

# CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



JUNE 2025

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## National Police Week

National Police Week, May 12-18, 2025, served as a time of remembrance and gratitude for law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. The Fort Pierce Police Department joined agencies across the nation in commemorating fallen heroes, supporting surviving families, and recognizing the courage required to serve and protect communities.

This year, tribute was paid to four officers from the Fort Pierce Police Department who lost their lives in the line of duty:

- **Captain Grover Cooper, III and Sergeant Jimmy Wouters**, who were tragically shot and killed on January 12, 1987, during a drug raid at a mobile home in White City.
- **Sergeant Willie B. Ellis**, who was shot and killed on July 17, 1986, after responding to a domestic disturbance call.

- **Sergeant Danny Parish**, who was fatally shot on January 18, 1991, while conducting a traffic stop.

Throughout the week, each of these brave officers was honored individually on the Police Department's social media platforms, ensuring their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

May 13, 2025 – Local and federal law enforcement agencies gathered at St. Bernadette Catholic Church for a memorial service honoring fallen officers.

May 18, 2025 – The 13th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day event was hosted by St. Paul AME Church, where the Fort Pierce Police Department's Honor Guard and command staff were present to participate in the celebration. This long-standing tradition honors officers who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to serve with distinction.



**NEW MURAL UNVEILED AT FORT PIERCE CITY HALL**

A new mural by artist Sitki Dogan now welcomes visitors to the lobby of Fort Pierce City Hall. The artwork, which prominently features a majestic peacock, is a vibrant celebration of the city's history, culture, and natural beauty. The peacock's tail feathers unfold into a colorful collage of iconic

Fort Pierce scenes, blending architectural landmarks with the city's coastal charm.

The mural transitions beautifully from a warm sunset on the left—featuring palm trees and historic buildings—to a serene waterfront scene on the right, complete with boats beneath the South Causeway Bridge.

Now a permanent fixture in City Hall, the mural is open to the public and stands as a lasting symbol of Fort Pierce's identity and welcoming spirit.

# PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

## BOARDING AND ROOMING HOUSES

The City Commission enacted an ordinance establishing standards for boarding houses and rooming houses in the City of Fort Pierce. These standards require such establishments to be clean, sanitary, safe, and fit for human habitation.

## UPDATE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

An Evaluation and Appraisal Review (EAR) of the City's Comprehensive Plan is required to ensure it reflects statutory changes. The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council has been appointed to conduct public outreach and input sessions to solicit suggestions and feedback on proposed changes. The Council will also update the data and analysis sections of each element of the Comprehensive Plan, review its elements, prepare the necessary amendments, and present the proposed changes at public hearing(s).



### MARGARITA VILLAS

The City Commission approved an application for the development of a 30-unit apartment complex under the Innovative Community Development process at 4101 Oleander Avenue. The site plan preserves 14 mature trees, maintains substantial buffers on all sides, and incorporates a rain garden/bioswale, walking paths, a shared patio, and pedestrian-level lighting.

## CAUSEWAY COVE

Currently under consideration is an application submitted under the "LIVE LOCAL ACT." This state-mandated process provides land use entitlements for eligible affordable housing developments. To qualify, a proposed project must set aside at least 40 percent of its total units as affordable rental units for income-eligible households for a minimum of 30 years. The City is required to permit multifamily and mixed-use residential developments in any area zoned for commercial, industrial, or mixed-use, subject to statutory parameters regarding density, height, floor area ratio, administrative approval, and certain parking standards. The proposed project includes five high-rise buildings featuring hotels, restaurants, and an event center, comprising over three million square feet. It will also include more than 1,000 residential units and over 200 boat slips.

The application is currently being processed, with updates provided to the Planning Board and City Commission as the review progresses.

## THE DISTRICT

A project known as "The District," located on 3.37 acres west of McNeil Road, has been approved. The project includes 18,000 square feet of commercial space for flex office/warehouse use and features modern architectural elements with vertical articulation and visual relief. Creative painted murals will be added to the side elevations.





# Annual Community Day Event

The Public Works Department teamed up with the City's Animal Adoption Center and Police Department to host the Annual Community Day Event on May 17th. Approximately 100 attendees joined in to enjoy food, music, and activities.

This event serves as an outreach effort, linking the community with city staff and providing valuable insights into city operations and programs in which to participate.

Highlights included:

- Public Works truck demonstrations
- Free face painting for kids
- Live oak tree giveaways
- Food, music, and more

If you would like to attend next year, make sure to sign-up for notifications on the City's website: [www.cityoffortpierce.com](http://www.cityoffortpierce.com).





# Keeping Our Community Safe

On May 20, 2025, at approximately 4:33 a.m. Fort Pierce Police Department officers responded to a stabbing incident in the 2500 block of Avenue I. Initial investigations by officers determined that the victim and an unknown female got into a verbal argument in the parking lot. During this argument, Jermie Jay Gaines was inside his vehicle. After a few moments, Gaines began walking toward the victim, beginning his own argument. Gaines then pulled out a knife from his pocket and stabbed the victim in the upper leg and then fled the scene in his vehicle.

Thanks to a BOLO and sharp recognition from a previous encounter by officers, Gaines was located within hours. Though he admitted to being there and claimed the victim owed him money, he denied the stabbing, despite surveillance footage showing otherwise.

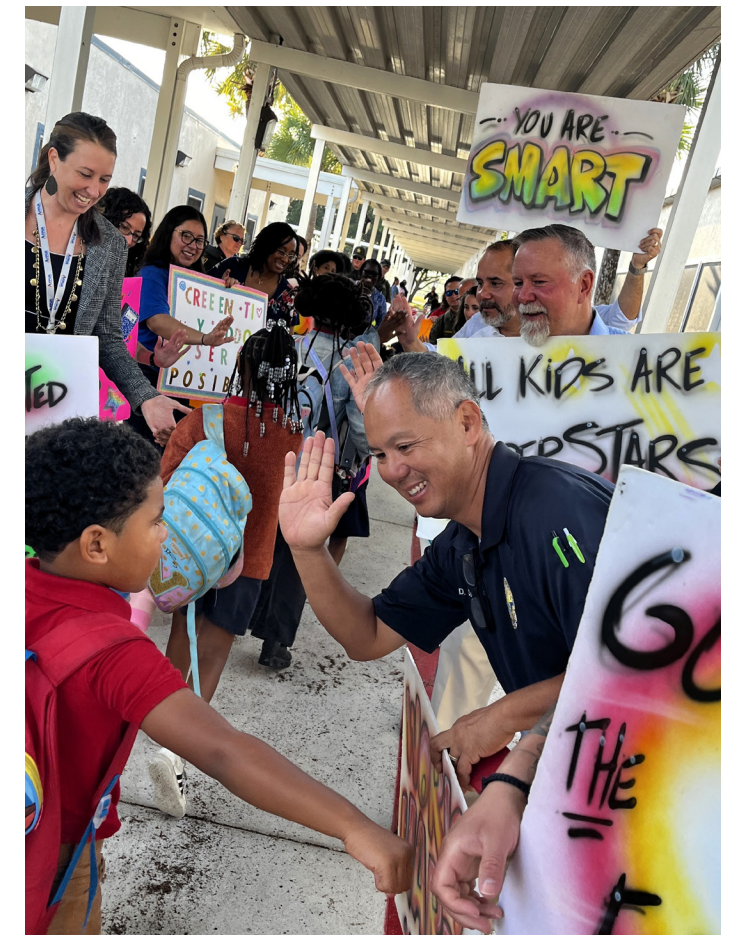
Gaines was arrested for Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapon and taken to the St. Lucie County Jail.

Great work by FPPD officers and detectives for quickly getting a violent criminal off the streets within hours and making the City of Fort Pierce a safer place to live!



# Tunnel of Hope

On May 6, 2025, the Fort Pierce Police Department proudly participated in FK Sweet Elementary School's Tunnel of Hope, a heartwarming event celebrating student achievement and perseverance. Officers joined teachers, staff, and community members to form a tunnel of cheers and encouragement as students arrived at school, offering high-fives, smiles, and support. The event highlighted the department's commitment to community engagement and uplifting local youth, reminding students that their hard work is recognized and their community stands behind them.



### 2005-2085 S JENKINS RD

Construction of the three-story apartment buildings and single-story garages at the corner of Jenkins Rd and Graham Rd is rapidly progressing. These wood frame buildings are utilizing the ZIP system product which is essentially plywood with an integrated air and water-resistant barrier that delivers moisture and air protection in one combined system.



### 4429 S US HWY 1

A major renovation is underway at Coggin BMW. The project includes both interior and exterior renovation of the existing automotive dealership with an attached service shop and second floor office space. The renovation includes new finishes, ceilings, casework, and furniture. The exterior aluminum composite materials (ACM) panels have been demolished and replaced with an exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS) that provides a finished, insulated and water resistant surface. The EIFS work was being done while these pictures were being taken.



## 2011 S US HWY 1

Formerly known as Burlington Coat Factory, Burlington is coming soon! With most of the final inspections approved, this 23,000 square foot discount clothing and retail store will be opening soon!

### Florida

07/11 - **Tampa (#375)**

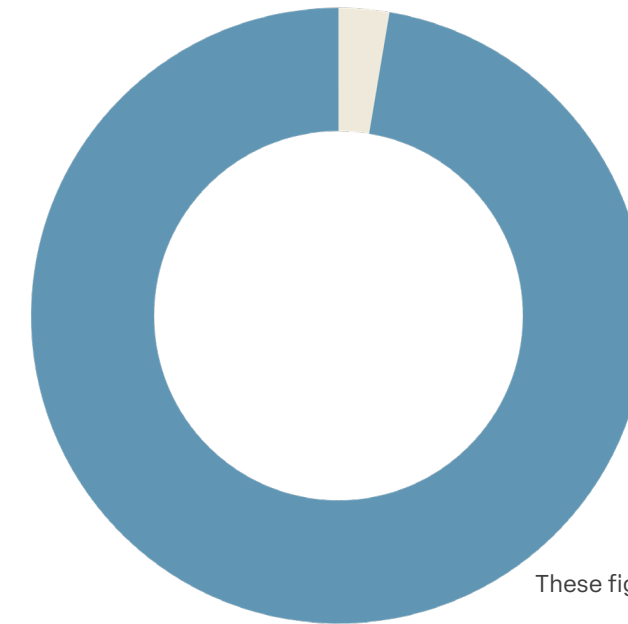
2160 E Fowler Ave

07/18 - **Fort Pierce (#1612)**

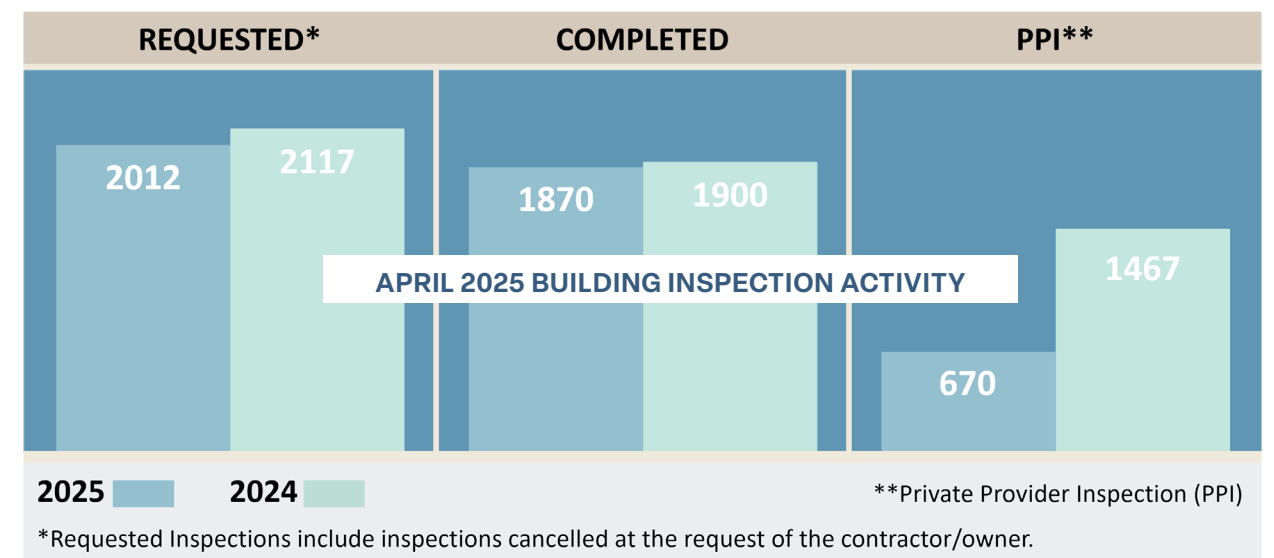
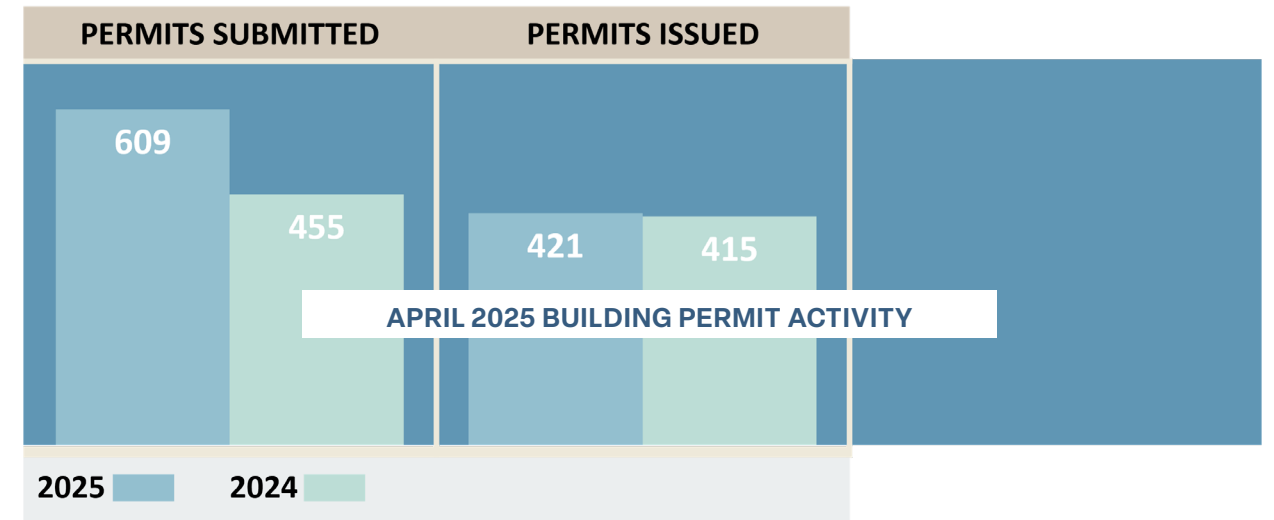
2011 S US Hwy 1

07/25 - **Miami Lakes (#1650)**

16000 NW 57th Ave



These figures are based on permits issued in April 2025 for New Construction



# April 2025 SeeClickFix Summary

CATEGORY	DISTRICT 1				DISTRICT 2			
	CREATED	CLOSED	DTA	DTC	CREATED	CLOSED	DTA	DTC
Living In a Structure Without Utilities	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.0	30.7
Unpermitted Construction Activity	1	0	0.0	0.0	1	0	7.0	0.0
Unsafe Structure	1	0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-
Abandoned Vehicle	-	-	-	-	1	1	1.4	4.2
General	1	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0.0	6.9
Illegal Dumping	1	0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-
Outside Storage/Junk/Trash	-	-	-	-	4	0	3.6	0.0
Erosion and Sediment Control Issues	-	-	-	-	1	0	0.0	0.0
Traffic Signal	2	0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-
Parks and Playgrounds	-	-	-	-	4	1	0.4	6.7
Pothole	4	2	0.9	7.4	2	0	1.0	0.0
Street Sign	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.0	0.2
Trash and Recycling	2	1	1.4	1.0	4	0	0.0	0.0
Trees	1	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	2.0	17.3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>11.0</b>

DTA - Days to Acknowledgement DTC - Days to Close

Please use this link to view a map of the Fort Pierce City Commission Election Districts: <https://cityoffortpierce.com/DocumentCenter/View/22378/City-Election-Districts-Map-2022>

- BUILDING
- COMMUNITY RESPONSE
- ENGINEERING
- PUBLIC WORKS

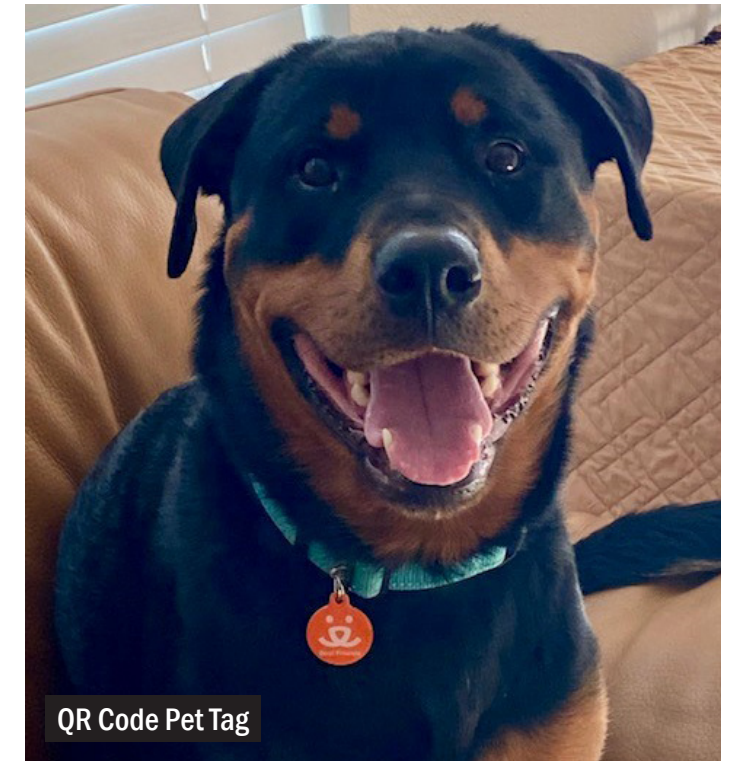
## FORT PIERCE SELECTED FOR NATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM TO REUNITE LOST PETS WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Fort Pierce Animal Services Division is proud to announce that the Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center (FPAAC) has been selected as one of only 25 shelters nationwide to participate in the Network Neighbors pilot project, a new initiative led by Best Friends Animal Society and supported by Petco Love Lost.

The Network Neighbors program addresses the alarming number of lost pets—an estimated 10 million annually in the U.S.—by empowering local communities to assist in reunification efforts. In Fort Pierce, this has included distributing bilingual yard signs in key areas identified through data analysis as having a high incidence of stray dog intakes. These signs feature a QR code linked to Petco Love Lost, an AI-powered tool that helps match found pets with their families before they ever reach the shelter.

A cornerstone of this effort is community participation. Residents in these focus neighborhoods have been invited to serve as “safe havens” for lost pets, offering them temporary shelter while attempts to locate their families are made. This grassroots approach strengthens neighborhood engagement and reduces the number of animals unnecessarily entering the shelter system.

To support the program’s launch, FPAAC also hosted free events where pet owners could receive complimentary QR Code Pet Tags generously provided by PetHub. These tags are scannable and link to pet profiles that can help reunite lost animals with their families quickly and securely.



QR Code Pet Tag

In addition to community benefits, participation in this national program opens up grant funding opportunities through Best Friends Animal Society and Petco Love, supporting continued efforts in lost pet reunification, shelter improvement, and lifesaving programs.

This pilot is a promising step forward in Fort Pierce’s ongoing commitment to compassionate animal care and community partnership, helping ensure that more pets find their way back home where they belong.



Network Neighbor Yard Sign

# Indian Hills Golf Course



## INDIAN HILLS GOLF COURSE

The fiscal year has started positively. As of May, approximately 700 more rounds have been played compared to the same period last year, with Green Fee Revenue ahead by \$65,000. While continued effort is required, improved course conditions have significantly contributed to early success.

An aggressive summer course maintenance program began in mid-May. The first greens aeration was completed on Tuesday, May 6, and Wednesday, May 7, resulting in excellent recovery and growth. All 18 tees and several fairways have been spiked to reduce compaction and improve the effectiveness of oxygen and fertilizer. Weed control measures have been implemented, with weeds turning yellow and being suppressed by emerging turfgrass. A second large-scale greens maintenance is scheduled for early September.

Throughout the summer, several fairways will be top-dressed with topsoil to address uneven areas and enhance playability, creating a smoother surface for both shots and cart travel.

Expansion of several smaller tees is underway to accommodate increasing play. This summer, the tee complexes on holes #11 and #12 will be expanded by nearly 40%,

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

allowing for more frequent rotation of tee markers and better playing surfaces during peak winter months.

Over two years ago, a turf doctor and a turf specialist were consulted, conducting multiple water and soil analyses. Their expertise has proven valuable, and their use of organic liquid fertilizers has produced immediate benefits for turfgrass health and vigor.

The new Pickleball Courts are anticipated to open by mid-June. Remaining installations include wind screens, signage, and other peripheral items. An affordable annual membership will be offered to provide convenient access and avoid the congestion commonly found at free public courts.

Word of mouth remains the most effective form of promotion. Visitors who appreciate recent improvements are encouraged to share the experience with others. Feedback on areas needing improvement is welcomed and will be used to guide continued enhancement efforts. Appreciation is extended to all members and guests for ongoing support. For frequent updates on course conditions and maintenance projects, please consider following the facility on Facebook and Instagram.

SALES REPORT		MARCH 2025	APRIL 2025
	Golf Rounds	5,718	4,441
	Golf Fees	\$187,362.24	\$137,553.49
	Range Tokens	\$5,545.41	\$3,898.82
	Membership Pass	\$2,692.42	\$2,069.36
	Food & Beverages	\$14,240.98	\$11,193.26
	Merchandise	\$8,123.61	\$4,739.68
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$217,964.66</b>	<b>\$159,454.61</b>



### River Walk Center Sales Report - April 2025



### APWA FLORIDA CHAPTER CONFERENCE

In May, members of the Public Works leadership team participated in the Annual American Public Works Association (APWA) Florida Chapter Conference held in Orlando, FL. The event served as a valuable platform for learning and networking with public works agencies from across the state. Key topics included operational development, advancements in technology, and effectiveness in service delivery.

The City of Fort Pierce Public Works Department is honored to be among the 30,000 APWA members throughout North America. APWA is committed to supporting public works agencies by providing:

- Training and development opportunities
- Insights into industry trends, equipment, and best practices
- Guidance on various aspects of service delivery, including emergency management, asset management, budget management, and more





# Leisure Services Programs

The Fort Pierce Firehawks announce that registration for the 2025 season will remain open throughout May. Spring football and cheer conditioning sessions are currently underway, offering athletes the opportunity to develop and refine their skills.

On April 26, 2025, dedicated cheer coaches hosted a complimentary cheer camp for children aged 5–14, which drew an impressive turnout and engaged young cheerleaders in energetic and dynamic activities.



The Martial Arts program continues to grow, attracting a rising number of participants. This month, students demonstrated their skills at a competition, earning several medals and accolades in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

Looking ahead to June, preparations are underway for the launch of the Summer Jam 2.0 program, which promises a season filled with growth, excitement, and enrichment for all involved.



### JC Penney Parking Lot

The contractor has completed the resurfacing of the parking lot and the paver walkway. Sod is anticipated the week of May 26 and the dumpster enclosures are scheduled for the week of June 2, 2025.

### Avenue B Reconstruction (13th Street to 8th Street)

The City has identified remaining work items with the contractor and is waiting for AT&T to relocate utility pedestals to complete the sidewalk work.

### Avenue D (29th Street to US 1)

Bids are due May 20, 2025. Engineering is awaiting results from the Purchasing Division for review and concurrence of award with FDOT.

### Nebraska Avenue Sidewalk (Lawnwood Circle) Phase 1

The City continues to coordinate internally to obtain Local Agency Program (LAP) Certifications. Staff is preparing the Production Phase (final) submittals to FDOT for the Agreements to be executed and a Notice to Proceed for Advertisement (expected late 2025)

### Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP)

The draft CSAP will be presented to the Commission in June of 2025, with final acceptance expected in September 2025.

### Avenue D and Means Court Public Parking Lot

Construction of the new public parking lot has commenced. This parking lot will provide seventeen (17) public parking spaces and will consist of a pervious paver system complete with site lighting, landscaping, and irrigation. The parking lot is situated on the southeast corner of Avenue D and Means Court and will support the Highwaymen Museum currently under construction.

Construction completion is scheduled for June 2025.



### 2025 Street Resurfacing Program

The City has identified nine segments of roadway to be resurfaced in the FY 2025 program. The list has been approved by FPUA for coordination and prioritization. Work on the ADA Ramps within the limits of these streets is included. The CIP budget for 2025 Resurfacing is \$950,000. Because of the upcoming FPUA work on Rhode Island Avenue, the City will not begin this work until after August 1, 2025.

STREET	FROM	TO	LINEAR FEET
11th Street (curb)	Southern Avenue	Mississippi Avenue	1,960.00
12th Street (curb)	Avenue O	Avenue Q	620.00
15th Street (curb)	Kentucky Avenue	Jersey Avenue	351.00
30th Street	Stanton Avenue	Virginia Avenue	1,840.00
31st Street	south end	Okeechobee Road	2,200.00
Edgewood Terrace	16th Street	14th Street	660.00
Means Court	Avenue H	Nobles Terrace	280.00
Tennessee Avenue	west end	25th Street	490.00
Rhode Island Avenue	33rd Street	25th Street	2,645.00

### Indian River Drive Corridor Improvements Project (Seaway Drive to Avenue A)

Full roadway and bridge reconstruction of Indian River Drive between Seaway Drive and Avenue A. The corridor improvements include the addition of on-street parking, curb and gutter roadway section complete with sidewalks, decorative streetlights, water/sewer/electric upgrades, bridge reconstruction over Moore's Creek, upgraded stormwater collection system, landscaping, and ADA upgrades complete with brick paver crosswalks.

Bids are currently under review by Engineering staff.

## QUARTERLY COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY

### SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025



### STEPS

1. REGISTER YOURSELF OR YOUR GROUP AT <https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/1043/Community-Cleanup>
2. PICK UP SUPPLIES (SUPPLIES PROVIDED UPON REQUEST)
3. CLEAN UP DESIRED AREA
4. SUBMIT LITTER CLEANUP REPORT FORM (LOCATED ON THE REGISTRATION WEBPAGE)



Contact Us: [mcommond@cityoffortpierce.com](mailto:mcommond@cityoffortpierce.com) 772-467-3794





Biggest fish overall 62.32 lbs team Out 4 Ya

2025 Leonard Bryant Photography

The Fort Pierce King Mackerel Invitational, held at the Fort Pierce City Marina, is a two-day aggregate fishing event where teams weigh in their largest catch each day. In the most recent tournament, a record-breaking \$685,000 in cash and prizes was awarded, making it the highest-paying King Mackerel tournament in history.

The winning team, MacDaddy, earned \$245,000. The largest fish overall, weighing 62 pounds, secured 8th place and brought in \$140,000 in winnings. The second-place team received over \$134,000.

In addition to impressive payouts, the fishing conditions were exceptional. This year's tournament featured some of the best fishing seen in years. Historically, the event has consistently produced stronger bites than any other location. The 2025 tournament yielded three fish over 60 pounds, twelve over 50 pounds, and twenty-seven over 40 pounds. For context, a 60-pound King Mackerel is typically considered a once-in-a-lifetime catch.

Dates for the 2026 tournament have already been confirmed and will take place during the week of the new moon: April 15th–19th, 2026.



Junior angler winner Dalton from team Triple Outfitters

2025 Leonard Bryant Photography



1st Place Mac Daddy Fishing Team

2025 Leonard Bryant Photography

## CITY MARINA REVENUE REPORT

	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
<b>Dockage Reservations</b>	164	211	240
<b>Monthly Dockage</b>	\$198,049.39	\$186,639.17	\$184,543.68
<b>Transient Dockage</b>	\$134,205.52	\$148,820.72	\$158,305.83
<b>Electricity</b>	\$11,404.89	\$12,096.48	\$12,453.78
<b>Retail</b>	\$24,721.61	\$32,988.98	\$29,217.67
<b>Gas Sales</b>	\$62,720.93	\$56,199.96	\$107,854.86
<b>Diesel Sales</b>	\$82,243.76	\$124,760.23	\$128,428.44
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$513,346.10</b>	<b>\$561,505.54</b>	<b>\$620,804.26</b>



# Welcome Aboard Thank You for Growing with Us

- Margarett Shop
- Gulstream Tile Services, Inc.
- Rose's Caribbean Restaurant LLC
- The Highwaymen Art Gallery
- Shiv Pooja Hospitality LLC
- Fruteria Leon I LLC
- Edward Williams Venture, LLC
- Steel Structures USA, LLC
- Petsense
- Skyline Recovery Service, Inc.
- HRO Truck Parking
- Fort Pierce Training Center
- Small Business Advisor Info LLC
- Fruteria Leon II LLC
- WU Hibachi Express LLC

# UPCOMING EVENTS *June*

EVERY WED	<b>Green Market</b> Marina Square	12:00 PM-6:30 PM
EVERY SAT	<b>Downtown Farmers Market</b> Marina Square	8:00 AM-12:00 PM
EVERY SAT	<b>Jazz Market</b> Marina Square	8:00 AM-1:00 PM
[FRI] <b>6</b>	<b>Friday Fest</b> Marina Square	5:30 PM-8:30 PM
[SAT] <b>7</b>	<b>TC Week Orange Walk</b> River Walk Center	9:00 AM-11:00 AM
[THUR] <b>19</b>	<b>Juneteenth Celebration</b> Veteran's Memorial Park	9:00 AM-8:00 PM
[FRI] <b>20</b>	<b>Jazz on Moore's Creek</b> Avenue D & N 8th Street	5:00 PM-10:00 PM
[SUN] <b>29</b>	<b>Praise on the Marina</b> Marina Square	5:00 PM-8:00 PM



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



## **CITY OF FORT PIERCE MISSION STATEMENT:**

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