LINCOLN PARK MAIN STREET
SHOWCASE
The Official Newsletter of The Lincoln Park Main Street, Fort Pierce, FL • *"Revitalizing Avenue D"*
JULY/AUGUST 2026 • *Volume 9 Issue 33*

Fort Pierce Rosenwald School

By Wikipedia



Pictured above is the Lincoln Park School, County Training School (C.T.S.) located on the campus of Lincoln Park Academy at the Means Court site in St. Lucie County was built under the 1925-26 budget of the Rosenwald Fund. The building was constructed on two acres of land, a five-teacher type with a total cost of $16,000, contributions of $2,000 from the Negroes, $200 from whites, $12,500 from public funds, and $1,300 from Rosenwald. County Training School building was a type of segregated school for African American students in the American South to educate African Americans at elementary and secondary levels.

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Rosenwald Schools were a network of over 5,000 schools, shops, and teacher homes built primarily for African American children in the South between 1912 and 1937. Philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, partnered with Booker T. Washington of the Tuskegee Institute to fund these schools, which were critical in improving educational opportunities for Black communities during a time of segregation.

The Rosenwald School project built more than 5,000 schools, shops, and teacher homes in the United States primarily for the education of African-American children in the South during the early 20th century. The project was the product of the partnership of Julius Rosenwald, a Jewish-American clothier who became part-owner and president of Sears, Roebuck and Company and the African-American leader, educator, and philanthropist Booker T. Washington, who was president of the Tuskegee Institute.

The need arose from the chronic underfunding of public education for African-American children in the South, as black people had been discriminated against at the turn of the century and excluded from the political system in that region. Children were required to attend segregated schools, and even those did not exist in many places.

Rosenwald was the founder of the Rosenwald Fund. He contributed seed money for many schools and other philanthropic causes. To encourage local commitment to these projects, he conditioned the Fund's support on the local communities' raising of matching funds. To promote collaboration between black and white people, Rosenwald required communities to also commit public funds and/or labor to the schools, as well as to contribute additional cash donations after construction. With the program, millions of dollars were raised by African-American rural communities across the South to fund better education for their children, and white school boards had to agree to operate and maintain the schools. Despite this program, by the mid-1930s, white schools in the South were worth more than five times per student, what black schools were worth per student (in majority-black Mississippi, this ratio was more than 13 to one).

History

After the Civil War, Republicans established public schools and funded colleges and universities as part of their Reconstruction era efforts to rebuild the South. The Freedmen's Bureau partnered with church groups to establish school for African Americans. Disputes over funding ensued. The Rosenwald-Washington collaboration developed to address the needs of rural students, especially the children of formerly enslaved people.

In the segregated schools of the South, African American children were sent to woefully underfunded schools. The collaboration of Rosenwald and Washington led to the construction of almost 5,000 schools for black children in the eleven states of the former Confederacy as well as Oklahoma, Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland. As a result of their collaboration, approximately one-third of African American children were educated in these schools.

The Rosenwald-Washington model required the buy-in of African American communities as well as the support of white governing bodies. Black communities raised more than $4.7 million to aid in construction, plus often donating land and labor. Research has found that the Rosenwald program accounts for a sizable portion of the educational gains of rural Southern black persons during this period. This research also found significant effects on school attendance, literacy, years of schooling, cognitive test scores, and Northern migration, with gains highest in the most disadvantaged counties.

Continued on Page 2 & 3

Rosenwald Schools Cont'



Julius Rosenwald (1862–1932) was born to a Jewish-German immigrant family. He became a clothier by trade after learning the business from relatives in New York City. His first business went bankrupt, but another he began in Chicago, Illinois, became a leading supplier to the growing business of Richard Warren Sears, Sears, Roebuck, and Company, a mail-order business that served many rural Americans. After the 1906 reorganization of the Sears company as a public stock corporation by the financial services firm of Goldman Sachs, one of the senior partners, Paul Sachs, often stayed with the Rosenwald family at their home during his many trips to Chicago.



Paul Joseph Sachs (November 24, 1878 – February 18, 1965) was an American investor, businessman and museum director. Sachs served as associate director of the Fogg Art Museum and as a partner in the financial firm Goldman Sachs. He is recognized for having developed one of the earliest museum studies courses in the United States. Julius Rosenwald and Sachs often would discuss America's social situation, agreeing that the plight of African Americans was the most serious problem in the United States. The millions in the South had been disenfranchised at the turn of the century and suffered second-class status in a system of Jim Crow segregation. Black public schools and other facilities were chronically underfunded.



Booker T. Washington—Sachs introduced Rosenwald to Booker T. Washington (1856–1915), the famed educator who in 1881 started as the first principal of the normal school that he developed as Tuskegee University in Alabama. Washington, who had gained the respect of many American leaders including U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, also had obtained financial support from wealthy philanthropists such as Andrew Carnegie, George Eastman, and Henry Huttleston Rogers. He encouraged Rosenwald, as he had others, to address the poor state of African-American education in the U.S.

Rosenwald Fund

Julius Rosenwald and his family established the Rosenwald Fund in 1917 for "the well-being of mankind".[5] Unlike other endowed foundations, which were designed to fund themselves in perpetuity, the Rosenwald Fund was intended to use all of its funds for philanthropic purposes. It donated more than $70 million (equivalent to $916,108,000 in 2024) to public schools, colleges, universities, museums, Jewish charities, and black institutions before the funds were depleted in 1948.

The school building program was one of the largest programs administered by the Rosenwald Fund. Using state-of-the-art architectural plans designed by professors at Tuskegee Institute, the fund spent more than $4 million to build 5,388 schools, 217 teacher homes, and 163 shop buildings in 883 counties in 15 states, from Maryland to Texas. The Rosenwald Fund was based on a system of matching grants, requiring white school boards to commit to maintenance and black communities to aid in construction. Fulfilling the goals of the match grant program, African American communities contributed $4.8 million to the building of 5,338 schools throughout the South.

Alumni

The following individuals either attended Rosenwald schools or received a Rosenwald Fellowship to complete their education.

- Maya Angelou
- Pauli Murray
- Medgar Evers
- John Lewis
- Eugene Robinson
- Robert L. Carter
- Carlotta Walls LaNier
- Kenneth and Mamie Clark
- John Aubrey Davis Sr.

Preservation

After the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision (which declared school segregation unconstitutional), the buildings were frequently abandoned or dismantled. In some communities, surviving structures have been preserved because of the deep meaning they had for African Americans as symbols of the dedication of their leaders and communities to education. Others were threatened by lack of funds in rural areas, urbanization, changes in demographics, changing styles of education to consolidated and integrated schools, and other social changes.

In 2001, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Rosenwald Schools near the top of the country's most endangered places and created a campaign to raise awareness and money for preservation. At least 60 former Rosenwald Schools are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.[10] In 2015, the National Trust classified the Rosenwald Schools as National Treasures.

Effects

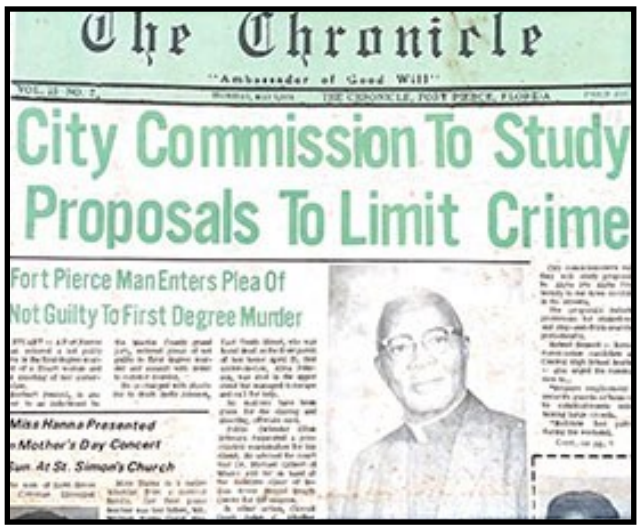
Researchers measured the effects of Rosenwald Schools on rural southern blacks based on US Census and World War II records, and found that the effect on literacy levels and cognitive scores was large. A 2021 study also found that attending the Rosenwald schools increased the life expectancy of the students, as well as increased their propensity to migrate to the Northern United States.

The Fort Pierce Chronicle Archives" Indian River State College Library System

By: Lincoln Park Main Street

The Chronicle Building, located at 1529 Avenue D formerly housed the headquarters of The Chronicle newspaper. This weekly publication was created in 1957 by C.E. Bolen, a respected figure in the Fort Pierce black community, and aimed to serve the Black population of the area. The building was used to assemble and print the newspaper until its cessation in 1992.

The Chronicle gained historical significance for having the renowned author Zora Neale Hurston as one of its regular journalists, who contributed to the publication starting at age 65. C.E. Bolen, a native Floridian and Florida A&M University graduate, who had a lifelong passion for journalism, recruited Hurston and persuaded her to relocate to Fort Pierce,


The Chronicle

"Ambassador of Good Will"

City Commission To Study Proposals To Limit Crime

Fort Pierce Man Enters Plea Of Not Guilty To First Degree Murder

Miss Hanna Presented ... Mother's Day Concert ... At St. Simon's Church

At a time in Florida's history when there were few publications for blacks, and newspapers had little interest in covering black community news, publisher C.E. Bolen introduced The Chronicle a newspaper originally billed as the "Ambassador of Good Will," and in later years, "Bringing You the Very Best in Black news coverage."

" The Chronicle appeared every Thursday until it ceased publication in 1992.

Preservation efforts for the Chronicle Newspapers are currently being scanned and cataloged at Indian River State College Library. Anyone or any organization that have hard copies and wish to preserve them are encouraged to contact **Nina Moore via email: ninamoore67@gmail.com**

The link below is for digital versions of the Fort Pierce Chronicle Newspaper.

https://irsc.digital.flvc.org/islandora/search/fort%20pierce%20chronicle?type=edismax&search=fort%2Bpierce%2Bchronicle

Philadelphia International Records

From Wikepedia

Philadelphia International Records was an American record label based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was founded in 1971 by songwriting and production duo Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff, along with their long-time collaborator Thom Bell. The label was known for showcasing the Philadelphia soul music genre (also known as Philly soul) that was founded on the gospel, doo-wop and soul music of the time. This sound later marked a prominent and distinct era within the R&B genre.[1] During the 1970s, the label released a string of worldwide hits that emphasized lavish orchestral instrumentation, heavy bass and driving percussion.

Some of its most popular and best selling acts included the O'Jays, Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, Teddy Pendergrass, MFSB, Billy Paul, Patti LaBelle, and Lou Rawls. Between 1971 and the early 1980s, the label released more than 170 gold and platinum records.[2]

Philadelphia International Records had been mostly defunct since 1987 and finally shut down in 2001. As of 2007, Sony Music Entertainment owns all rights to the Philadelphia International Records catalogue.



PIONEERS OF LINCOLN PARK

By: Lincoln Park Main

Lyons Family: Wilson and Alice Lyons; William Lyons

In 1902, Wilson and Alice Lyons, along with sibling William Lyons settled in Fort Pierce as one of eight black families. William opened the first co-op grocery store in the Lincoln Park area. Wilson and Alice owned the first house built on Avenue D.



How the Lyons family ended up being one of the earliest families has an interesting, yet tragic history, according to the late Rufus Alexander, Jr., who was the great grandson of Martin Lyons. (Martin Lyons, pictured to the right.)

In 1868, after the end of the Civil War, the government began rounding up the Cherokee Indians living between Virginia and Georgia, and moving them west to Oklahoma. Martin Lyons and his family were among the Cherokee Indians being captured to walk the trek to a reservation, which eventually became known in American history as the Trail of Tears. Because of his love and marriage to a white Irish woman, Martin Lyons, a full-blooded Cherokee Indian, was the only ember of his family who escaped perishing in the roundup. He and his wife raised their family in South Carolina, but the color of the skin of their two sons and daughter began to cause problems. So in 1902, Martin Lyons gave his son Wilson a pocket full of money and sent him along with his brother and sister to Florida.



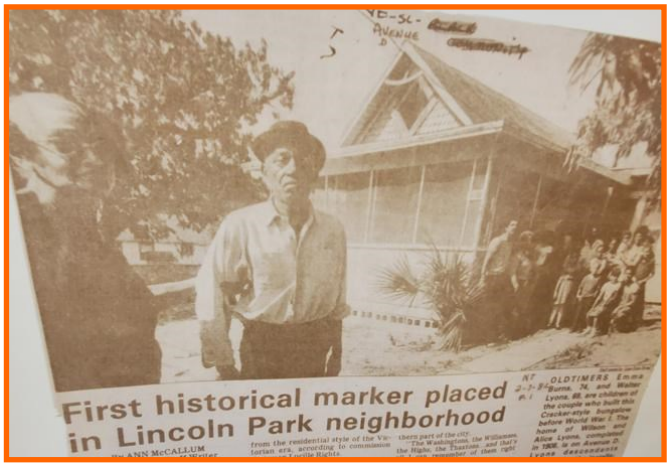
William Lyons worked in pineapples and later opened the first co-op grocery store in Lincoln Park area. In 1903, William Lyons donated the land to build Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church and was one of the Church's first deacons. (Rufus Alexander family photo collection).

Wilson and Alice built their home on the deepest, wooded site in the area and raised their four children: Abel, Emma, Walter, and Mary, who died at an early age.





First Historical Marker placed in Lincoln Park on February 7, 1982 at the home of the Wilson and Alice Lyons, the first home built in on Avenue D in 1908. Walter Lyons, son of Wilson and Alice and his sibling, Emma Lyons Burns along with descendants gathered for the installation of the historic marker. Wilson and Alice built their home on deepest, wooded site in the area and raised their four children, Abel, Emma, Walter, and Mary, who died at an early age. (*August 15, 1982 Fort Pierce News Tribune.)*



Emma Burns, 74 and Walter Lyons, 69, are children of the couple who built the cracker-style bungalow before World War I. The home of Wilson and Alice Lyons was completed in 1908, was once located on Avenue D. Five generations of Lyons descendants in the background, gathered for the installation of a historic marker on the house. (August 15, 1982 staff photo of Fort Pierce News Tribune).

Sometime after 1903 Wilson purchased the property while working at the East Coast Lumber yard. He purchased material to build his home out of his weekly salary or pay for it on time, each night, he and his wife Alice would build or add on to the house. The house was completed around 1908 or before, according to deeds at the courthouse, this property was paid in full and Wilson received the deed in 1910.

Story Continued from Page 4

There was no road to this address, Wilson had to cut a path from North 7th Street and now Avenue D to his home in order to carry the lumber on his bike. Later the kitchen and front porch was added. Wilson would purchase three more lots (Lot 3, 4, 5 Block F, Fee & Mays Addition). Wilson later went to work for Mr. P.P. Cobb and did so until he died. Wilson and Alice would care for Mr. Cobb until his death.



Alonzo Lyons, son of William Lyons, joined his father in 1919 after being discharged from the United States Army in 1918. Rufus Alexander family photo collection.



Rufus Alexander, Sr. married Emma Lyons after moving to Fort Pierce in the 1920s. Rufus Alexander family photo collection.



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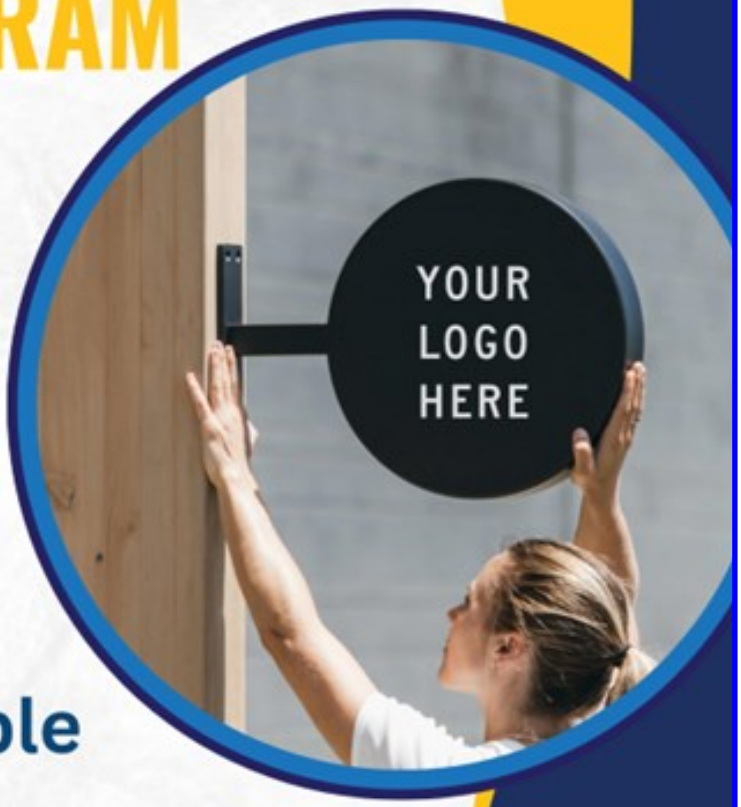
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Black and African American History

1964 Lyndon B. Johnson, "Radio and Television Address at the Signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act"

The Civil Rights Act is considered by many historians as one of the most important measures enacted by the U.S. Congress in the 20th Century. President Lyndon B. Johnson led the national effort to pass the Act. On July 2, 1964 he gave a televised address to the nation after signing the measure. His speech appears below.

My fellow Americans:

I am about to sign into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I want to take this occasion to talk to you about what that law means to every American.



One hundred and ninety-three years ago this week a small band of valiant men began a long struggle for freedom. They pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor not only to found a nation, but to forge an ideal of freedom--not only for political independence, but for personal liberty--not only to eliminate foreign rule, but to establish the rule of justice in the affairs of men.

That struggle was a turning point in our history. Today in far corners of distant continents, the ideals of those American patriots still shape the struggles of men who hunger for freedom.

This is a proud triumph. Yet those who founded our country knew that freedom would be secure only if each generation fought to renew and enlarge its meaning. From the minutemen at Concord to the soldiers in Viet-Nam, each generation has been equal to that trust.

Americans of every race and color have died in battle to protect our freedom. Americans of every race and color have worked to build a nation of widening opportunities. Now our generation of Americans has been called on to continue the unending search for justice within our own borders.

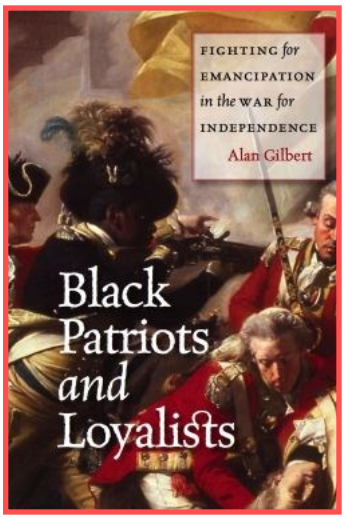
We believe that all men are created equal. Yet many are denied equal treatment. We believe that all men have certain unalienable rights. Yet many Americans do not enjoy those rights.

We believe that all men are entitled to the blessings of liberty. Yet millions are being deprived of those blessings--not because of their own failures, but because of the color of their skin.

Fighting for Freedom on Both Sides of the American Revolution

Contributed by: Alan Gilbert

Alan Gilbert, University of Denver political scientist and anti-racist activist, is the author of Black Patriots and Loyalists: Fighting for Emancipation in the War for Independence, one of the few works that examines the free and enslaved blacks who joined the American Patriots and the British during the American Revolution and the anti-racist whites who supported them. In the account below he describes the book and why he wrote it.



Twenty-one years ago, when I was doing research on the Constitution in the context of the Shays' rebellion and the Alien and Sedition Acts, I thought I should look into racism toward slaves. I imagined I knew the story: the Revolution pitted the colonial slaveholders against the Imperial slave-traders. There would be a few black revolts, but not much else to sympathize with. I looked, however, at Gary Nash's Race and Revolution and in the third chapter, found that a "gigantic number of blacks," one which we will never know, he said, escaped from bondage and fought for the British in exchange for freedom. In the next page and a half, he gave five reasons why gradual emancipation should have occurred throughout the United States during or immediately after the Revolution, said it hadn't because the North wasn't any good (those states were still in process of getting rid of slavery themselves) and abandoned the topic.

But I was stopped by this question. If anything like this level of black escape were true, I thought, it would change everything we think about the American Revolution. For I had been taught by Barrington Moore, the renowned Harvard political sociologist, that the American uprising was merely a political revolution, a shift in the personnel in power, but not a social revolution like the French. The real American revolution, Moore thought, was the Civil War which abolished slavery. As I had now suddenly seen, however, the deeper revolution of the 1770s, one fought largely by blacks but also anti-racist whites, was one for the freedom of all.



Celebrated & Educated 365 Days

August 12, 1965 Killings in Civil Rights Demonstrations



Jonathan M. Daniels, white Episcopal seminary student from Massachusetts, killed and Richard F. Morrisroe, white Roman Catholic priest from Chicago, seriously wounded by shotgun blasts fired by white special deputy sheriff in Hayneville, Alabama. They were participating in civil rights demonstrations in Lowndes County.

August 14, 1862 President Lincoln Received First Group of Blacks on Public Policy

President Lincoln received first group of Blacks to confer with a U.S. president on a matter of public policy. He urged Blacks to emigrate to Africa or Central America and was bitterly criticized by Northern Blacks.

August 15, 1843 National Black Convention Met in Buffalo NY

National Black convention met at Buffalo, New York, with some seventy delegates from twelve states. The highlight of the convention was a stirring address by Henry Highland Garnet, a twenty-seven-year-old-Presbyterian pastor who called for a slave revolt and a general slave strike. Amos G. Beman of New Heaven, Conn., was elected president of the convention.

August 16, 1963 First Black Artist to Design a U.S. Postage Stamp

On sale this day was a stamp designed to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. It was designed by George Olden which made him the first Black to design a U.S. postage stamp.

August 16, 1970 Activist Angela Davis is Named in a Federal Warrant

Activist, Angela Davis was named in a federal warrant issued in connected with George Jackson's attempted escape from San Quentin prison, 1970.

August 19, 1791 Benjamin Banneker

Benjamin Banneker writes letter to then secretary of state Thomas Jefferson. The letter showed the hypocrisy of slavery. Banneker challenged the idea of freedom for whites as the ascribed it to be the same freedom that should be granted to Africans.

August 19, 1963 Youth From NAACP Council Beings Sit-Ins

Youth from the NAACP Council begins sit-ins at lunch counters in Oklahoma City, 1963.

August 20, 1619 Jamestown, VA

On August 20, 1619, twenty Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, aboard a Dutch ship. They are the first blacks to be forcibly settled as involuntary laborers in the North American British Colonies.

August 20, 1944 SS Frederick Douglass Lost At Sea



The SS Frederick Douglass, the first ship named in honor of a black man, was lost in European waters.

August 21, 1831 Nat Turner Leader of Slave Revolt Captured

Nat Turner is remembered for his role in the Slave Revolt that took place in Southampton county, Virginia on August 21, 1831.

August 22, 1979 200 Black Leaders Met in New York

Two hundred Black leaders, meeting in New York, expressed support for Andrew Young and demanded that Blacks be given a voice in shaping American foreign policy.

August 23, 1861 First Black to Fight in Civil War

James Stone, a light skinned fugitive slave passing for white, enlisted in the First Fight Artillery of Ohio. His racial identity would not be known until his death nearly a year later.

August 27, 1957 Congress Passed Civil Rights Act

Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first federal civil rights legislation since 1875. The bill established a civil rights commission and a civil rights division in the Justice Department. It also gave the Justice Department authority to seek injunctions against voting rights infractions.

August 29, 1979 First Black Owned Radio Station

The first completely Black owned radio network in the world, "Mutual Black Network" was purchased by Sheridan Broadcasting Corp.

August 31, 1945 Blacks In Armed Services



A total of 1,154, 720 Blacks were inducted or drafted into the armed services. Official records listed 7,768 Black commissioned officers on August 31, 1945. At the height of the conflict 3,902 Black women (115 officers) were enrolled in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WACS) and 68 were in the Navy auxiliary, the WAVES. The highest ranking Black women were Major Harriet M. West and Major Charity E. Adams. Distinguished Unit Citations were awarded the 969th Field Artillery Battalion, the 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 332nd Fighter Group.

GUIDED TOURS

Want to learn more about the history of Lincoln Park? What about the historic Avenue D corridor and the vibrant life that emerged in the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960s? Do you ever wonder how Lincoln Park Academy was developed from the hard work of African American parents wanting a quality education for their children? How the families partnered with the St. Lucie County School District to build the accredited school in 1923?

Learn about all of the incredible lives of the trailblazers and the rich history of not only Historic Lincoln Park but the beautiful City of Fort Pierce. Such iconic figures as Zora Neale Hurston—her life, her work and her legacy; The Hall of Fame Original Highwaymen Artists—their paintings, their loves and their travels statewide selling Florida landscapes art on the highways of Florida; local artist Albert Ernest "A. E." Backus, also known as Beanie Backus and his unique relationship to the Highwaymen artist and author and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston.

For reunions (school, family, class) sightseeing and general knowledge of the local history of the area, contact us.

For more information or to schedule a tour contact:

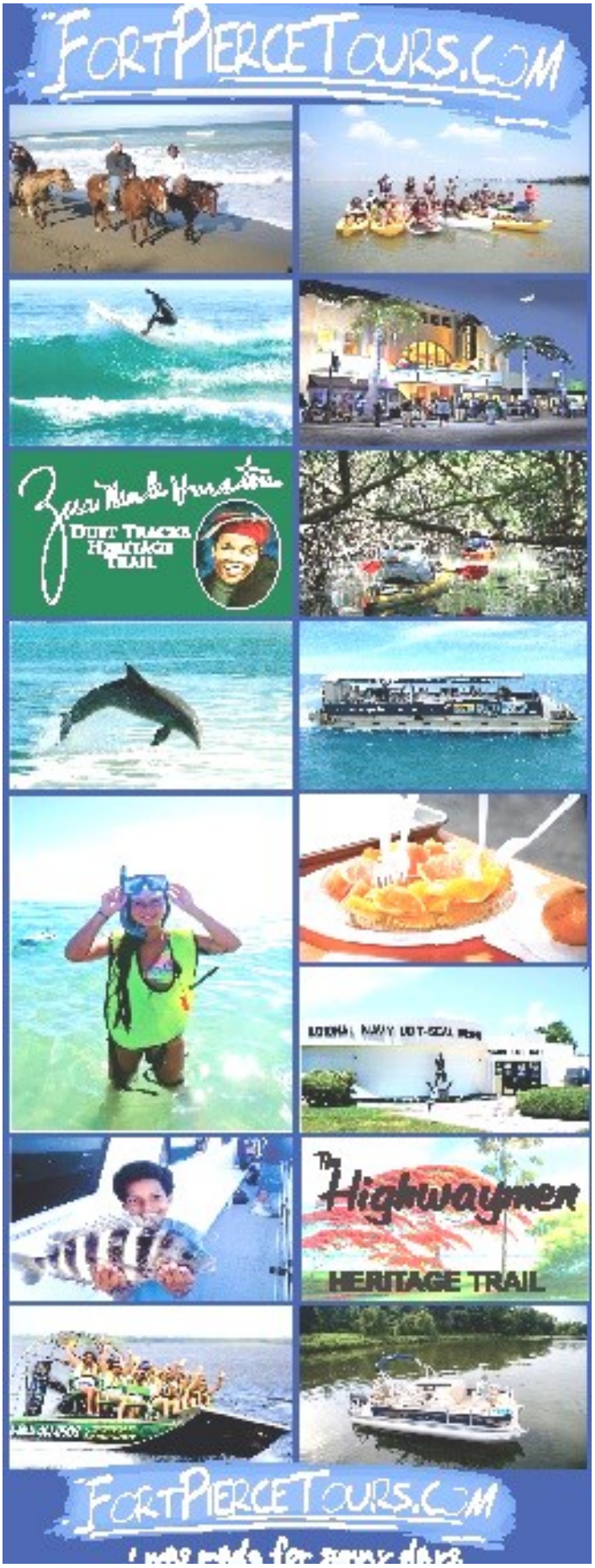
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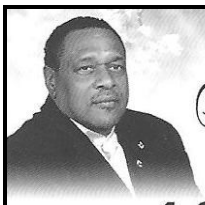




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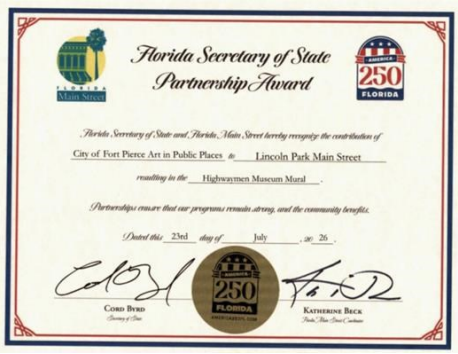
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LINCOLN PARK MAIN STREET
SHOWCASE
The Official Newsletter of The Lincoln Park Main Street, Fort Pierce, FL • *"Revitalizing Avenue D"*
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026 • *Volume 11 Issue 41*

Lincoln Park Main Street Honored With Two Secretary of State Awards at Florida Main Street Conference



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Lincoln Park Main Street received two prestigious Florida Secretary of State awards during the Florida Main Street Preservation on Main Street Annual Conference, held in July 2026 in historic Cocoa Village.

The recognition highlighted the ongoing preservation, revitalization and cultural contributions of Fort Pierce's Lincoln Park neighborhood, including efforts to celebrate the legacy of the Florida Highwaymen and bring that history to life through public art and community spaces.

Lincoln Park Main Street received the **Distinctive Preservation Action Award** for the **City of Fort Pierce Highwaymen Museum**, recognizing the significance of the museum and the community's work to preserve and showcase the history and artistic legacy of the Highwaymen.

Representing the museum at the conference were Doretha **Hair Truesdell, Pamela Carithers and Commissioner Arnold Gaines.** Their involvement reflects the collaborative efforts of community leaders and advocates to honor the Highwaymen, whose distinctive landscape paintings and entrepreneurial spirit have become an important part of Florida's cultural history.

The Highwaymen Museum provides a place to recognize the artists' contributions while helping introduce their story to residents, visitors and future generations. The preservation award underscores the importance of protecting not only historic buildings and places, but also the stories, people and cultural traditions that give a community its identity.

Lincoln Park Main Street also received the **Benjamin Franklin Booster Award** for the **Highwaymen Museum Mural**, a colorful public-art project that celebrates the Highwaymen and their connection to Fort Pierce.

The mural was created by **Street Art Revolution LLC**, whose work has helped transform the museum's exterior into a highly visible tribute to the artists and their legacy. Through large-scale public art, the mural brings the Highwaymen story into the streetscape and provides an engaging visual landmark for the Lincoln Park community.

The two awards recognize different but complementary aspects of preservation—one honoring the work surrounding the Highwaymen Museum and the other celebrating the mural as a creative expression of local history and culture. ***Included with the awards were partnership awards presented to the City of Fort Pierce, The Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, City of Fort Pierce Art in Public Places, and Street Art Revolution.***

For Lincoln Park Main Street, the recognition at the annual Florida Main Street conference represents more than two awards. It reflects the organization's continuing commitment to strengthening the Lincoln Park community through historic preservation, cultural heritage, economic revitalization and community pride.

The Florida Main Street program encourages communities throughout the state to preserve their historic character while creating vibrant downtowns and commercial districts. The annual conference brings together Main Street organizations, community leaders, preservation advocates and professionals to share ideas and recognize accomplishments.

Story Continues on Page 5

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Office Hours and Location
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Email: lincolnparkmainstreet@live.com
Phone: 407-257-1678

LPMS
LINCOLN PARK MAIN STREET

LPMS SERVICE OFFERINGS

Resource & Funding Connections
Assists businesses and community members in accessing grants, funding programs, and other support resources when available.

Community Engagement
Involves residents in planning, preservation, and improvement projects that strengthen the neighborhood.

Business Support
Helps connect local businesses with resources, technical assistance, and economic development opportunities. Provide guidance on marketing, business planning, and funding opportunities.

Historic Preservation
Supports preservation and enhancement of Lincoln Park's cultural and historic assets.

Neighborhood Beautification
Organizes efforts to address property conditions, improve streetscapes, and enhance the district's visual appeal.

Technical Assistance
Grant writing guidance, business licenses, and permit resource guide provides entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders, and small business owners with the tools and support needed to secure funding and maintain regulatory compliance.

Community
Provide comprehensive research, planning, and execution of survey projects, including the design of questionnaires, data collection strategies, stakeholder engagement, and analysis of results to support informed decision-making.

Design and deliver engaging history presentations that interpret historical events, cultural heritage, and community narratives for diverse audiences.

Lead guided tours for visitors, students, and community groups, that highlight historical sites, cultural landmarks, and significant events.

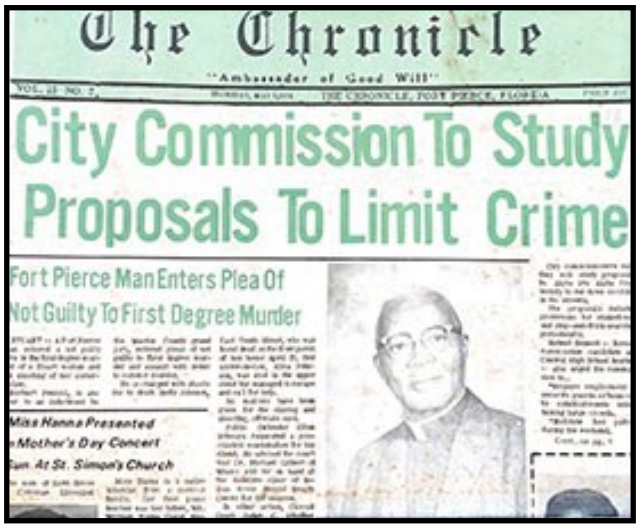
Economic Vitality
Promotes investment and business growth within the Lincoln Park commercial corridor and surrounding neighborhood.

The Fort Pierce Chronicle Archives" Indian River State College Library System

By: Lincoln Park Main Street

The Chronicle Building, located at 1529 Avenue D formerly housed the headquarters of The Chronicle newspaper. This weekly publication was created in 1957 by C.E. Bolen, a respected figure in the Fort Pierce black community, and aimed to serve the Black population of the area. The building was used to assemble and print the newspaper until its cessation in 1992.

The Chronicle gained historical significance for having the renowned author Zora Neale Hurston as one of its regular journalists, who contributed to the publication starting at age 65. C.E. Bolen, a native Floridian and Florida A&M University graduate, who had a lifelong passion for journalism, recruited Hurston and persuaded her to relocate to Fort Pierce.


The Chronicle

"Ambassador of Good Will"

City Commission To Study Proposals To Limit Crime

Fort Pierce Man Enters Plea Of Not Guilty To First Degree Murder

Miss Hanna Presented Mother's Day Concert Sun. At St. Simon's Church

At a time in Florida's history when there were few publications for blacks, and newspapers had little interest in covering black community news, publisher C.E. Bolen introduced The Chronicle a newspaper originally billed as the "Ambassador of Good Will," and in later years, "Bringing You the Very Best in Black news coverage."

" The Chronicle appeared every Thursday until it ceased publication in 1992.

Preservation efforts for the Chronicle Newspapers are currently being scanned and cataloged at Indian River State College Library. Anyone or any organization that have hard copies and wish to preserve them are encouraged to contact **Nina Moore via email: ninamoore67@gmail.com**

The link below is for digital versions of the Fort Pierce Chronicle Newspaper.

https://irsc.digital.flvc.org/islandora/search/fort%20pierce%20chronicle?type=edismax&search=fort%2Bpierce%2Bchronicle

SUN LAND NEWS

Ja'Min Devon,
Founder & Publisher

Florida's minimum wage hits $15 on September 30th



This one has been a long time coming. Florida voters approved a $15 minimum wage back in 2020 and September 30th is the day it finally gets here .

What is Changing:

- Minimum wage goes from $14 to $15 on September 30th
- Tipped workers: employers must pay at least $11.98, with up to $3.02 in tips counting toward the $15 total
- After this, the $15 is not a ceiling. It will adjust upward with inflation going forward

How We Got Here: In 2019 Florida's minimum wage was under $9. The 2020 constitutional amendment passed with 60.8% of the vote, just clearing the 60% threshold required, and set up a phased increase to give businesses time to adjust.


Ja'Min Devon

What People on Both Sides Are Saying:
Supporters say the old wage was not livable and that workers having more money to spend drives economic growth.

The Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association has concerns. Gas, food and transportation costs are already rising and adding labor costs on top creates real pressure for business owners. They also flagged something worth noting: a lot of employers may not realize $15 is not the end of it. The wage will keep rising with inflation from here.

Worth Knowing: The federal minimum wage is still $7.25, which means Florida employers follow Florida's rate since it is higher. If the federal rate ever exceeds $15, Florida employers would have to match that instead.

PIONEERS OF LINCOLN PARK

By: Lincoln Park Main Street

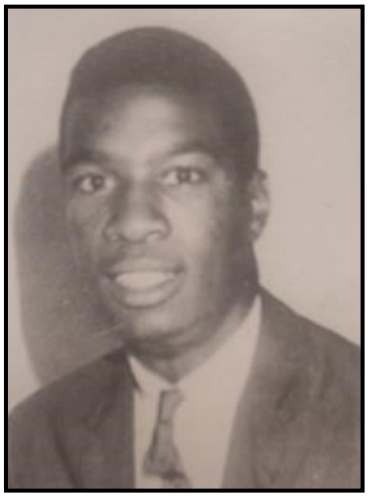
Robert L. Matthews, 10/8/1947—8/12/2026 a native of Fort Pierce, Florida lived an extraordinary life marked by family, faith, service, leadership, discipline, and historic achievement. Affectionately known as "Bob" by colleagues and friends, "Bobby" by family, Robert built a distinguished career in corrections and criminal justice, breaking barriers and leaving a lasting legacy.



Raised by his grandparents Reverend John Meadows and Annie Mae Meadows helped shape the foundation of his life and values. He attended Lincoln Park Academy, then a K-12 school graduating in 1965.

Robert's commitment to service began in the United States Air Force, where he served from 1965-1969. A proud graduate of Florida A&M University, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and later a Master's degree in Criminology from Indiana State University. He also pursued advanced executive education at Wharton, Princeton, and the Aspen Institute for Senior Government Executives.

Robert began his Federal Bureau of Prisons career in 1973 as a case manager at the United States Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana. He rose through the ranks to serve as Warden of four federal institutions: FCI Ashland, FCI Lexington, USP Leavenworth, and USP Atlanta.



Robert L. Matthews High School Senior Year 1965 Lincoln Park Academy

In July 1987, at just 39 years old, Robert made history at USP Leavenworth, becoming both the first Black warden and the youngest Black warden to lead the historic institution, as chronicled by journalist Pete Earley in The Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison.

In 1983, Robert was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve as United States Marshal for the District of Columbia, leading what was then the nation's largest U.S. Marshals Services district operation. He later rose to the executive ranks of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, serving as Western Regional Director, Assistant Director of the Program Review Division at BOP (Bureau of Prisons) headquarters in Washington, D.C., and Southeast Regional Director.

Robert received numerous honors throughout his career, including the United States Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service, Director's Award for Public Service, NABCJ Correctional Service Award, William L. Hastie Award, and the Director's Distinguished Service Medal for Extraordinary and Meritorious Service.



Robert. Fourth from the left, along with other 10th graders participated in a program during American Education Week observance.

A longtime leader of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ), Robert served as its National President. In 1999, the Georgia Chapter established the R.L. Matthews Criminal Justice Annual Scholarship Award in his honor; and in 2018, he was inducted into the NABCJ Wall of Fame.

Following nearly three decades of federal service, Robert remained active in the corrections profession through executive leadership, consulting, and his work with Correct Rx Pharmacy Services, continuing to share his knowledge and mentor others.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Robert lived a full and active life. An avid runner for many years, he later developed a passion for cycling and remained committed to health and fitness, exercising nearly every day.





Robert loved traveling and cruising, exploring destinations around the world. Florida and the beach held a special place in his heart, and he spent considerable time there enjoying the sunshine and water.

Story Cont' from Page 1

Lincoln Park Main Street Honored With Two Secretary of State Awards at Florida Main Street Conference

The July conference in Cocoa Village provided an opportunity for Lincoln Park Main Street to showcase the work being done in Fort Pierce and to celebrate the individuals and organizations contributing to the preservation of the city's unique history.

The recognition of the Highwaymen Museum and mural also reinforces Fort Pierce's connection to one of Florida's most distinctive artistic movements. The Highwaymen's story of creativity, determination and entrepreneurship continues to resonate locally and beyond the Treasure Coast.

With the museum and mural serving as both cultural resources and community landmarks, Lincoln Park Main Street's two Secretary of State awards shine a spotlight on the importance of preserving Fort Pierce's history while finding new ways to share it with the public.

Also during the annual conference, Lincoln Park Main Street, a Accredited Main Street program received it's 20-year pin for being an established program.



Treasure Coast Connections
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Florida Secretary of State Partnership Award

Florida Secretary of State and Florida Main Street hereby recognize the contribution of

Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency *to* Lincoln Park Main Street

resulting in the City of Fort Pierce Florida Highwaymen Museum.

Partnerships ensure that our programs remain strong, and the community benefits.

Dated this 23rd *day of* July, *20* 26.

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

KATHERINE BECK
Florida Main Street Coordinator

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CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

KATHERINE BECK
Florida Main Street Coordinator

Black Business Month

What is America's Black Business Month?

August is National Black Business Month, a time to recognize and support Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs across the country. The annual celebration was created in 2004 when historian John William Templeton and engineer Fredrick E. Jordan partnered to advance the policies affecting 2.6 million African American businesses and develop greater economic freedom for Black communities. This month we reflect on the history of Black entrepreneurship, their impact on the United States economy, and the resilience of the Black community.

For generations, Black businesses have made critical contributions to America's economy. Since the late 1700's free and enslaved Black people have opened barbershops, tobacco shops, shoemaking shops, and other small businesses. Black business really began to boom during the "golden age" of 1900-1930. There was a wave of Black-owned businesses stemming from Jim Crow Laws segregating African Americans and forcing them to build communities separate from whites.

Historically, Black communities have endured systematic racism, inequality, wage gaps, and violence. In 1921, one of the worst racially motivated attacks in U.S history, the Tulsa Race Massacre, destroyed the Black-owned district of Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Greenwood District was nationally recognized as "Black Wall Street," for its affluent African American community. The series of riots robbed Black families in Greenwood of their lives, businesses, community, and the legacy they could have left behind. To learn more about the Tulsa Race Massacre visit the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum.

America250 is committed to uplifting all American history and is proud to support Black Business Month. We invite you to support the Black-owned businesses in your communities and check out the organizations below that are amplifying the Black American experience and supporting Black-owned businesses:

- **Minority Business Development Agency**. The Minority Business Development Agency is the only federal agency solely dedicated to the growth and global competitiveness of minority business enterprises.

- **Association for the Study of African American Life and History.** The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH®) promotes, researches, preserves, interprets and disseminates information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.

- **National Museum of African American History and Culture.** The National Museum of African American History and Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture.

Celebrate Black Business Month

Celebrate Black Business Month every August by intentionally supporting, promoting, and investing in Black-owned enterprises. You can take direct action by shopping at local or online Black-owned stores, leaving positive online reviews, and sharing their services on social media

History and Goals

Origin: Created in August 2004 by John William Templeton: A historian, author, and president of the scholarly publishing company eAccess Corp. and Frederick E. Jordan Sr.: A prominent San Francisco engineering executive and entrepreneur who experienced firsthand the systemic difficulties of securing business financing.

Economic focus: Highlight the contributions and needs of over 3 million Black-owned businesses.

Advancement: Drive policies that build greater economic freedom and close wealth gaps in Black communities.

Encourage support: Motivate consumers and corporations to intentionally buy from and invest in Black enterprises

Ways to Participate

Shop local: Buy goods and services from Black-owned small businesses in your community.

Promote online: Share and review favorite local enterprises using tags like #BuyBlack.

Educate: Learn about the history of Black entrepreneurship and the challenges of scaling minority-owned enterprises.

Amplify online: Follow, like, and share business posts on social media, and write glowing reviews.

Spread word-of-mouth: Recommend your favorite local shops to friends and family.

Attend events: Visit local pop-ups, community markets, or business workshops

Ways to Support as a Business Owner

Diversify supply chains: Partner with Black-owned vendors, contractors, and suppliers.

Cross-promote: Spotlight local Black entrepreneurs on your company's platform or social media.

Offer mentorship: Share professional expertise or host skill-building workshops



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Black and African American History

August 1, 1868 Joint Resolution, Gov. Henry C. Warmoth endorsed a joint resolution of the legislature calling for federal military aid. Warmoth said there had been 150 political assassinations in Louisiana in June and July.



August 5, 2011 Johnson, Hazel W. (1927-2011), was the first African American woman to become a general in the U.S. Army. Her career began when we she received her nursing degree from the Harlem Hospital in New York City, New York in 1950. She then attended Villanova University where she received her bachelor's and soon afterwards joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1955. From 1969 to 1973, she helped develop new sterilizing methods for the Army's Field Hospital Systems as a staff member of the Army Medical Research and Development Command. In 1974, Johnson was appointed the director of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing, an extension of the University of Maryland's nursing school. In May 1979, she returned to Washington, D.C. where she was appointed General. A military ceremony was held in her honor at the Pentagon, where U.S. Army Surgeon General Julius Richmond pinned on her the brigadier general star. Johnson was also sworn in as the sixteenth Chief of the Army Nurse Corps.



August 12, 1965 Killings in Civil Rights Demonstrations, Jonathan M. Daniels, white Episcopal seminary student from Massachusetts, killed and Richard F. Morrisroe, white Roman Catholic priest from Chicago, seriously wounded by shotgun blasts fired by white special deputy sheriff in Hayneville, Alabama. They were participating in civil rights demonstrations in Lowndes County.

August 14, 1862 President Lincoln Received First Group of Blacks on Public Policy, President Lincoln received first group of Blacks to confer with a U.S. president on a matter of public policy. He urged Blacks to emigrate to Africa or Central America and was bitterly criticized by Northern Blacks.

August 15, 1843 National Black Convention Met in Buffalo NY, National Black convention met at Buffalo, New York, with some seventy delegates from twelve states. The highlight of the convention was a stirring address by Henry Highland Garnet, a twenty-seven-year-old-Presbyterian pastor who called for a slave revolt and a general slave strike. Amos G. Beman of New Heaven, Conn., was elected president of the convention.

August 16, 1963 First Black Artist to Design a U.S. Postage Stamp, On sale this day was a stamp designed to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. It was designed by George Olden which made him the first Black to design a U.S. postage stamp.

August 16, 1970 Activist Angela Davis is Named in a Federal Warrant issued in connected with George Jackson's attempted escape from San Quentin prison, 1970.

August 19, 1791 Benjamin Banneker writes letter to then secretary of state Thomas Jefferson. The letter showed the hypocrisy of slavery. Banneker challenged the idea of freedom for whites as the ascribed it to be the same freedom that should be granted to Africans.

August 19, 1963 Youth From NAACP Council Begin Sit-Ins at lunch counters in Oklahoma City, 1963.

August 20, 1619 Jamestown, VA, twenty Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, aboard a Dutch ship. They are the first blacks to be forcibly settled as involuntary laborers in the North American British Colonies.



August 20, 1944 SS Frederick Douglass Lost At Sea, The SS Frederick Douglass, the first ship named in honor of a black man, was lost in European waters.

August 21, 1831 Nat Turner Leader of Slave Revolt Captured, Nat Turner is remembered for his role in the Slave Revolt that took place in Southampton county, Virginia on August 21, 1831.

August 22, 1979 200 Black Leaders Met in New York, Two hundred Black leaders, meeting in New York, expressed support for Andrew Young and demanded that Blacks be given a voice in shaping American foreign policy.

August 23, 1861 First Black to Fight in Civil War, James Stone, a light skinned fugitive slave passing for white, enlisted in the First Fight Artillery of Ohio. His racial identity would not be known until his death nearly a year later.

August 27, 1957 Congress Passed Civil Rights Act, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first federal civil rights legislation since 1875. The bill established a civil rights commission and a civil rights division in the Justice Department. It also gave the Justice Department authority to seek injunctions against voting rights infractions.

August 29, 1979 First Black Owned Radio Station, The first completely Black owned radio network in the world, "Mutual Black Network" was purchased by Sheridan Broadcasting Corp.



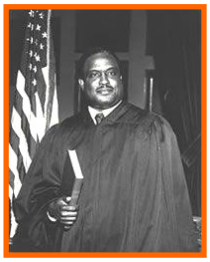
August 31, 1945 Blacks In Armed Services, A total of 1,154,720 Blacks were inducted or drafted into the armed services. Official records listed 7,768 Black commissioned officers on August 31, 1945. At the height of the conflict 3,902 Black women (115 officers) were enrolled in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WACS) and 68 were in the Navy auxiliary, the WAVES. The highest ranking Black women were Major Harriet M. West and Major Charity E. Adams. Distinguished Unit Citations were awarded the 969th Field Artillery Battalion, the 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 332nd Fighter Group.

Celebrated & Educated 365 Days

September 2, 1864 Black Troops, William Tecumseh Sherman occupied Atlanta. In series of battles around Chaffin's Farm in suburb of Richmond, Black troops captured entrenchments at New Market Heights, made gallant but unsuccessful assault on Fort Gilmer and helped repulse Confederate counterattack on Fort Harrison. Thirty-ninth U.S.C.T. won a Congressional Medals of Honor in the engagements.



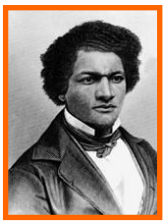
September 2, 1975 First Black Supreme Court Justice in South, Joseph W. Hatchett sworn in as first Black supreme court justice in the South in the twentieth century.



September 3, 1891 Cotton Pickers Organized Union and Staged Strike

Cotton pickers organized union and staged strike for higher wages in Texas.

September 3, 1970 Representatives from 27 African nations, the Caribbean nations, four South American Countries, Representatives from 27 African nations, the Caribbean nations, four South American countries, Australia, and the U.S. meet in Atlanta for the first Congress of African People.



September 3, 1838 Fredrick Douglass Escapes Slavery, Frederick Douglass, disguised as a sailor escapes from slavery

September 4, 1781 The Black Settlers

Los Angeles, California, founded by forty-four settlers of whom at least twenty-six were descendants of Africans. Among the Black settlers, according to H.H. Bancroft's authoritative History of California, were "Joseph Moreno, Mulatto, 22 years old, wife a Mulattress, five children; Manuel Cameron, Mulatto, 30 years old, wife Mulattress; Antonio Mesa, Negro, 38 years old, wife Mulattress, six children; Jose Antonio Navarro, Mestizo, 42 years old, wife, Mulattress, three children; Basil Rosas, Indian, 68 years old, wife, Mulattress, six children."

September 4, 1875 Clinton Massacre, Clinton, MS

Clinton Massacre, Clinton, Mississippi. Twenty to thirty Blacks killed.



September 7, 1957 Ghana Breaks Colonialistic Mold, On this day, Ghana becomes a free self-governing nation. This country will be the first of the British Commonwealth of Nations to be self-governing.

September 8, 1875 Protection of Black Voters, Mississippi governor requested federal troops to protect Black voters. Attorney General Edward Pierrepont refused the request and said "the whole public are tired of these annual autumnal outbreaks in the South..."

September 11, 1962 Voters Wounded Trying to Register, Two youths involved in voter registration drive in Mississippi were wounded by shotgun blasts fired through the window of a home in Ruleville. James Forman, of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), asked the president to "convene a special White House Conference to discuss means of stopping the wave of terror sweeping through the South, especially where SNCC is working on voter registration.

September 13, 1962 President Kennedy Support Blacks, President Kennedy denounced the burning of churches in Georgia and supported voter registration drive in the South.

September 17, 1962 Fourth Black Church Burned, Fourth Black church burned near Dawson, Georgia. Three white men later admitted burning the church. They were sentenced to seven-year prison terms.

September 19, 1868 White Democrats Attacked Demonstrators, White Democrats attacked demonstrators, who were marching from Albany to Camilla, Ga., and killed nine Blacks. Several whites were wounded.

September 25, 1861 Secretary of the Navy Authorizes Enlistment of African Americans into the Navy, The Secretary of the Navy authorizes the enlistment of African Americans in the Union Navy. The enlistees could achieve no rank higher than "boys" and receive pay of one ration per day and $10 per month.

September 26, 1936 Goode, Malvin Russell (1908–1995),



was the first African American news correspondent for a major television network. In 1948 Goode, at the age of forty, became a journalist when he was offered a job as a reporter for the Pittsburgh Courier, one of the two largest black newspapers in the United States. He became a radio broadcaster in 1949, working for Pittsburgh's AM radio station KQV, doing fifteen-minute news shows. Goode also worked for WHOD television station where he anchored a five-minute daily news show. He was named the station news director in 1952. While there, Goode became the first African American member of the National Association of Radio and Television News Directors.

September 26, 1907 The People's Savings Bank is incorporated in Philadelphia by former African American, The People's Savings Bank is incorporated in Philadelphia by former African American congressman George H. White of North Carolina. The bank will help hundreds of African Americans buy homes and start businesses until the illness of its founder forces its closure in 1918.

September 26, 1962, A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., becomes the first African American member of the Federal trade Commission. He was also appointed a federal district judge and U.S. Circuit Judge of the Third Circuit.

September 27, 1867 Louisiana Voters Endorsed Constitutional, Louisiana voters endorsed constitutional convention and elected delegates in first election under Reconstruction acts. The vote was 75,000 for the convention and 4,000 against. Elections for delegates to the conventions were held in other Southern states in October and November.

GUIDED TOURS

Want to learn more about the history of Lincoln Park? What about the historic Avenue D corridor and the vibrant life that emerged in the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960s? Do you ever wonder how Lincoln Park Academy was developed from the hard work of African American parents wanting a quality education for their children? How the families partnered with the St. Lucie County School District to build the accredited school in 1923?

Learn about all of the incredible lives of the trailblazers and the rich history of not only Historic Lincoln Park but the beautiful City of Fort Pierce. Such iconic figures as Zora Neale Hurston—her life, her work and her legacy; The Hall of Fame Original Highwaymen Artists—their paintings, their loves and their travels statewide selling Florida landscapes art on the highways of Florida; local artist Albert Ernest "A. E." Backus, also known as Beanie Backus and his unique relationship to the Highwaymen artist and author and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston.

For reunions (school, family, class) sightseeing and general knowledge of the local history of the area, contact us.

For more information or to schedule a tour contact:

Lincoln Park Main Street 407-257-1678







TREASURE COAST FOODBANK

City of Fort Pierce Extends Impact Fee Waiver for New Construction in Redevelopment Area

Thinking about building a new home or business in the heart of Fort Pierce? Now is the perfect time.

FORT PIERCE, FL – The City of Fort Pierce is proud to announce the extension of its impact fee moratorium, reaffirming a strong commitment to encouraging new residential and commercial construction within the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Area. First adopted in 2020, this initiative has helped reduce development costs and spark investment. With the City Commission's approval on November 3, 2025, the waiver will now continue through November 3, 2026.



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