



Volume 20, No. 12

July, 2025

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



**Christmas in July
Downtown Shopping
Spree Grand Prize**
Saturday, July 19th
See Page 16 for details

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer Staycation in Fort Pierce

by Donna Sizemore



As summer arrives, many of us start planning getaways—dreaming of sandy beaches, fresh ocean breezes, and unforgettable adventures. But here's the best-kept secret: you don't need to travel far to experience paradise! Fort Pierce is a destination in itself.

Recently, while on a cruise, my husband and I booked an excursion to a secluded island, expecting something remarkable. What we found instead was a beautiful place — but not more beautiful than home. We stood on the shoreline, looking around, and realized that we had paid to visit a beach that couldn't hold a candle to the pristine sands and turquoise waters of our own Fort Pierce coastline.

That moment reaffirmed what we've always known: Fort Pierce is special.

From the breathtaking beaches that rival any Caribbean escape to the hidden gems in our vibrant downtown, there's no shortage of things to do and explore. Whether it's kayaking in the *Indian River Lagoon*, dining at our waterfront restaurants, enjoying live music at a local venue, or strolling through our downtown historic neighborhoods filled with charm, the best summer getaway is right here in our backyard.


And what better way to kick off a staycation in Fort Pierce than with an unforgettable celebration? *Friday Fest* will be held

on the *Fourth of July*, bringing the community together for an evening of live music, local vendors, and festive fun. As the night unfolds, fireworks will light up the sky over the *Indian River*, creating a spectacular backdrop to honor *Independence Day* — right here at home.

So, instead of booking that expensive trip, why not rediscover the magic of Fort Pierce? Treat yourself to a staycation, support local businesses, and experience everything our community has to offer.

We invite you to celebrate summer right here, where every sunset is a masterpiece, and every moment feels like a vacation.

Happy Summer! 🏠

Volume 20, No. 12 July, 2025

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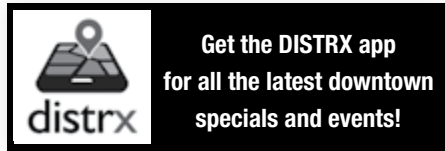
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Calendar

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



MONTHLY EVENTS

July 4, Friday: STARS OVER ST. LUCIE & FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by **R.J. Preston Band**; 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. [See Back Cover for details.]

July 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 1:00 p.m.; 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**
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- Pierced Cider**
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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



JULY: INDEPENDENT RETAILER MONTH

JULY 2: MADE IN THE USA DAY

JULY 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 5: INTERNATIONAL CHERRY PIT SPITTING DAY

JULY 6: NATIONAL FRIED CHICKEN DAY

JULY 7: NATIONAL DAY OF ROCK 'N' ROLL

JULY 7: WORLD CHOCOLATE DAY

JULY 11: NATIONAL 7-ELEVEN DAY

JULY 12: ETCH A SKETCH DAY

JULY 14: NATIONAL BE NICE TO BUGS DAY

JULY 14: NATIONAL MAC AND CHEESE DAY

JULY 16: NATIONAL HOT DOG DAY

JULY 19: NATIONAL FOOTBALL DAY

JULY 20: NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY

JULY 26: NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY

JULY 26: WORLD MANGROVE DAY

JULY 28: BUFFALO SOLDIERS DAY

JULY 30: WORLD SNORKELING 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

Getting Ready to Celebrate 250th USA Birthday

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



This July 4th our city will celebrate the 249th birthday of our United States of America. Next year, will be the semi quincennial of the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*.

There are several things you can do to get in the mood for a 250th birthday.

Stars Over St. Lucie is the annual *July 4th Celebration*, hosted by *Main Street Fort Pierce*; in 2026, that date falls on Saturday.

Visit *Old Fort Park* less than a mile south of downtown Fort Pierce on Indian River Drive. Located on the banks of the Indian River, the site was the home of early Ais Native Americans. The Ais left behind a mound, and that, along with the fresh water spring, attracted the U.S. Army to establish a fort in the Second Seminole War. The fort was in operation from early 1838 until 1843, when it was destroyed by fire. The *City of Fort Pierce* maintains this park, which still includes the mound. The *Fort Pierce Lions Club* have improved the park, with educational kiosks and benches. This park is a great place to learn about the history of military Fort Pierce, named after Lt. Colonel Benjamin K. Pierce, brother to a future president, Franklin Pierce.

Spend some time in *Veterans Memorial Park* at 600 N. Indian River Drive. The *City of Fort Pierce*, along with local veterans, planned the enhancements of the park, which include mosaic



benches by artist, Anita Prentice, that represent the six branches of U.S. armed forces: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard. A *Memorial Wall* features those local men and women who gave their lives in war. Other features have been added to honor fallen veterans. The park also has a water feature that cleans water run-off before it flows into the *Indian River Lagoon*.

Visit nearby *National Navy-UDT Seal Museum*, 3300 N. Highway A1A. The U.S. Navy occupied both South and North Hutchinson Islands during World War II. Navy frogmen trained to storm the beaches of Normandy on our beaches and the Navy Sea, Air and Land Teams, or SEALs, were born.

Practice saying *Happy Semi Quincennial, America!*

Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency

The May 2025 *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency* (FPRA) Programs and Activity Report is now available!

Here you can explore the ongoing initiatives dedicated to enhancing and revitalizing our community. Discover mile-

stones reached, upcoming ventures, grants available, and more by visiting: <https://cityoffortpierce.com/1058/FPRA-Programs-and-Activities-Summary>

Let's continue to fuel the vibrant spirit of Fort Pierce! 🏠

FPUA and Main Street Fort Pierce Partner Up for the Annual Stars Over St. Lucie Celebration

As America prepares to celebrate another exciting *Independence Day*, *Fort Pierce Utilities Authority* (FPUA) is proud to celebrate not only our country's freedom, but also the community spirit that defines Fort Pierce today. This year, FPUA, *Main Street Fort Pierce*, and the *City of Fort Pierce* will host the annual *Stars Over St. Lucie*, a

vibrant *4th of July* celebration that lights up the heart of our community.

Stars Over St. Lucie is a community celebration in Downtown Fort Pierce, bringing everyone together for an evening of food, music, and family activities at *Marina Square*. But perhaps nothing is more iconic than the gigantic American flag, proudly displayed by FPUA, waving high as a spectacular fireworks display illuminates the *Indian River Lagoon*. It's a striking moment that reminds us all of the freedom we cherish and the community that brings us together.

This annual celebration is more than just a tradition; it's a reflection of Fort Pierce's values. At its core, *Stars Over St. Lucie* celebrates unity, pride, and the continued efforts to sustain and promote the unique character of our historic city. It's those very same principles that fuel our longstanding partnership with *Main Street Fort Pierce*, a community deeply rooted in downtown revitalization and preserving its cultural heritage.

FPUA has been serving the citizens of Fort Pierce since 1972 and is a multi-service utility company providing electric, natural gas, water, wastewater and broadband internet services to more than 50,000 residential and commercial customers. The mission of FPUA is to provide economical, reliable, and friendly service in a continuous effort to enhance the quality of life in our community. Over the decades, our role has grown far be-



yond delivering reliable utility services. As a municipally owned utility, we believe our greatest asset is our community and the connections we build—with our residents, customers, partners, and through our shared vision for Fort Pierce. FPUA is making major strides with ongoing projects such as *Automatic Metering Infrastructure* (AMI)

for electric, natural gas, and water metering to increase system-wide performance and efficiency, the wastewater *Septic to Sewer* conversions, pipe-lining initiative, and the relocation of our wastewater treatment facility to protect the fragile *Indian River Lagoon* ecosystem, to name a few.

Over the years, our efforts have expanded to supporting revitalization projects, such as the installation of energy-efficient LED streetlighting and free public Wi-Fi in the downtown area to enable implementation of *Smart City* services in Fort Pierce.

These projects, and community events like *Stars Over St. Lucie*, are reminders of what we can achieve when we work together with a shared vision for our community. We're not just providing electricity; we're powering the way towards a future that's inclusive, sustainable, and deeply rooted in local pride.

So as the *Fourth of July* approaches and families gather along the waterfront, we invite you to join us—not just in celebration, but in appreciation. Thanks to our brave men and women who have fought, and continue to fight, to protect the freedoms we hold dear, this holiday reflects something far greater. It's a tribute to our shared commitment to community, our belief in the power of unity, and the hard work and hope we invest every day to build a brighter future for Fort Pierce.



Happy Independence Day from all of us at Fort Pierce Utilities Authority! 🏠

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City of Fort Pierce Commissioners Seek Applications for the Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Board

City of Fort Pierce Commissioners invite community-minded residents to apply for seats on the **Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful** board. This valued board, appointed by the City Commission, is dedicated to engaging, educating, and empowering citizens to actively participate in initiatives aimed at fostering a cleaner and more visually appealing city.

The mission of the **Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Board** is to spearhead efforts in litter cleanup, waste reduction, recycling programs, and community beautification projects, all aimed at enhancing the overall well-being and prosperity of Fort Pierce. By collaborating with local stakeholders and residents, the board endeavors to cultivate a sense of pride and ownership in maintaining clean and welcoming environment across the city.

Board members meet monthly on the third Tuesday at

11:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Garden Club**. These meetings serve as a platform for brainstorming ideas, coordinating initiatives, and fostering partnerships that contribute to the city's aesthetic appeal.

Interested individuals who are passionate about contributing to the betterment of Fort Pierce are encouraged to apply. Applications for board membership can be accessed on the City of Fort Pierce website at <https://cityoffortpiece.com/144/Boards-Committees>. The deadline for submission is Thursday, July 10, 2025.

Join us in our collective endeavor to make Fort Pierce a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful place to live, work, and play. For more information about the **Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful** program, please visit <https://cityoffortpiece.com/193/Keep-Fort-Pierce-Beautiful>. 🏠

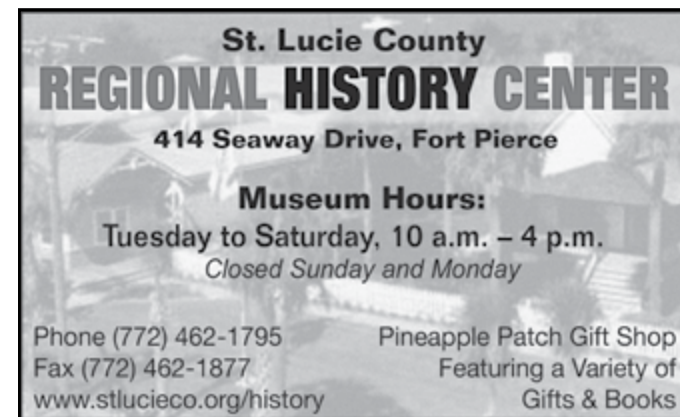


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Great American Raft Race Event Presents Fun Challenge for Local Youth

Now in its 5th year, **Project LIFT** and the **Fort Pierce Police Department** will be hosting the **Great American Raft Race** at **Causeway Cove Marina** on August 7th at 10 a.m. This fun-filled community event brings together local youth and the public to use their imagination and come up with unique ideas to design and build their own rafts. The kids who participate will learn basic carpentry skills in the making of their design. If it floats, it qualifies! If it doesn't, you get to do "the walk of shame!"

Sponsorships will provide materials for the participants to build their custom rafts and have a great day on the water. Multiple work sites will be used to allow more kids to attend and help ease any transportation concerns. For more information, please contact either Shawn Keil at shawn.keil@projectlift.org or Charlie Hayek at cchawk77@aol.com. 🏠



The Latest Honk on The Peacock House Art Foundation

by Emily Fingerhut

As the administrator of *The Peacock House Art Foundation* I'd like to share a little bit about our nonprofit art campus. I've had the privilege of witnessing its transformation firsthand. What started as just a creative dream has grown into a vibrant, inclusive art foundation that serves the Treasure Coast. Located on Orange Avenue, in what was formerly known as the Crain Estate, **TPHAF** is inherently steeped in rich Fort Pierce history, unique and vibrant architecture, and stunning wildlife, making it the perfect setting for a hub of artistic expression, education, and collaboration!



Alongside my colleague, Krystal Masters, we run afterschool art classes from 3 to 5 p.m. that encourage kids creativity and confidence through hands-on learning art experiences. We're turning up the heat this summer by offering a *Summer Camp Program* for kids. "Beyond the Brush" welcomes kids ages 8 to 16 for multi-disciplinary art experiences, including mixed media, glass art, mosaics, digital art, codeless website building, and art history.

We offer adults' diverse art education opportunities, from painting and pottery to mixed media and junk journaling. Our fully equipped clay studio — complete with two kilns — is just one example of how we're building resources that support long-term artistic growth for both emerging and established artists.

It's not just employees working hard to put **TPHAF** on the map. Our gallery and exhibition spaces give our Artist Members a professional platform to share their creativity within the *Peacock Arts District*, lifting up our overall community. Local Artist Members like Lisa Jill Allison, Leslie Stokes, Eric Meeks, Lyn Morgan, and others, participate in our rotating gallery, featuring a different piece of work every three months. There's always something new and interesting for visitors to see during our facility-wide tours, offered weekly.


Our thriving *Artists-In-Residence Program* also attracts artists and visitors from across the globe to share their work with the

Treasure Coast, lead workshops, and enrich our cultural landscape. Artists like Samara Ash, Sitki Dogan, Nico Suave, Margareta Fintling, and Ingrid Grip have partnered with us to leave a lasting, beautiful mark on Fort Pierce.

Our vision goes beyond the visual arts. We're also working to unveil our dynamic dance studio space, which will host classes in belly dancing, salsa, line dancing, and yoga — making movement and wellness part of the creative experience. Additionally, we're developing a unique culinary experience, with an Old Florida BBQ restaurant, multiple food truck options, and a Breakfast Café, all coming soon.

Every day, I feel grateful to be part of this growing organization. *The Peacock House Art Foundation* is more than an art foundation — it's a creative home. I invite you to discover all we have to offer and join us in supporting the arts on the Treasure Coast.

Visit our website to learn more: ThePeacockHouseArtFoundation.com or check us out on social media @peacockhouseartfoundation. 🏠



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Protecting Habitats for Sea Turtle Survival Along Florida's Treasure Coast

by Meredith Bennett of the Manatee Center

The Treasure Coast of South Florida is home to some of the most critical nesting habitats for sea turtles in the world. Each year, thousands of loggerhead, green, and leatherback sea turtles return to these beaches to lay their eggs. However, rapid coastal development, pollution, and climate change threaten these fragile ecosystems, putting sea turtle populations at risk. Protecting their habitats is essential for their survival and the health of the marine environment.

One organization leading the charge in conservation efforts is *Coastal Connections*, a nonprofit based in Vero Beach, Florida. Their mission is to protect coastal habitats for sea turtle survival by educating and connecting people to the environment. Through initiatives like *Turtle Connections*, they provide educational programs and hands-on conservation experiences that inspire individuals to take action.

Coastal development remains one of the primary threats to sea turtles along the Treasure Coast. Beachfront construction disrupts nesting sites, while artificial lighting disorients



hatchlings, leading them away from the ocean. Coastal Connections supports "dark sky" initiatives, encouraging property owners to use turtle-friendly lighting and advocating for conservation zoning laws that restrict construction in sensitive areas.

Pollution, particularly plastic waste, presents another significant danger. Sea turtles often mistake plastic debris for food, leading to ingestion that can be fatal. *Coastal Connections' Vero Goes Zero* program engages businesses, individuals, and local governments in reducing single-use plastics and promoting sustainable practices.

Climate change compounds these challenges by increasing sea levels and altering sand temperatures, which influence hatchling gender ratios. Rising temperatures can skew populations towards female hatchlings, which may disrupt future reproduction. Preserving natural dune systems and reducing carbon footprints through sustainable living practices can help mitigate these climate impacts.

Coastal Connections also offers unique opportunities for community involvement, such as *Adopt-A-Nest*, where individuals can sponsor a sea turtle nest and track its progress. Their *Travel for Turtles* initiative promotes eco-tourism, ensuring that visitors support conservation efforts while enjoying Florida's coastal beauty.

Protecting sea turtle habitats along the Treasure Coast requires a collective effort. Through responsible development, pollution reduction, climate action, and conservation advocacy — alongside the dedicated work of *Coastal Connections* — we can ensure that these ancient mariners continue to grace Florida's shores for generations to come.

If you are interested in this cause or would like to learn more *Coastal Connections of Vero Beach* will be presenting an informative program at noon on July 11th at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** as a guest of the **Manatee Center's** ongoing *Lunch and Learn* lecture series. 🏠



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City of Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center Participates in Petco Love Florida MEGA Pet Adoption Event

The Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center is proud to once again join *Petco Love* and animal welfare organizations across Florida in a united mission to find loving homes for 2,000 dogs and cats during the *Petco Love Florida MEGA Adoption Event*, taking place June 27–29, 2025.

Hosted at **Petco** pet care centers and participating shelters statewide, the event aims to address Florida's urgent need for increased pet adoptions. In 2024 alone, more than 37,000 dogs and cats were euthanized in Florida shelters — placing the state 46th in national lifesaving rankings. The *MEGA Adoption Event* is a coordinated effort to change that statistic and save lives by connecting families with adoptable pets.

Last year, 1,949 pets found new homes during the event. This year, nearly 50 organizations across 31 counties are participating, offering thousands of pets for adoption — all spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and available at no cost to adopters (some exclusions may apply).

Locally, area residents can adopt pets at the following locations:

Havert L. Fenn Center

2000 Virginia Avenue in Fort Pierce
June 27–28 | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center

100 Savannah Road in Fort Pierce
June 27–28 | 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

“There is nothing more powerful than the moment a shelter pet meets their new family and that’s the heart of this incredible statewide event,” said Susanne Kogut, President of *Petco Love*. “By uniting animal welfare organizations across Florida, we are not only finding homes for pets, we are creating thousands of new beginnings filled with hope, healing, and unconditional love.”

“We are thrilled to be part of this incredible statewide effort to help pets find loving homes,” said Summer Rulapaugh, Operations Manager at the **Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center**. “Every adoption is a second chance — not just for the



animals, but for the families whose lives they brighten.”

To explore adoption locations, hours, and participating shelters throughout Florida, visit megaadoptflorida.com.

About Petco Love

Petco Love is a nonprofit organization that makes communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since 1999, *Petco Love* has invested nearly \$410 million in adoption and lifesaving efforts, helping 7 million pets find loving homes. Learn more at PetcoLove.org.

About Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center

As part of the *City of Fort Pierce Animal Services Division*, the **Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center** provides compassionate shelter and adoption services for homeless pets, working to ensure every animal has the opportunity to thrive in a loving home. Visit cityoffortpierces.com to learn more.

About Florida Leaders in Lifesaving

Led by the *Jacksonville Humane Society*, the *Florida Leaders in Lifesaving* program brings together animal shelters and clinics to reduce euthanasia and increase collaboration statewide. Visit floridaleadersinlifesaving.org to learn more. 🏠

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Dance Through Your Summer Saturdays at the Downtown Farmers Market

Those who regularly visit the **Fort Pierce Downtown Farmers Market** know that it is a combination of features that makes it so unique and inviting. Not only do we have some of the friendliest vendors selling great products to please your pallet, but we offer ways to satisfy all of your senses.

The market's location along the waterfront in downtown Fort Pierce for 28 years now provides the perfect shopping experience. The city has done a great job providing shade trees and water features, and benches to sit and enjoy the view on. People coming and going from the boats on the marina are fun to watch as you enjoy a refreshing, made to order smoothie from **Seaside Smoothies**. Cool off for a minute by wrapping your hands around an acai bowl as delicious as it is beautiful from **Fresh Fusion Juice Bar** as you watch the kids play around the fountain.

But be warned, the aromas of freshly prepared foods from places like **Chef Kevin's Reggae Yum Yums** will steal your thoughts away from those views. The irresistible scent of a smoked turkey leg from **Big Byrds BBQ** will have you craving one for breakfast (it goes with coffee, right? I mean, **Rio Coco** is right next door with some tasty beverages).

You'll be touched to know that the **Fort Pierce Downtown Farmers Market** makes sure you can carry all the tempting goodies our vendors have to offer. If your purchases get to be a handful, you can stop by the Market Manager's tent and buy



a sturdy canvas market logo bag to bring back again and again.

One of the long-time features of the market that helps to make each Saturday an event to remember is the live music offered for your listening pleasure. With regular appearances year-round by local favorites *Rapture*, *The Latin Heritage Orchestra*, *Pippin & Willin'*, *Dave and The Wave*, and *The Little Things Duo*, you know you'll hear some great music while you browse the beautiful buns offered by **Importico's Bakery**.

There are some different acts joining us later in the year that you won't want to miss. If you want to know in advance when your favorite local band is playing

at the market, be sure to check out the website fortpiercemarket.com and click on the Music & Events tab. You can use that site to find out who that great band was that you heard there, too. If the tunes were so lively that you had to get up and dance — it happens regularly, you know — you have to find out who they were and when they'll be back.

You can stay in the know about the long-time and new vendors we have joining us each week by liking and following our Facebook page, [FortPierceFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/FortPierceFarmersMarket). Be sure to support your favorite vendor by liking their page as well. We look forward to you making the sensible decision to join us as we dance our way through the summer at the **Fort Pierce Downtown Farmers Market**.

It's a Saturday morning tradition. 🏠

Participants in the Annual *Christmas in July* Event Get a Chance to Win a Downtown Fort Pierce Shopping Spree



At the time of this writing the cumulative value of the grand prize shopping spree is \$1,220 and climbing! To participate, check in at **Notions & Potions** starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 19th to receive one raffle ticket for our hourly raffles which start at 1 p.m. Then, go and take selfies in your Ugly Christmas Shirt with any Downtown store logo in the background and earn *more* tickets to enter our **Downtown Shopping Spree Grand Prize Giveaway**. For each selfie per store, or selfie station, one raffle ticket is earned. Photos must be taken with the store logo in the background. The more stores or restaurants you visit downtown the more tickets you earn to win. Winner takes all! All participants must be 18 years or older to enter and/or win raffle.

Participants may also bring school supplies to **Legit Cuts Barbershop** and take a selfie showing the supplies to earn two extra tickets!

To claim extra tickets, bring your phone to **Notions & Potions** by 5:30 p.m. to show proof of your visits and receive all your tickets. The grand prize drawing will be held at 6:00 p.m. (you do not have to be present to win). No worries if you can't take selfies — we will help. There will also be several giveaways throughout the day.

Continued on page 18 ...

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CHRISTMAS IN JULY ... continued from page 16

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2nd Street Bistro

Notions & Potions

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2nd Street Art

Dunkin' Donuts

Freedom Boat Club

Main Street Fort Pierce

The Pink Moon

Wanderlust

Juice a' Peel

Hippy Hut

Havana George Café

Thirsty Turtle

Casa Azteca

MK Computers

Taylor Creek Optical

More businesses are added daily! 🏠



Downtown Fort Pierce Business Profile: The House of Orchids & More LLC

For all plant lovers or those looking to add a little touch of nature's beauty to their homes and yards a new retail **Orchid Shop** has just opened in the **Historic Arcade Building**. **The House of Orchids & More** is passionate about bringing beauty and elegance into every space with high quality orchid plants and custom arrangements.

The Fort Pierce **House of Orchids & More** store opened in June and chose to be in the downtown area because of its historical feel. They specialize in modern and classic designs that appeal to all ages and offer seasonal specials. Their employees value their customer's personal tastes and build relationships to better understand exactly what clients are looking for personally or as unique gifts.



When planning to open, owner, Margaret Gonzalez, started with a clear vision and sought the proper licenses. Location was very important along with quality products. She sourced her product and started small to thoroughly understand the products she was offering in order to stay consistent and thrive.

The House of Orchids & More has selections for all price ranges. There is something for everyone, whether it is a small plant or a statement arrangement.

They make it easy for everyone to enjoy the beauty of orchids.

The House of Orchids & More LLC is located at 101 N.U.S. 1, Suite 124 in Fort Pierce. Their hours are Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and they are closed on Sundays. Website: www.thehouseoforchidstc.com; Facebook: [Thehouseoforchids](https://www.facebook.com/Thehouseoforchids). 🏠

Downtown Fort Pierce Business Profile: Soulful Motion Studio

Soulful Motion Studio has just opened its doors in the **Historic Arcade Building** located at 101 N.U.S. Highway 1, and the programs and classes offered are already resonating deeply with the community. **Soulful Motion** isn't just about yoga — it's a space where movement, healing, creativity, and holistic care all come together under one roof.

Here is what makes them a unique new business in downtown:

- Beginner-welcoming yoga + gentle movement classes, Yin and Ashtanga.
- Rebounding classes (yes — mini trampoline workouts!).
- Transformational workshops and retreats, like our upcoming half-day, "Breathe, Beautify & Be," on May 3rd; guided meditation, creative journaling, sacred beauty rituals.
- Classes with a creative twist — "I Didn't Know ChatGPT Could Do That" — May 17th; a first-of-its-kind workshop blending artificial intelligence with creativity, personal growth, and intuitive self-inquiry.



- Holistic hair care through our in-studio sub-brand, KAB111; a sanctuary for scalp health, mindful styling, and plant-powered hair rituals.
- Holistic skin care by Balanced Beauty; integrating energetic healing with custom facials, gua sha, and nourishing skin treatments in a calm, connected setting.

Soulful Motion Studio is genuinely focused on community — this is about connection, not just classes. They welcome interested newcomers to come visit the space, meet the people behind it, experience the vibe firsthand, and, if it feels aligned, help spread the word to the Treasure Coast.

This is about more than wellness. It's about giving people a place to reconnect, recharge, and rediscover their inner power.

Soulful Motion Studio is located inside Kraaz Square, in the **Historic Arcade Building**; Instagram/Facebook: [@soulfulmotionstudio](https://www.instagram.com/soulfulmotionstudio); events and schedule can be found by visiting <https://soulfulmotionstudio.com/events/>. 🏠

Time-Honored Tradition of the Blessing of the Fleet Returns to Fort Pierce

by Michele March, FPYC Social Media and Public Relations

The *Fort Pierce Blessing of the Fleet* returned with great success! As part of Fort Pierce Yacht Club's (ç) 45th Anniversary celebration, the *Blessing of the Fleet and Pass in Review* on May 17th delivered on the promise to be a day of tradition, community, and celebration.

A total of twenty-three (23) boats were blessed by Rev. Canon Dr. Audley Donaldson from *St. Andrew's Episcopal Church* in Fort Pierce who was aboard a U.S. Coast Guard (Fort Pierce) vessel. FPYC Commodore Steve Jaroski and Past Commodore Suzanne Boardman were aboard Richard and Rita King's boat, *Nutty Irishman*, where they conducted the *Pass in Review* which was accompanied by cannon blasts acknowledging passing boats.

The celebration continued with a lively and well-attended reception at the FPYC. Members, guests, and registered participants gathered to enjoy an afternoon filled with camaraderie, music, and waterfront views. The FPYC was honored to serve a delicious spread, generously donated by **2nd Street Bistro, Island Beach Bar and Restaurant, BlueBird Bakery, Bistro & Wine Bar**, and the **Fort Pierce City Marina**. Their thoughtful contributions added a special touch to the event and were greatly appreciated by all in attendance. The reception provided a fitting conclusion to a memorable day on the water, celebrating tradition, community, and the enduring spirit of Fort Pierce.

We sincerely thank the *U.S. Coast Guard Station Fort Pierce* for hosting Rev. Donaldson aboard their vessel to perform the



In a powerful mid-blessing moment, Rev. Canon Dr. Audley Donaldson sends a stream of holy water toward an unregistered pontoon boat that joined the procession—capturing the open and inclusive spirit of the event
Photo Credit: Suzy Wroten

Blessing of the Fleet and for their invaluable support of this cherished tradition. We extend heartfelt thanks to the *St. Lucie County Sheriff's Marine Unit, U.S. Fish & Wildlife*, and *City of Fort Pierce Code Enforcement* for their on-water support and coordination; to **Freedom Boat Club of Fort Pierce** for their key role in organizing and executing the event; and to **Tiki Taxi & Cruises** for helping transport FPYC members and guests to be part of this special tradition.

This was 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 truly appreciate the community's spirit and support for this event and



United States Coast Guard Station Fort Pierce Crew
Photo Credit: Bruce DeGraw

we're already looking forward to planning the *2026 Fort Pierce Blessing of the Fleet*.

Celebrate Independence Day on the Water!
Join the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** for the *Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Boat Parade*, beginning at 11:00 a.m. This year, boats will gather in the Turning Basin at 10:45



The Nutty Irishman, serving as the Pass in Review vessel and hosting the FPYC Commodore Steve Jaroski and Vice Commodore, Suzie Boardman
Photo Credit: Suzy Wroten

a.m. — note the new time due to tidal changes. Dress your boat in patriotic flair and be part of this festive tradition on the water! On the day of the event, please monitor VHF Channel 81. For more information, visit www.fort-piercenyachtclub.com/july4boatparade. Let's make waves this Independence Day! 🏠



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TREASURES OF THE PAST

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

Miami Ice Works Arrangements in Process For Moving Its Plant to Fort Pierce

If there is any prospect of a hot time at Fort Pierce when the convention meets there next month, there is the consolation of knowing that there will be an ice factory on the spot to keep things cool.

Arrangements are now in process to move the Miami Ice Works to that place. The works here were shut down Monday night and yesterday the removal of the machinery was begun.

The change was rather a sudden one and took our people by surprise. It has been known for some time past that Mr. L.C. Oliver was preparing to establish a plant at Fort Pierce, where there is a great demand for ice on account of the fishing industry. It is now understood that Mr. McPherrin, of the Miami Ice Work, and Mr. Oliver have reached an agreement whereby Mr. Oliver is to abandon his plans at Fort Pierce and Mr. McPherrin is to remove his plant from Miami to that place. We learn also that the agreement covers an understanding that Mr. Oliver is not to ship ice north of Fort Lauderdale and Mr. McPherrin is not to ship any south of that point.

Mr. Oliver has two first-class plans in Miami, and we shall not lack for an abundant supply of ice at low rates.

Our people regret to lose Mr. McPherrin from Miami. He has done a prosperous business here, and the works have made a nice profit in the past year.

125 years ago this month as reported in the July 20, 1900 edition of The Florida Star

Fort Pierce

Mr. W.J. Tucker has added a bear to his menagerie. The bear was caught on the island in a trap while he was trying to get honey from a bee gum. About fifty of the boys went over to muzzle and rope him, and it is reported one or two of them are good racers.

[Will Tucker owned the Tarpon Saloon near Depot Drive. Learn more about him at the 21st Annual Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past walking tours event this October 22nd & 23rd. Local real estate agent, Ryan Collins of Reef to Ranch Real Estate, plays this role each year. Tickets go on sale in September on www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.]

100 years ago this month as reported in the July 2, 1925 edition of the Palm Beach Post

There will be no story hour at the Woman's Club Saturday afternoon, because of the celebrating of the Forth of July.

[The Fort Pierce Woman's Club exists today and continues to give back to our community in many ways. Come hear their story during the 21st Annual Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past walking tours event to be held this October 22nd and 23rd. Tickets go on sale in September at www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.]

100 years ago this month as reported in the July 21, 1925 edition of the Fort Pierce News

Sunrise Theatre "The Pick Of The Pictures"

Wednesday, July 22nd
Alice Terry and Ernest Gillen in "ANY WOMAN." Any Woman Loves to be Beautiful, Fashionable, Popular.
Comedy "TELL IT TO THE POLICEMAN."
Thursday, July 23rd
Barbara LaMarr and Conway Tearle in "THE HEART OF A SIREN."
Comedy "LOW TIDE."
Friday, July 24th
Adolphe Menjou and Eleanor Boardman in "SINNERS IN SILK." Rejuvenation, Pep, Parties and the Wild Gay Life of the Gilded Cabarets.
Our Gang Comedy "BIG TOWN."
Saturday, July 25th
Hoot Gibson in "TAMING THE WEST."
Sunshine Comedy "THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER."
"IDAHO" No. 2.

100 years ago this month as reported in the July 27, 1925 edition of the Tampa Tribune

Fort Pierce Opens Offers on Bridges And Electric Unit

Bids for the purchase and installation of a 1,500 kilowatt turbo-generator unit to be added to the equipment of the municipal light and power plant were opened by the city commission and referred to the engineers for tabulation and report. The proposed new unit is designed to meet

TREASURES OF THE PAST

the immediate future demands and serve the needs of the city until a completely new and modern plant can be provided. The present plant has almost reached its capacity.

The city commission also received bids for the construction of concrete bridges, one across the canal at Fourth Street, Dixie Highway, and the other at Second Street. Action on these was deferred until the merits of another type of bridge can be investigated.

The Fourth Street bridge is to have a width of forty feet, and that at Second Street a width of thirty-six with sufficient clearance above the water to permit the passage of small boats.

[Fourth Street is US1. The bridges mentioned in this article are ones that spanned across Moore's Creek. The 2nd Street Bridge is affectionately known locally as "Tickle Tummy Hill". It is now on the National Register of Historic Places and is included in the 2010 Historic Highway Bridges of Florida report. The 2nd Street Bridge was constructed by the Palatka office of the Lutten Bridge Company in 1925 and is an

example of a decorative arch deck bridge that was constructed as a 30-foot long, single span reinforced concrete arch.]

75 years ago this month as reported in the July 3, 1950 edition of the Fort Pierce Tribune

The Big Night is Here! Chamber of Commerce Bridge Safety Fishing Balconies Benefit Dance

Monday Night — July 3 9:00 p.m.
St. Lucie County Armory — Music by Georgew Saleeby and his Orchestra
Grand Prize - 1950 Pontiac

Monday, July 3 is the night Fort Pierce has been waiting for! The big benefit dance for the construction of safety fishing balconies on the South Bridge begins at 9:00 p.m. at the County Armory. Some lucky ticket holder to this dance (who may or may not be present) will win the grand prize of a beautiful 1950 Pontiac sedan. Tickets may be bought any time up until the drawing Monday night. Price is 50 cents.

Come one...come all...help raise funds for this important community project. You may enjoy a fine dance, serve your city and get a fair chance to win the grand prize... all for only 50 cents per ticket.

For the safety of all...for the enjoyment of many...let's get balconies built on the South Bridge. BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

75 years ago this month as reported in the July 9, 1950 edition of the Fort Pierce Tribune

Fabric Shop Will Open Here Monday

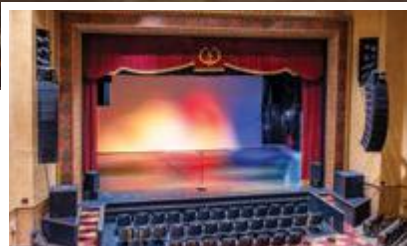
Establishment of another new business in Fort Pierce is announced in this issue.

It is the Fabric Center, Inc. to be located at 223 Avenue A, being established by Mr. and Mrs. Joe W Jones of West Palm Beach.

The new establishment will open Monday morning and will stock a complete line of yard goods and sewing supplies, it was stated.

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

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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.

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Downtown Fort Pierce Business Profile: The Harbor Cocktail Lounge

Coming soon! The entertainment district of downtown Fort Pierce will soon have a new addition on Avenue A next to the **P.P. Cobb Building**. **The Harbor Cocktail Lounge** is set to open as a bar and lounge with regular music and entertainment once its renovations are completed.

Owners, Natasha and Matthew Mitchell are Florida natives with a deep love for its coastline and the Treasure Coast community. The idea for **The Harbor Cocktail Lounge** came from a lifelong love for the ocean, good company and great drinks. Since they grew up along the Florida coast, Natasha and Matthew developed a deep appreciation for those simple joys of gathering with loved ones, listening to live music, and creating unforgettable memories. It was this experience that led them to dream of opening a space that captures that same warmth and connection. Their name selection for their business derived this feeling, and from the family dog, Harbor. “Just like a harbor offers a place of refuge and comfort, he’s (dog) always been a source of joy and companionship in our lives. That same sense of warmth, welcome, and belonging is exactly what we want every guest to feel when they walk through our doors.”

They chose to open in downtown Fort Pierce because of its aura and atmosphere. “The area is full of history, charm and incredible local businesses that make it a vibrant place to be. We wanted to create a space where locals and visitors alike could



gather, enjoy handcrafted cocktails, live music, and soak in the coastal vibes. Fort Pierce has an energy that’s impossible to ignore, and we’re so excited to be a part of its growth.”

Natasha and Matthew are so excited to open and bring this new entertainment space to the public. They want their customers to feel like they’ve found their new go-to spot — the kind of place where the drinks are crafted with care, the service is seamless, and the vibe

makes someone want to stay awhile. It is a space built for good times, great conversations, and unforgettable nights. “We love being part of the downtown Fort Pierce community, surrounded by incredible businesses that make this area special. That’s why we’re all about making your experience as easy and enjoyable as possible — whether that means bringing your drink right to you while you’re mid-game (shuffleboard, etc.) or letting you enjoy food from our restaurant partners without ever leaving your seat. At **The Harbor**, you focus on having a great time — we’ll take care of the rest.”

Q & A

What were the steps you took to open and what advice would you give to other potential entrepreneurs?

Although **The Harbor Cocktail Lounge** is not officially open just yet, to start the journey required careful planning, persistence, and a whole lot of passion. The process involved several key steps:

Concept & Market Research — Before anything else, I wanted to ensure that **The Harbor** had a unique identity. I researched the local market, identified customer preferences, and shaped a concept that would stand out;

Business Planning & Financials — Crafting a solid business plan, outlining budget projections, and setting clear revenue goals helped us stay focused on our long term vision;

Site Selection & Lease Negotiation — When this location came along, it was a game-changer. The stars aligned! Our location off Second Street was perfect in every way. This location has great food traffic and its alignment with our brand was unbelievable;

Design & Build-Out — Every aspect of the design, from layout to ambiance, was created with our guests in mind. The build-out process included contractors, permits, and lots of attention to detail;

Licensing & Compliance — Navigating liquor licensing and health regulations was a challenge, but we are making sure everything is in perfect order;

Hiring & Team Building — Building a talented team that embodies our culture is crucial. We’re looking for passionate individuals who understand the importance of great service and a fun atmosphere.

The Harbor Cocktail Lounge is located at 116 Avenue A in Fort Pierce. There hours are: Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 1 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Happy Hour Specials: Perfect for young professionals and after-work crowds looking for handcrafted cocktails and light bites.

Classic Cocktail Nights: Featuring timeless drinks like the Old Fashioned and Manhattan, perfect for guests who appreciate a well-made, classic cocktail.

Industry Nights: A special nod to our local service industry workers, with discounts to thank them for all they do.

Live Music & Themed Events: From jazz nights to DJ sets, we’ll host a variety of music genres to appeal to a broad audience.

Website — www.TheHarborFortPierce.com; Facebook — www.facebook.com/TheHarborFortPierce; Instagram — www.instagram.com/theharborfortpierce. 🏠

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Freedom to Keep Pullin' Drag!

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

The intense heat of summer is definitely here and our reels are on fire! We anticipate fireworks in the sky for the Fourth of July, but avid Treasure Coast anglers will tell you our beautiful waters produce some fireworks, too. From mahi and kingfish, to sailfish and cobia, to grouper and snapper, our local waters are an angler's paradise. As always, this time of year, getting out on the water with abundant opportunities to catch your own fresh fish dinner is a pretty "cool" way to beat the heat.

Bottom fishing remains a great strategy for July since mangroves, lanes, and muttons are still chewing on our off-shore reefs from 50-100 feet. I recommend shrimp or live pilchards for best results but frozen will work good as well, plus enough weight to keep your bait on bottom. Targeting snapper will also put you in a good position to catch nice grouper. It's key to keep your drag tight as these aggressive grouper will run right to structure as soon as they are hooked.

King mackerel, a schooling and migrating game fish commonly called kingfish, are very popular along our Florida coast. They are known for their size, speed, and impressive battles, plus having a mouthful of sharp teeth so heavier wire/leader is needed. Our kingfish charters have been very successful with most catches getting smoked for delicious smoked fish dip. Feel free to contact me for my famous fish dip recipe!

There is no word yet on the Atlantic red snapper season but we are hoping to get two or three days this year. The 2025 Gulf red snapper season was announced and is the longest in state history with 126 days for recreational fishing. Red snapper is highly regulated because it was significantly overfished and still under a rebuilding plan, but it appears the species has made a notable comeback in recent years. These fish are easy to catch and frequently seen on the hook so we hope it's opened up soon.

Our *Fishy Photo of the Month* shows a pair of 35-pound kingfish from a recent trip!

Stay cool this summer by visiting our great bait and tackle



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shops like **DeBrooks Fishing Corner** and my home base, the historic **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** before your next fishing adventure. The coolest memories start with a salty fishing trip catching the bounty of the sea! Wishing everyone a safe Fourth of July celebrating the freedom to *keep Pullin Drag!*



MAIN STREET KIDS COLORING PAGE

Can you find this building in downtown Fort Pierce?

CITY HALL
315 AVENUE A
1925

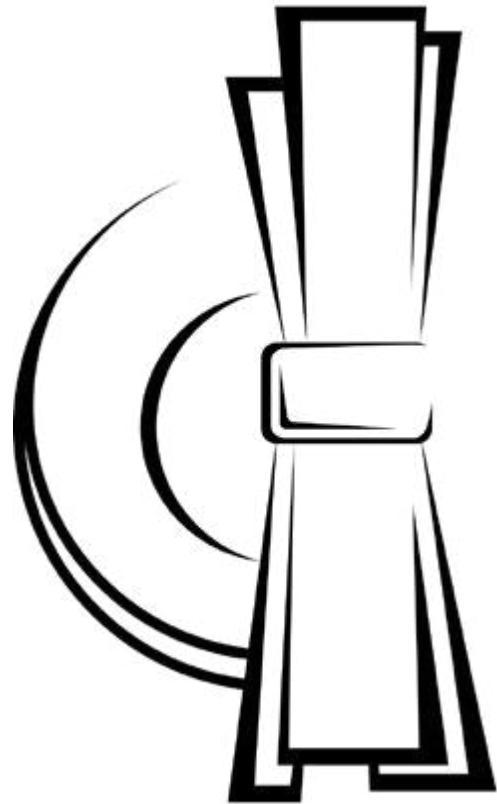


Architect: William W. Hatcher

The Old City Hall is a two-story building in the Mediterranean style. The outside is finished with *stucco*, a plaster-like material. It was used as Fort Pierce's city hall until 1971. Then it housed only the planning and building departments until all departments were reunited in the new city hall in 1991. It was rescued from the threat of demolition and restored in 1995. Now it has offices on the first floor. On the second floor is a great room where City Council sessions were once held, now used for meetings or parties. What details can you find that make Old City Hall a Mediterranean style building? Here are a few:

- 1. Arch
- 2. Barrel Tile
- 3. Classical Molding
- 4. Decorative Stucco Details

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JOIN MAIN STREET FORT PIERCE

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 Fort Pierce** 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.

Main Street Fort Pierce Membership Levels

COMMUNITY

- Downtown Dreamer (Friend of Main Street): \$50.00
- Pierce Pioneer (Family): \$100.00
- Sunrise City Patron: \$500.00 and above

Membership Benefits:

- › Free Main Street Focus Magazine home delivery
- › Unlimited attendance to Coffee with the Mayor
- › Email newsletter with Downtown updates
- › Early bird access to events such as Art Shows
- › Downtown digital map directory
- › Invitation to Annual Main Street Meeting & Celebration

SPONSOR

- Bronze: \$1,000.00
- Silver: \$2,500.00
- Gold: \$5,000.00
- Platinum: \$5,000.00

Additional Membership Benefits:

- › Logo on website with link to site
- › Early access to title sponsorships

BUSINESS

- CommUNITY Trailblazer (less than 10 employees): \$150.00
- Horizon Hero (11-50 employees): \$250.00
- Legacy Builder (51 or more employees): \$400.00

Additional Membership Benefits:

- › Free entrance to educational business seminars
- › Included on MSFP website with link
- › Discounted advertising rates in *Indian River Magazine*

Join Us Today!
Call **Main Street Fort Pierce**
or **Scan the QR Code**
to visit our website.



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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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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



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Main Street Focus
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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
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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!* 🏡

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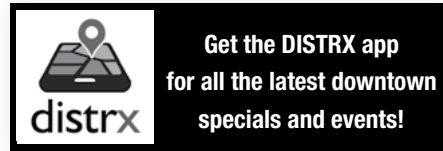
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Calendar

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

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

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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

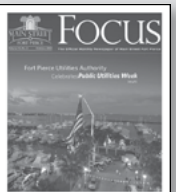
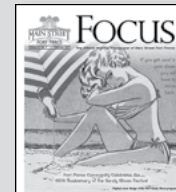


- APRIL: NATIONAL JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH
- APRIL 1: APRIL FOOL'S DAY
- APRIL 2: NATIONAL PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY DAY
- APRIL 2: PASCUA FLORIDA DAY
- APRIL 3: WORLD AQUATIC ANIMAL DAY
- APRIL 6: ARMY DAY IN UNITED STATES
- APRIL 7: NATIONAL BEER DAY
- APRIL 10: GOLFER'S DAY
- APRIL 12: GRILLED CHEESE 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>.

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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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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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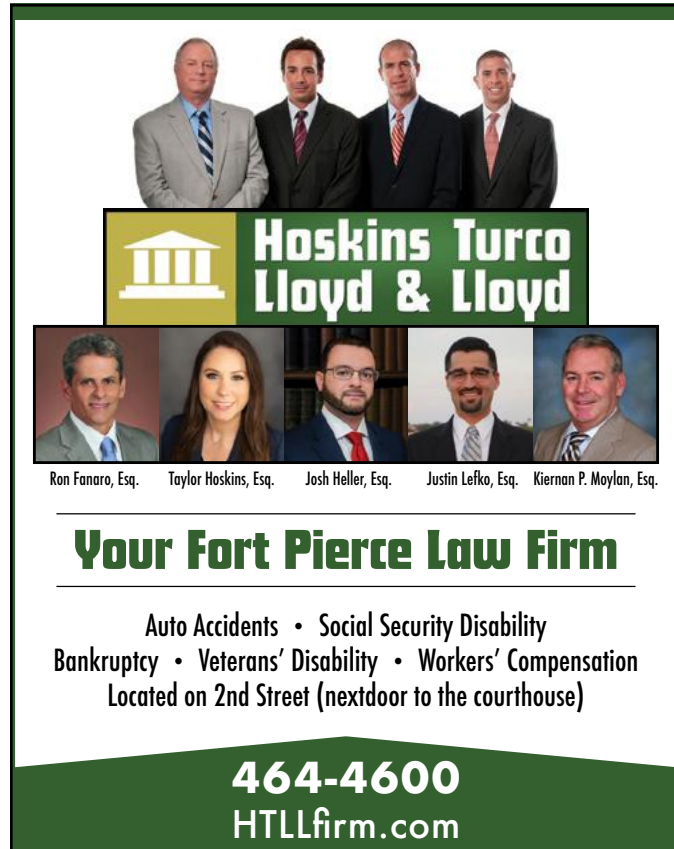
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Ecology 101: Predator-Prey Interactions

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
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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

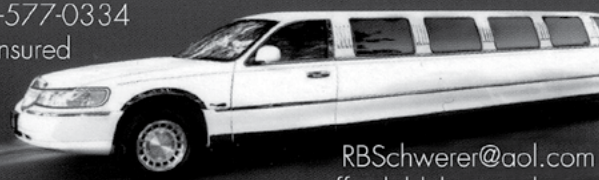
from the approved list.

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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After 2012's Hurricane Sandy, the 113th Congress passed a bill designating April 18 as *National Lineman Appreciation Day*.

Turning Up the Heat: Natural Gas Rebates

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.*

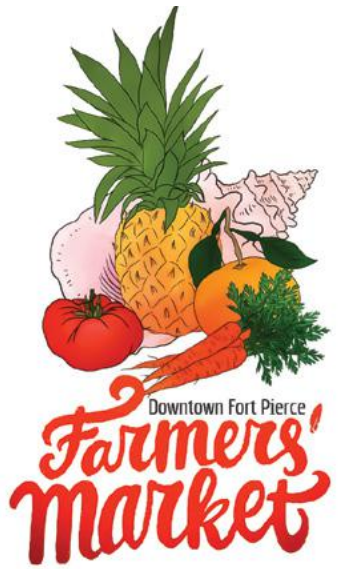
*From classic homemade donuts with that signature farmers' market charm to fresh crab cakes served by local fishermen, there's something for everyone. But don't forget your drink! Check out **Seaside Smoothies** for your fresh pressed sugarcane into a refreshing virgin mojito—perfect for sipping with 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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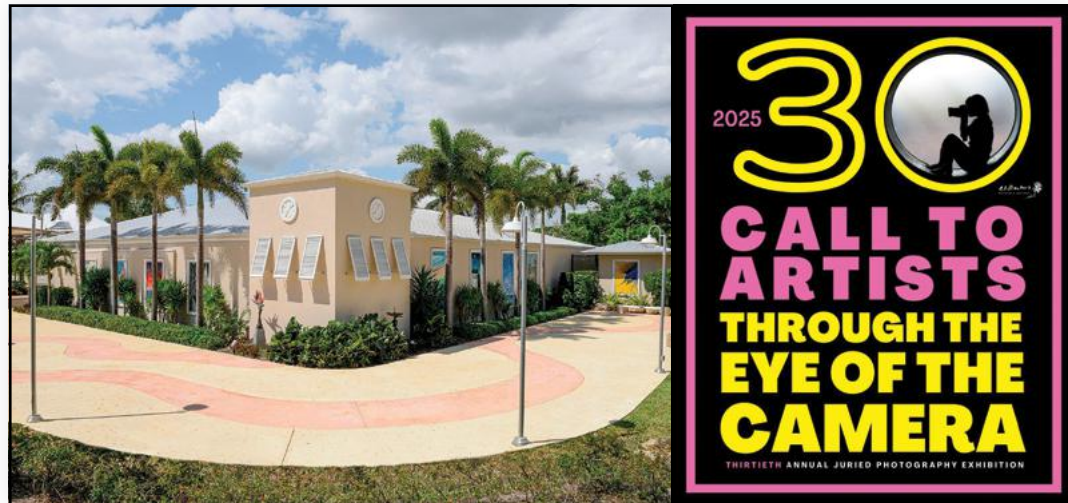
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The Backus Museum Announces its Call to Artists for the 30th Annual Juried Photography Competition *Through the Eye of the Camera*

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.

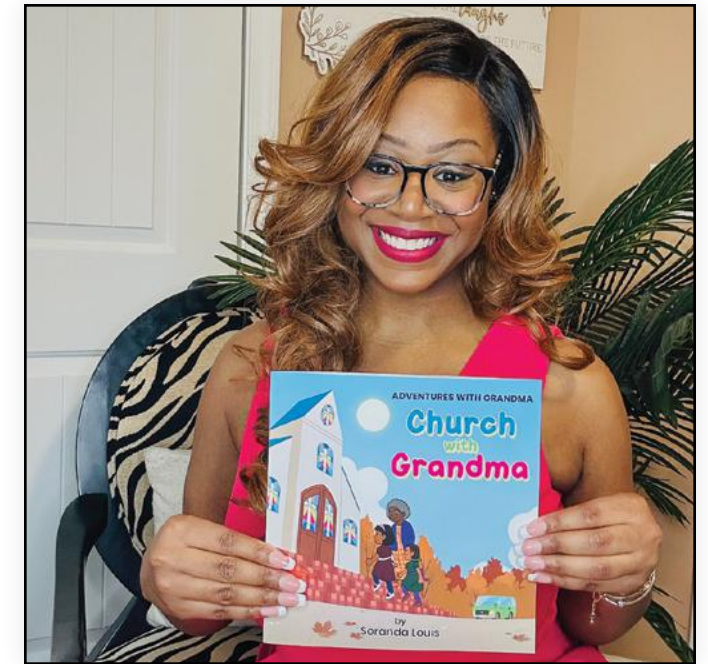


Download Florida Stories App for audio history tours of dozens of Florida cities including two from Fort Pierce – Downtown & the Lincoln Park districts

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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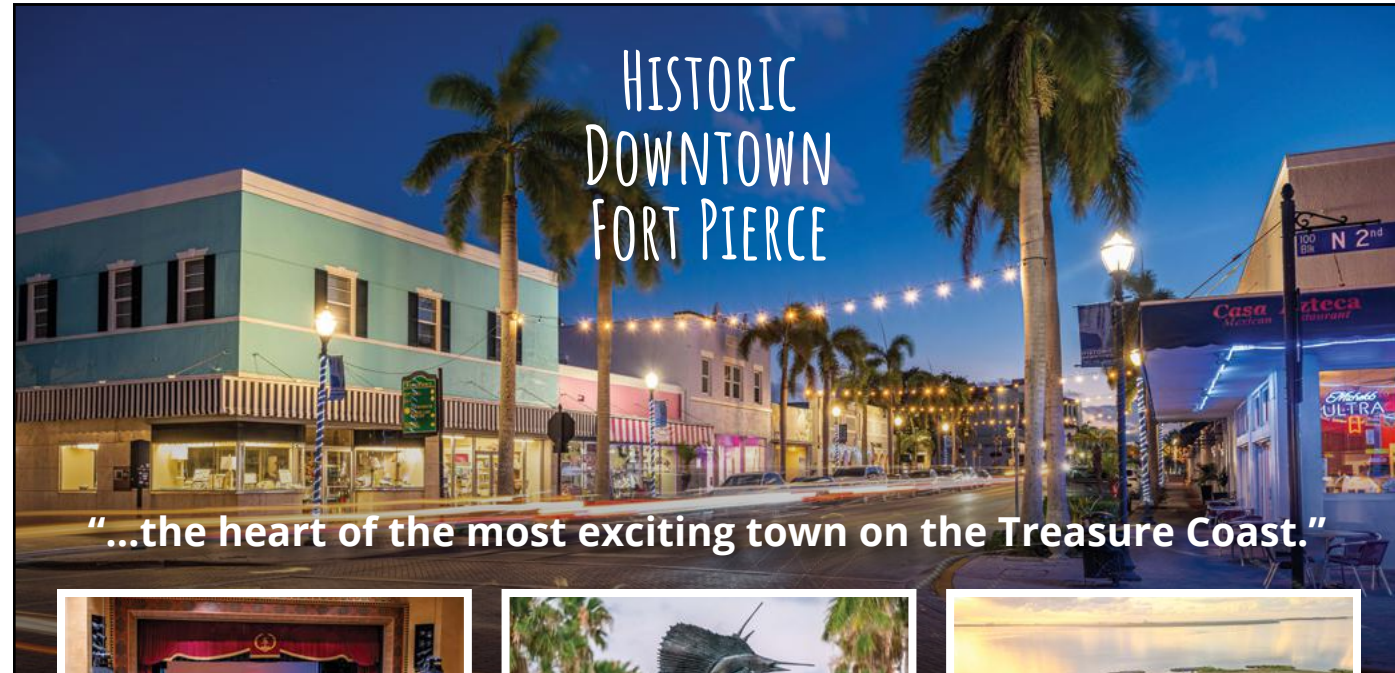
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PHOTOS BY MARK KRANCER

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.

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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
- 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
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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

- Headline Sponsor (\$1,000)
- Patron Sponsor (\$500)

Community Levels

- Main Street Friend Membership (\$25)
- Main Street Family Membership (\$50)

Corporate Levels

- 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)

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- 3 – Fill out the membership form and mail to:

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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: _____



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.

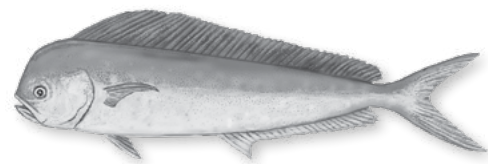
April is a stellar time to target big kingfish that are migrating back up the coast. I recommend mullet, threadfins, or blue runners on a slow troll in about 50 to 120 feet of water as a productive strategy for hooking kings. These popular gamefish can easily pull 100 to 200 feet of drag with spectacular 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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Heart of Fort Pierce is Us!

by Donna Sizemore



Fort Pierce is more than just a dot on the map — it's a living, breathing story we are writing together every day. Our historic downtown is the heart of that story. It's where our heritage meets our future, where small businesses take root and grow, and where memories are made in our streets, markets, galleries, and waterfront.

Economic development in downtown Fort Pierce isn't just about new storefronts or fresh coats of paint — it's about strengthening the entire fabric of our community. Every new business brings jobs, every building restoration preserves our history, and every vibrant event draws visitors who fall in love with our charm. A thriving downtown lifts property values, inspires neighborhood pride, and keeps our local economy circulating right here at home.

As we welcome the first day of fall, there's a special energy in the air — cooler breezes, golden sunsets, and a calendar full of reasons to gather. From our lively *Friday Fest* street parties to *Coffee with the Mayor*, the *Historic Walking Ghost Tours*, and the beloved *Sights & Sounds on Second Christmas Parade*, there's something for everyone to enjoy in the months

ahead. These events aren't just fun — they're opportunities to connect, support local businesses, and celebrate the spirit of Fort Pierce.

You can support downtown's vitality in so many meaningful ways:

Shop Local. Choose our downtown merchants for gifts, dining, and everyday needs.

Spread the Word. Invite friends and family to experience our markets, festivals, and live performances.


Get Involved. Volunteer your time, join Main Street initiatives, or lend your expertise to special projects.

Invest in the Vision. Whether through sponsorships, memberships, or donations, your support fuels new opportunities for growth.

Our collective investment — of time, dollars, and heart — ensures that Fort Pierce not only thrives today, but shines even brighter for generations to come. Imagine walking through downtown ten years from now, knowing you played a part in its success story.

For a full list of upcoming events and ways to participate, visit the *Main Street Fort Pierce* events calendar at <https://mainstreetfortpierce.org/>.

Happy Fall! 🏠



Volume 21, No. 2 September, 2025

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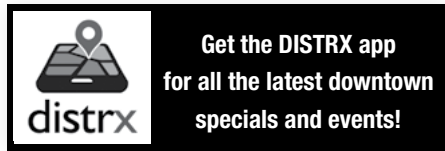
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Phone: 772.466.3880 • mainstreetfortpierce.org

Calendar

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



MONTHLY EVENTS

September 5, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by **RJ Preston**; 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.

September 12, Friday: MOEC LUNCH & LEARN — 12:00 Noon at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; “Dive Deep: Corals and More Along Our Coastline” presented by **John Reed, Coral Reef Scientist**; ManateeEducationCenter.org.

September 19, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; **Sponsor – SLC Historic Museum**; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

September 19, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

September 20, Saturday: SPA DAY AT NOTIONS & POTIONS — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; (See article in this edition for details).

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 1:00 p.m.; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

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Bottom’s Up Public House
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Tuesdays: Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre— 7 to 10 p.m.; 460-5299; jazzsociety.org.

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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



SEPTEMBER: NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

SEPTEMBER 1: NO RHYME NOR REASON DAY

SEPTEMBER 4: EAT AN EXTRA DESSERT DAY

SEPTEMBER 4: NATIONAL WILDLIFE DAY

SEPTEMBER 5: NATIONAL CHEESE PIZZA DAY

SEPTEMBER 5: NATIONAL FOOD BANK DAY

SEPTEMBER 6: INTERNATIONAL BACON DAY

SEPTEMBER 7: NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY

SEPTEMBER 11: PATRIOT DAY

SEPTEMBER 12: NATIONAL POLICE WOMAN DAY

SEPTEMBER 12: CHOCOLATE MILKSHAKE DAY

SEPTEMBER 13: INTERNATIONAL CHOCOLATE DAY

SEPTEMBER 14: NATIONAL COLORING DAY

SEPTEMBER 16: NATIONAL PLAY-DOH DAY

SEPTEMBER 17: CONSTITUTION DAY

SEPTEMBER 17: INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC DAY

SEPTEMBER 18: NATIONAL CHEESEBURGER DAY

SEPTEMBER 18: U.S. AIR FORCE DAY

SEPTEMBER 20: INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

SEPTEMBER 22: NATIONAL FAMILY DAY

SEPTEMBER 24: NATIONAL PUNCTUATION DAY

SEPTEMBER 26: AMERICAN INDIAN DAY

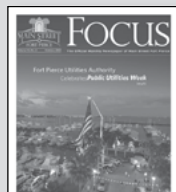
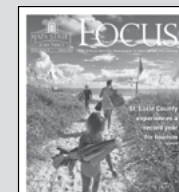
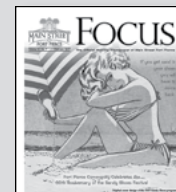
SEPTEMBER 26: NATIONAL KEY LIME PIE DAY

SEPTEMBER 28: NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL 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 **St. Lucie Economic Development Council at 25**

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



The **Economic Development Council** is celebrating its 25th year as an economic engine for St. Lucie County. Since 2017, 64 of the **EDC's** projects created or retained 21,721 jobs, according to the *Economic Strategy Center*. These 64 projects generated \$1.2 billion annually and an economic output of more than \$4.3 billion.

EDC has brought many companies to our county, including **Inkas**, a Toronto based manufacturer of armored vehicles, which will locate right here in Fort Pierce, as well as **SportLife**, a distributor of sports nutrition and health products. **EDC** helped *Treasure Coast Food Bank* locate their new warehouse and distribution facility in Fort Pierce and supported the enhancements at the **Treasure Coast International Airport**, which will make commercial air travel one step closer. **EDC** has assisted in the **Kings Landing** development and is helping the *City of Fort Pierce* and the **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** (FPUA) attract high-quality employers to the city's Western Corridor, along Kings Highway.

Founded in 2000 as a 501(c)(6) organization, the **EDC** has grown over the years in investors and partners. Annually, the **EDC** chooses the *Pete Hegener Award* winner, named after the founder of **Tradition**. This year, attorney Lee Dobbins was chosen for his 30-year career in shepherding development projects through government approvals. Previous winners have been attorney, Michael Minton, rancher and conservationist, Alto "Bud" Adams, former IRSC college president, Dr. Ed Massey, and former Senate President, Ken Pruitt, to name just a few.

Fort Pierce resident, Pete Tesch, has served as its CEO since 2014. Earlier this year, he announced he will be retiring at the end of 2025. He is not going anywhere because he loves Fort Pierce. *Florida Trend* named Tesch one of Florida's 500 most influential business leaders. Thank you, Pete, for your service. Happy 25th, **EDC**. 🏠



Sight and Sounds Parade Theme Announced: Fort Pierce Through The Decades

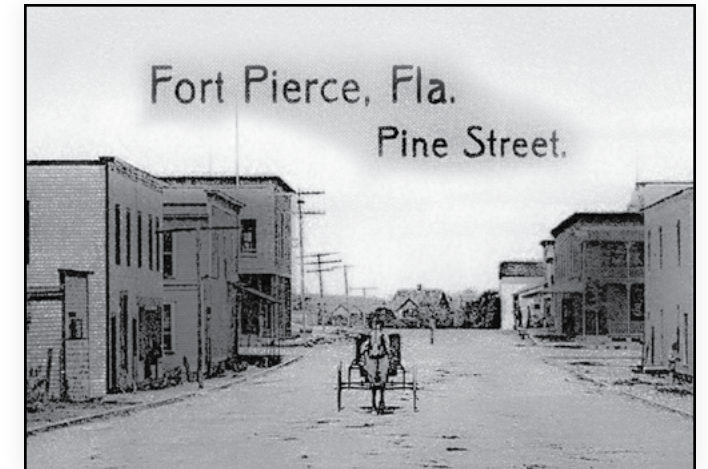
This year's *Sights and Sounds Parade* theme will both bring the community together to celebrate the holidays and usher in the start of a year of celebrations coming in 2026 for several local organizations (100 years for **St. Anastasia Catholic School**, the **Fort Pierce Elks Lodge** and the **Sunrise Kiwanis**), as well as the *City* itself (125 years). Fort Pierce was incorporated on February 2, 1901, and since its inception it has witnessed many local, national and international events. The *Fort Pierce Through the Decades* theme invites parade participants to pick a special decade or event in local, pop culture, or world history as their theme. Ideas include:

- *1901* — Sunrise City, Pioneers (Cattle, citrus, pineapples, railroad, oysters);
- *1920s* — Florida Land Boom era, Flappers, Jazz music, early automobiles, architecture;
- *1930s and 1940s* — World War II Navy UDT training, fishing, New Deal projects;
- *1950s through 1960s* — Local *Florida Hall of Fame* artists, Rock n' Roll music, classic cars, treasure hunting, carhops, space missions, Indian River Junior College;
- *1970s through 1980s* — Fashion, surfing, conservation, I-95 opens through St. Lucie County, growth, computers;

1990s through 2000 — Internet, **Manatee Center**, **Fort Pierce Farmer's Market**, historic restoration;

2001 through Present — Technology, downtown revitalization, 2004 hurricanes.

For more inspiration, visit the **St. Lucie County Regional History Center** or the **St. Lucie County Historical Society Bud Adams-Cobb Cultural Center** on the 2nd floor of the **P.P. Cobb Building**. There are many helpful volunteers that can help with ideas. www.stluciehistoricalsociety.net. 🏠



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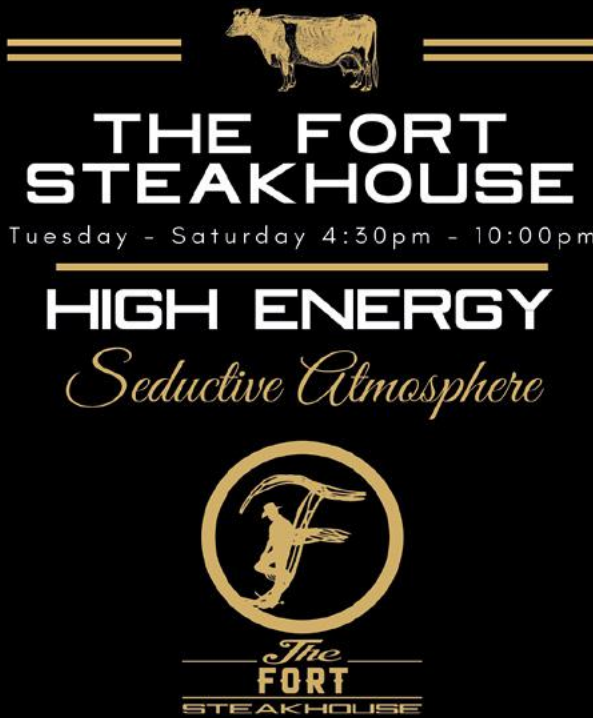
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FPUA Utility Advisory Committee *Youth Career Event* September 3 Connecting Fort Pierce Youth to Local Career Opportunities

The **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) Utility Advisory Committee (UAC)** is inviting local students and young adults to “Power Up Your Future” at the *2025 Youth Career Event* on Wednesday, September 3, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the **FPUA Energy Services Center**, 1701 S 37th Street, Fort Pierce.

This free community event is designed to introduce young people to the wide range of career pathways available within **FPUA**, from entry-level positions to apprenticeships and internships. Attendees will meet directly with **FPUA** employees from multiple departments, explore hands-on exhibits, and learn about the skills, benefits, and opportunities available in their hometown’s utility industry.

“Our goal is to show our young people that they don’t have to leave Fort Pierce to find a rewarding, stable career,” said Pearl Davis-Liverpool, **FPUA** Board member and former member of the UAC. “Whether you’re a high school student, a college graduate, or a licensed professional, there’s a place for you at **FPUA**.”

The event builds on the success of last year’s inaugural career fair, which attracted more than 100 attendees and featured live coverage on *WPBF News*. This year’s expanded format will include more interactive activities, earlier outreach to local schools and youth organizations, and printed listings of current job openings.

Event Highlights:

- Opportunities for high school graduates, college students, and licensed professionals;
- Direct access to **FPUA** employees and department representatives;
- Interactive exhibits showcasing real-world utility work;
- Information on entry-level jobs, apprenticeships, and internships;
- Giveaways and hands-on activities.

The UAC, a citizen-led committee formed in 2021, works to strengthen communication between **FPUA** and the community it serves. Hosting events like the *Youth Career Event* helps achieve **FPUA’s** strategic goal of building a strong local workforce and inspiring the next generation of utility professionals.

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 the *Utility Advisory Committee (UAC)*: The UAC is a volunteer citizen committee established to foster transparency, build trust, and provide a conduit for community feedback on **FPUA** services. By creating engagement opportunities like the *Youth Career Event*, the UAC supports **FPUA’s** mission to serve the community and plan for the future. 🏠

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Not All Plants Play Nice: How to Spot and Stop Invasives in Your Yard

by Sara Salgado MacDonald

Not all pretty plants are good for Florida’s environment. Two popular garden choices, tropical milkweed and zebra inchplant, may look attractive, but experts warn they can harm our native plants, animals, and ecosystems.

For years, tropical milkweed has been plant-



ed to help monarch butterflies. Its bright orange and yellow flowers are eye-catching, and it grows easily in many gardens. However, this plant is not native to Florida, and scientists have discovered it can cause serious problems. Tropical milkweed can make monarchs breed year-round instead of migrating, spread a butterfly disease called OE, and reduce pollination of native milkweed species that are healthier for monarchs. Because of these concerns, tropical milkweed is now on the Florida Invasive Species Council’s Category II list, plants that are spreading and could cause major problems if we don’t act early.

Zebra inchplant, known for its striking purple and silver leaves, is another common ornamental plant that poses risks. Often used as a groundcover, it grows quickly and spreads into shady natural areas, where it pushes out native plants and lowers habitat quality for wildlife, including the gopher tortoise. Like tropical milkweed, zebra inchplant is listed as a Category II invasive. While it hasn’t caused widespread damage yet, experts say it shows signs that it will be possible in the future.

Gardeners can help by choosing native alternatives. Instead of tropical milkweed, plant swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) or butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), which support healthy monarch populations. Instead of zebra inchplant, try native groundcovers like frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*) or sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*), which provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Choosing the right plants not only keeps Florida’s wildlife healthy but also protects our natural areas. It supports the *Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program*, which encourages using plants that fit our climate, save water, and avoid harming the environment. When you plant native species, you are helping preserve Florida’s beauty and biodiversity for future generations.

For more information on invasive plants and native alternatives, visit Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Plant Guide: <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/>. 🏠

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Manatees, Mangroves, and Magic: Learning at the Lagoon

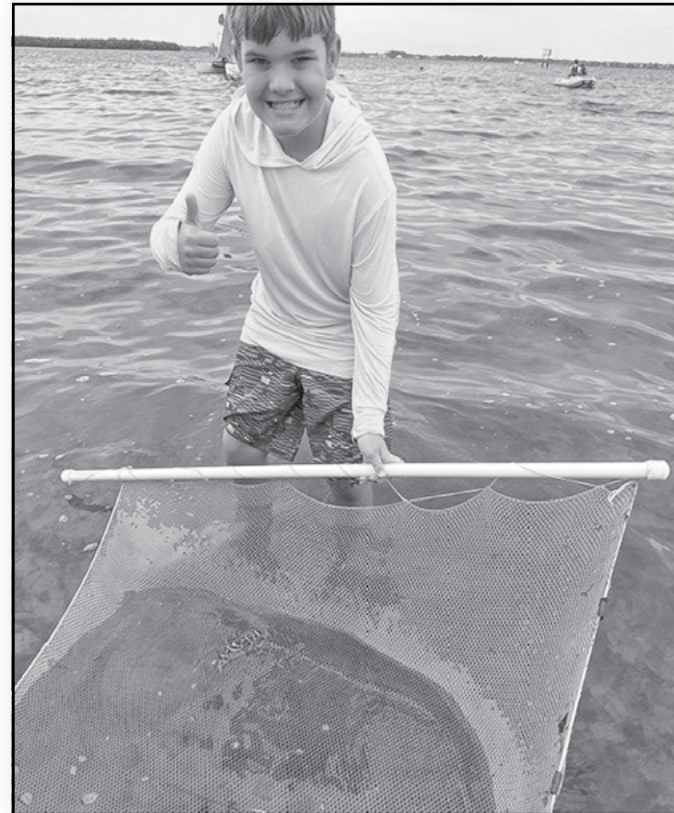
As the school year kicks into gear, the **Manatee Center** is buzzing with energy — not just from curious students, but from the wild wonders of the *Indian River Lagoon* itself. Nestled in the heart of Fort Pierce, the Center has become a beloved destination for locals and visitors alike. But beyond its reputation as a must-see spot, it's also a hub for hands-on conservation education that's shaping the next generation of nature stewards.

Educational programs at the **Manatee Center** are designed with discovery in mind. Whether students are wading into the *Lagoon* with nets in hand or peering into a touch tank filled with marine critters, each experience invites them to connect with Florida's ecosystems in meaningful, memorable ways.

Learning at the Lagoon isn't just a tagline — it's a philosophy. Through immersive field trips, both on-site and off-site, students explore the delicate balance of life in and around the *Lagoon*. They learn how manatees serve as keystone species, why mangroves matter, and how watersheds affect the health of our waterways. And they do it all with muddy feet, wide eyes, and minds full of questions.

Teachers consistently give these programs top marks. When asked to rate their experience from 1 to 5, the answer is almost always the same: "5! The students remind us all the time how important it is to take care of the Florida ecosystem around

us." "5! Absolutely had a great time — students are already looking forward to returning next year." "5! From the students' perspective, there's never enough time! They loved seining for marine creatures and identifying them through your catalog."



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Here's a glimpse of what's offered:

On-Site Field Trips: *Manatee 101* – Dive into the lives of Florida's gentle giants and learn how to protect them; *Scavenger Hunt & Tour* – Explore Moore's Creek and the Center's grounds in search of wildlife and hidden treasures; *Mangrove / Touch Tank* – Meet marine critters up close and learn their ecological roles; *Wild Fish Feed Adventure* – Visit the Fort Pierce City Marina to feed and identify local fish; *Watershed Demonstration* – A splashy, hands-on lesson about clean water and its impact on the Lagoon.

Off-Site Field Trips: *Seining Program* – Wade into the Lagoon at Jaycee Park to discover fish, crabs, and more; *Critters-To-Go* – We bring live touch-tank animals to your classroom for an engaging marine lesson; *Eco Boat Tour* – Cruise the Lagoon by pontoon boat and scout for manatees, dolphins, and sea turtles.

Programs are tailored to fit the needs and budgets of schools, homeschools, and camps — because at the **Manatee Center**, learning by doing isn't just encouraged, it's celebrated.

Whether you're a parent, educator, or lifelong learner, the **Manatee Center** offers a chance to reconnect with nature and rediscover the magic of the Lagoon. It's not just a field trip — it's a journey into the heart of Florida's coastal ecosystems. 🏠



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September Spa Day at Notions & Potions!

Notions & Potions, the Pink Moon Beauty Lounge and Heather Muise LMT invite you to join them on Saturday, September 20th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a rejuvenating spa day focused on self care and education.

Enjoy refreshing beverages, soothing massages, free samples (while supplies last) and the opportunity for retail therapy to enhance your wellness experience.

Refreshments will accompany education on skin care, salt scrubs, and massages.

Massages will be available for \$1 per minute and for a little aroma therapy, come be the first to smell the Notions & Potions fall collection candle debut.

It's the perfect relaxing day as we transition from summer into fall! 🏠

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SHOP SMART

SHOP LOCAL

The A.E. Backus Museum Invites Artists to Enter Annual Juried Exhibition: *The Best of the Best*



The **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** is pleased to announce the opening of its *Call to Artists* for the 2025 edition of its annual juried art exhibition, *The Best of the Best*. This long-standing community favorite celebrates diverse artistic talent across the region and offers a dynamic platform for both amateur and professional artists to showcase their work.



Entries will be accepted by advance appointment Wednesdays through

Sundays until 3:00 pm, from September 3 through September 26, 2025. Artists may enter up to three works per 15-minute appointment; additional entries require separate bookings. Entry forms and guidelines are available online at www.BackusMuseum.org or at the Museum beginning September 3, located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

- Artists are invited to submit in one of four media categories:
- Oil & Acrylic Painting;
 - Watercolor (including gouache and tempera);
 - Varied Techniques (including mixed media, pastel, drawing,

printmaking, graphics, collage, and computer-generated works);

- Three-Dimensional Works.

The exhibition offers cash awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category, as well as the coveted *Best of Show* title. Visitors will also vote throughout the run for the *People's Choice Award*, announced at the end of the exhibition.

Accepted artists and award winners will be announced online by Friday evening, October 3, 2025.

The exhibition kicks off the Museum's 2025–2026 Season with an Opening Reception on October 4, from 6:00–8:00 p.m., followed by Free Admission on Sunday, October 5. It will remain on view during regular hours through November 14, 2025.

Competition entry is \$30 per artwork. Appointments must be scheduled in advance online through the *Call to Artists* link at www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows. A full prospectus outlining submission guidelines, presentation requirements, and eligibility details is available. 🏠

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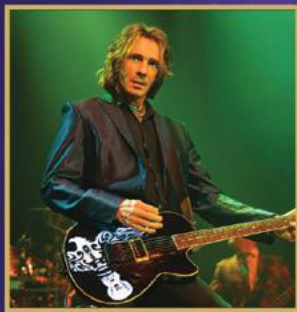
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Notes from the Garden:

The Soil is Turned at First Church's Community Garden

Providing vegetables to neighbors, with limited access to fresh produce, is the dream of First Church's Community Garden. As all gardeners know, the work ahead of the harvest is the key.

The soil has been turned and treated in the Community Garden. Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation (ASD), a biological soil treatment method has been used to rid the Community Garden of pests like nematodes. Molasses and water, with a bit of chicken manure added, beef up the "good" soil microbes. That means more efficient production in the Community Garden, and more nutritious fresh produce to share with our community. First Church hopes to increase the many thousands of pounds that were shared with ministry partners last season. It's a challenge that the Garden team at First Church is excited to meet.



Every garden presents its own special challenge. Curious, hungry peacocks are First Church Community Garden's special challenge. So, last month the gardeners spent ample time planning for "peacock protection." The protection cloth allows light to reach the plants while keeping out critters. That preparation will definitely pay off, as planting in the Garden's raised beds begins this month. It's still hot and humid in Fort Pierce, but now is the time for planting a number of well loved vegetables. The Community Garden gardeners will soon start heat tolerant

varieties of collards, tomatoes and peppers. Our local peacocks would love to have a taste of those young plants. So far, the "peacock protection" is working.

You can catch a glimpse of the Community Garden as you drive west on Avenue A between US 1 and 7th Street. Look for the sign that sits among the grove of Olive Trees in the First Church overflow parking. You may find one of the resident peacocks atop the garden fence. Many mornings you'll spot the gardeners from First Church hard at work.



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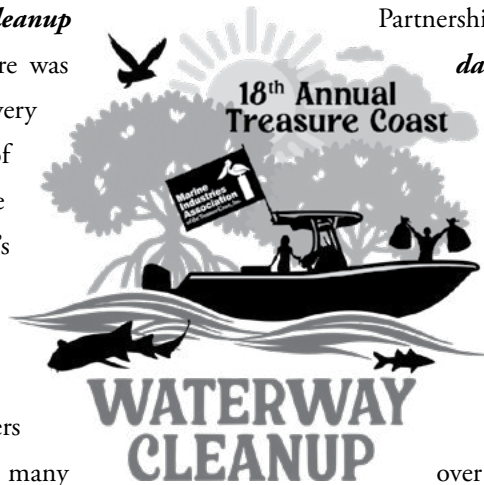
18th Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup Another Great Success!

by Robynn Holland, Community Liaison

The *Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup* continued for the 18th Year. There was great community participation on this very hot day with more than 400 pounds of trash being collected and turned in at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** site. This year's chairperson for the **FPYC** collection point was past commodore, Forest Blanton. He was assisted by Mike and Sherry Lee, two wonderful new members who have jumped right in to help with many events. Mike and Sherry helped Forest welcome community members who came to participate as well as checking in participants, distributing cleanup materials, and weighing the trash after it was collected.

Other members of the **FPYC** were also involved including Victoria Westphal, Ken Milner, Donna Speciale and Gary Bradford who helped clean up trash along the shore. It is always a win when the community comes together, and when the weather is sweltering it is even a bigger win.

The event is coordinated by the **Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast (MIATC)** and both the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** and the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation** were sponsors.



Partnerships are very important to the **FPYC/Foundation** and our community partners were busy doing great work this summer with kids and young adults. Below is a brief glimpse of some of the summer activities the **FPYC/Foundation** helped support through donations.

Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation – from Ernie Small

The **TCYSF** summer camp closed with over 138 participants, of which 58 were from the **Courageous Kids'** scholarship program. We went through 42 large pizzas plus gallons of sunblock, and over 50 gallons of water, plus a couple gallons of vinegar for those fire ants bites.

I can honestly say that 100% of our students had a wonderful time and all want to come back next summer. (P.S. — everybody loved our capsized drill.)

Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County – from Gaby Simpson
2025 Summer Swim Lessons at Lincoln Park Pool: Total youth reached: 69 (ages 6 – 16). Sessions completed: 22 group lessons.

What the FPYC Foundation Support Made Possible

First-ever lessons for many: More than half of participants had never been in formal swim instruction. By week 2 they

were confidently floating, kicking, and practicing safe pool entry/exit.

Skill progression: 95% mastered basic water-safety skills, and 60% advanced to beginner free-style strokes.

Confidence & joy: Counselors noted a visible shift — children who once clung to the wall were racing to show their new kicks, shouting, “Watch me dive!”

From tentative first splashes to triumphant cannonballs, these six short weeks transformed 69 young lives. Thank you **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation** for turning the pool into a place of possibility.

Stella Maris Environmental Research: Wesley Island Eco Camp – Ashley Miller Chelberg
Ashley, founder and director of the **Wesley Island Eco Camp**, expressed her upmost gratitude to the **FPYC/Foundation** for making their summer program possible. She said without the support of the members of the **FPYC**, the summer program would not have been possible. Many of the children served come from homes with limited resources and they were able to see so many possibilities and have so many new experiences because of the generosity of the members of the **FPYC**.

E.N.D. IT! Celebrating their 15th year anniversary, Skip and Sonia DuPree, founders of **E.N.D. IT!** once again ended the 8-week summer camp with a marvelous presentation. This year's program was *Disney's Camp Rock* and was held at the *McAlpin Fine Arts Theater* at Indian Rive State College. The students sang, danced, and acted into the hearts of the audience, resulting in a standing ovation at the end of the performance.

Project Lift — Shawn Keil, Executive Director, St. Lucie County, of **Project Lift** was busy all summer overseeing the Fort Pierce Branch of **Project Lift**. What an amazing job **Project Lift** does redirecting young men and women to a life with hope, skills, and a new direction. And this year, guess what? The young men and women at **Project Lift** built the props for the **E.N.D. IT!** presentation of *Camp Rock!* How exciting to see how organizations come together and support each other in the community!

The **FPYC** is proud to be able to be a small part of the wonderful success of all of these amazing and giving organizations. 🏠





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TREASURES OF THE PAST

125 years ago this month as reported in the August 31, 1900 edition of the Florida Star

Bits of Fact and Gossip Current Events of the Present Week Portrayed in Brief

The steam tug Guitterno Lopez, with two cattle schooners from Havana, is in port at Miami awaiting the arrival of 500 head of beef cattle, which they will transport to Havana. The cattle are expected to arrive from Fort Pierce.

125 years ago this month as reported in the September 7, 1900 edition of the Florida Star

W.P. Underwood, agent for the Gray engine, returned Tuesday from Fort Pierce, where he has been to install a two horse power engine in Mr. H.G. Bronson's launch.

125 years ago this month as reported in the September 20, 1900 edition of the Weekly Tribune (Tampa)

Lamar Hunstman left on Friday morning for Ft. Pierce, having accepted a position as salesman for the Western Union Telegraph Co.

100 years ago this month as reported in the September 1, 1925 edition of the Fort Pierce Tribune

Did you come to Florida from some other state?

Chamber wants to know

Sec. Kessler seeks information so that he can put newcomers in touch with friends here.

Remember that old song, "Are You From Dixie?" Well, the Chamber of Commerce is today asking the same question and also queries, "Are you from Maine, California, Texas, or any other part of these grand and glorious United States?"

The Chamber seeks this information so that it can put friends from the old home town in touch with you. The move is the result of persons calling the Chamber headquarters every day and asking the whereabouts of friends and acquaintances.

"Is Bill Jones of Kalamazoo in town now?" asks a big powerful man from Michigan, who has just parked his car and drops into the Chamber's headquarters on Orange Avenue in quest of his friend, - "Bill came down this way a couple of years ago and the last we heard of his he was located in Fort Pierce," he continues. "Been told he has made a good pile in real estate. Fine fellow, Bill. Know where I can find him?"

Mrs. Herman Engelman, chief assistant to Secretary B.R. Kessler, answers these kind of questions many times a day. If the man is at all prominent she knows where he can be located. There are many instances, however, due to the influx of persons from the north who have located here within the past few months, that the staff is unable to give the required information.

Secretary Kessler is anxious to provide this service for tourists and visitors, hence he suggests that persons now residing here hand in their name, state and city from which they came. A list will be compiled and then when visitors call at the Chamber

they will always be able to obtain the address of their friends.

75 years ago this month as reported in the September 10, 1950 edition of the Fort Pierce Tribune

State TB Official Will Speak Here

Dr. C.M. Sharp, chairman of the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control of the State Board of Health in Jacksonville, will be in Fort Pierce on Tuesday and will speak at an open meeting to be held in the Community Center at 8 o'clock that evening. He will talk on the tuberculosis problem in Florida today.

Presidents of all civic organizations are urged to contact their members and urge their attendance, it was reported. The St. Lucie County Tuberculosis and Health Association will hold a meeting at the CC at 7 p.m. before the open meeting begins, it was stated.

Baby is Found To Have Polio

A case of poliomyelitis, described as "moderately severe," was reported Saturday afternoon by Dr. J. Ross Hague, county health officer, who said preliminary diagnosis had been confirmed by physicians at St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach.

The stricken child is the 11-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Flood, of 814 South 15th Street. The infant was under treatment for another ailment when polio symptoms were discovered, Dr. Hague revealed.

Quarantine precautions have been put into effect, he added.

This is the second polio case in Fort Pierce this year, the doctor added. The first was that of a boy who was taken ill

TREASURES OF THE PAST

while on a visit to Atlanta. He was in a convalescent stage when returned to Fort Pierce, he said.

75 years ago this month as reported in the September 10, 1900 edition of the Fort Pierce Tribune

Home Census Shows Big Gains Here in Ten Years

Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County nearly doubled the number of homes in this area between 1940 and 1950, according to the 1950 Federal Housing census released from Washington last night. The count gave Florida 961,084 dwelling units this year compared to 590,451 in 1940.

The Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County growth was ahead of the state as a whole, the report showed. Neighboring areas showed gains.

City or County	1940	1950
St. Lucie County	3,609	6,822
Fort Pierce	2,316	4,397
Brevard County	5,865	9,228
Broward County	15,944	36,397
Indian River	2,944	4,660

Martin County	2,511	3,290
Okeechobee County	905	1,101
Palm Beach County	28,360	48,890.

50 years ago this month as reported in the September 25, 1975 edition of the Fort Pierce Tribune

Downtown Cost Study To Be Eyed

A special meeting on the possibility of hiring the Urban Land Institute (U.L.I.) to study the economic feasibility of redeveloping Fort Pierce's Central Business District will be conducted Thursday, Oct. 2, according to an announcement made today by the city's Revitalization Committee.

The gathering, which will be held in the second floor meeting room of the First National Bank, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Gerald S. Church, Director of Membership Services for the Washington based U.L.I., will be the guest speaker according to Jim Holmes, chairman of the Committee.

"We feel this will be an extremely important meeting," commented Holmes, "as it could very well result

in some determination being made on what we want to do next in our efforts to improve our Central Business District." He added that besides the members of the revitalization committee, city commissioners and CBD property owners are also being urged to attend. Furthermore, the meeting is open to the general public.

The Urban Land Institute is well-known for its studies of blighted business areas and determining the economic feasibility of their redevelopment. Should the revitalization committee decide to employ U.L.I., the cost would be in the area of \$15,000 to \$25,000. Most likely the funding would have to come from private sources, explained Holmes.

The Fort Pierce Revitalization Committee decided to study the possibility of hiring U.L.I. after receiving a report from the Tampa planning firm of RMBR, which suggested certain projects for redeveloping Fort Pierce's Central Business District. However, since receiving the RMBR document, there have been questions raised on whether all or part of the suggestions are economically feasible to implement.

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Mains and Sides and an Occasional Surprise at the Market

Amid all the back to school hubbub we're adjusting to about now, don't forget that the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** has some great supplies for you. The Market is where you'll go to get away from the school supplies and organizers. You won't find uniforms or gym shoes here. What you'll enjoy finding at the Market is some of the freshest, finest flavors of Florida you can fawn over.

No matter what time of year it is, we still have to make dinner, right? So, stop by the Saturday market for some local beef steaks, sirloin tips or ground beef from **Adam's Ranch**. With the summer heat still hanging on, some of us prefer a lighter protein, like the fresh seafood from **Local Seas East Fisheries**. If you want to really impress at dinner, get a sampling from each booth for an ultimate surf and turf meal.

Of course, you'll need some impressive side dishes to pair with your main course and the Market has you covered. Find all the veggies you need at **The Friends Produce, Inc.** or **Broken Plow Farms**, and look for our seasonal produce vendors, to start back in the fall. We look forward to seeing what **Pure Produce Farm**, **Aunt Zaroda Farms** and **Organic Oasis Farms** will bring us this season.

You might want to pick up a supply of olive oil or infused vinegars to cook your veggies in so check out what **Olive Branch Markets** or **Alzaytoon Infused Oils** has to offer. **The Mushroom Guy** has the perfect exotic mushroom to top it off, or maybe **The Cheese Shoppe** is what you need to make the meal pop. And what doesn't make a meal pop better than fresh spices? Restock on all your salt-free spice mixes from **Wicked Good Spices**. For that perfect garnish with a burst of micronutrients in it, talk to **TopNotch Microgreens** or **PSL Microgreens Farm** — they can give you tips on how to pair flavors together.

If you think of it, grab your favorite snacks for you and those students while you're visiting the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** too. Every Saturday, rain or shine, you can pick up the perfect pick-me up or lunch box filler from vendors like



Kat's Southern Twang (those delicious pickles), or **King of Hummus**, or **We Be Poppin** (kettle corn), or even **Maier's Gourmet Popcorn** (the caramel is addicting). We even have **Flippin LLC** offering fried and boiled peanuts now. Those unique, occasional surprises in the cupboard make it easier to get through the week, am I right?

Lastly, don't forget the pets! They need to eat as well as you do, right? Well, **Dog Days Homemade Barkery** has a variety of dog treats to offer and check out the single ingredient, Florida sourced dog and cat treats that **Florida Man Pet Treats** has at their booth. The pets are part of the family too.

So, as the community kicks off the new school year around us and we get used to the fall routine, make the Saturday stop at the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** part of your regimen. Get in the habit of checking our Facebook page for a list of the vendors you'll see and a heads up on who will be entertaining you as you shop. Our vendors are here every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to bring you value-added, fresh-from-Florida goodness, rain or shine — it's a *Saturday morning tradition*. 🏠



Youth Banner Art Showcase – Submission Deadline October 10

The **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency** (FPRA) *Youth Banner Art Showcase* invites K-12 students to showcase their artistic creativity by designing new streetlight pole banners. Through this program, the FPRA funds the production and installation of the banners to be displayed within the designated redevelopment area, offering a unique platform for students to showcase their talents. This program not only celebrates local youth but also enhances public spaces with vibrant, student-inspired art. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to make a lasting impact on their community through their artistic vision.

Submission Deadline: October 10, 2025

Selection Period: November 11, 2025

Announcement of Selected Students: November 18, 2025

To apply and for a complete list of eligibility requirements, please visit: <https://www.choosefortpierce.com/1181/Youth-Banner-Art-Showcase>.

For more information about the FPRA *Youth Banner Art Showcase*, please call 772-828-9918 or email fp@cityoffortpierce.com.





PHOTOS BY MARK KRANER

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 Borreco/Pierce Harbor Realty** | 772-801-0750
- 108 N Depot Dr. | **Eric Reikenis/SLC Commercial** | 561-339-1344

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JOIN MAIN STREET FORT PIERCE

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 Fort Pierce** 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.

Main Street Fort Pierce Membership Levels

- COMMUNITY**
- ✓ Downtown Dreamer (Friend of Main Street): \$50.00
 - ✓ Pierce Pioneer (Family): \$100.00
 - ✓ Sunrise City Patron: \$500.00 and above
- Membership Benefits:**
- › Free Main Street Focus Magazine home delivery
 - › Unlimited attendance to Coffee with the Mayor
 - › Email newsletter with Downtown updates
 - › Early bird access to events such as Art Shows
 - › Downtown digital map directory
 - › Invitation to Annual Main Street Meeting & Celebration

- SPONSOR**
- ✓ Bronze: \$1,000.00
 - ✓ Silver: \$2,500.00
 - ✓ Gold: \$5,000.00
 - ✓ Platinum: \$5,000.00
- Additional Membership Benefits:**
- › Logo on website with link to site
 - › Early access to title sponsorships

- BUSINESS**
- ✓ CommUNITY Trailblazer (less than 10 employees): \$150.00
 - ✓ Horizon Hero (11-50 employees): \$250.00
 - ✓ Legacy Builder (51 or more employees): \$400.00
- Additional Membership Benefits:**
- › Free entrance to educational business seminars
 - › Included on **MSFP** website with link
 - › Discounted advertising rates in *Indian River Magazine*

Join Us Today!
Call **Main Street Fort Pierce**
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My New Life with an Artist

by Buddy Allison, penned by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery

Hil I'm Buddy — nickname, Snaussy Dog, thanks to my slightly sausage-like shape. These days, I'm living my best life with artist, Lisa Jill Allison, and her buddy Brad. I want to tell you a little about the value of art culture and community from a dog's-eye view. Honestly, none of this was on my radar as a pup. My early world was all about survival: absentee guardians, lots of kennel time, and a real lack of community. By dog trainer standards, I was considered difficult if not hopeless. I felt alone, insecure, and misunderstood.

Fast-forward to the happiest day of my life — adoption day! What a world I found myself in. I now had a forever home, and much to my delight, I was surrounded by art of all sorts. Paintings of nature filled the space bringing my favorite place (the outdoors!) inside with lush, colorful, palms, dancing, seascapes, and vibrant florals.

But what truly touched my little doggie heart were the paintings of Rosy, the beloved pet, who had lived here before me. You could see the love in every brushstroke. It was clear Rosy had been deeply loved and content — and I knew this would be my future too.

And then there's the music—always playing! I've developed a real ear for 90s pool party mixes. Movie nights? I'm a fan. August Rush really spoke to me. And the food! Ethnic dishes are served daily, and I'm never forgotten when it comes to the last bite.

Rich conversations flow through the house, and I've become part of a true community. Neighborhood playdates are a regular thing — an amazing, mixed pack of all sizes, shapes, ages, and backgrounds. We learn and grow from each other. It's pure magic.

I can proudly say I'm now a well-adjusted pup. Being surrounded by art — and all its forms — has helped heal my past and opened the door to a fuller, happier, more connected life.

So, thank you, Lisa & Brad for showing me this joyful new world. And here's my advice to you humans: rub shoulders with the arts — in all their forms — and watch your coat shine. Downtown Fort Pierce is blooming with art and culture. Art galleries, shops featuring hand-crafted and local items, ethnically diverse restaurants and music galore, all eagerly awaiting your visit. 🏠



Snook Season Greetings

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

Every local angler knows the first of September means the start of snook season and the chance to put this delicious catch back on your family dinner menu. The second open season of the year runs from September 1 through December 14th when anglers are allowed to keep one of these highly sought-after but elusive fish per day. They are easily recognizable by that distinctive black lateral line that extends on to the tail and the reason why some dedicated anglers call them linesiders. At *Pullin Drag* we call them trophies!

We target snook around areas with fast moving currents like bridges, docks, jetties, and mangroves. Hooking a fighting snook never disappoints, but be aware, they are smart enough to run to these nearby structures and try to break the line. I recommend a spinning reel combo with 40-pound fluorocarbon leader and a tight drag. The best bait choices are live mullet, pilchards, threadfins, or mojarra but they are aggressive enough to hit artificials and shrimp, too. If you are fortunate enough to get one in the slot of 28 inches to 32 inches, you will have earned bragging rights and a delicious dinner.

The offshore bite has been amazing with nice mahi, kingfish, and cobia landing on deck. Kingfish is highly favored for smoking and then making smoked fish dip. Let me know if you want my famous smoked dip recipe. Bottom fishing remains a proven strategy as we are consistently pulling in mangroves and muttuns using live and cut bait on 50-100 foot reefs. Snappers are tough fighters and that first pull starts all the excitement. Mangroves have white, flaky meat that's ideal cooked any way you like ... grilled, baked, fried, pan seared, ceviche.

Our *Fishy Photo of the Month* shows Sid with one stellar snook! Awesome catch, Sid!

[Happy Birthday shout-out to my mom for her birthday this month!]



captainbofishing@gmail.com | 772-971-6661

You can learn more about fishing rules and regulations plus get great gear at our local shops like **DeBrooks Fishing Center**, **White's Tackle**, and my historic home base, **Little Jim Bait & Tackle**. If you're ready to book a trip to hook a snook, you just need to get *Pullin Drag!* 🏠



MAIN STREET KIDS COLORING PAGE

Can you find this building in downtown Fort Pierce?

RAULERSON BUILDING

131-139 NORTH 2ND STREET

1924



Architect: William W. Hatcher

The Raulerson Building gets its name from the Raulerson family, pioneer ranchers in the early days of St. Lucie County. It was architect Hatcher's first project to complete after being recruited from Alabama by builder C.E. Cahow. The Raulerson Building has been used for retail and office space since it was built. It is as practical and elegant today as it was in the 1920's. If you guessed it is a Mediterranean style building, you were right.

Read over this list of details; see how many you find in the Raulerson Building.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Arch | 4. Balustrade | 7. Barrel Tile |
| 2. Decorative Band | 5. Balcony | 8. Bracket |
| 3. Tall Window | 6. Tower | 9. Molding |



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Get Ready, Fort Pierce, to Roll Up Your Sleeves!

Join the battle against litter through our next *Community Cleanup Day!* It's time for our vibrant community to unite and show that together, we can turn the tide on trash. Whether

you're picking up a stray wrapper or organizing a full-blown cleanup event, every little bit helps.

We are eager to get to know the amazing individuals behind the incredible impact our community is making. We invite you to share your cleanup photos through the *Litter Cleanup Report Form*, where your contributions will not only be celebrated but also help us track the positive changes we are creating together.

Plus, it's a convenient way to request trash bag removal, making your participation even easier. Let's come together to beautify Fort Pierce, and we can't wait to see your smiling faces in action! See you soon, and let's keep shining bright as a community. 🏠

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