



Volume 20, No. 9

April, 2025

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

Main Street Fort Pierce's Annual Golf Tournament

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 17



Don't miss the chance to be part of this exciting event.
Visit www.mainstreetfortpierce.org to register your team
or contact us at 772-466-3880 to secure your spot as a sponsor.

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Main Street Focus
122 AE Backus Ave.
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Mayor Linda Hudson invites you to join her for Community News, Special Announcements, Complimentary Steamworks Coffeebar coffee, Breakfast Treats, and more!

Friday, April 18th, at 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club
700 N. Indian River Drive

HOSTED BY Fort Pierce Yacht Club, Main Street Fort Pierce, Steamworks Coffeebar and Eatery and The City of Fort Pierce. Call Main Street Fort Pierce for more information at 772-466-3880.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sip on Sunshine at the Annual Main Street Fort Pierce Reverse Raffle

by Donna Sizemore




It's April, the climate hasn't yet reached its peak temperatures, and it's a beautiful time of year to enjoy the outdoors. Downtown Fort Pierce boasts numerous restaurants and bars where you can sit outside and relish the weather. Consider visiting the Saturday **Farmers Market** and relax alongside the Indian River, soaking in the sunshine.

Part of *Main Street Fort Pierce's Strategic Plan* included expanding our board. We are delighted to announce the addition of a new board member: Glen Hoffman, a Fort Pierce native, served as a deputy sheriff with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office for 30 years. During his tenure, he worked in the crime prevention unit—overseeing community volunteers, managing the Neighborhood Watch program, and conducting security surveys for both businesses and residences. After retiring in 2018, he returned to full-time service six years later and is currently assigned to the Community Engagement Unit.

One last reminder about the **Reverse Raffle**. The event will take place on April 11, 2025, at the **Pelican Yacht Club**. There's still time to buy tickets for a chance to win up to \$5,000 in prizes. This year's theme is *Sippin' On Sunshine*, and we envision a room full of bright citrus colors! If you've never attended, you're sure to be glad you did! Visit our website to obtain tickets and register to bid on the incredible auction items generously donated by our community.

On the third Friday of each month, *Main Street Fort Pierce* hosts *Coffee with the Mayor* at 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**. Each month features a speaker from a business or non-profit organization. In April, *Main Street Fort Pierce* will host and sponsor *Coffee with the Mayor*. Please join us on April 18 to learn all about *Main Street Fort Pierce*, the impact it has on the community, and how you can become a member and/or volunteer.

As always, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our numerous volunteers for their hard work and support in ensuring that *Main Street Fort Pierce* remains the heartbeat of our community. *Happy Spring!* 🏡

MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

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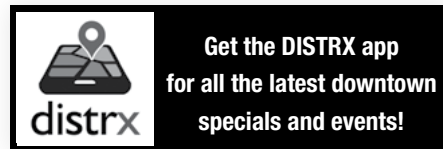
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Phone: 772.466.3880 • mainstreetfortpierce.org

Calendar

Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic, Downtown Fort Pierce!



MONTHLY EVENTS

April 4, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by **RJ Preston Duo**; Please remove all vehicles from the permitted Friday Fest road closure area (Marina Way & Melody Lane) by 2:00 p.m.; **Facebook**—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

April 18, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; **Sponsor** — **Main Street Fort Pierce**; **Facebook**—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

April 18, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wednesdays: Wednesday Green Market & Food Co-Op — rain or shine 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., Downtown Marina Square; 971-8480.

Saturdays: The Jazz Market — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north side of the Downtown Fort Pierce Library; Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299, jazzsociety.org.

Saturdays: Ft. Pierce Farmer's Market — 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN

Wine Down Wednesday
Fort Social in the Galleria on the 2nd and 4th
Wednesday of each month, 6 to 8 p.m.
TheFortSteakhouse.com

Sailfish Brewing Company
[facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company](https://facebook.com/SailfishBrewingCompany)

Pierced Cider
[Facebook @piercedcider](https://facebook.com/piercedcider)

Cobbs Landing
cobbs-landing.com

Bottom's Up Public House
facebook.com/bottomsuppublichouse

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& SUNRISE BLACK BOX**

772-461-4775 • sunrisetheatre.com

Tuesdays: Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre — 7 to 10 p.m.; 460-5299; jazzsociety.org.

MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

462-2787 • www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

Common Ground Vineyard Church; 460-5414, commongroundvineyard.com.

First Church; 464-0440, firstchurchfp.org.

Fort Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church; 940-6728, haitianmethodist.org.

Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church; 466-9617, notredamecc.com.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (founded 1893); 461-5009 mystandrews.org.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

A.E. Backus Museum

772-465-0630 • backusmuseum.com

Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
772-462-1795 • 2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building

Fort Pierce Police Athletic League

772-370-6162 • fortpiercepal.com
Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society

772-460-5299 • jazzsociety.org

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center

600 North Indian River Drive
772-489-6473 • cityoffortpierce.com

Heathcote Botanical Gardens

772-464-4672 • heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum

772-595-5845 • navysealmuseum.org

St. Lucie County Marine Center

772-462-3474 • stlucieco.gov/marine_center

St. Lucie County Regional History Center

772-462-1795 • stlucieco.gov/history



APRIL: NATIONAL JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

APRIL 1: APRIL FOOL'S DAY

APRIL 2: NATIONAL PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY DAY

APRIL 2: PASCUA FLORIDA DAY

APRIL 3: WORLD AQUATIC ANIMAL DAY

APRIL 6: ARMY DAY IN UNITED STATES

APRIL 7: NATIONAL BEER DAY

➔ APRIL 10: GOLFER'S DAY

APRIL 12: GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH DAY

APRIL 13: NATIONAL SCRABBLE DAY

APRIL 13: PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13: FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER

APRIL 14: NATIONAL GARDENING DAY

APRIL 14: NATIONAL DOLPHIN DAY

APRIL 15: TAX DAY

APRIL 15: WORLD ART DAY

APRIL 16: WEAR PAJAMAS TO WORK DAY

APRIL 17: BLAH BLAH BLAH DAY

APRIL 18: LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 18: NEWSPAPER COLUMNISTS' DAY

APRIL 20: EASTER SUNDAY ➔

APRIL 22: APRIL SHOWERS DAY

APRIL 22: IN GOD WE TRUST DAY

APRIL 24: PIGS IN A BLANKET DAY

APRIL 27: MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE DAY

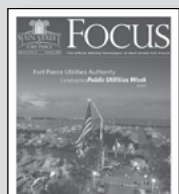
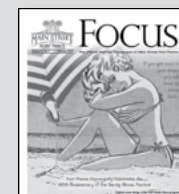
APRIL 27: WOODY WOODPECKER DAY

APRIL 30: INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

About Us: the *Main Street Focus*

Main Street's monthly newspaper is an important way to keep our members and the public informed about the revitalization efforts in downtown Fort Pierce. The newspaper highlights the people, places, and events that work together to make our community a desirable place to live and work.

In July 2005, the staff, board, and volunteers of *Main Street* began production of its 32-page monthly newspaper. The *Main Street Focus* has continued to cover news about the events, people, businesses, and redevelopment taking place within the *Main Street Fort Pierce* boundaries for over 20 years.



The *Focus* is always looking for fresh stories and writers. *Main Street Focus* articles must be factual, positive, and related to the downtown Fort Pierce area or *Main Street* programs. Any writer with a story idea may contact the *Main Street* office at (772) 466-3880 or email focus@mainstreet-fortpierce.org.

Local organizations and businesses are also welcome to submit press releases or event notification flyers related to downtown Fort Pierce for publishing consideration. The deadline for the following month's edition is the 1st of the current month.

What is the *Main Street Program*?

The *Main Street Program* was created by the *National Trust for Historic Preservation* in the late 1970s to revitalize historic commercial districts and downtown communities across the United States. Post World War II housing and shopping trends included the departure from traditional commercial areas (that in some areas existed for centuries). These downtowns slowly lost the businesses, activities and connections that had united their communities in the past. This led to mass economic loss for local commercial property owners which further resulted in the destruction of numerous historic buildings during the 1960s and 1970s.

To combat the continued destruction of these historic downtowns, the *National Trust* created a pilot program that would later be named the *Main Street Approach* and tested it

in three downtowns: Galesburg, IL, Hot Springs, SD, and Madison, IN. Its success led to the official launch of the *National Main Street Center* in 1980. Today *Main Street America* is a separate organization from the *National Trust* and continues to provide support, training and the transmission of proven ideas & solutions to thousands of participating *Main Street* downtowns and districts. As of 2023, (according to the *Main Street America* website at <https://mainstreet.org/our-network/collective-impact>) this effort has led to over \$107 billion in local reinvestment, 175,323 in net new businesses, 782,059 net gain in jobs, 335,675 rehabbed buildings, and has procured over 35.3 million of volunteer hours.

The *Main Street Approach*®, <https://mainstreet.org/about/how-we-work/the-main-street-approach>. 🏠

ECONOMIC VITALITY ➡ DESIGN ➡ PROMOTION ➡ ORGANIZATION



National Trust for
Historic Preservation®



Mayor's Message Year-Round Outdoor Fun at Fort Pierce Parks

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Pickleball is a fast-growing sport and there are good reasons for this. It's a sport for all ages. You don't have to be super athletic to play. It's not an expensive game to play. It's a healthy but safe workout for all age groups, and age groups can play each other. Said to be spawned from tennis and badminton, pickleball is played on a smaller court than tennis with a paddle and perforated ball.

Where can you play in Fort Pierce? Our first courts were created when we restriped the tennis courts at *Jaycee Park* on South Beach. Courts are planned near Indian Hills Golf Course, and *Maravilla Park*, on Maple Avenue, between U.S. Highway One and Oleander. Almost completed are pickleball courts at *Pinewood Park*. Our city has made major improvements to *Pinewood Park* including a children's playground, and the pickleball courts, restoring this park for the neighborhood.

Fort Pierce Parks offer a variety of outdoor sports including basketball, baseball, soccer, tennis, shuffleboard, volleyball, beach parks, boat ramps, children's playgrounds, barbecue and picnic facilities, and a dog park. To use the pavilions at some city parks, reservations must be made at the **River Walk Center**, 772-489-6473. Most city parks are open from dawn to dusk. Some St. Lucie County Parks are located within the City

of Fort Pierce. For a list of Fort Pierce parks and what they offer, visit: <https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/375/City-Parks>. To reserve county parks, contact *St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation* at 772-462-1100. 🏠



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Sippin' On Sunshine at the Pelican Yacht Club

Join us for the **31st Annual Reverse Raffle Celebration** on Friday, April 11. Hosted by *Main Street Fort Pierce*, this year's **Reverse Raffle** will be a Florida Sunshine evening filled with live music and community camaraderie. Put on your best Florida citrus-inspired attire as we transform the **Pelican Yacht Club** into paradise.

The festivities will kick off at 6:00 p.m. with the exhilarating **Reverse Raffle** — a crowd favorite that promises cash prizes and thrilling anticipation! The evening will be buzzing with excitement as lucky numbers are drawn, where participants have a chance to win cash. The grand prize is an amazing \$2,000.

Mingle with friends in the main room amidst a dazzling display of silent auction items generously donated by local businesses. Discover treasures, bid on fantastic items, and revel in the lively atmosphere of community spirit.

The live auction begins at 8:30 p.m. and will feature an array of new and exciting items such as a unique *Wild Game*

Experience, Art from famed locals, a *Tropical Sunset Party at the Hayek Tiki Bar*, and many more mysterious surprises!

Tickets for this event are priced at \$125 per person and include not only a chance to win the grand prize but also an evening of delightful food and entertainment. Act fast, as this event sells out every year due to the limited number of tickets available. Go to the *Main Street Fort Pierce* website at mainstreetfortpierce.org to secure your ticket in advance — they won't be available at the door! For more, call *Main Street Fort Pierce* at (772) 466-3880.

Thank you to our local business sponsors whose generosity makes it all happen. When the need arises, consider supporting these businesses that make a difference in our local community:

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- John Jacobs Construction | Seacoast Bank**
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- The Tierney & Wetzel Foundation**
- Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank**
- East Coast Lumber & Supply/ACE Hardware**
- Fort Pierce Utilities Authority**
- Lott Insurance Services | Carr, Riggs & Ingram**
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- Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd**
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- Southern Castles PM & Realty | SouthState Bank**
- Yavorsky's Truck Service | Be A Star with Bryce & Shar**

Let's come together, celebrate, and support the continued progress of our local community. All proceeds from this event directly contribute to *Main Street Fort Pierce's* mission to revitalize downtown commerce and preserve our historic treasures. Since 1994, the **Reverse Raffle** has been a vital fundraiser, contributing to the restoration of iconic landmarks like the **Historic City Hall**, **Sunrise Theatre**, and the **Manatee Observation & Education Center**. The **Platts/Backus House** is our latest restoration project, and your generosity helps make it all possible.

Don't miss the chance to sip on sunshine while supporting a great cause! 🏠

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Easter
Worship Services

7 a.m. **SUNRISE** Marina Square
10 a.m. **Church** Sanctuary

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 Coral Gables, FL 33134 | P: 305-442-1471

Ecology 101: Predator-Prey Interactions

by John D. Pinsof, Ph.D., Manatee Observation and Education Center (MOEC)

One of the most dynamic interactions found in nature is predation. This occurs when one living organism (the predator) feeds upon another (the prey), usually but not always killing it. The scope of predation is broad. Most people first think of an African lion chasing down and eating a gazelle as predation but many other types of feeding behaviors also qualify. For example, filter-feeding species such as humpback whales consuming tiny marine organisms and even deer grazing in a grassy meadow are considered predator-prey interactions as well. Through natural selection and millions of years of evolution, both predator and prey species have developed remarkable adaptations to better increase their respective chances of either catching a meal or avoid being on the menu.

There are a multitude of predator adaptations, many of which are familiar to us all. Large teeth, sharp claws, strength and agility are common traits among terrestrial predators, such as the lion mentioned above. Many predator species have sharpened senses to detect and locate distant prey. For example, polar bears can smell a seal beneath several feet of ice whereas bats use ultrasensitive hearing (echolocation) to find and catch insects



on the wing. Owls and hawks have extraordinary eyesight to spot prey animals from great heights. Other predators, such as rattlesnakes and Komodo dragons, use toxins to subdue their prey, thus precluding injury to themselves.

Prey species, however, display a wider and more spectacular range of defense strategies. True, many prey species also have heightened senses and speed that enable them to escape a predator. Some prey species have developed mechanical defenses, for example the shell of a turtle, the quills of a porcupine, the horns of a buffalo, or the thorns on a rose bush. The use of chemical defenses is also widespread in nature, as shown by the foul odor emitted from a skunk or the poisonous skin of certain tropical tree frogs. Certain behaviors such as belonging to a flock of birds or a school of fish increase the odds of any one individual surviving by being "lost in a crowd." Perhaps one of the most dramatic prey defense mechanisms is the use of camouflage, or the ability to blend into their surroundings without being detected. Walking stick insects looking like twigs, katydids looking like sprouting green leaves, and the pure white fur of Arctic hares enable these animals to remain safely hidden from hungry predators.

Manatees are considered to be a prey species with no natural predators. Because manatees are large animals that live in shallow water, they are largely ignored by predators such as sharks, alligators, and killer whales. In fact, manatees have been observed purposely bumping into and chasing alligators away from them. Newborn manatees are overlooked by predators due to their close proximity to their mother and their exceptionally tough hide. Sadly, the only danger to these marine mammals is human activity, such as boat strikes, foreign body ingestion, or entrapment by lost or discarded fishing line.

Learn more about the ecology of the *Indian River Lagoon* and its inhabitants at the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** located at 480 Indian River Drive in downtown Fort Pierce or find us online at www.ManateeEducationCenter.org.

Lunch & LEARN The Manatee Center's Monthly Lecture Series
 2nd Friday of each month
Bring your lunch and friends

Horseshoe Crab Biology & Lagoon Shoreline Nesting
 Presented by **Kirk Fusco**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection's
 Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves

FRIDAY • APRIL 11 • 12:00 PM

Hosted by **Manatee Center** Fort Pierce Yacht Club

700 N. INDIAN RIVER DR
 FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA
 772.429.6266
www.ManateeEducationCenter.org

LEARN AT THE LAGOON

Main Street Fort Pierce's Annual Golf Tournament May 17 Save the Date!



Experience the perfect start to your day with *Main Street Fort Pierce's Golf Tournament* at **Gator Trace Golf & Country Club** on Saturday, May 17. Join fellow golf enthusiasts for a round of golf while supporting the programs and events vital to our community.


Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. with a delightful continental breakfast to fuel your day. Tee off at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start, diving into a day filled with camaraderie and competition. Prizes await the longest drive and the top three teams.

Entry is \$100 per player or \$400 per team, inclusive of breakfast, lunch, and a goody bag. Additionally, engage in our putting contest for a chance to win fantastic prizes with a small donation.

Opportunities to showcase your business through sponsorships and tee signs are still available. Don't miss the chance to be part of this exciting event. Visit www.mainstreetfortpierce.org to register your team or contact us at 772-466-3880 to secure your spot as a sponsor. Start your day the right way, on the green with *Main Street Fort Pierce.*



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City of Fort Pierce Seeks Applicants for Infrastructure Surtax Citizen Oversight Committee

The *Fort Pierce City Commission* is seeking dedicated individuals to serve on the *Fort Pierce Infrastructure Surtax Citizen Oversight Committee*. As required by the 2018 voter referendum, this committee plays a vital role in ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of Infrastructure Surtax funds.

The *Infrastructure Surtax Citizen Oversight Committee* is responsible for reviewing projects funded by the surtax and issuing reports to the City Commission. This oversight ensures that taxpayer dollars are spent in accordance with voter-approved measures and state laws. The committee operates strictly in an advisory capacity and does not determine or prioritize projects


from the approved list.

To be eligible, applicants must be residents of the City of Fort Pierce. Individuals with expertise in engineering, planning, or finance are particularly encouraged to apply. The committee meets quarterly, and participation provides an opportunity to contribute to the responsible management of local infrastructure improvements.

The deadline to submit applications is April 17, 2025. Those interested in applying or learning more about the responsibilities and qualifications for this committee can visit [Boards & Committees | Fort Pierce, FL - Official Website](#) or contact the Office of the City Clerk at 772-467-3065. 🏠

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Ways to Save: Rebates for Your Home & Business

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority

Making your home or business more energy-efficient doesn't just help the environment—it can also lead to real savings. Thanks to a rebate program from **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA)** and the *Florida Municipal Power Association*, residents and business owners have the opportunity to upgrade appliances, improve efficiency, and get money back in the process. Last year alone, **FPUA** processed 230 rebates, helping customers save a total of \$93,500.

Powering Up Savings: Electric Rebates

For homeowners, investing in energy-efficient upgrades to existing buildings (not new construction) can lower your power usage while also earning rebates, including:

- Solar Hot Water Heater: \$450
- New or Added Insulation: Up to \$300
- Energy Star Refrigerator: \$50
- Energy Star Room A/C: \$150
- High-Efficiency Central A/C: \$500

Businesses owners can also take advantage of savings. If you operate a commercial property, you can receive rebates for:

- Solar Window Film: Up to \$200
- LED Exit Signs: Up to \$150

These rebates are first-come, first-served and each item has their own required documents and rebate limitations. High efficiency central A/C must be recorded by **FPUA** within 180 days of installation, and commercial upgrades must be recorded by **FPUA** within 30 days of installation.

Gas rebate forms must be recorded by **FPUA** within 30 days of installation. The maximum incentive per home is \$800 a year for residential and \$2,000 a year for commercial, limited to only one rebate per appliance. The appliance must be new and installed to use **FPUA** Natural Gas.

How to Apply

These rebates are first-come, first-served and will be available until September 30, 2025, or until funds run out. Each rebate




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For those homeowners making the switch to natural gas or upgrading existing gas appliances, rebates are available for:

	Replace Natural Gas Appliance (Gas to Gas)	Switch Appliance (Electric to Gas, LP, or New Construction)
Tank Water Heater	\$350	\$500
Tankless Water Heater	\$550	\$675
Clothes Dryer	\$100	\$150
Range Stove	\$100	\$200
Gas Furnace	\$500	\$725

Business owners making the switch can receive rebates for commercial-grade appliances, including fryers, water heaters, and furnaces too:

	Replace Natural Gas Appliance (Gas to Gas)	Switch Appliance (Electric to Gas, LP, or New Construction)
Tank Water Heater	\$500	\$550
Tankless Water Heater	\$550	\$675
Clothes Dryer	\$450	\$500
Range Stove	\$400	\$450
Gas Furnace	\$600	\$725
Fryer	\$550	\$600

has its own required documents, and a Customer Service Representative is available to answer any questions you may have about the process.

By taking advantage of these rebates, customers can make cost-effective improvements that benefit both their budgets

and the community's overall energy efficiency. To learn more and apply, visit www.fpu.com/ways-to-save or e-mail Customer Service at cs@fpu.com

By making smart choices today, we can all work toward a more energy-conscious—and budget-friendly—tomorrow! 🏠

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The Galleria of Pierce Harbor: a Destination in the Heart of Fort Pierce

The **Galleria of Pierce Harbor** is a premier destination for dining, shopping, and services located in the heart of historic downtown Fort Pierce.

The Fort Steakhouse: prime signature cuts, including Double-Cut Pork Chop, Cowboy Ribeye, Chateaubriand, 11-oz. Filet Mignon, New York Strip, Porterhouse, Delmonico, Tomahawk. The steakhouse delivers an entry of high energy matched with a seductive atmosphere. Wagyu Prime Rib Friday and Saturday nights and an early dining menu are available nightly from 4:30–5:15 pm. Reservations are recommended. Private dining room and courtyard rentals are available.

Casa Pasta: Fort Pierce's finest Italian dining experience offering a new menu with chef specialties including homemade pasta, savory authentic dishes like parmigiana, alfredo, and bolognese, as well as individual pizzas, flatbreads, paninis, wraps, and quiches, for lunch and dinner. **Casa Pasta** also offers wine, cocktails, all-you-can-eat options, weekend brunch, special event space, and catering services.

Havana George Cafe: where authentic Cuban cuisine is served up with a welcoming atmosphere. Enjoy spectacular sandwiches, empanadas, bowls, pastries, and coffees. Experience the flavors of Cuba right here in Fort Pierce. Visit havanageorgecafe.com for more information.

Protein Harbor: for those looking for healthy yet delicious snacks and drinks, **Protein Harbor** offers a menu of protein-packed drinks and smoothies, as well as protein-rich, low-calorie snacks including acai bowls, waffles, and donuts all full of flavor and nutrition; perfect for fitness enthusiasts or anyone seeking wholesome refreshments.

Carvalho Martial Arts: if you're looking to get active or learn self-defense, **Carvalho Martial Arts** provides high-quality training in martial arts. Their expert instructors focus on developing both physical and mental strength.

NativeHair Artistry: offers exceptional hair styling services. Whether you're looking for a cut, color, or special treatment, their stylists are dedicated to making you look and feel your best.

The LYF Stylist: offers hair styling, coloring, and highlights. Owner and operator Janine, creates a safe space for your self-love and self-care journey.

Massages by Marcelina: unwind and relax with a rejuvenating massage at **Massages by Marcelina**. With personalized treatments designed to alleviate stress and tension, it's the perfect way to pamper yourself after a busy day.

2nd St. Barbershop: is a "spa for men" providing an upscale environment, professional service, and impeccable cuts by Sandro Dos Santos, a barber/stylist with 25 years of experience. The barbershop is also seeking an additional barber and is for sale as a fully licensed, running business.

Redtail Design Group: is a professional consulting firm specializing in land development and government consulting services, land planning, project management, government consulting/permitting, and landscape architecture.

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An Out-of-Towner's View of Our Farmers Market

A group of friends visiting the area were my recent guests at the **Fort Pierce Downtown Farmers Market**. The youngest was so impressed, he asked if he could share his thoughts. So, for your reading entertainment, following is a youthful perspective on our quaint little farmers market and the **Jazz Society's Craft Market** next door from Sebastian Scott.

*"In my life, I've been to many different farmers' markets, each offering a unique experience and various items for purchase. When I first came to the **Fort Pierce Downtown Farmers Market** however, it was unlike any other farmers market' experience I'd had previously. From the wide range of vendors and the diverse choices offered to shoppers to the surrounding waters where you can peer over the edge and watch the needlefish swim, it was truly unique.*

*It's exciting to see a blend of traditional vendors serving up hot donuts alongside those bringing their own unique flavors and cultures. You'll find vendors from Cuba, Africa, Asia, Greece, Hawaii, and Italy, each offering a taste of their heritage. Want a little taste of Gambia? **Tish's Kitchen** brings authentic African flair to the*

*market. Craving more plant-based options? Stop by **Vegan Mario's Kitchen** for delicious vegan and gluten-free breads.*

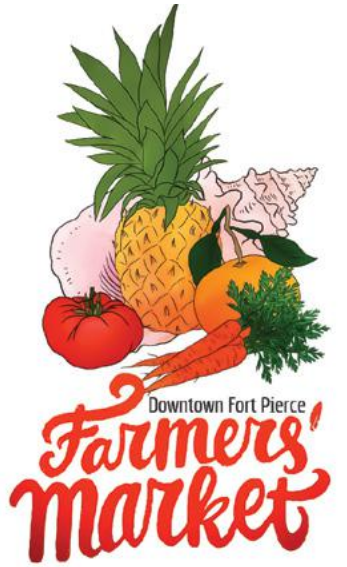
*From classic homemade donuts with that signature farmers' market charm to fresh crab cakes served by local fishermen, there's something for everyone. But don't forget your drink! Check out **Seaside Smoothies** for your fresh pressed sugarcane into a refreshing virgin mojito—perfect for sipping with your family on the pier as you watch a pelican gulp down its lunch.*

*But there's more than just food at the **Fort Pierce Farmers Market**—oh yes! They also have a variety of health products, such as lotions and all-natural bug sprays. Across the street, away from the food and wellness area, you'll find the craft market—separate from the **Fort Pierce Farmers Market**, but still just as exciting. The craft market focuses more on clothing and art-based goods, like textile art pieces available for purchase.*

When I was there, I talked to a man who had been making hats out of seagrass for the past 40 years. He was so friendly when he greeted me—he just drew me right in! Not to mention, the hats were pretty amazing. There was also a fossil vendor who had artwork from the mountains of Colorado, made with different fossils. I saw homemade earrings, handcrafted clothing, and other unique items I wouldn't typically see in my current state of North Carolina.

*Whether you're a student looking for your next stylish look, a family that's looking to take your little ones for a fun day trip, or going with friends the **Fort Pierce Farmers Market** truly has something for everyone."*

We thank Sebastian Scott for his enthusiastic review of his **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** experience. We also want to remind everyone that you can share your thoughts, too, on our facebook page. Follow the market to get weekly updates on vendors and entertainment you can look forward to seeing each Saturday. Bring a friend and share the market experience with them—it's a *Saturday morning tradition*. 🏠



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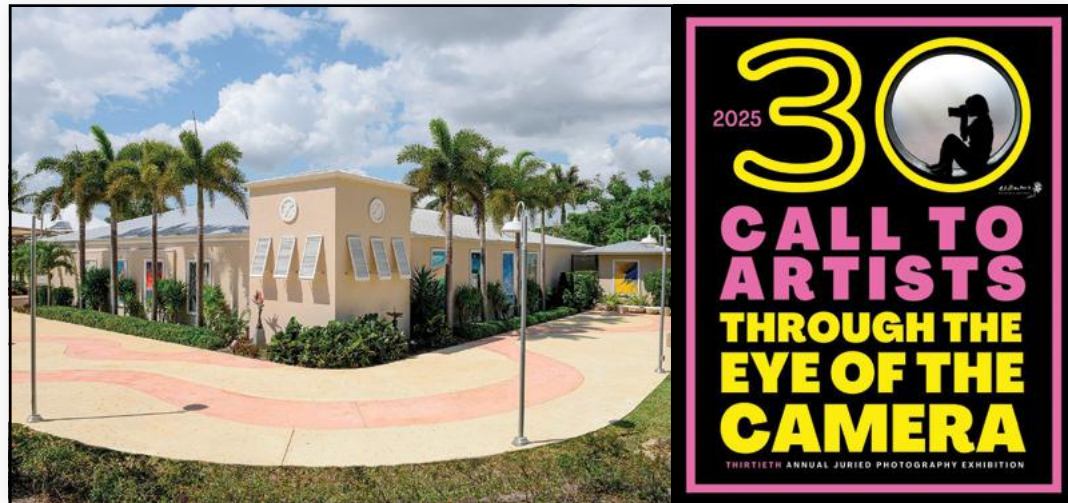
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The Backus Museum Announces its Call to Artists for the 30th Annual Juried Photography Competition *Through the Eye of the Camera*

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery celebrates 30 years of presenting our annual juried photography exhibition, *Through the Eye of the Camera*. This year, the exhibition continues to provide amateur and professional artists a great opportunity to be a part of this enduring and covered



competitive survey. Entries in both traditional and digital photography will be accepted by advance appointment April 9 through May 2. There is a \$30 entry fee for artists entering 1–3 works, \$25 entry fee for artists entering 4 or more works. This year’s full prospectus with application, dates, guidelines, categories, awards, and entry procedures is available to download from the Museum’s website at www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows or pick up during regular hours at the Museum, 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, Florida.

Photographers may enter their work in one of four categories: (1) Animal subjects; (2) Flora & Landscape subjects; (3) People/Portrait subjects; or (4) Open, for subjects that are not included in the three other categories. In addition to *Best of Show*, *Director’s Choice*, *People’s Choice*, and *1st-2nd-3rd and Award of Merit* in the category awards, there is a special *Best Black & White Photograph* and *Best Film / Traditional RAW Photograph* award. Details are available in the prospectus.

Artists are required to sign up online for an entry appointment in advance. Each 15-minute entry appointment will accommodate one artist entering up to three (3) works of art; artists wishing to enter more than three works may sign up for additional entry appointments. Artists can access the on-

line appointment schedule with all entry information at www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows.

The juried exhibition *Through the Eye of the Camera* will be on view May 9 through the closing out of the regular season on June 20, 2025, with accepted artists and award winners announced online by Thursday evening, May 8. The opening reception is planned for Friday, May 9 from 6:00–8:00 p.m.

All dates and programming subject to change; please check the website for any updates or cancellations. 🏠

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Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation Furthers Marine Workforce Readiness Initiative

by Michele March and Robynn Holland

The Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation hosted the *3rd Annual Chart Your Course*, a maritime and marine industry career expo on February 20th at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club and Fort Pierce River Walk Center. In attendance were 103 students from St. Lucie Public Schools and 12 students from Fort Pierce Project Lift. The focus of this event is on career exploration, sharing industry insights, and providing students with what may be their first networking opportunity. *Chart Your Course* is a collaboration between the Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation, St. Lucie Public Schools, the City of Fort Pierce, the FPYC, and the Marine Industries on the Treasure Coast.

Through demonstrations, presentations, exhibits, and engaging face-to-face conversations, seventeen businesses, large and small, from Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County sent representatives who gave the students valuable insights. They engaged with an underwater diver (in a 1500-gallon mobile training tank), an independent charter captain, US Customs Border

Protection officers on their vessel, and representatives from trade and higher education schools to name just a few.

Students also attended a panel discussion titled, “How to Get There,” which highlighted career opportunities and educational paths for students interested in the maritime fields. The panel was moderated by Joshua Revord, St. Lucie County Director of Port, Inlet & Beaches, and included Ken Griffin, President of Underwater Engineering Service, Inc.; Second Class Petty Officer Jacob Snyder, United States Coast Guard; and Captain Don Welch, Chapman School of Seamanship.

The Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation thanks all sponsors who made this event possible, the industry professionals who shared their career experiences with the students, and the 40+ members of the FPYC who voluntarily assisted in the coordination of the event. We are truly fortunate to have such a generous community! To learn more about the Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation, visit www.fortpierceyachtclubfoundation.org. 🏠



Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis Finds a New Home at FPYC

The FPYC is excited to announce that the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis will now be meeting at the FPYC every Thursday morning from 7:00 a.m.–8:30a.m. The Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis has been a driving force for almost 100 years in

the community of Fort Pierce. Their mission is to serve children and to improve the community through their many programs and community endeavors. For more information about the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis visit <http://fpsunrisekiwanis.com>. 🏠

Two Exciting Water Activities for the Public Coming Up

Announcing the *7th annual Fort Pierce Poker Run on the Water* – Presented by the *Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation*. This annual fund-raising event benefits the community of Fort Pierce through *Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation* donations to charities that primary support water activities, including education, research, safety, swimming lessons, ecology, and boating skills for the children and youth in the community. Last year's recipients included *Treasure Coast Youth Sailing, Courageous Kids, and St. Lucie County Boys and Girls Club*. Donations were also given to the **Manatee Center, Stella Maris Summer Eco Camp, Harbor Branch FAU, Project Lift** and the **Florida Highwaymen Museum**. Find details and registration information on the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** website: fortpiercenyachtclub.com.

Blessing of the Fleet: The time-honored tradition of the *Blessing of the Fleet* returns to Fort Pierce as part of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club's Grand 45th Sapphire Anniversary Celebration**. The highly anticipated *Blessing of the Fleet* and *Pass in Review* is set to take place on May 17th, beginning at 11:00 a.m., and promises to be a day of tradition, community, and celebration. After a brief hiatus since 2021, the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** is excited to revive this cherished event. All vessels, commercial and pleasure, are invited to receive a blessing.



The procedure will begin with boats (with VHF radio capabilities) gathering at 10:30 a.m. in the Turning Basin near **Derektor Shipyards**. From there, vessels will proceed eastward to be blessed by the clergy on the Coast Guard boat anchored near the Coast Guard station on the north side of the Inlet channel. Small vessels (kayaks, jet skis, SUP, etc.) will gather at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club's** dock at 4 p.m. to receive their blessing. The blessings will be conducted by the Rev. Canon Dr. Audley Donaldson from St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Fort Pierce.

On the Inlet, once vessels have been blessed, they will then proceed past a second boat (just east of the Coast Guard vessel) for the *Pass in Review* in honor of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club's 45th Sapphire Anniversary**. The second vessel will host the current Commodore Steve Jaroski along with four past commodores of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**.

Following the *Blessing of the Fleet* and the *Pass in Review*, we anticipate a Sea and Air Rescue demonstration by the US Coast Guard to take place on the Inlet, pending operational priorities, so stay around for the show! Visit www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com/BlessingoftheFleet for more information.

This is a unique opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate both our maritime heritage and the continued vitality of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**. We look forward to seeing you there for a memorable day on the water! 🏠

Michael R. Repoli, CPA, EA



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Florida Humanities and the Florida Remembered Society Present a Florida Talks Program

Carrie Sue Ayvar will join the Florida Remembered Society for a presentation on *More than Orange Blossoms: Feisty, Fabulous Females of Florida*. The program takes place Saturday, April 26th at 2 p.m. at the St. Lucie School, 2501 North Old Dixie Hwy., St. Lucie Village. It is a partnership between *Florida Humanities* and the *Florida Remembered Society* as part of Florida Humanities' redesigned *Florida Talks* program.

Carrie Sue Ayvar, the guest speaker, is an internationally celebrated storyteller, educator, and Chautauqua scholar whose programs connect people with *Florida Humanities* and the diverse cultures and heritage of our state.

More than Orange Blossoms will celebrate the "Her Story" of Florida history and some remarkable ladies who deserve the spotlight. The afternoon will be lively and enlightening and will also feature a pop-up mini museum on our legendary local ladies and light refreshments," said Anne Sinnott, President of the *Florida Remembered Society* Board of Directors. "We are delighted to host Ms. Ayvar's entertaining and educational program."

Florida Talks is one of *Florida Humanities'* longest-running public programs. The organization's speakers' bureau features more than 30 exceptional scholars, journalists, authors, and humanities experts and over 60 brand new and returning programs.

Florida Talks offers nonprofit organizations across the state an accessible way to host engaging speakers who present Florida's history, heritage, and culture through historical and contemporary lenses.

"Florida Humanities is thrilled to share its redesigned *Florida Talks* program. As one of our long-standing public programs, Florida Talks shares history, heritage, and culture with communities large and small across the state. We hope attendees walk away with new perspectives, knowledge, and are energized to continue learning about our unique state," April Myerscough, Florida Humanities Grants Coordinator.

This event is free and open to the public. However, due to limited seating, reservations should be made by calling 772 267-4873.

The *Florida Remembered Society* (FRS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing diverse audiences with engaging educational programs that cultivate an understanding and appreciation of Florida's history and multicultural heritage and that nurture stewardship of the natural environment.

Florida Humanities, the statewide, nonprofit affiliate of the *National Endowment for the Humanities*, is dedicated to preserving, promoting, and sharing the history, literature, culture, and personal stories that offer Floridians a better understanding of themselves, their communities, and their state. Since 1973, *Florida Humanities* has awarded more than \$16 million in support of statewide cultural resources and public programs strongly rooted in the humanities. These programs preserve Florida's diverse history and heritage, promote civic engagement and community dialogue, and provide opportunities to reflect on the future of Florida. Learn more at www.FloridaHumanities.org. 🏠



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TREASURES OF THE PAST

125 years ago this month as reported in the Friday, April 13, 1900 edition of The Florida Star

Doctor W. L. Hughlett, of Cocoa, and Doctor C.P. Platts and wife, of Fort Pierce, stopped over here from Tuesday afternoon until Wednesday morning on their way to Orlando, to attend the annual meeting of the Florida Medical association. Doctor Hughlett, by request, will read a paper at this session of the association entitled, "Human Tuberculosis With a Special Reference to Pulmonary Consumption."

100 years ago this month as reported in the Monday, April 6, 1925 edition of The Tampa Tribune

Fort Pierce in Era of Progress; Many Buildings Started

Fort Pierce's building program for the first three months of 1925, including projects started, authorized and continued over from the latter part of 1924, totals approximately \$450,000.

A number of important projects are included in the list now under way, such as the city hall, jail-fire station and incinerator; a fifty-room hotel; a three-story business building; a \$50,000 beach casino; a couple of apartment houses, a \$50,000 Methodist Church contracted for but not yet started, and a large number of pretty residences.

Good headway is being made on most of these. On the city hall and fire station-jail the walls are practically completed, the incinerator will be ready for use in the course of two or three weeks longer, the beach casino is nearly completed, the

El Casto hotel is completed except for the finishing-up work, the Fee Hardware Company's three-story business structure is well along toward completion, and the apartment houses are almost finished.

It is expected that some other important projects will be launched during the present month. One eight-store business building has already been announced and other projects as known to be planned. The building program will keep up in good shape throughout the Summer, it is expected.

Opening to traffic of the new causeway-bridge across Indian River, thus providing access to the ocean beach, will inaugurate and extensive building program on the beach, it is expected. The causeway-bridge is to be formally opened to public use April 15. A magnificent casino is already nearing completion, and other projects are known to be contemplated.

If the program keeps up at the present rate the year 1925 will set a record considerably in advance of that of any previous year in the history of Fort Pierce.

100 years ago this month as reported in the Thursday, April 9, 1925 edition of The Tampa Tribune

Two Plans Urged to Split St. Lucie: Anti-divisionists Active in Opposing Both of These Movements

There are two county division movements affecting St. Lucie County. One, fostered by the people of Stuart, contemplates the creation of a new county from the northern

part of Palm Beach and the southern part of St. Lucie, with Stuart as the county seat; the other, fostered by some of the people of Vero, contemplates the splitting of St. Lucie County in half and the creations of a new county with Vero as the capital.

The latter movement is considered the most formidable, and by far the most dangerous to the interests of the county. If it succeeds it will result in two of the smallest counties of the state with a combined population of only 12,500 people and a total assessed valuation of about \$8,000,000. The northern half would take more than 50 per cent of the population, the developed area and the assessed property valuation.

Majority Seems Opposed

That county division in any form is opposed by the majority of the people of the county seems certain.

The rare situation prevails also that county division is contrary to the expressed will of the people in the election and support of a representative to the state legislature whose publicly announced and well known policy was against county division in any form, but who nevertheless has assured a local chamber of commerce that he will both introduce and foster in the state legislature a bill to split the county in half.

It is understood that plans for the formation of the proposed new county from the north half have been in process of quiet formation for a number of months past. Now the movement, however, is blamed on the policy of the law enforcement officers of St. Lucie County and the apparent desire of the interests pushing the movement to have

TREASURES OF THE PAST

for themselves a more or less wide open county, according to reports made at the mass meeting held at Fort Pierce Monday night.

Stiff Fight Impends

Anti-divisionists are marshalling their forces to fight the movement to a finish. They declare that division of the county in any form would be highly detrimental to the interests of the whole county and every property owner within the county - increasing the tax burden, blocking public and private development, limiting the bonding capacity and seriously hampering for years to come the present rapid growth and development of the county.

They also point out that it would mean the expense of supporting a double set of county officials and for the new county the erection of a set of county buildings, as well as the assumption by the new county of its proportionate share of the present entire bonded indebtedness of St. Lucie County.

Petitions are being circulated throughout the county opposing division in any form, and the fight is to be taken strongly to the legislature.

100 years ago this month as reported in the April 13, 1925 edition of The Miami Herald

Fort Pierce Expects Record Crowd at Causeway Bridge Opening

Preparations are completed for the big celebration to be held in Fort Pierce

Wednesday marking the formal opening and dedication of the new causeway-bridge across Indian River. The event has been widely advertised and one of the largest crowds ever gathered at Fort Pierce is expected.

An interesting program has been arranged for the day, including a big float and commercial parade, dedication of the causeway bridge, day and night fireworks, bathing beauty revue, horse races, automobile races, band concerts, water sports, aerial stunts, dancing in the new \$50,000 beach casino and other features. The program starts at 1 o'clock with the float and commercial parade through the business section ending at the bridge.

On the beach preparations are being made to accommodate the crowds. A temporary plank road is being constructed from the bridge landing across the island to the new casino.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Friday, April 7, 1950 edition of The Miami Herald

Pepper Park Dedication Plans Readied: Fort Pierce Event Set For Saturday

Plans for the dedication Saturday afternoon of Pepper Park on North Island here were being completed Thursday by a committee representing county, city and civic interests.

Sen. Claude Pepper for whom the park was named several years ago is to give the dedicatory address. Gov. Fuller Warren,

members of his cabinet, State Road Department members and legislators have been invited for the occasion.

The State Road Department with Guy Stoval in charge of the work has developed what is said to be the finest wayside park in the state here fronting both on the Atlantic ocean and Indian River.

Twelve large shelters, barbecue pits, showers, rest rooms, caretaker's house, boat landings and other facilities have been installed and the already scenic grounds further landscaped.

The park is expected to prove one of the major attractions of this area.

Fort Pierce, Vero Beach and Stuart high school bands are to be here for the dedication at 2 p.m. Saturday. The local Legion post is presenting a large flag to be raised over the park.

The park property is the former site of the old Coast Guard house of refuge. Sen. Pepper was instrumental in having it sold to the county for a nominal sum.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Tuesday, April 11, 1950 edition of The Miami News

Fort Pierce Girl Bitten by Gator While Swimming

A 15-year-old girl had the painful distinction of being the first person in 43 years to be bitten by an alligator in this area.

A gator nipped Gracie Tomlin twice on the left leg yesterday while she was swimming in the Indian River near a tropical swamp. One of the cuts required several stitches.

Continued on page 22 ...

TREASURES OF THE PAST

Gracie's older brother and sister, Talmadge and Dorothy Tomlin, said they saw the alligator "swirling" in the water and heard its jaws snapping.

They pulled Gracie ashore when she reached the bank and went for help.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Monday, April 24, 1950 edition of The Miami Herald

Fort Pierce Anniversary Due in '51: Municipality to Mark 50th Year Feb. 2

Fort Pierce will be 50 years old next Feb. 2, and a movement already is underway to

stage a celebration for the occasion.

The municipality was officially incorporated Feb. 2, 1901. The incorporation petition was signed by 53 of the 66 qualified electors then residing within the proposed incorporated area. The petition was tacked on the porch wall of a 12 by 16 foot building construction by J.H. (Bob) Lane, now president of the Sunrise Lumber & Supply Co., on the site of what is now the office of the East Coast Lumber & Supply Co. Lane became mayor of the city some years afterwards.

First mayor of the town was the late A.C. Dittman.

County Judge Flem C. Dame, president of the Fort Pierce Chamber of Commerce, said he plans to appoint a committee soon

to plan suitable recognition of the 50th anniversary.



Download Florida Stories App for audio history tours of dozens of Florida cities including two from Fort Pierce – Downtown & the Lincoln Park districts

Local Author Soranda Louis Releases Church With Grandma

Local author Soranda Louis has published her first children's book titled *Church with Grandma*. Soranda was born and raised in the historical town of Fort Pierce, FL and went to Saint Anastasia Catholic School and John Carroll High School. She holds an M.F.A in Writing from S.C.A.D. and a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Flagler College. She was taught how to read and write when she was just three years old by her grandmother Mozelle Green, who worked for the Saint Lucie County Public School System for 17 years before retiring in 2016. When Soranda was not at church, she spent much of her time reading at the **Zora Neale Hurston Library**.

Church With Grandma, book 1 in the *Adventures With Grandma* series, follows a day in the life of young Amanda as she reluctantly goes to church with her grandma on a Sunday morning for the first time. During her hilarious visit to church, Amanda must learn the important lessons of obedience, patience, courage, and sharing. She also learns a special bonus message from her scriptures. This humorous yet heartwarming story is a special way to bring your little ones closer to their



grandparents and help them cherish each moment of life the Lord has blessed us with. Whether it's read before bed or before Sunday service, this story will encourage your little lambs to look forward to their next visit to church.

Follow Soranda on Instagram @Soranda_Jenae to stay in the know about upcoming local events and book readings for *Church with Grandma*. *Church with Grandma* is available to be purchased online at several retailers including amazon.com, barnes&noble.com, booksamillion.com and others.

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PHOTOS BY MARK KRANCER

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It Takes All of Us to Make Our Historic Downtown Prosper and Grow!



Main Street Fort Pierce wants to invite you to become a part of the renaissance of our Historic Downtown area. Over the past twenty-six years, we have worked to repair streets and sidewalks, upgrade storefronts, renovated the Sunrise Theatre, Old City Hall and the Platts Backus House, sponsor charrettes to design a downtown "Master Plan," built the Manatee Observation and Education Center and so much more! Annually, Main Street Fort Pierce sponsors over 30 events — most which are free of charge.

Yet there is still so much more to be done! We need you to be involved in our continued planning for the area. Become a member and support *Main Street* financially. We rely on the participation and the voluntary annual dues from our members to accomplish our goals and complete our projects.

Whether you own a downtown business or you just love Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, we need your energy and support to continue to rejuvenate our community's heart and soul.



Why Main Street Fort Pierce?

- Downtown Fort Pierce is an important employment center.
- The area is a reflection of the community image.
- Locally owned businesses keep profits in town and support other local businesses and community projects.
 - A vibrant downtown creates a feeling of "hometown pride" and sense of place.
- The downtown district is a public gathering area, where parades, special events, and celebrations are held in a unique setting.
- Community character and historic integrity cannot be recreated.

What are Membership Benefits?

- Your membership dues are an investment in the future of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, helping us to sponsor improvements and events throughout the year.
- Members receive advanced notice and invitations to special events.
 - You will receive the monthly subscription to *Main Street Focus* magazine and links to *Focus On-Line*.

As a member of *Main Street* you are automatically aligned with others who want to preserve the past and influence the future of Fort Pierce. You can belong to Fort Pierce *Main Street* at one of eight different membership levels, starting at just \$25.

Main Street Membership Levels

Benefactor Levels	Community Levels	Corporate Levels
Headline Sponsor (\$1,000) Patron Sponsor (\$500)	Main Street Friend Membership (\$25) Main Street Family Membership (\$50)	Main Street Small Business Membership (less than 10 employees) (\$100) Main Street Medium Business Membership (11-50 employees) (\$250) Main Street Large Business Membership (51 or more employees) (\$500)

Please Take a Minute to Join Today!

Complete the form below and join our growing group of committed members. By joining Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., you are supporting the economic well being of the entire community.

Name: _____ Membership Level: _____

Company/Organization: _____

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City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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Three Easy Ways to Join!

- 1 – Call Main Street Fort Pierce at (772) 466-3880
- 2 – Visit our Website at www.mainstreetfortpierce.org, click the membership link
- 3 – Fill out the membership form and mail to:

Main Street Fort Pierce
122 A.E. Backus Ave.
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950



I was born and raised in Virginia, spending most of my life in Virginia Beach where I developed a love for coastal living and being near the ocean. My wife, Kelly, and I met in high school and we moved to Saint Lucie County after graduating college in 1993. We've been married for over thirty years. Kelly is a media specialist at Fairlawn Elementary School. We have three sons who have also chosen careers of service. Our oldest son served in the United States Marine Corps and is now an Emergency Management Coordinator for Martin County. Our second is a Detective with the Saint Lucie County Sheriff's Office and our youngest is a newly minted 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Airforce. We have two grandchildren.



I have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Old Dominion University ('93) and graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy in 2010. My law enforcement career began twenty-nine years ago with the *Fort Pierce Police Department*.

AN INTERVIEW WITH

Robert Ridle

Main Street Fort Pierce Board Member



Presently I serve as a Deputy Chief overseeing our Administrative Services Bureau. I also serve as the Emergency Manager for the City during natural disaster response including preparing for potential hurricane landfalls.

- *Hobbies:* Anything connected to music including playing guitar, enjoying live local artists, or traveling out of town for concerts. Running or mountain biking are favorite activities along with boating and fishing. I'm still hoping to resurrect my skateboarding and surfing skills but my wife says I need to let skateboarding go (lol).
- *Any other local/national organizations you part of:*
Boys and Girls Club of Saint Lucie County Board Member
Airborne Mountain Bike Club of the Treasure Coast Board Member
Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board of Saint Lucie County Vice Chair
- *What attracted you to become involved with Main Street Fort Pierce?* Working in Fort Pierce for almost thirty years I've seen firsthand the positive changes that *Main Street* has made downtown. As a young officer, I recall driving down 2nd Street in the late evening and there were no open businesses or restaurants, and the **Sunrise Theater**

was a work in progress. It took vision and effort for downtown to become what it is today. That momentum needs to continue for downtown and the surrounding areas to reach their true potential. I want to be a part of *Main Street's* efforts and lend my experience and skills.

- *What is your favorite project/event that Main Street Fort Pierce has accomplished?* The **Sights and Sounds Parade!** We brought our kids to the **Sights and Sounds Parade** when they were very young and it became a family tradition. I have always thought it was the best parade on the Treasure Coast. Now, not only do I get to be part of the parade, but I get to see our grandchildren at the parade and how excited they are to watch it.
- *What is a favorite memory about downtown Fort Pierce?* There are so many great memories I could never name just

one. Watching the sunrise at Marina Square as vendors set up for the **Farmer's Market**, any of the large holiday events, having dinner with friends or family downtown, running in the *Lion's Fort Pierce Half Marathon* (y'all need to bring that one back!).

- *What is one of your favorite things to do downtown and/or what is something you would recommend for visitors and guests to do in downtown Fort Pierce?* Downtown has amazing restaurants and businesses that are all in close proximity and there is abundant parking. I would advise any new visitors to take their time and to visit as many places as possible. I guarantee you'll find your next favorite place to dine or that shop you have to come back to. Downtown has a way of reeling you in and keeping you coming back. 🏠

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HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE

SHOP SMART SHOP LOCAL

Targeting Mahi and Kings

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

As our beautiful Treasure Coast waters become warmer, the offshore fishing starts to heat up as well. This time of year, we generally see a significant increase in bait which means the big fish are following. I plan to target smoker kingfish and the colorful mahi mahi with a sharp eye out for cruising sailfish, too.

The mahi mahi, also called the common dolphinfish or dorado, are highly sought after for their great fight and great taste. Mahi are considered one of the prettiest fish in the sea for their bright turquoise, green, and yellow colors but it's their intense fight and acrobatics that keep them among the top on the trophy fish list. Anglers of all ages are excited to battle these aggressive eating, high-jumping fish not just for well-deserved bragging rights but the delicious fish dinner to follow.

Structures, buoys, weed lines, and any floating debris can hold mahi. While mahi will hit artificial lures, feathers, and jigs, I find the best choice is fresh ballyhoo with skirts. Troll around the 80 to 100 foot reefs and keep an eye out for birds diving on bait fish to help locate the area of schooling mahi.

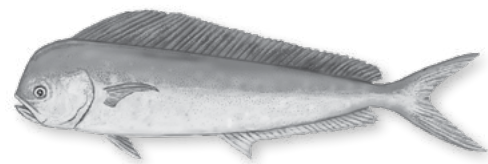
April is a stellar time to target big kingfish that are migrating back up the coast. I recommend mullet, threadfins, or blue runners on a slow troll in about 50 to 120 feet of water as a productive strategy for hooking kings. These popular gamefish can easily pull 100 to 200 feet of drag with spectacular leaps and explosive runs so be ready for a serious battle and some epic fish stories to share back at the dock.

Mahi and kings are very versatile fish and can be enjoyed broiled, fried, baked, or smoked. **Cobb's Landing** will cook your catch to perfection with a choice of great sides. **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** will also cook your catch as delicious fish tacos, one of my all-time favorite choices. Most of you probably know that **Little Jim** is up for lease renewal after twenty years. We are all hoping the Fort Pierce City Commission will carefully consider their new bid and we'll see **Little Jim** continue as the fun, popular, unique, historic, waterfront place it is now! #savelittlejim



Our *Fishy Photo of the Month* shows a great mahi trip that Carrie Logan had on **Pullin Drag!**

If the warmer temperatures and milder winds of April have you thinking of spending more time on the water, just give me a shout or come visit at my home base, the historic Little Jim Bait & Tackle. I will be more than happy to help you plan your own salty adventure; 772-971-6661. *Ring in Spring by Pullin Drag!* 🏠



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MAIN STREET FORT PIERCE UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS: The Peacock House Art Foundation

My name is Krystal Masters and I work at the **Peacock House Art Foundation**, a not-for-profit art center, serving the Treasure Coast. My experience working here has been an inspiring journey filled with creativity, community engagement, and meaningful connections. As the Program Director and Art Instructor, I've had the privilege of shaping our *Art Lab*, launching exciting classes, and welcoming artists and students into a space where they can express themselves and grow. Over the next year, I hope to expand our programs, increase community participation, and establish more public art initiatives. I envision more hands-on workshops, artist residencies, youth engagement programs, and collaborations that strengthen our mission. The **Peacock House Art Foundation** has the potential to become a cornerstone for the arts in our community, and I'm excited to be part of its growth and transformation. Check out my class list below, and sign up on our website: ThePeacockHouseArtFoundation.com.

Afterschool Art Program: From painting and sculpture, to mixed media and more, students will have the opportunity to express themselves, build confidence, and connect with fellow creatives after school. Dates: every Monday–Friday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.; cost \$20 (limited offer) for ages 9–16.

Hoppy Easter! DIY Card Making Workshop: Get into the spring spirit with our *Easter Card Making Workshop*. Perfect for all ages. Dates: April 1st from 5 to 7 p.m.; cost \$25 for all ages.

Mosaic Magic House Numbers: Add a personal touch to your home with a beautiful, handcrafted mosaic house number. We'll guide you through the process of cutting, arranging, and

grouting your mosaic for a stunning and durable finish. Adult class. Dates: April 3, 11, 18 and 25 from 5 to 7 p.m.; cost: \$35.

Fuzzy Friends Pipe Cleaner Pets Workshop: Pugs, Shepards and Pomeranians, oh my! Learn how to twist, shape, and design adorable animal figurines using colorful pipe cleaners, googly eyes, and other fun embellishments. Dates: April 9 from 3 to 5 p.m.; cost \$12 for all ages.

Junk Drawer Journals Workshop: Create a personalized journal filled with textures, colors, and unique artistic expressions. Perfect for those who love mixed media, storytelling, and creative journaling. Dates: April 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 5 to 7 p.m.; cost: \$35 for adults.

Reinvent the Birdhouse: Transform a simple birdhouse into a one-of-a-kind artistic masterpiece using paint, mixed media, and decorative elements. Dates: April 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 5 to 7 p.m.; cost \$35 for all ages.

Classic Pottery Class: Learn various techniques used to create ceramic pottery, without the use of a potter's wheel. Bowls, plates, mugs, tiles, sculptures/figurines, and more. Dates: April 2, 16 and 30 from 3 to 5 p.m.; cost \$20 plus materials for adults.

Peacock House Tours: Stroll through our formal gardens, visit our inspiring art spaces, feed the peacocks, and grab a quick bite to eat at our taco truck. Book your tour today! Available for all ages, by appointment only for \$6 (donations welcome).

ThePeacockHouseArtFoundation.com, 772-801-5729, extension 107; TPHAF.inc@gmail.com; Facebook peacockhouseartfoundation; Instagram @peacockhouseartfoundation. 🏠

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Volume 20, No. 10 May, 2025

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



MAIN STREET FORT PIERCE ANNUAL MEETING



FOR MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS, VOLUNTEERS, LOCAL BUSINESSES, AND MUNICIPAL PARTNERS
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Join Us at *Friday Fest* on May 2nd with Live Music by *Sleeping Dogz*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May is a Busy Month for *Main Street Fort Pierce*

by Donna Sizemore



The month of May symbolizes growth, renewal, and new beginnings—an appropriate theme for Downtown Fort Pierce, which is growing! Recently, *Main Street Fort Pierce* had the honor of attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the Villas at **Kings Landing**. Located between 2nd Street and Indian River Drive, directly across from the **Platts/Backus House**, this exciting development promises to enhance our downtown area, increase foot traffic, and boost local businesses and economic growth.

In April, *Main Street Fort Pierce* proudly hosted a *Meet and Greet* for our city's newly appointed City Manager, Richard Chess. Continuing our long tradition of bringing together neighbors, business owners, and city leaders, this event was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate new leadership and envision the bright future of Downtown Fort Pierce. A heartfelt thank you goes to **Sailfish Brewing Company** for graciously hosting and to everyone who participated in making the event a success.



Looking ahead, mark your calendars for two fantastic events in May:


1. **Annual Golf Tournament:** Join us on May 17 at **Gator Trace Golf & Country Club** for a day of fun on a beautiful course. Start with a continental breakfast, enjoy lunch, and compete for amazing prizes. Sign up at <https://mainstreetfort-pierce.org> under the "Events" section.

2. **Annual Meeting & Celebration:** On May 21, from 5–7 p.m., celebrate the accomplishments of the year with us! Enjoy live music, drinks, and light refreshments as we welcome new Board members, express gratitude to our volunteers, and renew memberships.

Becoming a member of *Main Street Fort Pierce* is vital to supporting the growth and vibrancy of our beloved downtown community. Membership enables the organization to: advocate for local businesses and foster economic development; preserve the rich history and unique charm of Downtown Fort Pierce; host events and initiatives that bring residents and visitors together, driving community spirit and connection; and provide leadership and resources for projects that enhance the area's appeal and livability.

When you join *Main Street Fort Pierce*, you become an integral part of a grassroots movement dedicated to making our downtown a thriving, welcoming hub for everyone. This **Annual Meeting** is the perfect opportunity to connect, contribute, and join hands in shaping the future.

Lastly, we'd like to wish all the incredible moms out there a very **Happy Mother's Day!** 🏡



MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

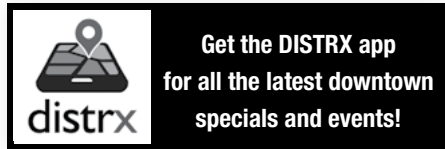
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Calendar

Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic, Downtown Fort Pierce!



MONTHLY EVENTS

May 2, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by **Sleeping Dogz**; Please remove all vehicles from the permitted Friday Fest road closure area (Marina Way & Melody Lane) by 2:00 p.m.; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

May 16, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; **Sponsor – Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation**; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

May 16, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wednesdays: Wednesday Green Market & Food Co-Op — rain or shine 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., Downtown Marina Square; 971-8480.

Saturdays: The Jazz Market — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north side of the Downtown Fort Pierce Library; Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299, jazzsociety.org.

Saturdays: Ft. Pierce Farmer's Market — 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

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First Church; 464-0440, firstchurchfp.org.

Fort Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church; 940-6728, haitianmethodist.org.

Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church; 466-9617, notredamecc.com.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (*founded 1893*); 461-5009 mystandrews.org.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

A.E. Backus Museum
772-465-0630 • backusmuseum.com

Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
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Fort Pierce Police Athletic League
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Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

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Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center
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Heathcote Botanical Gardens
772-464-4672 • heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum
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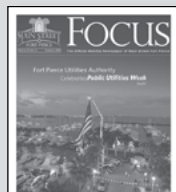
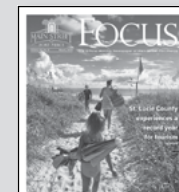
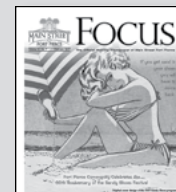
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- MAY 2: WORLD TUNA DAY
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- MAY 10: NATIONAL GOLF DAY
- MAY 10: NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS DAY
- MAY 11: MOTHER'S DAY
- MAY 16: NATIONAL BBQ DAY
- MAY 17: NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP DAY
- MAY 21: NATIONAL WAITERS AND WAITRESSES DAY
- MAY 22: NATIONAL MARITIME DAY
- MAY 23: WORLD TURTLE DAY
- MAY 26: MEMORIAL DAY
- MAY 29: NATIONAL ALLIGATOR DAY

About Us: the Main Street Focus

Main Street's monthly newspaper is an important way to keep our members and the public informed about the revitalization efforts in downtown Fort Pierce. The newspaper highlights the people, places, and events that work together to make our community a desirable place to live and work.

In July 2005, the staff, board, and volunteers of *Main Street* began production of its 32-page monthly newspaper. The *Main Street Focus* has continued to cover news about the events, people, businesses, and redevelopment taking place within the *Main Street Fort Pierce* boundaries for over 20 years.



The *Focus* is always looking for fresh stories and writers. *Main Street Focus* articles must be factual, positive, and related to the downtown Fort Pierce area or *Main Street* programs. Any writer with a story idea may contact the *Main Street* office at (772) 466-3880 or email focus@mainstreet-fortpierce.org.

Local organizations and businesses are also welcome to submit press releases or event notification flyers related to downtown Fort Pierce for publishing consideration. The deadline for the following month's edition is the 1st of the current month.

What is the Main Street Program?

The *Main Street Program* was created by the *National Trust for Historic Preservation* in the late 1970s to revitalize historic commercial districts and downtown communities across the United States. Post World War II housing and shopping trends included the departure from traditional commercial areas (that in some areas existed for centuries). These downtowns slowly lost the businesses, activities and connections that had united their communities in the past. This led to mass economic loss for local commercial property owners which further resulted in the destruction of numerous historic buildings during the 1960s and 1970s.

To combat the continued destruction of these historic downtowns, the *National Trust* created a pilot program that would later be named the *Main Street Approach* and tested it

in three downtowns: Galesburg, IL, Hot Springs, SD, and Madison, IN. Its success led to the official launch of the *National Main Street Center* in 1980. Today *Main Street America* is a separate organization from the *National Trust* and continues to provide support, training and the transmission of proven ideas & solutions to thousands of participating *Main Street* downtowns and districts. As of 2023, (according to the *Main Street America* website at <https://mainstreet.org/our-network/collective-impact>) this effort has led to over \$107 billion in local reinvestment, 175,323 in net new businesses, 782,059 net gain in jobs, 335,675 rehabbed buildings, and has procured over 35.3 million of volunteer hours.

The *Main Street Approach*®, <https://mainstreet.org/about/how-we-work/the-main-street-approach>.

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Mayor's Message **Improve our City With FPRA Grants Program**

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Three grants' programs, offered by the **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA)**, can make your business or home look better, and Fort Pierce too. We are dedicated to enhancing the beauty and vibrancy of our community through financial assistance programs designed for both residents and businesses. Our goal is to foster improvement and encourage property enhancement throughout the redevelopment area.

Commercial Facade Grants

The grant offers financial assistance in the form of a reimbursable grant, matching 50% up to \$25,000. To be eligible the property must be located within the **FPRA District** and be commercially zoned.

The primary objective of the **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency Commercial Façade Grant** is to promote the revitalization of commercial corridors within the FPRA district.

Commercial Sign Grant Program

The **FPRA Commercial Sign Grant Program** provides financial assistance through a reimbursable grant of up to \$5,000 per property for existing businesses. This grant can be used towards the removal of old signage, the design, production, and installation of new signage; or substantial renovation of existing signage including the installation of modern sign lighting, in compliance with current City codes. Under this program, exterior free-standing signs and exterior wall signs that are permanent and fixed to the structure are considered eligible sign types. This grant program covers the following types of signs: awnings, freestanding ground signs, monument signs, projecting signs, under canopy signs, wall signs, and painted signs.

Property Refresh Paint Program

The **FPRA Paint Program** was established to encourage commercial and residential property owners to improve the exterior of their structures. The program offers financial support in the form of a reimbursable grant, providing up to \$1,000 per home or business to cover the expenses related to exterior paint and paint supplies.

For more information, visit <https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/969/FPRA-Grants>.



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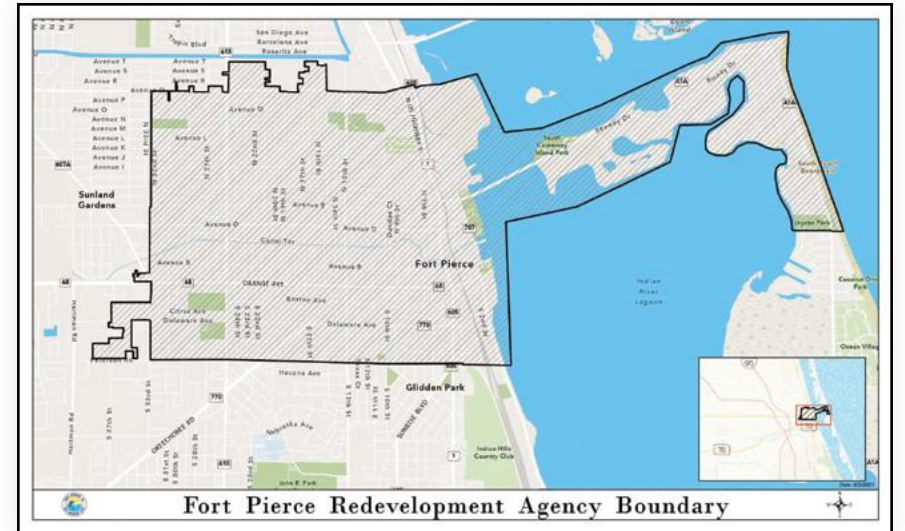
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The Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency Relaunches the Commercial Sign Grant Program

The **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA)** is excited to announce the re-launch of its **Commercial Sign Reimbursable Grant Program**, an initiative designed to support local businesses and improve the overall aesthetic of our community. This program offers property owners the opportunity to update their signage, replacing outdated or worn signs with fresh, eye-catching designs. Modern signage not only enhances the appearance of businesses but also boosts brand recognition, helping to attract new customers and retain existing ones. The FPRA is offering a reimbursable grant of up to \$5,000 per property for businesses within the FPRA District. These funds can be used to either create new signage or replace existing outdated signs with more modern, attractive



alternatives. Applications for the program are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and funds will be allocated until all available resources are distributed.

For an application and a complete list of eligibility requirements, please visit: <https://choosefortpierce.com/969/FPRA-Incentive-Program>.

For more information about the FPRA **Commercial Sign Program**, please call 772-467-3786 or email fpra@cityoffortpierce.com.

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Manatee Migration & Boater Awareness

Protecting Manatees and Preserving the Indian River Lagoon

Manatees, affectionately known as “sea cows,” are gentle marine mammals recognized for their slow movements and plant-based diets. These peaceful creatures are deeply connected to the health of their environment—especially seagrass beds, which serve as both their primary food source and a vital marine habitat.

Found in shallow coastal areas, seagrass beds not only sustain manatees but also support a wide range of marine life. By consuming large quantities of seagrass daily, manatees help maintain the health of these underwater meadows, preventing overgrowth and promoting regrowth through natural grazing.

As water temperatures rise in May, the local manatee population returns to the *Indian River Lagoon* and its estuaries. During this time, manatees often swim just below the surface, making them vulnerable to boat collisions.

Boaters—Help Keep Manatees Safe

- Reduce speed in designated manatee zones and follow posted signs.
- Look for signs of manatees, such as swirl patterns or bubbles on the water's surface.
- Use polarized sunglasses to improve visibility.

Avoid disturbing seagrass beds—they are essential for manatee survival.

Seagrass beds also shelter young fish and invertebrates. Unfortunately, these ecosystems are threatened by pollution, coastal development, and long-term environmental changes. Runoff containing fertilizers and other pollutants can lead to algal blooms, which block sunlight needed for seagrass to thrive. The loss of seagrass habitats makes it difficult for manatees to find enough food, further endangering their survival.

Conservation efforts are underway to restore habitats, improve water quality, and reduce boating-related collisions—a leading cause of manatee deaths.

By protecting seagrass beds and ensuring safe waterways, we help preserve the health of the Indian River Lagoon for future generations.

Visit the **Manatee Center** at 480 N. Indian River Drive, Downtown Fort Pierce; open Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m to 4 p.m.; a hub for environmental education and advocacy.

Special Note: The **Manatee Center** is located on Moore's Creek—a favorite spot for wild manatees. Sightings are common, but not guaranteed!

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Community Day Event at Rotary Park



The City of Fort Pierce Public Works Department is excited to invite the Fort Pierce community to the upcoming **Community Day Event at Rotary Park**, located at 1901 S. 23rd Street in Fort Pierce, on Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Whether you are a long-time resident or a newcomer, this event promises a day filled with enjoyment, delicious food, and valuable interactions with various city departments.

The **Community Day Event** aims to foster community spirit while providing valuable information about city services and initiatives. Highlights include:

Tree Giveaway — Attendees can receive a free tree to enhance their homes and neighborhoods, contributing to a greener and healthier environment.

Demonstrations — Engage with city employees as they showcase various aspects of their work, offering insights into the vital services they provide to the community.

City Services Information — Learn about the wide range of services offered by the City of Fort Pierce and the Fort Pierce Police Department, empowering residents with knowledge about available resources and assistance.

Activities for All Ages — From interactive games to educational activities, there will be something enjoyable for everyone in the family to participate in and enjoy.

Animal Adoption Center — Meet adorable pets from the Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center and discover how you can make a positive impact by providing a loving home to a furry friend in need.

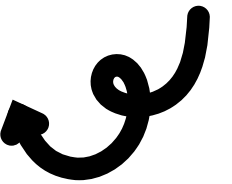
All residents are encouraged to join us for this fun-filled day of community celebration and engagement.

Let's come together, have some fun, and learn what the beautiful City of Fort Pierce has to offer. This event is presented by the *Public Works Department* in collaboration with the *Police Department*, *Community Response*, and the *Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center*. 🏠

A Vision for the Future: The Transformation of Marina Square

In November 2022, Fort Pierce took an important step toward revitalizing its heart—the downtown area—by officially accepting the **Downtown Master Plan**. This visionary blueprint was designed to unlock the full potential of Fort Pierce's greatest assets, with a focus on connecting people, places, and experiences in a way that celebrates the city's history, beauty, and future.

One of the most exciting parts of the plan is Phase 1, which focuses on the transformation of Marina Square into a vibrant public space—*Marina Park*. The goal? To create a park that is flexible, adaptable, and welcoming, offering spaces for a wide variety of community events, gatherings, and recreational activities. Whether it's hosting a summer concert, a farmers market, or a place for families to relax, the park will be designed to accommodate the community's needs and aspirations.




The design process is driven by the power of community engagement. The city is eager to hear from everyone—residents, business owners, and visitors—about what they envision for Marina Park. The idea is not just to create a park, but to build a space that reflects the desires of those who will use it most. Flexible green spaces, areas for social events, and an inviting waterfront will all be a part of the transformation.

As plans for *Marina Park* take shape, the city invites everyone to participate in the process. Your thoughts and ideas are vital in shaping the future of this dynamic space.

Please take a moment to complete the survey by scanning the QR Code. Your input will help make *Marina Park* a place that everyone can enjoy for years to come. 🏠

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FPUA Awarded *Indian River Lagoon* Water Quality Improvement Grant

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) is proud to announce it has been selected as a recipient of a *Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Water Quality Improvement Grant* as part of Governor Ron DeSantis' recent \$389 million funding announcement to protect and enhance Florida's water resources.

The grant, part of a statewide effort to improve water quality and safeguard Florida's environment, is through the newly established *Indian River Lagoon Protection Program*. This grant will support FPUA's ongoing construction of the new *Mainland Water Reclamation Facility (MWRP)*. This essential project relocates FPUA's existing island sewer treatment plant away from the shores of the *Indian River Lagoon* to a new facility five miles west in an industrial area, safely distanced from neighborhoods. The new plant will replace aging infrastructure with advanced technology, enhance system resilience, reduce potential environmental impacts, and improve service to the community.

"We are honored to be among the projects selected for this vital funding," said FPUA Director of Water and Wastewater Systems Bo Hutchinson. "This grant will allow us to implement impactful infrastructure improvements that enhance the quality of our wastewater systems for future generations, supporting a cleaner environment and a stronger community."

Governor DeSantis announced that \$189 million in *Water Quality Improvement Grants* were awarded to 31 high-priority projects across Florida, chosen from over 348 applications. These projects aim to remove over 1.1 million pounds of nitrogen and 286,000 pounds of phosphorus annually, significantly enhancing water quality statewide.

"Florida's waterways are a vital part of our environment, economy, and way of life, and protecting these resources continues to be a top priority," said Governor Ron DeSantis.

"We are deeply grateful to Governor Ron DeSantis, Representative Dana Trabulsy, Senator Erin Grall, Congressman Brian Mast, the Fort Pierce City Commission, and our state and federal agency partners for their steadfast support," said FPUA Director of Public Affairs and Sustainability Rachel Tennant. "Thanks to their leadership and collaboration, we've secured nearly \$70 million in grant funding for this transformational project. This level of support reflects a shared commitment to protecting the *Indian River Lagoon* and investing in a more resilient future for Fort Pierce."

FPUA CEO/Director of Utilities Javier Cisneros added, "I want to thank the FPUA Board for their trust in our staff and

for their unwavering support throughout this process. This has been a complex and ambitious undertaking, and their confidence in our team's ability to deliver has made all the difference. The relocation of the wastewater treatment plant is more than a construction project—it's a legacy of environmental stewardship and service excellence for Fort Pierce."

For more information on this grant program and the complete list of funded projects, visit ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/Grants. Get weekly project updates of the new *Mainland Wastewater Reclamation Facility* at: <https://www.sustainable-sewer.net/wastewaterwednesdays>

About FPUA: **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** is a municipal, not-for-profit utility provider. FPUA's mission is to provide our customers with economical, reliable, and friendly service in a continuous effort to enhance the quality of life in our community. Fort Pierce is one of more than 2,000 communities in the United States served by

a community-owned electric utility and one of very few who also provide water, wastewater, natural gas, and Internet services. Public utility systems are owned by the people they serve. All benefits from our locally controlled utility remain right here in the community. Additional information is available at www.fpua.com.

About FDEP Water Quality Improvement Program: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is the state's principal environmental agency, created to protect, conserve, and manage Florida's environment and natural resources. The department enforces federal and state environmental laws, protects Florida's air and water quality, cleans up pollution, regulates solid waste management, promotes pollution prevention, and acquires environmentally sensitive lands for preservation. The agency also maintains a statewide system of parks, trails, and aquatic preserves. The *Indian River Lagoon Protection Program* tackles water quality challenges in the Indian River Lagoon by funding wastewater improvements (including septic-to-sewer conversions), stormwater management, and other projects that enhance water quality. Visit the department's website at FloridaDEP.gov.



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FPYC Anchors 45 Years of Tradition with Sapphire Anniversary Celebration

by Michele March, Social Media and Public Relations



The Fort Pierce Yacht Club (FPYC) marked its 45th Sapphire Anniversary with a grand celebration on the evening of Saturday, March 22nd. The event was attended by 110 guests, including former members, distinguished community leaders, dedicated partners, and FPYC Foundation award recipients.

FPYC was honored to host so many who have played an important role in supporting the club throughout the years. Notable attendees included City of Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner James Taylor, St. Lucie County Property Appraiser Michelle Franklin, Main Street Fort Pierce's Doris Tillman, Project Lift's Shawn Keil, Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis President and Boys & Girls Club's Gaby Simpson, and Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation's Ernie Small.

Guests enjoyed delicious light appetizers provided by True Roots Catering Co. and were treated to a lively performance by The Silver Mullets. The band's performance was a special gift from its members, in recognition of the strong partnership between FPYC and the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society over the years.

The evening also featured a captivating display of historical photos that highlighted the club's rich history, from its founding to its many milestones. Photos showcased the construction of the clubhouse, regattas, raft-ups, cruises, Commodore's Balls, community events, charitable efforts, boat parades, and educational initiatives—each one a reminder of the club's vibrant legacy.

Members kicked off the anniversary festivities with a private celebration on March 21st, during their regular Friday Night Social gathering. A light dinner and sweet treats helped set the tone for the weekend's grand celebration.

The Anniversary festivities will continue with the return of the Fort Pierce Blessing of the Fleet on Saturday, May 17th. The event, which is open to all, will include a special blessing for those with VHF capabilities at 11 a.m., followed by an additional blessing for smaller

vessels without VHF capabilities at the FPYC dock at 4 p.m. While participation in the event is free, registration is required for those wishing to join the reception after the blessing.

The Fort Pierce Yacht Club looks forward to many more years of bringing people together and continuing to serve the community.

For more information on the Fort Pierce Blessing of the Fleet or to register for the event, please visit www.FortPierceYacht-Club.com/BlessingoftheFleet.

Project Lift recognizes the Fort Pierce Yacht Club with Spirit Award. Project Lift, a nonprofit 501c3 organization whose motto is "Changing Lives Through Innovation" is dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk teens and young adults. Recently, Project Lift, awarded the Fort Pierce Yacht Club the "Collaborative Spirit Award," in recognition of their support of Project Lift.

Project Lift locations include Palm City, Belle Glade, Hobe Sound and Fort Pierce. To learn more about this unique organization go to projectlift.org.



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100 years ago this month as reported in the May 13, 1925 edition of The Miami Herald

To Lay Corner Stone Ceremony at Fort Pierce Methodist Church to be Held Saturday

The corner stone of the \$50,000 church being constructed by the Fort Pierce Methodist Church is to be laid at 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon. Local Masonic orders will have charge of the exercises.

Work on the structure is now well under way. When completed it will be one of the finest and most modern churches in the state, it is said. The main church auditorium and the Sunday school department will be a separate connecting building. More than 30 rooms will be provided in the Sunday school department with class and assembly rooms for every class and department of the school.

The building will be of hollow tile and stucco construction. It will be on Seventh Street, between Orange Avenue and Avenue A.

The \$10,000 parsonage, just east of the church site, will be ready for use within another week or so. It also is of hollow tile and stucco.

100 years ago this month as reported in the May 22, 1925 edition of The Tampa Tribune

Citrus Shipments From St. Lucie in Year 2,045 Cars Movement from Fort Pierce

Heaviest of Any One Point in Country

Shipment of citrus fruit from St. Lucie County for the season of 1924-25 will total 2,045 carloads, or approximately 736,200 boxes. This sets a new high record for the county, being around 300 carloads in excess of last season's total, itself a record. The carload movement has practically ceased and will end altogether the early part of the coming week, only about 30 cars remaining to be shipped by the three packing plants that are still running.

Fort Pierce leads the whole county in number of cars shipped, with nearly 700 sent out.

The proportion for the county was divided approximately as follows: Grapefruit, 75 per cent; oranges, 20 per cent; tangerines, 5 per cent...

...St. Lucie County, which for seven times has won highest award as the State's premier county in the production of high-class citrus fruit, is the leading citrus county of the East Coast and within a few years at the present rapid increase in production will rank with the heavy shipping counties of the state.

75 years ago this month as reported in the May 2, 1950 edition of The Miami News

Ft. Pierce Area to Get Power

The North Beach area here is to have electricity within the next 90 days, according to announcement of the North Beach Development co.

The company, it was stated, has signed a contract with the Florida Power & Light co.

for installation of a line to the beach. The line will tie in from the company's Angle road line and cross Indian River along the North bridge, thence across the island.

The company had negotiated with both the city of Fort Pierce and the F.P. & L. for service, but the city declined to extend its service to the area.

Development of the North Beach area is now getting underway. The new line will serve newly-developed Pepper park and the adjacent areas.

75 years ago this month as reported in the May 31, 1950 edition of The Miami Herald

Keep Freedom... McCarty

Americans can best "keep faith with our departed brothers" who gave their lives for their country by defending the "individuals freedom" for which they died, Dan McCarty of Fort Pierce said Tuesday.

The Fort Pierce citrus grower and former legislator spoke at Memorial Day ceremonies conducted by all veterans organizations in downtown Hemming Park (Jacksonville).

"Liberty to the individual takes on real importance when it is in danger," McCarty said. "The terrible truth is that after events have gone that far, there is not too much the individual can do."

He said there was a tendency to look to the government for support rather than have the individual support the government.

****Daniel Thomas McCarty was born and raised in downtown Fort Pierce. His grandparents came to live in the area that would become the City of Fort Pierce*

TREASURES OF THE PAST

in the late 1800's. Dan graduated from University of Florida in 1934 and joined his family's cattle and citrus businesses. He was elected to the FL House of Representatives in 1937. He became the Speaker of the House in 1941 shortly before he left to enlist in the Army during WWII. During his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star medal, the Purple Heart, the Legion of Merit and the French Croix de Guerre. He landed with the Seventh Army during D-Day in France and earned the rank of Colonel. He became Florida's 31st governor in 1952. Sadly, he passed away in 1953 due to complications from a heart attack. He is buried in a small cemetery along Indian River Drive.

50 years ago this month as reported in the May 7, 1975 edition of The Miami Herald

Clerk's Offices Remain Downtown

A majority of St. Lucie County commissioners bowed to the urging of attorneys and merchants in the downtown Fort Pierce area, and agreed Tuesday that the offices of the Clerk of the Circuit Court should remain in the downtown Courthouse.

Originally most of Clerk Roger Poitras' operation was to be moved into the new Courthouse Annex building planned for the Lawnwood area.

The pressure for change was applied at a Tuesday work session called to discuss space use in the new building.

50 years ago this month as reported by Julie Sneed in the May 23, 1975 edition of The Fort Pierce Tribune

FP Revitalization Plan Shown; Reactions Mixed

The Fort Pierce City Commission and two of its advisory committees have been presented with a progress report on the plan to revitalize Fort Pierce.

Ben Withers, of the city planning firm RMBR, said city officials must now review concepts in the document presented to them and either accept, reject or modify the firm's suggested changes in the central business district.

The final report, to be paid for with a \$20,000 federal planning grant, \$5,000 city cash and in-kind services by city employees should be completed by June 30, Withers' said.

Reactions to the plan which includes waterfront tourist oriented facilities and gradual phasing-out of non-conforming businesses, such as laundries, lumberyards and bakeries, range from enthusiastic to skeptical.

"I hope someone's got the month to exploit his dream," commented Robert Tiernan, owner of Warren's Laundry, 131 N. Third St., this morning.

Tiernan said he would be happy to move his business if federal redevelopment were available to build a new plant somewhere else.

City officials last night expressed the fear that the businesses would leave the area - taking with them the tax revenue and jobs they generate.

Jim Holmes, who heads the Fort Pierce Revitalization Committee, told members of the commission they might be considering establishment of an industrial park within the incorporated area of the city. The larger

businesses could rent property in the park for \$1 a year as encouragement to stay in the city and pay city taxes, explained Holmes.

Withers and other city planners to address the revitalization committee before RMBR was chosen to execute the latest city plan, have all stressed the view of the waterfront area between the city marina and the Citrus Avenue overpass is being wasted on parking lots.

The interim report, presented at the Thursday meeting, calls for a strip of tourist-oriented facilities and a motel along the Indian River in downtown Fort Pierce....

25 years ago this month as reported in the May 5, 2000 edition of The Fort Pierce News

Candlelight walking tours of downtown Fort Pierce

Main Street Fort Pierce will offer candlelight walking tours of downtown Fort Pierce at 7 p.m. during ArtWalk Wednesday, May 10. Each tour takes about an hour to complete.

Tickets are \$5 each and available the night of the tour or by calling the Main Street office at 466-3880.

***Main Street Fort Pierce created these tours to generate after hour traffic in downtown Fort Pierce to help draw more people and businesses to the area. These tours were the precursor to the Annual Ghost Walk tours that take place the Wednesday & Thursday before Halloween each October. Tickets for this year's event will go on sale in September at www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Call for Artists: New Mural Project in Downtown Fort Pierce

The *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency* (FPRA) is excited to announce a *Call for Artists* for a new mural in downtown Fort Pierce. Local artists are



encouraged to submit mural proposals for the back exterior wall of the historic **Sunrise Theatre**, a cherished landmark in the *City of Fort Pierce*.

Highly visible from US1, the selected mural will become a striking visual feature that enhances the Theatre and contributes to the energy and charm of downtown Fort Pierce. The FPRA is seeking a design that is bold, beautiful, and timeless—one that celebrates the spirit of the **Sunrise Theatre**.

For decades, the **Sunrise Theatre** has served as a hub for live music, comedy, community theatre, educational camps, and special events.

This project presents a unique opportunity for local artists to contribute to the city's creative landscape and be part of Fort Pierce's rich art history.

Artists must submit their proposals by Friday, May 16, 2025.

Complete project details and submission instructions can be found here: <https://choosefortpiece.com/1056/FPRA-Mural-Program>. For more information, contact the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency at (772) 467-3025 or email fpra@cityoffortpiece.com. 🏠

Daniel D. Fuller, MAI, SRA
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Find Fantastic International Flavors at the *Downtown Farmers Market*

One of the great things about the **Fort Pierce Downtown Farmers Market** is the wide variety of international flavors you can choose from there. Of course, the produce vendors provide us with unique treats (did you pick up an odd looking but tasty kohlrabi from **Aunt Zaroda Farms** a few months back?), but what I want to talk about are the ready-to-eat food vendors. What a treasure the market offers with these different foods all in one location!

A local favorite is **Chef Kevin's Reggae Yum Yums**. It is hard to walk past the aroma of their steak and eggs sauteing without stopping. They offer made-to-order breakfast and lunch, so you can visit twice before you leave the market.

Another place you may succumb to the smell of delicious food cooking is **Sonora Eats**. They serve authentic Sonora-style tacos and burritos along with other tasty treats you can't resist.

Contending for the title of most irresistible international cuisine at the **Downtown Farmers Market** is **Tony's Gyros**. Who can resist an authentic Greek gyro and a falafel to go with it? For other Mediterranean delights, don't miss out on the mix and match hummus dishes being demonstrated at **Mediterranean Delights**.

For those looking for flavors from a different part of Europe, **Palm City Crepes** makes the most delicious French-style crepes. Some are hearty and filling, but my favorites tend to be the fruit-filled ones.

One vendor at the market who is fast becoming a big hit is **KubKub Express** offering authentic Filipino cuisine that is sure to please your palette. Be sure to check them out if you haven't already.

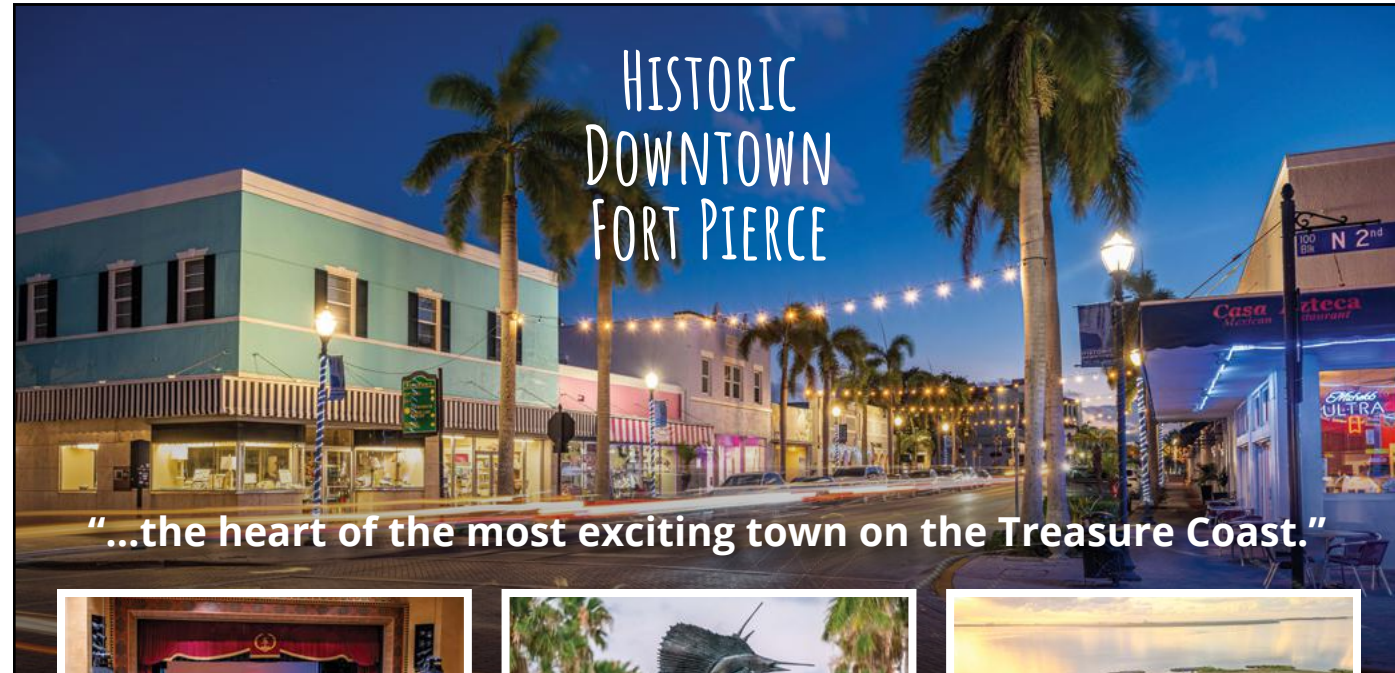
Can you see how almost any international food craving you might have might be satisfied on a beautiful Saturday morning at the **Fort Pierce Downtown Farmers Market**? You may already be salivating for next Saturday in fact. But wait! There's more!

Anita's Guacamole is where you can taste a freshly made sample and take home your week's supply too. **Empanada PSL** is pumping out those made to order empanadas all morning long. **Bahamian Thang** offers some fabulous conch salad and fritters for you. **Faith Lunch** is the place to get authentic Jamaican patties with some plantain tarts. **Tish's Kitchen** gives you the taste of Gambia and other African cuisines that pique your interest and your palette. A powerhouse of a cook you should make sure to visit is the **Mini Sun Kitchen**. It's a great place to get traditional Korean cuisine like kimchi, egg rolls and herb butters.

Coming back closer to our own nation, don't miss out on the Hawaiian and Asian cuisine from **The Ohana Made Florida**. If you have tried their short ribs, you know. If you haven't, you need to know now. **Big Birds BBQ** and **Bushdog's** real Maryland crabcakes help us appreciate how our own regions contribute to the flavors of the world.

Well, I ran out of space before I ran out of food vendors to talk about so you will have to come *eating around the world* at the **Fort Pierce Downtown Farmers Market**. Follow us on social media to see weekly details but check out our website at fortpiercefarmersmarket.com for more information on all our vendors. For ready-to-eat treats while you enjoy the view of the Indian River Lagoon, join us. *It's a Saturday morning tradition.* 🏠





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PHOTOS BY MARK KRANCER

If you are looking to open or expand your business,

Downtown Fort Pierce is the place to be!

Fresh and exciting projects continue to make the Downtown area even more inviting and attractive to visitors. See listings for available **office**, **retail**, and **restaurant** space below.

- 116 North 2nd Street | **Ralph Fahey** | 772-577-4145
- 124 2nd St., Suite A, 201 S 2nd St., 101 N US Hwy 1, 415 Avenue A | **Brian Stone** | 772-370-4777
- 111 Orange Avenue | **Ryan Andrew** | 772-932-1444
- 208 Avenue A | **K & K II** | 772-971-1934
- 131 N. 2nd St. | **Christine Coke** | 772-252-4501
- 210 N. 2nd St. | **Ledarius Mack** | 786-529-8881
- 100 S 2nd St., #101, 200 N Hwy 1, 300 S 6th St. | **Angel Borreca/Pierce Harbor Realty** | 772-801-0750
- 108 N Depot Dr. | **Eric Reikenis/SLC Commercial** | 561-339-1344

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Become A Member

It Takes All of Us to Make Our Historic Downtown Prosper and Grow!



Main Street Fort Pierce wants to invite you to become a part of the renaissance of our Historic Downtown area. Over the past twenty-six years, we have worked to repair streets and sidewalks, upgrade storefronts, renovated the **Sunrise Theatre**, **Old City Hall** and the **Platts Backus House**, sponsor charrettes to design a downtown "Master Plan," built the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** and so much more! Annually, **Main Street Fort Pierce** sponsors over 30 events — most which are free of charge.

Yet there is still so much more to be done! We need you to be involved in our continued planning for the area. Become a member and support *Main Street* financially. We rely on the participation and the voluntary annual dues from our members to accomplish our goals and complete our projects.

Whether you own a downtown business or you just love Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, we need your energy and support to continue to rejuvenate our community's heart and soul.



Why Main Street Fort Pierce?

- Downtown Fort Pierce is an important employment center.
- The area is a reflection of the community image.
- Locally owned businesses keep profits in town and support other local businesses and community projects.
 - A vibrant downtown creates a feeling of "hometown pride" and sense of place.
- The downtown district is a public gathering area, where parades, special events, and celebrations are held in a unique setting.
- Community character and historic integrity cannot be recreated.

What are Membership Benefits?

- Your membership dues are an investment in the future of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, helping us to sponsor improvements and events throughout the year.
- Members receive advanced notice and invitations to special events.
 - You will receive the monthly subscription to *Main Street Focus* magazine and links to *Focus On-Line*.

As a member of *Main Street* you are automatically aligned with others who want to preserve the past and influence the future of Fort Pierce. You can belong to Fort Pierce *Main Street* at one of eight different membership levels, starting at just \$25.

Main Street Membership Levels

Benefactor Levels	Community Levels	Corporate Levels
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Please Take a Minute to Join Today!

Complete the form below and join our growing group of committed members. By joining *Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.*, you are supporting the economic well being of the entire community.

Name: _____ Membership Level: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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Three Easy Ways to Join!

- 1 – Call Main Street Fort Pierce at (772) 466-3880
- 2 – Visit our Website at www.mainstreetfortpiercer.org, click the membership link
- 3 – Fill out the membership form and mail to:

Main Street Fort Pierce
122 A.E. Backus Ave.
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950



- I was born in Mineola, NY, and moved to Fort Pierce in July of 1992. I had moved from Massachusetts to Charlotte, NC, and realized pretty quickly I didn't like large cities. I moved to St. Lucie County, sight unseen and jobless. I fell in love with Fort Pierce.
- *Family:* My awesome husband and best friend, Tom. Together we have 4 children and 5 grandchildren.
- *Education:* Springfield College, Springfield, MA; American International College, Springfield, MA; Bachelors in Rehabilitation Services; Masters in Education.
- *What year did you become a Main Street Board Member?* 2022.
- *What attracted you to become involved with Main Street Fort Pierce?* I really love Fort Pierce and *Main Street* has a lot to do with why. I was looking for ways to get more involved after I retired and felt *Main Street* was a great fit.
- *What is your favorite project/event that Main Street Fort Pierce has accomplished and/or organizes that you were a part of?* I assist with *Friday Fest*, the *Reverse Raffle*, and have become a regular paper girl — delivering the monthly *Focus*.
- *What is your hope/wish for the future of downtown Fort Pierce?* I hope to see Fort Pierce continue to be quaint town but at the same time be able to offer a little bit of everything so everyone of every age and background can enjoy themselves in our beautiful town. 🏠

AN INTERVIEW WITH

Kathleen Perona

Main Street Fort Pierce Board Member




Nancy Arledge
Vice President
Branch Manager
NMLS #572813

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Financial Literacy Resources for America's Small Businesses

by U.S. Small Business Administration, published on www.sba.gov

Budgeting, saving, borrowing, investing, and bookkeeping are all crucial to the financial success of any business.

That's why *Financial Literacy Month* is a perfect time to brush up on the basics of keeping business finances in order. Here are some helpful resources to help business owners boost financial literacy.



Small Business Development Centers (SBDC). SBA partners with nearly 1,000 SBDCs across the country to deliver personalized business advising and technical assistance. SBDCs provide counseling and training about capital access, financial management, and more.

SCORE business mentors. As the nation's largest network of volunteer business mentors, SCORE offers free, customized advice to entrepreneurs across America about financing and other important topics.

SBA Business Guide. To help you succeed at every phase of, SBA created a free business guide. Learn about balance sheets, cost-benefit analyses, accounting methods of and much more.

MySBA Learning. The SBA's free learning platform helps small business owners learn at their pace and on their own time. MySBA Learning is divided into major topics called Journeys.

Within each Journey, entrepreneurs can find Excursions with the tools they need to master a topic. Journey 4: Your Business Financial Strategy, for example, will help you hone your skills using financial data and projections.

Register for financial literacy events near you to learn about basic financial terminology, financial management, cash flow, and more! Connect with local district offices and resource partners for more business assistance near you.

Small Business Development Center

Florida SBDC at Indian River State College, Fort Pierce
3209 Virginia Avenue, Building Y-303, Fort Pierce

APEX Accelerator/PTAC

PTAC at Indian River State College
3209 Virginia Ave, Room Y101, Fort Pierce
772-462-4942

SCORE Business Mentor

Treasure Coast SCORE
3220 S. US Hwy 1 Suite #2, Fort Pierce
772-489-0548



Salty Grocery List!

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

While we say every day is a good day to go fishing, the milder conditions of May really offer some fantastic opportunities on our Treasure Coast waters. We see more bait in the area which signals that the big fish such as the popular mahi-mahi and smoker kingfish are coming through, plus grouper season opens May 1st. Our fishing paradise includes inshore, offshore, the *Fort Pierce Inlet*, the river, and the lagoon so the variety of salty groceries up for grabs is nothing short of spectacular. It's time to plan a fresh fish dinner!

When targeting the acrobatic mahi-mahi, I recommend a slow troll with fresh ballyhoo, either naked or skirted, at about 80 feet or more. Weed lines and floating debris are great places to find mahi hiding out and when you find one, there is usually a school close by so be prepared for some non-stop action. If the fish are hard to find, look for diving birds as this means the baitfish are there and the mahi probably will be, too. Mahi, or dolphinfish, are a highly sought after game fish for their intense fight with aerial jumps and powerful runs providing a worthy, memory-making battle. Mahi are also great table fare with a mild, sweet flavor and a firm texture. It's delicious fried, baked, grilled, and pan-seared with lemon and butter.

This is also a productive time to fish the grass flats of the river. More bait entices more fish and redfish and snook are consistently being reported. The snook bite continues to be stellar with all sizes being hooked and a good amount of slots finding their way to the dinner table. Try live bait like mullet, pilchards, and threadfins with a tight drag as these aggressive snook are very smart at running for nearby structure to cut the line. Snook season will close again from June 1 through August 31st so get it on your salty list now.

Our *Fishy Photo of the Month* shows double keeper slots by Captain Fab and Matt Samuel!

So have you made your salty grocery list? I've been fishing these local waters all my life and consider it a great privilege to



share the fun with others. The ocean is my office and we're always ready to go catching! Remember, your tackle needs can be found at **DeBrooks Fishing Corner** and great food and music are at my home base, the historic **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** (#savelittlejim). Plus **Little Jim** will *Cook-Your-Catch!* For salty groceries in the bag, you gotta fish with *Pullin Drag!* 🏠



Favorite Recipes from Main Street contributed by Bob Ridle

Pecan Tarts

Pastry

- 1 cup butter
- 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups all-purpose flour

Filling

- 4 eggs
- 3 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 4 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 pinch salt

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Lightly grease two mini tart pans.

Pastry: Combine butter and cream cheese in a large bowl; beat with an electric mixer until smooth and creamy. Add flour and mix to form a smooth dough.

Divide dough into 48 balls; place one ball in each greased cup of tart pans. Use fingers or a tart tamper to press out into a tart shell.

Filling: Break eggs into a large bowl. Add brown sugar, pecans, melted butter, vanilla, and salt; mix until well combined. Spoon filling into prepared tart shells, filling each 3/4 full.

Bake in the preheated oven until brown, about 30 minutes. Allow tarts to cool completely on a wire rack.



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Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages as we raise a glass to Main Street successes and share what's yet to come in the year ahead!

This event is open to MSFP members, supporters, volunteers, local businesses, and municipal partners.

MainStreetFortPierce.org





Volume 20, No. 11 June, 2025

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

Stars Over St. Lucie



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARYANN KETCHAM

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shaping a Dynamic Future – Together

by Donna Sizemore



We are proud to announce that **Main Street Fort Pierce** has officially received re-accreditation from **Main Street America** and **Florida Main Street**, for 2025, for meeting the standards of performance in 2024. This is a testament to our dedication to preserving, promoting, and enhancing the heart of our historic downtown! This milestone recognizes our commitment to fostering a vibrant community, supporting local businesses, and celebrating the rich heritage that makes Fort Pierce so special.

With this accreditation, we reaffirm our mission to bring exciting events, meaningful initiatives, and lasting improvements to our beloved downtown. We couldn't have achieved this without the unwavering support of our members, volunteers, community partners and sponsors—this success belongs to all of us!

Main Street Fort Pierce extends our deepest gratitude to our incredible sponsors, players and dedicated volunteers for making the **Main Street Annual Golf Tournament** a resounding success! Your generosity, hard work, and enthusiasm brought this event to life making this annual event something to look forward to each year.


“With this accreditation, we reaffirm our mission to bring exciting events, meaningful initiatives, and lasting improvements to our beloved downtown.”

Presenting Sponsor: **Remnant Construction.**
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From every swing on the course to every moment of camaraderie, your support made a lasting impact. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for being part of this journey—see you next year!

Stay connected for more updates, and let's continue shaping a dynamic future for **Main Street Fort Pierce**—together! As always, visit our **Main Street Fort Pierce** website for upcoming event information <https://mainstreetfortpiece.org/>. 🏠



Volume 20, No. 1 | June, 2025

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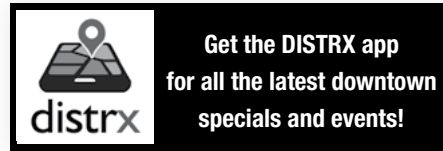
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Calendar

Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic, Downtown Fort Pierce!



MONTHLY EVENTS

June 6, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by **Old Hippiess**; Please remove all vehicles from the permitted Friday Fest road closure area (Marina Way & Melody Lane) by 2:00 p.m.; *Facebook*—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

June 20, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wednesdays: Wednesday Green Market & Food Co-Op — rain or shine 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., Downtown Marina Square; 971-8480.

Saturdays: The Jazz Market — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north side of the Downtown Fort Pierce Library; Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299, jazzsociety.org.

Saturdays: Ft. Pierce Farmer's Market — 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN

Wine Down Wednesday

Fort Social in the Galleria on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6 to 8 p.m.
TheFortSteakhouse.com

Sailfish Brewing Company

facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company

Pierced Cider

Facebook @piercedcider

Cobbs Landing

cobbs-landing.com

Bottom's Up Public House

facebook.com/bottomsuppublichouse

SUNRISE THEATRE & SUNRISE BLACK BOX

772-461-4775 • sunrisetheatre.com

Tuesdays: Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre — 7 to 10 p.m.; 460-5299; jazzsociety.org.

MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

462-2787 • www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

Common Ground Vineyard Church; 460-5414, commongroundvineyard.com.

First Church; 464-0440, firstchurchfp.org.

Fort Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church; 940-6728, haitianmethodist.org.

Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church; 466-9617, notredamecc.com.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (founded 1893); 461-5009 mystandrews.org.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

A.E. Backus Museum

772-465-0630 • backusmuseum.com

Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
772-462-1795 • 2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building

Fort Pierce Police Athletic League

772-370-6162 • fortpiercepal.com
Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society

772-460-5299 • jazzsociety.org

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center

600 North Indian River Drive
772-489-6473 • cityoffortpierce.com

Heathcote Botanical Gardens

772-464-4672 • heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum

772-595-5845 • navysealmuseum.org

St. Lucie County Marine Center

772-462-3474 • stlucieco.gov/marine_center

St. Lucie County Regional History Center

772-462-1795 • stlucieco.gov/history



Treasure hunters Jonah Martinez and Cole Smith discovered over 300 gold Spanish coins from the wreckage of the famous 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet that sunk in the **Atlantic Ocean** off the coast of Vero Beach in a hurricane.

JUNE: NATIONAL OCEANS MONTH

JUNE 3: NATIONAL EGG DAY

JUNE 5: HOT AIR BALLOON DAY

JUNE 5: NATIONAL MOONSHINE DAY

JUNE 6: CAVES AND KARST DAY

JUNE 6: D-DAY

JUNE 6: NATIONAL DONUT DAY

JUNE 6: NATIONAL YO-YO DAY

JUNE 7: NATIONAL CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM DAY

JUNE 11: NATIONAL CORN ON THE COB DAY

JUNE 12: SUPERMAN DAY

JUNE 14: AMERICA'S FLAG DAY

JUNE 16: SEA TURTLE DAY

JUNE 18: NATIONAL FISHING DAY

JUNE 19: JUNETEENTH

JUNE 20: AMERICAN EAGLE DAY

JUNE 20: NATIONAL TAKE YOUR DOG TO WORK DAY

JUNE 21: INTERNATIONAL SURFING DAY

JUNE 21: NATIONAL SEASHELL DAY

JUNE 23: NATIONAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED BUSINESSES DAY

JUNE 25: NATIONAL CATFISH DAY

JUNE 29: INTERNATIONAL FISHERMAN DAY

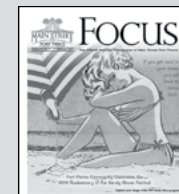
About Us: the Main Street Focus

Main Street's monthly newspaper is an important way to keep our members and the public informed about the revitalization efforts in downtown Fort Pierce. The newspaper highlights the people, places, and events that work together to make our community a desirable place to live and work.

In July 2005, the staff, board, and volunteers of *Main Street* began production of its 32-page monthly newspaper. The *Main Street Focus* has continued to cover news about the events, people, businesses, and redevelopment taking place within the *Main Street Fort Pierce* boundaries for over 20 years.

The *Focus* is always looking for fresh stories and writers. *Main Street Focus* articles must be factual, positive, and related to the downtown Fort Pierce area or *Main Street* programs. Any writer with a story idea may contact the *Main Street* office at (772) 466-3880 or email focus@mainstreet-fortpierce.org.

Local organizations and businesses are also welcome to submit press releases or event notification flyers related to downtown Fort Pierce for publishing consideration. The deadline for the following month's edition is the 1st of the current month. 🏠



What is the Main Street Program?

The *Main Street Program* was created by the *National Trust for Historic Preservation* in the late 1970s to revitalize historic commercial districts and downtown communities across the United States. Post World War II housing and shopping trends included the departure from traditional commercial areas (that in some areas existed for centuries). These downtowns slowly lost the businesses, activities and connections that had united their communities in the past. This led to mass economic loss for local commercial property owners which further resulted in the destruction of numerous historic buildings during the 1960s and 1970s.

To combat the continued destruction of these historic downtowns, the *National Trust* created a pilot program that would later be named the *Main Street Approach* and tested it

in three downtowns: Galesburg, IL, Hot Springs, SD, and Madison, IN. Its success led to the official launch of the *National Main Street Center* in 1980. Today *Main Street America* is a separate organization from the *National Trust* and continues to provide support, training and the transmission of proven ideas & solutions to thousands of participating *Main Street* downtowns and districts. As of 2023, (according to the *Main Street America* website at <https://mainstreet.org/our-network/collective-impact>) this effort has led to over \$107 billion in local reinvestment, 175,323 in net new businesses, 782,059 net gain in jobs, 335,675 rehabbed buildings, and has procured over 35.3 million of volunteer hours.

The *Main Street Approach*®, <https://mainstreet.org/about/how-we-work/the-main-street-approach>. 🏠

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Mayor's Message Kings Landing Neighborhood Taking Shape

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Kings Landing is a go with new partners, **Live Oak Holdings**. The *City of Fort Pierce* approved the new agreement on April 7 and the *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency* followed suit, April 8. The newly energized **Kings Landing** will closely mirror the original **Kings Landing** plans, and include a **Marriott Tribute Portfolio** hotel, condominiums, parking garage, retail and restaurants. Construction will begin no later than July of 2026.

The new project developers are represented by Bill Ware, a principal of **Live Oak Holdings** in Jacksonville. Ware, with 40 years of experience in real estate development and construction management, has personally overseen the transition from the former developer to **Live Oak Holdings**.

We don't have to wait until July 2026 to see activity in the **Kings Landing** neighborhood. The **Villas at Kings Landing** is under construction on Backus Avenue. **INB Homes** broke ground for ten luxury villas that will line Backus Avenue across from **Main Street Fort Pierce's** home at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue.

In January, the *City of Fort Pierce* granted permission for **INB Homes**, a quality but affordable home builder located



in Orlando, to build the villas on the north side of Moore's Creek, at the corner of Backus and Second Street. In early April, **INB Homes** hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on site. Mark Rosenwasser, President of **INB**, shared his enthusiasm for Fort Pierce and the project with assembled city and county officials. Also present were the new neighbors, **Main Street** board members and staff.

The luxury villas are three bedroom and 3.5 bathrooms situated between the *Edgartown* and *Historic Downtown* districts. To the east, is the *Indian River Lagoon*, the **City Marina**, the **Manatee** and **Backus** museums. For sales information, contact Brooke Harris, 772-453-6634.

Welcome to Fort Pierce, **Live Oak Holdings**, and **INB Homes**. 🏠

City of Fort Pierce Launches Free Community Workshop Series

The *City of Fort Pierce Grants Administration Division* is excited to announce a new series of free community workshops designed to empower, educate, and support residents on essential topics that impact everyday life. The workshops will be held at the **River Walk Center**, located at 600 N. Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Open to all residents, these informative sessions will cover a range of vital subjects, including disaster preparedness, property appraisals, pest control, tenant rights, and financial health. Whether you are a homeowner, renter, or simply looking to better understand your rights and resources, these workshops offer something for everyone.

Workshop Topics and Dates:

Disaster Relief Resources

Thursday, May 15, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Responsibilities of the Property Appraiser's Office

Thursday, May 29, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Pest Mitigation Strategies

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Know Your Rights as a Tenant

Thursday, June 26, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m. (Part 1)

Thursday, July 17, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m. (Part 2)

Credit Repair and Financial Wellness

Thursday, July 31, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Each session will offer residents valuable knowledge and practical tools to help them make informed decisions and navigate challenges. These workshops are free to attend, but registration is encouraged to ensure adequate seating and materials. Register online at www.cityoffortpierce.com. For more information, contact the *Grants Administration Division* at 772-467-3161 or email GrantsAdministration@cityoffortpierce.com.

We look forward to seeing you there! 🏠

City of Fort Pierce Announces Extension of Impact Fee Moratorium for New Residential and Commercial Construction in Redevelopment Area

The *City of Fort Pierce* is pleased to announce an incentive that will reduce development costs for new residential and commercial construction in the redevelopment area. On November 4, 2024, the Fort Pierce City Commission approved an ordinance suspending the collection of City impact fees to stimulate and encourage new development within the *Urban Infill and Redevelopment Area*. The impact fee moratorium is a significant step toward supporting developers, businesses, and residents within the Fort Pierce redevelopment area. By waiving these fees for one year, the City aims to spur investment, attract new development, and boost economic activity in the targeted area, which has seen limited new construction in recent years.

Recognizing the need for sustainable development and urban revitalization, the *City of Fort Pierce* has taken proactive steps to encourage growth in the redevelopment area by implementing this moratorium. The reduction in startup

costs makes it more economically viable for developers to invest and revitalize the community. By encouraging redevelopment in these areas, the City can effectively renew aging neighborhoods and stimulate economic growth. Urban infill areas present unique redevelopment opportunities, offering existing infrastructure, access to amenities, and the chance to develop sustainably without expanding into undeveloped lands. Since infrastructure is largely already in place, new construction may not place as much strain on public services as it would in greenfield areas requiring substantial infrastructure investments.

The *City of Fort Pierce* invites developers, businesses, and residents to explore the benefits of this impact fee moratorium as well as other programs offered by the **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency**, such as the *Commercial Façade Grant Program*, *Property Refresh Grants for Paint and Signage*, and the *Infill Lien Reduction Program*. 🏠

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FPRA Youth Banner Art Showcase Invites Fort Pierce Students to Turn Their Creativity into Public Art

The *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency* (FPRA) is proud to launch the *Youth Banner Art Showcase*, a public art initiative inviting K–12 students to design streetlight pole banners that will be displayed throughout the city’s redevelopment area.

This creative opportunity allows students to share their talents, celebrate the Fort Pierce community, and make a lasting visual impact. The FPRA will fully fund the production and installation of selected banner designs, transforming student artwork into vibrant additions to the city’s public spaces.

The *Youth Banner Art Showcase* is open to all students who reside in the City of Fort Pierce or are currently enrolled in a Fort Pierce school. Each student may submit one entry. Submissions should reflect one of three themes: *Fort Pierce Landmarks*, *Arts & Culture*, or *Nature/Scenic*. Key Dates:

Submission Deadline: June 6, 2025

Selection Period: June 6 – June 26, 2025

Announcement of Selected Students: July 9, 2025

Students interested in participating can visit Youth Banner Art Showcase | Fort Pierce, FL, the official website to view full project details and submit their designs.

This initiative aims to engage local youth in civic pride and creative expression while contributing to the beautification of Fort Pierce’s redevelopment area. Selected banner designs will be showcased throughout the community, serving as a source

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- ONE ENTRY PER STUDENT

THEMES

- FORT PIERCE LANDMARKS
- ARTS & CULTURE
- NATURE/SCENIC

Deadline June 6, 2025

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM

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of inspiration for residents and visitors alike.

For more information, contact the *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency* at (772) 467-3025. 🏠

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6 Ways to Summer

Hooraay for summer! School is out, and kids are ready for new adventures. Families can find two new adventures right here in the heart of Fort Pierce at **First Church Fort Pierce**, located at 515 Avenue A.

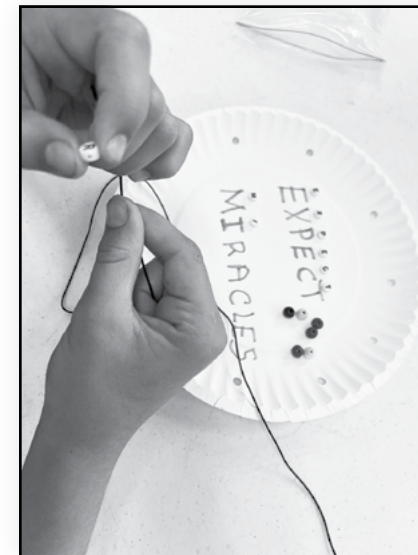
First Church Children’s Ministry offers two camps for kiddos ages 6 to 12. Campers will have loads of fun in a safe and welcoming environment. *6 Ways to Summer* is the first camp adventure of the summer. It happens on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from June 23 to July 4th. Children’s Ministry Director, Zaneta Cooper, plans an amazing week of adventure for campers. Activities include crafts and games, and even water-play day! Campers will also have an opportunity to experience being “little chefs.” Camper’s



experiences will be guided by a caring and creative staff. This 6-day camp promises to be a memorable way to enjoy summer. *Summer’s End* is **First Church’s** week of arts and music for campers who have completed kindergarten, up to kids who have completed 5th grade. Campers will use creativity and curiosity to explore the arts. Mornings begin with “Lagoon Yoga” led by Caleta Scott from the *Indian River Lagoon Council*. From there, campers will engage with storytelling and drumming, singing and science experiments, print making and painting, and more. Each day will offer ways for campers to celebrate creativity.



First Church Fort Pierce looks forward to engaging campers and families in fun and creative experiences this summer. Camp staff and adult volunteers are screened, trained, and follow a Child Protection Policy. Registration is available online at www.firstchurch.org 772-240-5191. 🏠



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Storm Prep: Food & Water Safety Before the Power Goes Out

by Fort Pierce Utilities Authority

As hurricane season approaches, it's essential to prepare not just your property, but also your pantry. At FPUA, we are committed to maintaining reliable service and minimizing power interruptions—even during Florida's most severe weather. Our crews prepare year-round to keep the lights on, and when outages do occur, we work around the clock to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Still, strong storms and hurricanes can cause sudden disruptions that affect not just your electricity, but also your food and water safety. That's why we encourage customers to take a few easy steps now to ensure their families are protected, no matter what the weather brings.

Check Appliance Thermometers

Start by making sure you have working thermometers inside

your refrigerator and freezer. Ideally, your fridge should be at or below 40°F and your freezer should be at or below 0°F. If the power goes out, these tools will help you determine whether your food has stayed within a safe temperature range or if it needs to be discarded.

Pre-Freeze and Prepare Ahead

Freeze containers of water early to serve as makeshift ice blocks. These can help keep food cold in both your refrigerator and coolers during an outage, and can also provide clean drinking water if your regular supply becomes contaminated. Consider freezing perishable items such as milk, meat, poultry, and leftovers that you won't need right away. Grouping foods together in the freezer can also help them stay cold longer.

Have Backup Cooling Options Ready

Stock up on ice packs or freeze gel packs in advance, and make or purchase extra ice to keep in your freezer. Keep a cooler on hand in case the power is out for more than four hours, and research where you can buy dry or block ice locally if needed.

Store Food and Water Safely

Keep food on high shelves to protect it from floodwater. Store bottled water in a cool, dry area, and never use water that smells strange. If bottled water develops an odor, dispose

of it or contact the supplier. Also, never reuse food or beverage containers to store hazardous substances like gasoline. If you do, these should be thrown away afterwards and not recycled.

Preparing in advance can make a big difference in how safely and comfortably you ride out a storm. We're proud to serve this community, and every step we take before, during, and after a storm is with you in mind. Please take a moment now to prepare your home and stay connected. For additional safety tips, visit www.fpua.com/storm-center. 🏠

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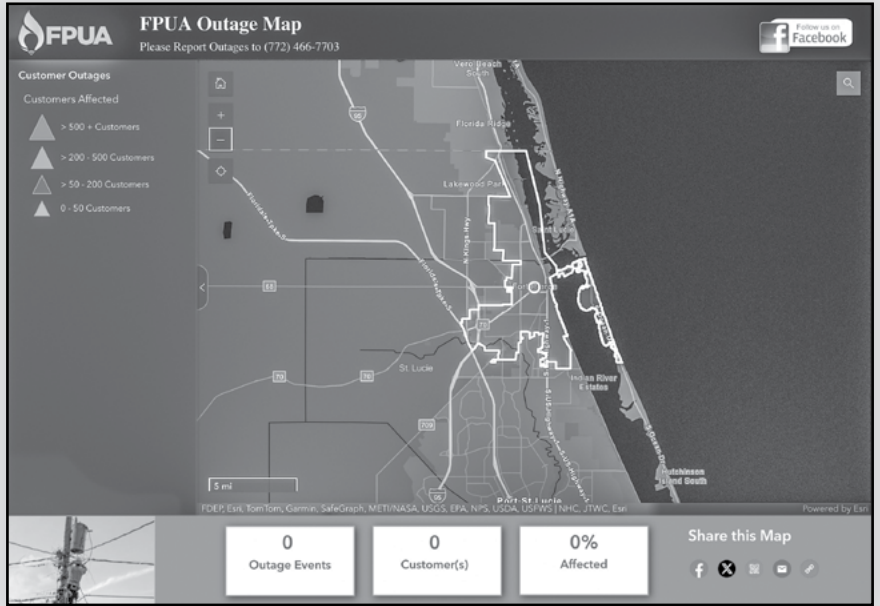
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Residential Options Coming to Downtown Fort Pierce

Downtown Fort Pierce is getting a major upgrade — and **INB Homes** is helping lead the way. The award-winning Florida builder is bringing 10 luxury townhomes to **King's Landing**, a transformative new waterfront development poised to energize the city's arts and entertainment district.

Set along the picturesque downtown waterfront district, **King's Landing** is designed to be more than a neighborhood — it's a destination. Current proposed plans for **King's Landing** include a boutique hotel, 106 condominium units, over 50,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space, and a 300-space parking garage. While many of these features are still in the planning stages, one part is already becoming a reality — **INB Homes'** exclusive collection of luxury townhomes have already broken ground.

Known for building high-quality homes across Central and South Florida, **INB Homes** is crafting the perfect blend of luxury, durability, and coastal style. Spacious open interiors, high-end finishes, and walkable access to the waterfront and downtown hotspots make these residences ideal for those seeking both comfort and connection.

"This project is a great fit for Fort Pierce," said Rainer Richter, **INB Homes'** Executive Vice President. "We're proud to build something that not only reflects the charm of the area but also helps shape its future."

With local businesses, the arts, and beautiful views all just steps away, it's no surprise so many are eager to call this new area home.

To learn more about INB Homes and these upcoming luxury townhomes, visit www.inbhomes.com. 🏠



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Don't Miss the 30th Annual Through the Eye of the Camera Juried Photography Exhibition at the Backus Museum Through June 20

The **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** is pleased to present the **30th Through the Eye of the Camera Annual Juried Photography Exhibition**. The exhibition will be on view to the public through June 20, 2025 at 500 N. Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

For three decades, the Museum has continued to call photographers of all levels to enter their best work for the popular annual exhibition that closes the season. Each year, a new independent jury panel considers submissions and recognizes excellent examples with awards and cash prizes.

This year, the judges voted to accept 58 entries out of 196 submissions in four categories: (1) Animal subjects; (2) Flora & Landscape subjects; (3) People/Portrait subjects; or (4) Open, for subjects that are not included in the three other categories. From these, 22 awards were given, including three "Best" awards, 1st-2nd-3rd in each category, and awards of merit.

The top 8 award winners for 2025 are:

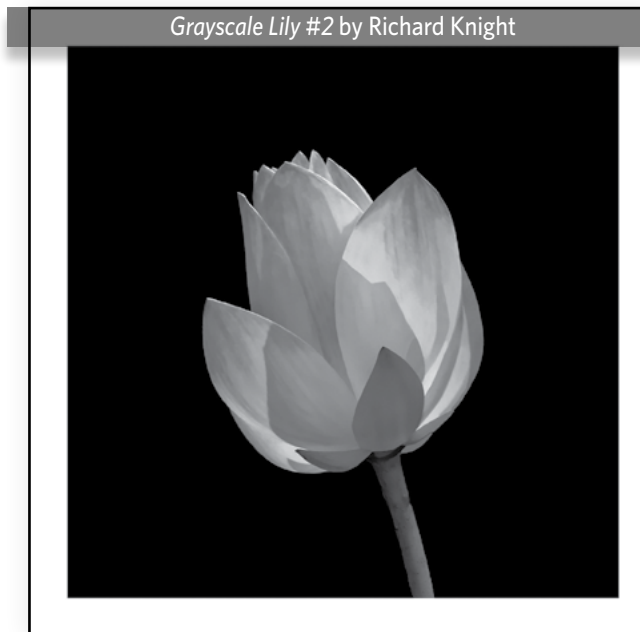
Best of Show

Balancing Act by Joe Campanellie (Palm Coast)

First Place, Animals

Watchful Gaze by Maureen Mackenzie (Port St. Lucie)

Grayscale Lily #2 by Richard Knight



First Place, Flora & Landscape

Into the Fog by Joe Campanellie (Palm Coast)

First Place, People/Portrait

The Legend Willie de Cuba by Mark Stall (Port St. Lucie)

First Place, Open

Time Will Tell by David Bence (Vero Beach)

Best Black & White Photography

Grayscale Lily #2 by Richard Knight (Vero Beach)

Best Film or Traditional Raw Photography

Hungry Hammocks by Jeffrey Frohlich (Stuart)

Director's Choice

Agelaius' Song by Anthony Thompson (Port St. Lucie)



EYE OF THE CAMERA ... continued from page 15



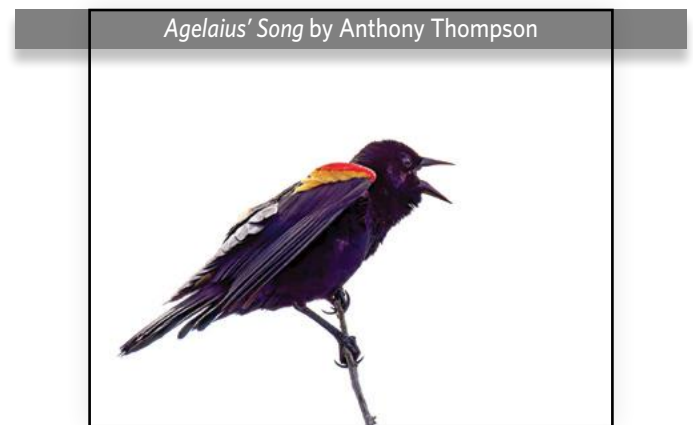
Watchful Gaze by Maureen Mackenzie

In addition to the 22 awards conferred at the beginning of the exhibition, at the end, visitor votes are counted for a special *People's Choice* award. A complete list of all photographs and artists accepted in the exhibition is available at <https://www.backusmuseum.org/juried-shows>.

This year marks the 30th juried photography exhibition organized and hosted by the **Backus Museum**. "Looking back at the history, it is pun-intended 'eye-opening,'" says J. Marshall Adams, Executive Director. "Thirty years ago it was a struggle for some institutions to consider photography as Art, with a creativity and craft equal to that of traditional studio practices. The **Backus Museum** was looking further ahead, recognizing that the innate talents of the photographic artists in our community, and later beyond, were worth exploring, encouraging, and celebrating. And today in a new millennium, that foresight has been answered: we all now have powerful imaging tools literally tucked into our pockets, and we routinely share photos with millions worldwide in an instant every second of every day. *Through the Eye of the Camera* offers an exciting opportunity to be inspired and empowered by what you see." 🏠



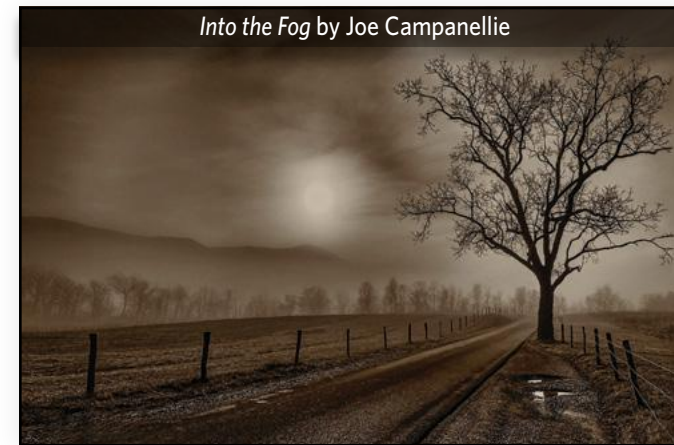
The Legend Willie de Cuba by Mark Stall



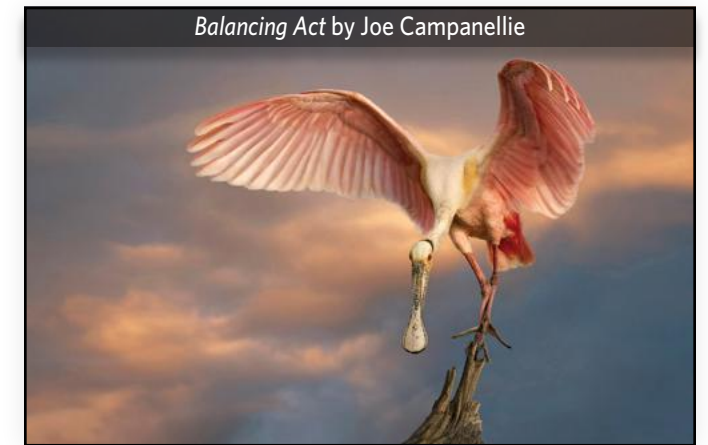
Agelaius' Song by Anthony Thompson



Hungry Hammocks by Jeffrey Frohlich



Into the Fog by Joe Campanellie



Balancing Act by Joe Campanellie

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FPYC Members Giving Month and 7th Annual Charity on the Water Poker Run Presents \$31,000 to Community Organizations

by Robynn Holland, Community Liaison, Photographs by MaryAnn Ketcham

On Saturday, April 12th the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation**, the charitable arm of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, held their 7th annual “On the Water Poker Run” charity event. The “Charity Poker Run” combined with the *Members Giving Month* allowed the **FPYC Foundation** to present \$31,000 in awards to community organizations in Fort Pierce.

The **FPYC Foundation** held their 2025 Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. **FPYC Foundation** Chair, Robynn Holland, welcomed guests and members, and then introduced the “Poker Run” committee: Suzie Boardman, Bob Harbison, Ginny Harbison, Chris Hector, Nancy Hector, Robynn Holland, Michele March, Kris Muus, Laurie Partlo, and Victoria Westphal, who presented the awards. The 2025 **FPYC Foundation** financial awards, totally \$31,000 were presented to the following recipients:

- ▶ **Boys and Girls Club of St. Lucie County**, providing swimming lessons to individuals who participate in clubs located in Fort Pierce;
- ▶ **E.N.D. IT!**, supporting arts-based after-school and summer camp for middle and high school students to prevent at-risk behaviors in Pre-teens and Teens;
- ▶ **Florida Atlantic University, Harbor Branch**, providing support to *Semester by the Sea*, in memory of Dr. Dennis Hanisak;
- ▶ **Fort Pierce Police Department Courageous Kids Program**, providing support and guidance for the youth of the community;



FPYC Board of Trustees and “Charity Poker Run Committee”

- ▶ **Fort Pierce Police Department Explorers Program**, providing area youth a practical hands-on approach to experience law enforcement career possibilities;
- ▶ **Manatee Center**, dedicated to environmental awareness and education of the Indian River Lagoon;
- ▶ **Notre Dame Catholic Church Food Kitchen**, providing meals for those in need in the community;
- ▶ **Original Florida Highwaymen Museum**, celebrating the unique landscape artists of the Lincoln Park area of Fort Pierce;
- ▶ **Project Lift Fort Pierce**, rebuilding the lives of young men and women;



Thinking of Selling or Buying?

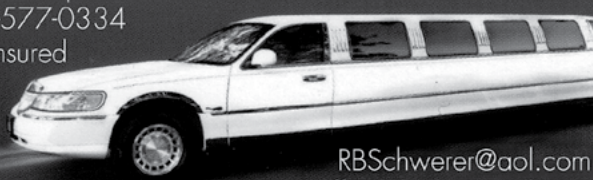
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FPYC Foundation Award Recipients



- ▶ **Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation**, providing scholarships for summer sailing camps that teach valuable life skills as well as boating skills, and supports the general TCYSF program;
- ▶ **Stella Maris Research – Wesley Island Eco Camp**, providing youth in Fort Pierce an opportunity to spend time on the water and learn about the eco system of the Indian River Lagoon;
- ▶ Joint Award: **Fort Pierce Police Department Courageous Kids Program** and the **Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation**, a collaborative effort to provide sailing opportunities and life changing experiences on the water.

The room was filled with laughter and joy as recipients, guests, and members enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie of the evening. Guests included Linda Hudson, Mayor of Fort Pierce; City Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr. FPPD Chief of Police Diane Hogley-Burney, Office Damian Spotts as well as guests of the recipients.

Each recipient received a check, introduced their guests, and spoke briefly about their program. The FPYC Foundation was honored to support each of these amazing organizations and recognized their dedication to the city of Fort Pierce. 🏠



Frank H. Fee, III, and Frank H. Fee, IV, Principals

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TREASURES OF THE PAST

125 years ago this month as reported in the June 22, 1900 edition of The Florida Star

Excursion Rates

The Florida East Coast railway will put on very low rates from all of its stations and junctional points to Miami for the occasion of the Fourth of July celebration at that place. Tickets will be on sale July 2nd and 3rd and will be limited to July 8th to return. Rates will be as follows: Jacksonville to St. Augustine, inclusive, \$5 Hurds to Oakside, inclusive, \$4.50 Yelvington to New Smyrna, inclusive \$4 Hawks Park to Titusville, inclusive, \$3.50 Hardeeville to Micco, inclusive, \$3 Roseland to Ft. Pierce, inclusive, \$2.50 White City to West Jupiter, inclusive, \$2 West Palm Beach to Deerfield, inclusive, \$1.50 Points on the A. & W. branch and Titusville branch, including Sanford, \$4

Shipments of Pineapples

Several schooner reached Miami from the Florida keys last week loaded with pineapples. W.N. Jackson sent two carloads from the Higgs plantation to Chicago, and there were about two cars of scattering shipments. The distribution of the crop from the keys has been much better than usual. This arises from the fact that the crop has been purchased outright, and the buyers have been careful not to overstock any of the markets, which has resulted in good prices through the season.

In the Eden, Jensen and other pineapple districts a large quantity of the fruit is being consigned, and with the large crop will eventually end in some of the markets

receiving more fruit than they can dispose of at good prices. It is estimated that there will be sent from the east coast from 130,000 to 150,000 crates of pines this season. With a favorable winter this output will probably be increased next season.

100 years ago this month as reported in the June 2, 1925 edition of The Tampa Tribune

Fort Pierce's New Postmaster on Job

W.S. Moe, recently appointed acting postmaster at the local postoffice, succeeding W.C. Russell, resigned, is now in charge of the office. Mr. Russell will devote his time and attention to his private business interests. Mr. Russell resigned because, he said, the Postoffice Department would not provide sufficient funds for the employment of adequate help to properly handle the business of the office. His resignation had the effect of waking the department up to action, however. Mr. Moe has had previous experience in the postal service having served as postmaster for some fourteen years in Wisconsin.

100 years ago this month as reported in the June 2, 1925 edition of The Tampa Tribune

St. Lucie Shipping Pineapples to East

Shipment of pineapples from St. Lucie County is now under way, some twelve or fifteen cars having been sent forward thus far. Most of these were handled through the St. Lucie County unit of the Florida Pineapple Growers Association.

The fruit is averaging large in size and excellent in quality, and with the Cuban crop practically cleaned up, it is expected that good prices will be realized. About forty carloads will be shipped from the county this season, it is expected.

100 years ago this month as reported in the June 4, 1925 edition of The Tampa Tribune

Begin Construction of New Fort Pierce Six Story Building

Contract has been awarded and material is now being placed on the ground for construction of a six-store business building at N.E. Fourth Street and Avenue A. The new structure is to be built by C.N. Peacock, of Philadelphia and Fort Pierce, and contract has been awarded to C.N. Cahow of this city. It is expected that construction work will be started within the next few days.

The building is to front ninety-five feet on Avenue A and seventy-five feet on Fourth Street (present day U.S.1). It will be of attractive Italian Renaissance design, of hollow tile, reinforced concrete and stucco construction, and the foundations and walls will be so built that an additional two stories may be added later.

The site on which the building is to be located was recently purchased by Mr. Peacock from H.G. Shimonek of this city at a consideration of \$55,000.

With that section of the city building up rapidly, the new building will form an important addition to the several modern structures now underway there, including the beautiful city hall, which is nearing completion.

TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the June 14, 1925 edition of The Tampa Tribune

Ft. Pierce Graduates at Commencement Monday Hear Bryan

William Jennings Bryan will deliver the commencement address for the Fort Pierce high school Monday night, June 15. He recently accepted the invitation of the country board of public instruction to deliver the address.

The biggest class in the history of the school, numbering over thirty boys and girls, will receive diplomas.

Commencement exercises start Friday night, June 12, with the presentation of class exercises. Sunday morning Rev. Fred A. Cook, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal church of this city, will preach the commencement sermon. The graduation exercises Monday night and address of Mr. Bryan will bring the commencement program to a close.

The local schools during the past session have had a record enrollment and a record number of teachers. Forty teachers will be necessary to handle the enrollment the coming session, and probably more. Although a magnificent new building was completed for use only the past session, providing more than twenty rooms, all available facilities will be required to accommodate the expected influx of students next session. The county board of public instruction already is considering plans for the provision of a third school building, which it appears, will certainly be needed after another session.

100 years ago this month as reported in the June 14, 1925 edition of The Tampa Tribune

Engineers Make Good Headway on Townsite

Engineers are making good headway in laying out the townsite of Indrio, located on the Dixie Highway and Indian River, five miles north of Fort Pierce, and laborers are engaged in clearing off the streets and other properties preparatory to the launching of one of the most extensive city-building projects ever undertaken in Florida, according to the Phelps-Hendrickson company, local managers for the group of capitalists that recently bought the Fort Pierce Farms property.

Fine yacht harbor, high class hotels, beautiful golf courses surrounding freshwater lakes, magnificent public buildings, wide boulevards and palatial homes are all to be included in the development, which is declared, will rank with anything along the East Coast.

100 years ago this month as reported in the June 18, 1925 edition of The Tampa Tribune

Woman is Appointed

Mrs. Edgar Lewis, of Fort Pierce, today was appointed superintendent of public instructions for St. Lucie County, succeeding W.E. Riggs, resigned.

75 years ago this month as reported in the June 11, 1950 edition of The Tampa Tribune

The arrival of Johnny Vardin as assistant coach for the University of Tampa football team recalls his playing days with the

national service champion Fort Pierce Navy Amphibs, only conquerors of the great Third Air Force team when Charlie Trippi was at his best.

Vardian remembers the early trials of the Amphibs as they sandwiched training sessions between duties at the Fort Pierce Amphibious command center under Captain C. Gulbranson. At that time Fort Pierce was rated the toughest training center in the Navy.

"We found time to play football because we all wanted to play", said Vardian. "Most of us had cut our high school and college careers short to enter the Navy and we were all eager to get back in the game. It was great playing with fellows like Bill Daley, Marshall Goldberg, John Tripson, Hamp Pool and Bill Godwin. When we signed to play the Third Air Force everybody told us what a great team they had in Tampa, and we, of course, knew that Trippi was one of the best in the country. So we really worked for that one, and it was a find win for us."

This columnist recalls a visit from Pool and Godwin just a few days before the Amphibs were due to play the Naval Training Center in the first game at Miami.

We were told that the Amphibs had no jerseys or helmets for the game, and luckily were able to find 30 jerseys and helmets at Turner's sports store.

Quick work by a Miami seamstress put numbers on the backs of the jerseys, and the Amphibs played through their 11-game unbeaten schedule with this makeshift equipment.



Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center Selected for National Pilot Project to Help Reunite Lost Dogs with Their Families

Each year, nearly 10 million pets go missing in the United States — many of whom never make it home. But Fort Pierce is stepping up to change that. The *City of Fort Pierce* is proud to announce that the **Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center (FPAAC)** has been selected as one of just 25 animal shelters nationwide to participate in *Network Neighbors*, a new pilot initiative spearheaded by *Best Friends Animal Society*, a national leader in animal welfare.

Launched last week, *Network Neighbors* is a collaborative pilot project supported by **Petco Love Lost**, designed to get lost pets home faster by getting critical information into the hands of the people most likely to find them — their neighbors. **FPAAC** will work hand-in-hand with local volunteers to distribute bilingual yard signs featuring a QR code linked to **Petco Love Lost**, a free online platform that uses cutting-edge AI to match found pets with reports of lost ones.

“**FPAAC** is thrilled to be selected for this innovative pilot program,” said Summer Rulapaugh, Manager of the *Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center*. “It’s truly heartbreaking when a pet enters our shelter, and we know there’s a family out there missing them just as much as they’re missing their home. This program helps ensure more pets are reunited quickly, keeping our kennels open for those who truly need shelter and care.”

The program focuses on community-driven solutions. Studies show that approximately 70% of lost dogs are found within just one mile of their home, and with **FPAAC’s** shelter data from the past year, signs will be strategically placed in neighborhoods where lost dog cases are most frequent.

Over the coming months, **FPAAC** will work alongside *Best Friends* and **Petco Love Lost** to assess the impact of this grassroots initiative, focusing first on dogs due to more consistent location data — with plans to expand insights and efforts to cats as well. If successful, *Network Neighbors* could be scaled to additional communities across the country, potentially helping thousands of pets find their way home.

“*Network Neighbors* is all about working together to get lost pets back to their families, and save lives while doing it,” said Whitney Bollinger, Director of Strategy & Network Operations, *Best Friends Animal Society*. “We are grateful to **FPAAC**

and local volunteers for being part of this important project, the lifesaving impact of which will be felt in Fort Pierce and across the country.”

Pet owners are encouraged to create a free pet profile on [PetcoLove.org](https://petcolove.org) to improve the chances of a reunion if their pet ever goes missing. The **Petco Love Lost** platform uses visual recognition technology to match photos of found pets with photos of lost pets in the community.

In 2024, the number of dogs reunited with their families increased by 2.5% nationwide, but there’s still work to be done to return to pre-pandemic reunification rates. *Best Friends* and its partners aim to close that gap — and Fort Pierce is proud to help lead the way.

For more information on the 2024 National Data Report and statistics on pet reunification, visit bestfriends.org.

About **Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center (FPAAC)**: The **Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center** is committed to providing compassionate care and second chances for animals in need. Through community partnerships, dedicated staff, and volunteers, **FPAAC** promotes responsible pet ownership and works to ensure every animal has the opportunity to thrive in a loving home.

About *Best Friends Animal Society*: Founded in 1984, *Best Friends Animal Society* is a national leader in the no-kill movement, aiming to end the killing of dogs and cats in America’s shelters by 2025. The organization partners with more than 5,100 animal welfare groups and operates the nation’s largest no-kill sanctuary for companion animals. Learn more at bestfriends.org. 🏠



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Marine Wildlife Strandings: What They Are and How to Help

by Meredith Bennett

Marine wildlife stranding occurs when an ocean animal is found on land or in shallow water and is unable to return to its natural habitat. This can include dead, sick, or injured animals, as well as groups of stranded creatures.

Types of Stranded Marine Animals: Whales, dolphins, and porpoises (cetaceans) are stranded when they are found dead on beaches or floating in water. If alive, they may be stuck on shore and unable to return to the ocean.

Seals and sea lions (pinnipeds) are stranded if they are dead or in need of medical help. Since healthy pinnipeds naturally come ashore to rest, experts assess whether they need assistance.

Sea turtles are considered stranded if they are found dead, injured, sick, or displaying abnormal behavior on land or in the water.

Manatees and dugongs (sirenians) are stranded when they are found dead, injured, or sick on land or in the water and cannot return to their natural habitat on their own. Unlike some marine animals that naturally come ashore, manatees should always be in the water—if you see one stranded, it likely needs help.

Most live-stranded animals require medical care or professional intervention to recover.

Why Do Strandings Happen? Marine animals can get stranded due to sickness, injuries from boats, pollution, habitat destruction, or changes in ocean conditions. Some areas experience higher stranding rates at certain times of the year. When multiple animals strand together, it’s called a mass stranding or mass mortality event. If stranding numbers increase significantly over time, experts investigate whether they qualify as unusual mortality events, which require special attention.

What Can Be Done? Scientists study stranded marine animals to determine causes of death, identify diseases, and assess environmental risks affecting marine life. Their work supports conservation efforts and helps protect vulnerable species. Rescue efforts also aid in rehabilitating stranded animals and returning them to the wild whenever possible.

The *FAU Harbor Branch Stranding and Population Assessment Team* is part of the marine mammal stranding network. They respond to stranding events year-round in Indian River,



St. Lucie, and Martin counties on Florida’s east coast. Over the past 20 years, they have handled more than 260 strandings.

For those interested in learning more, Brooke Davis from **Harbor Branch** will be presenting at the **Manatee Center’s June Lunch and Learn** on June 13 at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** (700 Indian River Dr.).

What Should You Do If You Find a Stranded Manatee? Manatees can become stranded due to boat strikes, cold stress, disease, fishing gear entanglement, or habitat loss. If you find a stranded manatee:

- 🐾 Do not touch or attempt to move it. It may be injured or sick and require professional help.
- 🐾 Report the stranding to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922) or dial \FWC or #FWC* on a mobile phone.
- 🐾 Provide details such as location, whether the manatee is alive or dead, and if it has a tag near its tail.
- 🐾 Share additional helpful information, including the nearest public boat ramp or dock.
- 🐾 If possible, take photos or videos to help biologists assess the manatee’s condition.

By acting responsibly and promptly reporting stranded animals, you help protect marine life and support critical conservation efforts. 🏠



PHOTOS BY MARK KRANCER

If you are looking to open or expand your business,

Downtown Fort Pierce is the place to be!

Fresh and exciting projects continue to make the Downtown area even more inviting and attractive to visitors. See listings for available **office, retail, and restaurant** space below.

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- 124 2nd St., Suite A, 201 S 2nd St., 101 N US Hwy 1, 415 Avenue A | **Brian Stone** | 772-370-4777
- 111 Orange Avenue | **Ryan Andrew** | 772-932-1444
- 208 Avenue A | **K & K II** | 772-971-1934
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Main Street Fort Pierce Golf Tournament

at Gator Trace Golf & Country Club
Saturday, May 17, 2025



Summer Fishing!

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

Summer is here and the hot days of June are calling for some cool water adventures like catching your own fresh fish dinner! All Treasure Coast anglers know that the best way to beat the heat and enjoy all our area has to offer is to mix some fishing trips in with your pool and beach days. You can enjoy the nice ocean breeze while having a fun fishing day and then bringing home some salty groceries.

During the month of June, we really focus on the highly sought after game fish, mahi-mahi, also known as dolphinfish or dorado. These fish are highly prized for their great taste, beautiful colors, and amazing acrobatics when on the line. Mahi are fast growers and fast swimmers who can reach up to 50 knots. We do a slow troll with fresh ballyhoo, either naked or skirted, at about 80–90 feet or more and stay prepared for some great action when a school is found. Mahi can hide under just about anything that floats so keep your eyes out for weed lines and floating debris plus diving birds which means baitfish are in the area. Mahi have a sweet, mild flavor and are delicious pan-seared, fried, broiled, or grilled.

While we all love to target mahi, don't forget bottom fishing for snapper and grouper. We are still seeing some great action with mangroves, lanes, and muttons being reported. I recommend trying the offshore reefs in 50–100 feet using live or cut bait with enough weight to keep your bait on bottom. Snapper love chewing live pilchards or shrimp paired up with 30-pound fluorocarbon and a #2 hook. Targeting snapper will also put you in a stellar position to hook up on some serious grouper action, too. Just be aware of potential fish thieves...the ever-hungry sharks! They like snapper and grouper as much as we do and will quickly grab half your catch while you're still reeling. If you don't get your catch reeled in fast enough, you will definitely have a very sharky story to tell.

Our *Fishy Photo of the Month* is a great one of Ben Lewis and Eric Paul of **Pelican Seafood** with a recent colorful mahi-mahi catch. A fish so nice, they named it twice.



captainbofishing@gmail.com | 772-971-6661

Are you ready to beat the summer heat with a little *Pullin Drag* action? Most days you can catch me coming or going from the dock at my home base, the historic **Little Jim Bait & Tackle**, so come on over and I'll be happy to help you plan your summertime fishing adventures. Rules, regulations, bait, and tackle can be found at your local bait & tackle shops like **DeBrooks Fishing Corner**. Stay cool and have a fin-tastic summer *Pullin Drag!* 🏠



MAIN STREET KIDS COLORING PAGE

Can you find this building in downtown Fort Pierce?
(Hint — It faces the Historic City Hall building and U.S.1) Read more about it in this month's *Treasures of the Past*, page 20.

PEACOCK BUILDING

200 NORTH U.S. 1

c. 1925



Architect: William W. Hatcher

This building originally housed a variety of small businesses. It was first called the Peacock Building after O. L. Peacock, a cattle rancher and investor. It became Butterfield's Drugstore in 1953. *How is the Peacock similar to other Mediterranean style mixed-use buildings?* Look for these features:

- 1. Relief
- 2. Pilaster
- 3. Arch
- 4. Tower
- 5. Barrel Roof Tile
- 6. Cornice

Does the sunbeam motif over the door have a meaning for Fort Pierce?

Main Street DINING



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Find Supplies for the Dogs Days of Summer at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market

As we head into what some call the “dog days of summer,” keep in mind the supplies you can pick up from the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** every Saturday, rain or shine. Did you know that the phrase “dog days of summer” has its roots in ancient Rome? They marked the season with the star, Sirius, which is the brightest star in the Dog Star constellation. The *Farmers Almanac* explains that Sirius was so bright, they believed it actually gave off heat and added to the sun’s warmth, leading to long, hot summer days. We Floridians can relate.

Floridians, and those who visit us during those hotter, drier months, know some supplies are necessary for survival. One of the best things you can do is keep a lot of fresh fruit around to keep you hydrated and satiated. While some of our produce vendors take the summer off, you will still find **The Friend’s Produce Inc.** offering pineapples, mangoes and more.

We understand that this is not the time of year to heat up the kitchen with a lot of cooking so make sure you pick up your salad ingredients at the **Farmers Market**. Different types of lettuces, colorful peppers and tomatoes, can all be found during your Saturday morning visit. Top it off with some unique varieties of mushroom from **The Mushroom Guy**. Maybe you’ll want to add some glazed nuts from **The Nut House** just for interest. You might want to add some microgreens too from **Green Goddess Farms** for fun and intensely flavorful nutrients.

We know during these coming summer months that if we do cook a meal, it is often best to do it outdoors if possible. Don’t be afraid to experiment with grilling some of those veggies you picked up. My family likes to make foil packs of a variety of seasoned cut vegetables to throw on the grill. We also like to pick up some great cuts of natural, open-pasture raised local beef from **Adam’s Ranch** to go with them. Serve that with some amazing fish dip from **Macy’s Smoked Fish Dip** for a truly unique Florida summer experience. Oh, and if you have any of those microgreens left, you can use them for a garnish for that professional touch.

Don’t forget the summer beverages! We are coming into the time of year when iced tea just seems to taste better somehow. **Tessie’s Teas** will tempt you with a variety of crystallized botanical teas to take home. **Holly’s Mellon Shop** has some fantastic fresh-squeezed juices to keep you refreshed too.

We locals know to be prepared for the summer onslaught of insects. Check out the all-natural insect repellent products available at **Oils Original by Linda**. She even makes pet soaps and sprays so the whole family is protected.

Speaking of pets, we don’t forget them during those dog days either. Show them how much you appreciate their panting presence with a tasty treat or two from **Dog Days Homemade Barkery**.

There are so many ways to meet your summer needs with a visit to your **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market**. That’s why, year round, *it’s a Saturday morning tradition.* 🏠





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THANK YOU FOR MAKING
DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE
THE NUMBER ONE DESTINATION
FOR VISITORS TO ST. LUCIE COUNTY



Stars Over St. Lucie

Join us as *Main Street Fort Pierce* hosts **Stars Over St. Lucie** on Friday, July 4, 2025, starting at 6:00 p.m. in Marina Square. In addition to live entertainment, fantastic food, drinks, and family fun, **FPUA** will be on hand with the giant *American Flag* proudly displayed for a striking sight along the waterfront.

Fireworks will light up the sky in Downtown Fort Pierce along the beautiful waterfront for a magical extravaganza starting at 9:00 p.m.

Thank you to our sponsors, supporters, partners and volunteers for making this event possible!

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