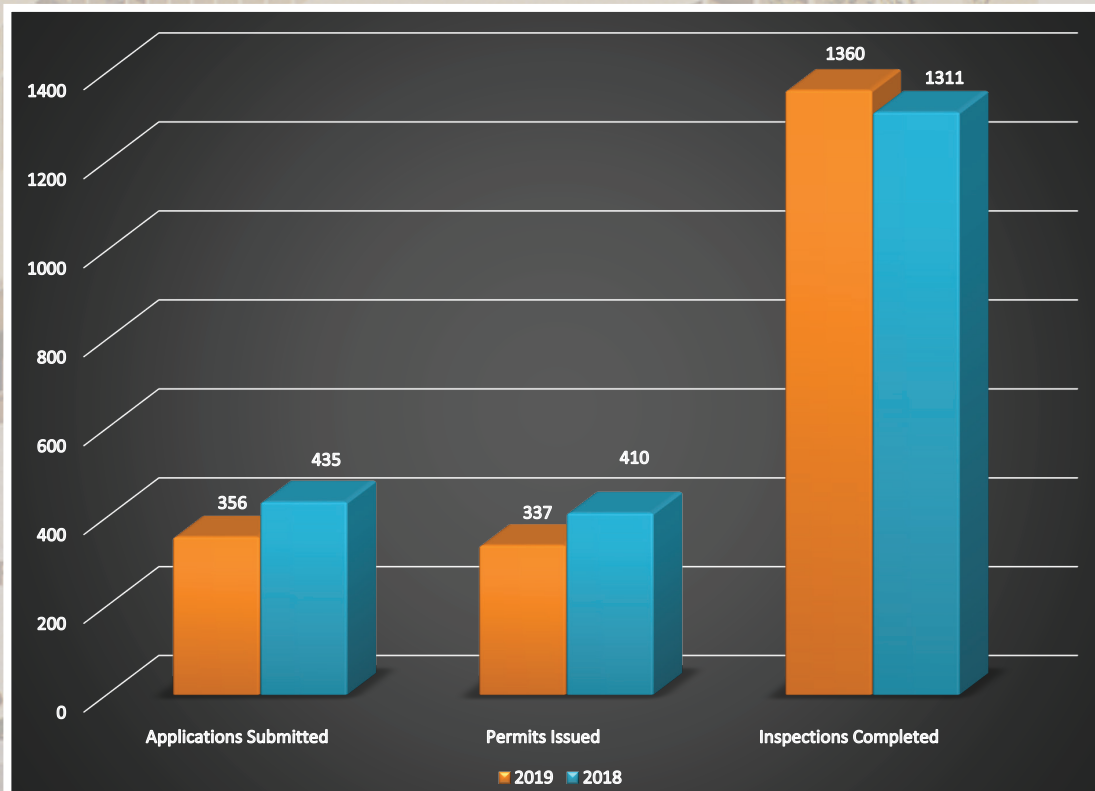
BUILDING CHARTS FOR NOVEMBER 2019

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





PAUL BERTRAM,
PARKS & GROUNDS DIVISION MANAGER

Season's Greetings from your Fort Pierce Public Works Department. The Public Works Department is busy installing holiday decorations to bring the holiday spirit to all of our citizens and visiting guest. It still makes us chuckle when we hear people ask us when are you going to start putting up the holiday decorations? Believe it or not Public Works crews have been installing holiday decorations for the past three weeks! Our crews start very early in the morning sometimes as early as midnight to decorate all corners of the City of Fort Pierce. This procedure helps use with four very important concepts; It allows us the time to install all of our decorations, traffic is at a minimum, helps the crews when it's dark to see the light show for necessary installation adjustments and most of all gives are citizens and guest the element of holiday surprise! What's the surprise you ask? The element of holiday surprise is the excitement that all of our residents and guest feel when magically all

of the decorations appear to come to life in just one night.

We at Public Works strive every day to Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful and are very proud that our City of Fort Pierce is the top spot on the Treasure Coast to visit for the holidays. A big thanks to all of the personnel that volunteered to come in early to help install decorations. This year same as last we will also be installing a one of a kind 2,000 plant Poinsettia show, a magical red carpet of beautiful holiday flowers!

Please take the time to spread the word, bring family and friends and come out and enjoy all of our holiday festivities in our paradise by the sea, Fort Pierce Florida!





RIVER WALK CENTER SALES REPORT OCTOBER 2019

CLASSES	.....	\$ 751.46
PARK PERMITS	.....	\$ 512.50
SPECIAL EVENTS	.....	\$ 590.00
FACILITY	.....	\$ 4632.75
TOTAL	.....	\$ 9,446.33



ENJOYING INDIAN HILLS IN THE 1940's

DANIEL VISCONTI, IHGC MANAGER

Following a busy summer where we averaged almost 90 players per day between May 1st and September 30th, we are excited for peak season as we are already having a great start to our fiscal year. With revenues up almost \$20,000 through October and the first three weeks of November versus last year, we hope that Mother Nature helps to provide a productive and prosperous 2019-2020!! With the Holidays right around the corner, please keep the less fortunate in mind!! We are a drop off site for the Toys for Tots program as well as the Treasure Coast Food bank.

Our entrance is undergoing a facelift as Ohio Avenue is being improved and widened and once completed will be a much easier and more attractive route to Indian Hills, TD Bank and Aldi. We continue to improve the course conditions on an almost daily basis, focusing on the health of the turf on the greens and fairways. This process will help carry us through the dry and cool conditions of the winter months when grass growth is at its slowest. From a community standpoint, we are proud to be able to touch the lives of in excess of 500 children per year through golf!! We are the proud host site of the First Tee Program. Participating in the program in Fort Pierce are the Pace Center for Girls, The P.A.L. and two age groups of children from the Boys & Girls

Club. For those of you who are not aware, the First Tee not only teaches golf skills, but also the following life skills. Honesty, Integrity, Sportsmanship, Respect, Confidence, Responsibility, Perseverance, Courtesy & Judgement. We thank all of our members and guests for their support and we ask that you please “Like” and “Follow Us” on Facebook or Instagram to see almost daily updates on the golf course and our ongoing summer

INDIAN HILLS SALES REPORT

	9/2019	10/2019
GOLF ROUNDS	2406	3410
GOLF FEES	\$43,193.36	\$67,557.48
RANGE TOKENS	\$943.26	\$2,076.58
MEMBERSHIP PASS	\$2,088.69	\$6,316.34
FOOD & BEVERAGES	\$4,718.66	\$7,753.38
MERCHANDISE	\$2,402.58	\$4,325.39
TOTAL	\$53,346.55	\$88,029.17



CITY MARINA FINANCIAL REPORT

	August	September	October
Dockage Reservations	88	27	94
Monthly Dockage	\$138,570.49	\$105,708.12	\$118,293.66
Transient Dockage	\$34,155.10	\$16,921.25	\$23,883.56
Electricity	\$6,032.24	\$1,343.50	\$2,119.38
Retail	\$12,903.79	\$8,096.99	\$6,605.35
Gas Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0
Diesel Sales	\$44,420.30	\$11,043.95	\$63,166.97
TOTALS	\$ 235,901.92	\$ 141,770.31	\$214,068.92

2020 SUNRISE THEATRE KICKOFF

Sunrise Theatre has kicked off the 2019-2020 season, and new this year is a Family Adventure series of six performances guaranteed to provide fun and entertainment for children and adults alike. The can't-miss shows kick off on Sunday, December 22, with Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer: The Musical, and wrap up with My Little Pony Live, on Thursday, April 30. In between are four family-friendly musicals, animal adventures and classic ballets. There is truly something for everyone. With the holidays fast approaching, consider gifting the incomparable experience of a live performance to your little ones and loved ones. Tickets to one show (or the whole series) are an unforgettable, intangible gift sure to create memories that last a lifetime. "Gifts of experience" are a wonderful way to treat an entire family and give you a chance to bond with grandkids, nieces and nephews or other children in your life.

Here's the rundown of the full Family Adventure series schedule:



Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer:

The Musical, on Sunday, December 22, at 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$52; tickets for kids 12 and under are just \$23 each. If the TV classic Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is a holiday tradition in your home, you won't want to miss the new musical version. It's the perfect way to carry on this tradition in a new generation. Not to worry: All of your favorite characters—including Santa and Mrs. Claus, Hermey the Elf, Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster, Clarice, Yukon Cornelius and, of course, Rudolph—come to life on stage. Like the classic TV version, the musical is "an adventure that teaches us that what makes you different can be what makes you special."

The Nutcracker,

presented by The State Ballet Theatre of Odessa, on Thursday, December 26, at 7 p.m.

Tickets start at \$48; tickets for kids 12 and under are just \$23 each.

The Nutcracker is a timeless holiday classic for children and adults. This treasured ballet follows young Clara's journey to meet fairies, princes, toy soldiers and an army of mice. This version uses the same authentic Russian choreography performed by the famous Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow, and it is set to Tchaikovsky's beloved music, including favorites like Waltz of the Flowers, Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, and Waltz of the Snowflakes. Make this another holiday tradition for the whole family!



Jack Hanna's Into the Wild, Live –

Presented by Nationwide, on Thursday, January 23, at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$42. Jack Hanna is America's most beloved animal expert, and he's bringing his three-time Emmy Award-winning series *Into The Wild Live!* back to the Sunrise stage. "Jungle Jack" takes you with him "into the wild." You'll meet incredible animals and hear real-life, jaw-dropping stories about brushing a hippo's teeth and eating with wombats (and many, many more). Plus, you'll see footage of his worldwide adventures, from the jungles of Rwanda to the savannas of Australia, and learn about Jack's passion and dedication to wildlife conservation. Expect to see about 15 animals. The exact lineup is a surprise for now, but you could "meet" a baby cheetah, kangaroo, baby tiger, two-toed sloth or a penguin!

Catapult: The Amazing Magic of Shadow Dancing,

Thursday, February 20, at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$42; tickets for kids 12 and under are just \$23 each. This shadow dance company, founded in 2009 by Adam Battlestein, theatrically blends dance, storytelling, and sculpture in a performance you simply must see for yourself. Catapult "catapulted" to fame on season eight of *America's Got Talent*, eventually making their way to the finals of the popular TV show. The family-friendly show is "all about the human body and its ability to transform." From behind a screen, dancers create seemingly impossible shadow images of shapes — becoming a mountain, a life-size elephant, a helicopter, a house with a window and people inside. How do they do it? It's a secret, but you'll definitely be surprised and amazed by their transformations.

Dinosaur World Live:

A Dino-Mite Adventure!, on Sunday, February 23, at 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$38; tickets for kids 12 and under are just \$18 each. Who isn't amazed by dinosaurs? *Dinosaur World Live* is a "roarsome" interactive show for kids and the young at heart. You'll get to discover a prehistoric world of almost life-like dinosaurs— including a tyrannosaurus rex, triceratops, giraffatitan, microraptor and segnosaurus! After the show, stick around for a special meet-and-greet with a new dinosaur friend. Don't miss this "entertaining and mind-expanding Jurassic adventure." (Tickets are \$18 for children ages 12 and under.)

My Little Pony Live,

Thursday, April 30, at 6 p.m. (Tickets start at \$32.) The Family Adventure series finishes up with the "mane" event. The all-new *My Little Pony Live* features an original story about ponies like Twilight Sparkle, Pinkie Pie, Rarity, Fluttershy, Applejack and Rainbow Dash. Along with Spike, the ponies "embrace their true colors" during a memorable, magical, musical journey to the land of Equestria. Don't miss this "ultimate celebration of laughter, kindness and the magic of friendship."

These shows are likely to sell out, so get your tickets today!



SUNRISE THEATRE FINANCIAL REPORT

Date	Show	Ticket Sales	Concessions	Miscellaneous	Total Revenue
10/3/2019	Science of Ecology (School Show)	945.00		216.00	1,161.00
10/25/2019	Allman Betts Band	42,845.00	9,058.00	158.00	52,061.00
10/3/2019	RENTALS				
10/17/2019	J Hendrick/ Reception	N/A	689.00	428.00	1,117.00
10/26/2019	B K Jackson	1,445.00	270.00	200.00	1,915.00
	Impact	N/A			0.00
10/1 ~31/19	Jazz Jam - BB	635.00	577.00		1,212.00
10/1 ~31/19	Comedy Corner - BB	2,205.00	562.00		2,767.00
		\$48,075.00	\$11,156.00	\$1,002.00	\$60,233.00



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
HOLIDAY LIGHTS SPECTACULAR	12/2019 - 1/2020	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	MARINA SQUARE
FRIDAY FEST	12/6	5:30 PM - 9:00 PM	MARINA SQUARE
MOVIES IN THE FORT	12/6	6:00 PM	FORT PIERCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
SIGHTS & SOUNDS PARADE	12/8	1:00 PM - 6:00 PM	DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE
CHRISTMAS ON MOORE'S CREEK	12/14	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	AVE D & 8th STREET
COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR	12/20	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	FORT PIERCE YACHT CLUB



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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