

MARCH 2022

# THE FORT PIERCE INSIDER

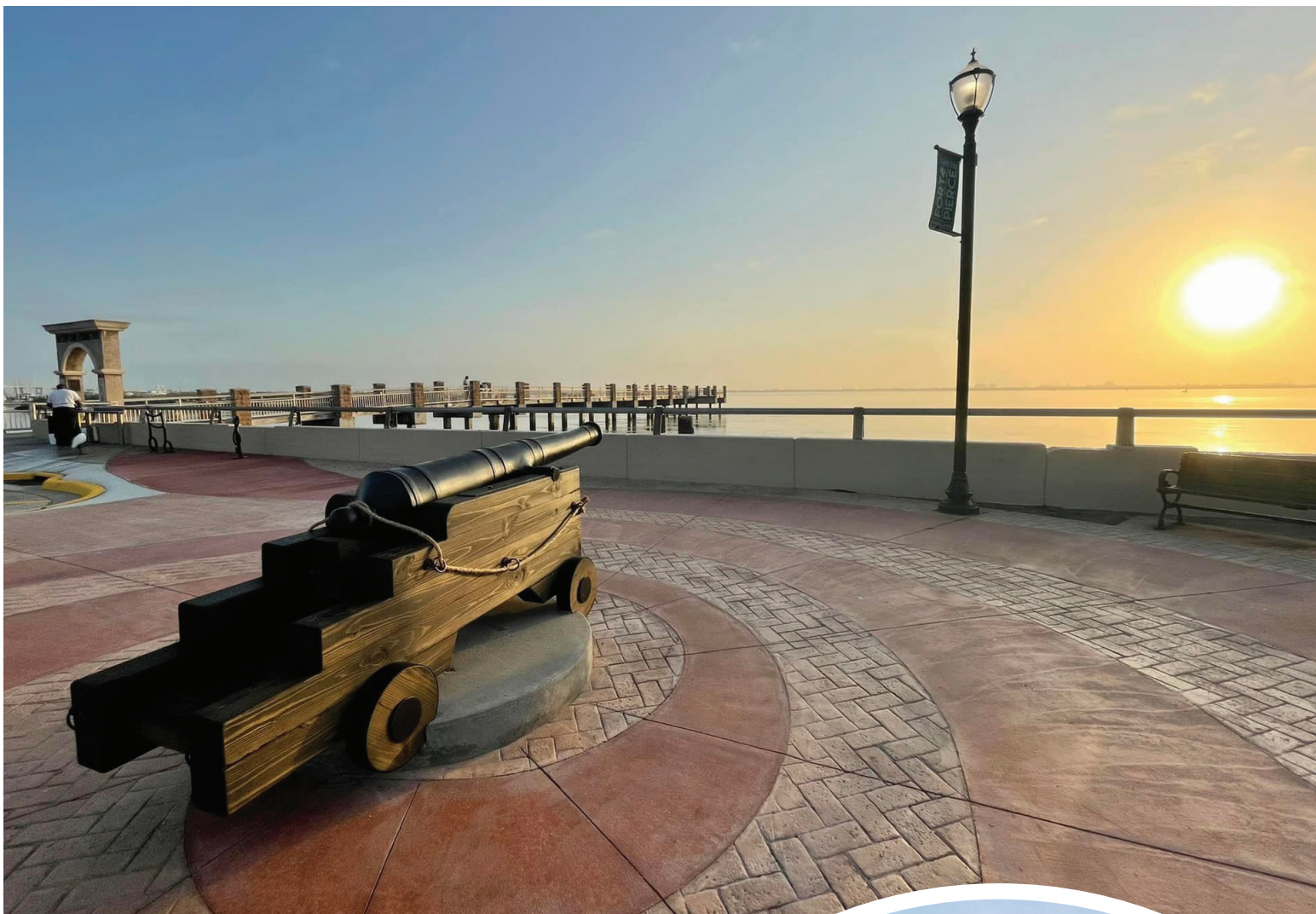




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# A Treasured Past

Joe Sweat, Communications Specialist

The 1715 Spanish Treasure Cannon was unveiled after lying dormant for hundreds of years and was the first cannon brought to the surface in over 40 years. The City of Fort Pierce celebrated the unique treasure which is now on display in downtown Fort Pierce near the Melody Lane Fishing Pier. The City is thankful for Captain John Brandon of the 1715 Queens Jewels, Matt Samuel of the Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Advisory Board, and of the Lions Club, who significantly donated to see this project through from start to finish. Furthermore, many thanks to Captain Dan Porter, the City of Fort Pierce Public Works Department staff, Aaron Nether-ton, and other community partners for making this all possible.





## About The Cannon

For more than 300 hundred years, a cannon from the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet sat in the Atlantic, just north of Fort Pierce. The retrieval was made by Captain John Brandon of the 1715 Fleet Queens Jewels, LLC and Captain Danny Porter of the Seatrepid, together they skillfully salvaged the relic. The cannon resurfaced on August 13, 2018, and was brought to the docks of Fisherman's Wharf where it was hoisted out of the water by crane, making land for the first time in centuries. The cannon was transported to the City's Public Works compound to undergo the restoration process, prepping it for public display at the Melody Lane Fishing Pier Plaza.

*"(It) doesn't happen often," Captain John Brandon said. "The last cannon that was brought up from the 1715 Fleet was about 30, 35 years ago. ... This one might be the last one for several generations."*





## History of the Sandy Point 1715 Fleet Wreck Site

On July 24, 1715 the combined Spanish Fleet from South America and Mexico consisting of at least 11 vessels left Havana, Cuba bound for Spain. Heavily laden with gold, silver, jewels and commercial cargos, at least 10 ships of the fleet were lost along the middle East Coast of Florida when caught in a fierce hurricane on the night of July 30th and the pre-dawn hours of July 31st. One of these ships came to rest just to the north of present day Ft. Pierce, Florida at a place now known locally as Sandy Point.

The wreck laid there until it was discovered in the mid-20th century by famed Florida Keys treasure salvor Art McKee. McKee recovered several cannons but little else. Then in the early 1960's Sebastian, Florida salvor Kip Wagner, who went on to find a fortune on the lost 1715 fleet wreck sites, as well as proving an historical glimpse into the early 18th century also made a cursory search of the wreck site with little results. In 1963, famed treasure salvor Mel Fisher and his team re-explored the site recovering about 2,000 heavily worn silver pieces of eight and three small gold coins from the mint at Mexico City. The first significant treasures ever recovered by Mel Fisher and his team. Mel and his team would go on to find vast amounts of treasures and artifacts on the 1715 fleet wreck sites as well as on the 1622 wrecks of the Atocha and Margarita off Key West, Florida. No other

gold was ever recovered at the Sandy Point wreck site until the summer of 2011 when salvor John Brandon and his crewman Kenton Dickerson recovered a beautiful gold ring from the site as well as a number of silver coins.

The identities of none of the 1715 fleet wreck sites can be proven in an academic fashion. That is to say, there have been no artifacts or treasures recovered from specific 1715 fleet wreck sites that would conclusively match the archival and historical research data pertaining to a specific 1715 fleet shipwreck in order to allow for a positive identification to be arrived at. Based on circumstantial historical and archaeological evidence it is believed that the Sandy Point wreck may represent the partial remains of one of the South American ships of the fleet, possibly General Echeverz Almiranta, the Nuestra Senora del Carmen. Only time and more investigations of this wreck site might provide more positive identification. The Sandy Point shipwreck remains a mystery not only as to her identification, but also as to where the bulk of her treasures and other related artifacts went down. This cannon serves as a reminder of that fateful day in 1715, as well as the enduring modern day efforts to unlock the Sandy Point wreck's lost treasure mysteries as well as those of the rest of the 1715 Plate Fleet.



## AT WILLOW LAKES

Willow Lakes Development was approved in 2020 to be a vibrant, mixed-use urban village at the crossroads of Florida's Turnpike, and Interstate 95 in the City of Fort Pierce. The site is situated on 200.3 acres of land, lying immediately north of Midway Road and west of I-95. Willow Lakes is envisioned to be an east coast destination uniting locals, in addition to, regional, national and international visitors. The development has been planned to be a lively, pedestrian-oriented community of inviting public spaces, walkable streets, and authentic neighborhoods with a recreational amenity for seasoned and novice surfers. The site plan for Willow Lakes is a mixed use live, work, play and learn community.





RDEN



# PHASE 1 OF THE PROJECT



***WILLOW LAKES IS A MIXED  
USE LIVE, WORK, PLAY AND  
LEARN COMMUNITY.***



The vision proposed by the applicant for Willow Lakes is a community that celebrates outdoor activity and a healthy lifestyle. The residential, retail, and commercial uses will be combined to provide a critical mass of activity that will bring year-round life to the proposed community. Willow Lakes is being designed to create a “village” that will be one of a kind in Florida, built around a state-of-the-art and largest world-class surf park in the country.

The architecture for the Willow Lakes Hub and Surf Pods (Lanais) is contemporary in design. The Hub creates a look and feel as though the building is a wave. A number of uses are proposed within the Hub that will cater to not only sports enthusiasts but to residents and tourists alike.

***“The Wavegarden at Willow Lakes will deliver high quality waves and authentic surfing experiences year-round for new and existing surfers of all ages, experience and ability. Beyond the Wavegarden, the Village will be comprised of several distinct neighborhoods, knit together by a network of walkable, pedestrian-oriented streets, and navigable flow-ways designed for maximum environmental and recreational purposes. The result will be an inclusive environment where visitors, residents, and professionals have fun, keep fit and feel part of a community that shares their passion and respect for surfing, the ocean, others and the planet.”***



# SAVE THE DATE GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

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OR CALL 772.467.3795

**KEEP FORT PIERCE BEAUTIFUL**



## CONTINUING TO HONOR AND SERVE

Officer Damian Spotts was honored and recognized as the Law Enforcement Officer of the Day at the House of Representatives in Tallahassee. It also marked his 19th year with the Fort Pierce Police Department!! The City is lucky to have such a dedicated individual, serving and protecting our community. Congrats Officer Spotts!

(Left) Chief, Diane Hobbey-Burney, State Representative Dana Trabulsy, Officer Damian Spotts.



It was a great turnout at the first annual **“Give Back To The City of Fort Pierce Day”** hosted by the Image of Christ Church’s, Pastor Hazel Hoylman. This community event drew attendees both young and old with free food and free raffle prizes given to all who attended. And to top it off, horse and UTV rides were also available to those who wanted to venture. Local organizations were also on site to offer their services to the community. The Fort Pierce Police Department was proud to ab a part of this local event, and look forward to more in the future.

Thank you again to Pastor Hazel Hoylman for “giving back” to the City of Fort Pierce. (Date February 19th, 2022)



# CONSTRUCTION SPOTLIGHT



## GEORGIA AVENUE BASIN WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS:

The City of Fort Pierce was recently awarded a \$1,320,000 Water Quality Improvement Grant through South Florida Water Management District for a project identified as Georgia Avenue Basin Water Quality Improvements. SFWMD approved grant funding to nine different projects within their governing boundary all of which provide some type of water quality benefit to the Indian River Lagoon. The City proposes to implement numerous Best Management Practices (BMPs) to aid in the removal of phosphorus, nitrogen, and other harmful nutrients from stormwater discharging from the 235-acre Georgia Avenue Drainage Basin.



## **SOUTH 5TH STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS (BOSTON TO DELAWARE):**

The roadway has been opened to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. A final construction walk-thru was conducted on February 18th and a punch list of items to be corrected or completed has been generated. Unfortunately, we are still 6-weeks away from FPUA completing the service connections which would allow for the elimination of the overhead lines and existing utility poles located within the limits of the construction project. Once these poles are removed, the flags of sidewalk missing on the west side of S. 5th Street can be constructed. Thermo striping and new roadway signage is scheduled for installation the last week of February.

## **OHIO AVENUE (U.S. HIGHWAY 1 TO 11TH STREET):**

Full roadway reconstruction of Ohio Avenue between U.S. Highway 1 and 11th Street will provide a curb and gutter roadway section complete with sidewalks, streetlights, underground utilities, introduction of a stormwater collection system, limited landscaping, and ADA upgrades. Engineering staff is currently reviewing the 60% design plans and will forward review comments to the consultant to address.

## **AVENUE D (INDIAN RIVER DRIVE TO 29TH STREET):**

Full roadway reconstruction of Avenue D between U.S. Highway 1 and Indian River Drive is proposed. These improvements shall include roadway reconstruction with sidewalks, ADA upgrades, curb and gutter, stormwater collection system, conversion of overhead utilities to underground, and street lighting installation. The section of Avenue D between U.S. Highway 1 and 29th Street will include milling and resurfacing of the roadway and the replacement of the existing brick paver crosswalks with stamped asphalt crosswalks.

# NEW PROJECTS



## DENTAL OFFICE & MORE:

Located at the corner of Okeechobee Rd and McNeil Rd, exterior construction of this three-unit office building is nearing completion. Exterior façade improvements have begun and the interior construction for the tenants will begin soon. This property was the former Cowboy's Restaurant location.

## HOME 2 SUITES:

Home2Suites by Hilton located at 1990 Reynolds Drive recently had the concrete slab/floor poured and inspected. Vertical construction of the concrete block walls has begun, and once the rebar has been inspected, the concrete block with rebar will be filled with grout and will again be inspected for compliance with the Florida Building Code.

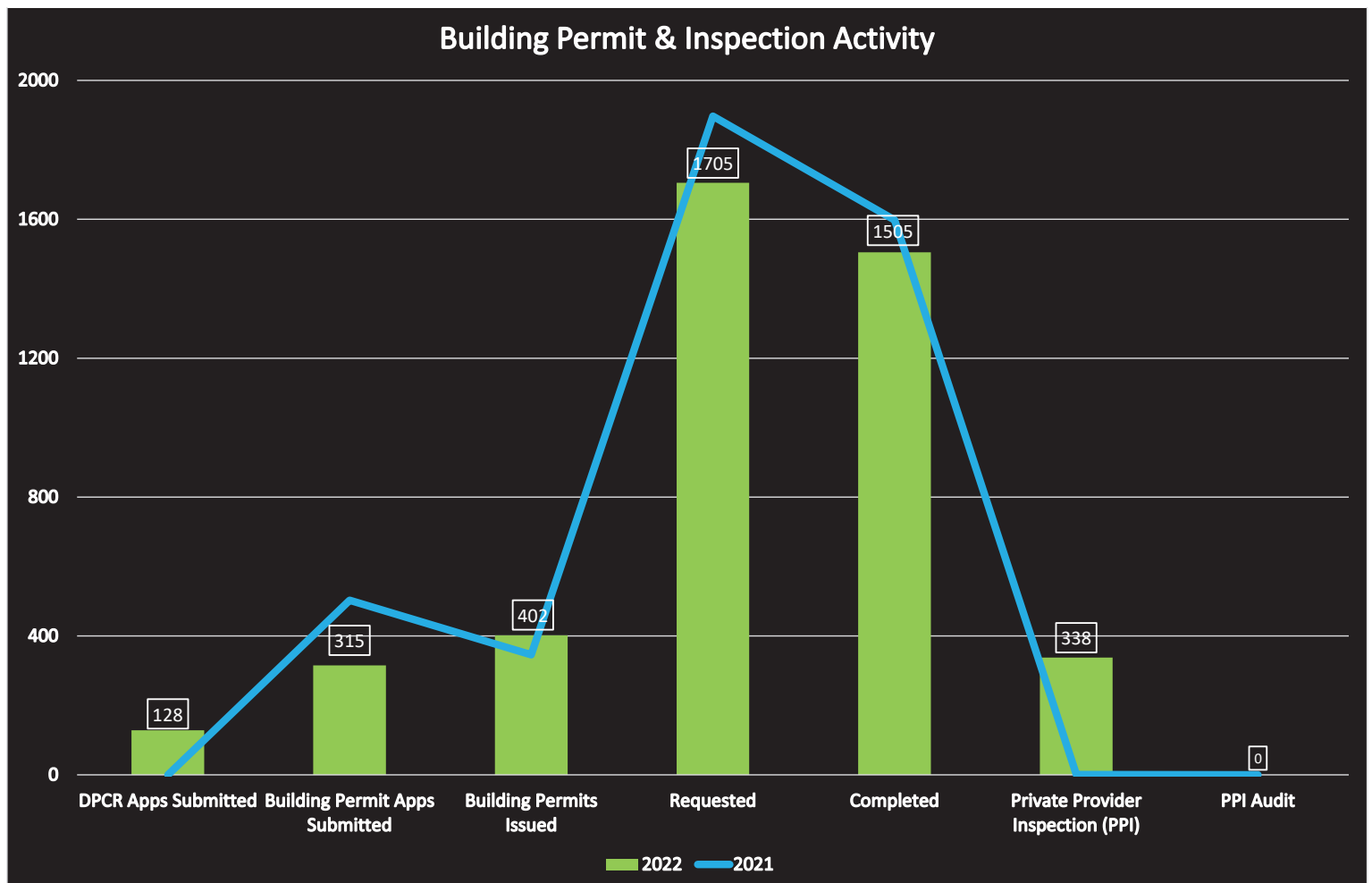




## BUILDING CHART FOR JANUARY 2022

JANUARY 2022 PLAN REVIEW PROCESSING TIME & ACTIVITY REPORT COMBINED

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



# KEEP FORT PIERCE BEAUTIFUL SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

**Kaitlyn Ballard,**  
Executive Assistant to the Public Works Director

Show your Fort Pierce pride by volunteering during the Great American Cleanup, Fort Pierce's largest Annual Litter Cleanup and Beautification Event, on Saturday, March 12, 2022, from 8 AM until Noon. The Great American Cleanup unifies and beautifies communities across the country in a grassroots spring-cleaning movement. Celebrating its 24th year, the most recent Great American Cleanup created 15,000 opportunities for millions of volunteers to have remarkable results – picking up millions of pounds of litter, cleaning over 100,000 acres of public spaces, and tens of thousands of miles of roadways and shorelines. Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful provides a unique experience for groups to make an impact throughout the Fort Pierce community. They invite Fort Pierce residents, visitors, businesses, and organizations to participate in the year's Great American Cleanup event. In an effort to provide a safe environment for all volunteers, participants are encouraged to form small teams and choose an area in the city to pick up litter. Registered volunteers may be provided with litter collection supplies such as trash bags, gloves, pickers, and t-shirts, while supplies last. **Items can be picked up from the Public Works Compound located at 52 Savannah Rd, Fort Pierce, FL 34982, on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, from 1 PM TO 4 PM, Friday, March 11, 2022, from 8 AM TO 3 PM, or Saturday March 12, 2022, from 7 AM TO 3 PM.**



The Annual Arbor Day Planting Celebration will also take place on March 12 in conjunction with the Great American Cleanup. The City of Fort Pierce will be planting a beautiful oak tree at the Kimberly Bergalis Memorial Park located at S. Ocean Drive and Melaleuca Drive Fort Pierce, FL 34950. This event starts at 10 AM and residents and visitors are welcome to attend the planting. The City of Fort Pierce is proud to have received the prestigious Tree City USA designation for thirty-three consecutive years from the National Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management and this tree planting celebration is another example of that commitment.

We are super excited for the Great American Cleanup, and we cannot wait to see you there! To register, please visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPGAC2022>

For more information, please visit the city's website at:

<http://www.cityoffortpiece.com/383/Great-American-Cleanup>

or call Kaitlyn Ballard at 772.467.3795



EVERY WEDNESDAY - GREEN MARKET - MARINA SQUARE 12:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
 EVERY SATURDAY - JAZZ MARKET – MARINA SQUARE 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
 EVERY SATURDAY - DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - MARINA SQUARE 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

3/4/22 FRIDAY FEST – MARINA SQUARE 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

3/19/22 SAILFISH SAINT PATRICK’S DAY PARTY – 2ND STREET 12:00 PM – 11:00 PM

3/22-25/22 JAZZ ON THE WATER WEEK – MARINA SQUARE 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

3/24/22 DANCING IN THE STREET – 2ND STREET 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

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## RIVER WALK CENTER SALES REPORT **JANUARY 2022**

<b>CLASSES</b> .....	\$ 689.13
<b>PARK PERMITS</b> .....	\$ 1,275.00
<b>SPECIAL EVENTS</b> .....	\$ 1,715.00
<b>FACILITY</b> .....	\$ 4,255.33
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	\$ 7,934.46



In spite of the cold temperatures we have endured between mid-January and mid-February, we have continued to aggressively work on improving the golf course. We have been utilizing a spiker in all of the fairways to aid with the compaction and open up the turf for more oxygen and improved root health. We continue to improve bunkers, edge cart paths and have completed several fertilizer applications.

From a round standpoint, we have had a fantastic February with total rounds up approximately 600 over last year and we have increased our average revenue per round by over a dollar year to date. It appears that we may be out of the coldest temperatures so with a mild Spring of rain and warm weather, we should continue to stay busy all the way through April.

We pride ourselves on our customer service as well as being warm and welcoming to all players!

We provide a fun and relaxed environment for players of all ages and skill levels. Our pace of play has been unmatched locally as we regularly are at, or UNDER a 4 hour round of golf on even our busiest days.

Word of mouth is our greatest form of advertising, so we ask if you've played here

and enjoyed the changes we're making, please tell a friend...or two! If there's something we can improve upon...tell US so we can keep getting better! 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 maintenance projects.

## INDIAN HILLS SALES REPORT

	12/2021	1/2022
<b>GOLF ROUNDS</b>	2994	2907
<b>GOLF FEES</b>	\$94,130.10	\$87,841.01
<b>RANGE TOKENS</b>	\$2,588.20	\$2,880.60
<b>MEMBERSHIP PASS</b>	\$9,041.90	\$2,389.28
<b>FOOD &amp; BEVERAGES</b>	\$5,517.57	\$5,513.83
<b>MERCHANDISE</b>	\$3,391.50	\$2,907.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$114,669.27</b>	<b>\$101,532.56</b>



## CITY MARINA FINANCIAL REPORT

	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
<b>Dockage Reservations</b>	219	184	154
<b>Monthly Dockage</b>	\$139,545.31	\$164,339.07	\$175,601.82
<b>Transient Dockage</b>	\$69,552.75	\$74,744.17	\$68,865.45
<b>Electricity</b>	\$4,625.61	\$6,850.08	\$7,767.87
<b>Retail</b>	\$16,412.73	\$23,773.93	\$19,407.87
<b>Gas Sales</b>	\$38,926.06	\$63,530.79	\$36,661.55
<b>Diesel Sales</b>	\$126,713.63	\$124,334.70	\$101,043.19
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$395,776.09</b>	<b>\$457,579.66</b>	<b>\$409,347.75</b>

# COME ON DOWN!

February was busy with many large audiences at the Sunrise Theatre. From the ever popular Popovich Comedy Pet Theater, Strictly Sinatra Rat Pack with Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr. singing many “Sinatra” hits to a packed house of over 700 guests to ABBA Mania fans dancing and singing in the aisles to Mama Mia. Excitement abounds at the Sunrise Theatre!

Springing forward into March are several hot, must-see shows. Sunrise Theatre has a packed schedule this spring, with shows for the whole family. From one of the best magical illusion shows of our time to a night of 10-part harmonies from Down Under, your historic theater in downtown Fort Pierce is bringing world-class entertainers to the Treasure Coast. Fantasy, fervor and flair combine in ‘Masters of Illusion’ on Friday, March 4 at 8pm. This 21st-century magic show is a spectacle you have to see to believe. Starring some of the best magicians of modern time, “Masters of Illusion” features arts of deception and jaw-dropping illusions right before your eyes. Performers from around the world “combine fantasy, fervor and flair” along with comedy for a show that will have you glued to the edge of your seat.

Love is in the Air when The Ten Tenors take the stage on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:30pm. Snag a pair of tickets and invite your sweetheart for a night of some of the most popular feel-good love songs and wedding first-dance songs. From pop favorites to classic love ballads (and even



a few romantic arias), these 10 gents from Australia perform perfect 10-part harmonies. You’ll love their passion-filled versions of tunes like “All You Need Is Love,” “Unchained Melody,” “I’d Do Anything for Love” and “Somebody to Love.” Surprise the one you love by turning a regular Tuesday night into a date night you’ll cherish forever.

Come on down to The Price is Right Live, yes on stage at the Sunrise Theatre Friday, March 25 at 8pm. If you’ve ever dreamed of hearing the words “come on down” — and spinning the big wheel — this night is your chance. This is an on-stage version of the classic game show everyone knows and loves. It brings all your favorite games to life. You’ll see Plinko, Cliffhangers, The Big Wheel and even the fabulous Showcase. Even better? You could actually win prizes, such as appliances, vacations and possibly a new car! Interested in being a contestant? Go to the Sunrise Theatre website and under the Price is Right show page you will find additional information. Contestants must be at least 18 years old. You also can simply attend and cheer on the big winners.



Scott Bradlee’s beloved musical show Postmodern Jukebox: The Grand Reopening Tour is coming to the Sunrise Theatre stage on Thursday, April 7, 7:30 p.m. Postmodern Jukebox — or PMJ as fans call it — is a rotating musical collective founded by arranger and pianist Scott Bradlee. Since 2011, Postmodern Jukebox has built a global reputation for spinning popular modern music into different vintage genres, especially early 20th-century forms such as swing and jazz. This show is the perfect event for multigenerational family outings — and anyone who says “they just don’t make music like they did in the good old days.” Bradlee and the PMJ prove that everything old is new again.

Go to [www.sunrisetheatre.com](http://www.sunrisetheatre.com) for an up to date listing of all events or call the box office 772.461.4775

# STAY CONNECTED



[www.cityoffortpierce.com](http://www.cityoffortpierce.com) | 772.467.3000

## WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

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• MILES OF SMILES LEARNING CENTER  
• MINTON LAW, P.A.  
• OASIS RESORT GROUP LLC  
• RC FLOORING INSTALLERS LLC  
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• SISTERLOC STATION BY BEAUTE LLC  
• THE THOUGHT SOCIETY LLC/ DBA  
• THRIVE DOWNTOWN HYDRATION  
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• TREASURE COAST RETREAT  
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