



Volume 15, No. 11

June, 2020

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Creativity and Perseverance Prevail in Challenging Times

by Sue Dannahower



Last month, *Main Street Fort Pierce* celebrated 32 years of service in our community. Since becoming a designated *Main Street* program in 1988, we have accomplished so much and we continue to serve our community. By following the prescribed yet customizable *Main Street*

4-step approach to downtown revitalization, (economic vitality, design, promotions, & organization), we, along with many community partners, have seen a wonderful transformation in downtown Fort Pierce. *Main Street* organizes over 30 events a year; publishes the monthly *Main Street Focus*; has restored

three historic properties; has organized community art and design programs; and has constantly sought new opportunities and ideas to keep downtown Fort Pierce vital and vibrant.

We have been through many good times, as well as times that have challenged our creativity and perseverance. Simply put, this is one of those challenging times for *Main Street* and our entire society. Our ability to fund our operations through our events has been suspended until we are able to host these gatherings once again. Even so, we will continue to promote downtown Fort Pierce and the small businesses that give it life. We are meeting with other *Main Street* communities both statewide and nationally to brainstorm temporary and long-term solutions during this time. We are relaying ideas and working with the City of Fort Pierce to expand capacities such as utilizing downtown parking spaces as an extension of our local restaurants. We have our pulse on the community by keeping track of closures, hours of operation, connecting businesses with resources necessary to operate under current circumstances, and providing guidance on best practices for reopening.

We have been humbled by the generosity and support of our members during this uncertain time. If you are a frequent reader and are happy with the transformation of downtown Fort Pierce over the last 30 years, we ask that you consider joining *Main Street* as a member which will help us continue to support our great downtown. ♦

“We have been humbled by the generosity and support of our members.”



MAIN STREET
FOCUS
FORT PIERCE

Volume 15, No. 11

June 2020

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There is Something Fishy Going On!

by Diane Black

On April 13, I decided to try to contact Doris Tillman at *Main Street Fort Pierce*. I wanted to inquire about my church “Chapel by the Sea” being a part of *Friday Fest*. How fortunate for me, Doris was the one to answer the phone. I explained how our church was going through a total transformation, updating the interior and the exterior, but most importantly doing a new community outreach that will include a new youth ministry for the teens on the Island.

Doris described other types of community activities that our church could support and be a part of. That’s when I found out there was something fishy going on. I was intrigued, so I asked if I and another church member, Gloria Freeman, could come by her office at the *Backus House* to learn more.

At 11 a.m. the next day, Gloria and I arrived looking like a couple of masked bandits with our plastic gloves on as well. That was when we learned about the *Fish Fence* art program organized by *Main Street* to bring public art created by people of all generations to beautify a section of downtown Fort Pierce.

As soon as we heard the word “fish” we were hooked! Immediately, the Bible story of Jesus feeding 5,000 with five loaves of



bread and two fish flashed through our heads. We asked Doris how we could help. She said she had 85 painted fish that needed to be coated with acrylic clear waterproof sealer to protect them from the elements. I’m sure you already know the ending to this story — I soon had around 85 fish in the back of my car!

Doris did have one question: “I’ve lived in Fort Pierce for years and didn’t know there was a church on the beach. Where is it?” To find us, just go three blocks south of **Archie’s Sea Breeze** and turn right to 1717 Gulfstream Ave.

The *Fish Fence* is an ongoing public art project. For those interested in adding a painted fish to the fish fence along 2nd Street between Marina Way and Backus Avenue, please call Doris or Michelle at the *Main Street* office (772) 466-3880. ❖



PHOTO BY MARYANN KETCHAM

Ben Hollamby, Leonard Burlingame, Diane Black, Steve Angeloni, Al Gibbs, and Gloria Freeman braved intermittent thunderstorms to help beautify downtown by hanging fish and manatees painted by their church members.

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Golf for a Great Cause at *Main Street Fort Pierce's* Annual Golf Tournament

Is there a better way to start the day than on the golf course? *Main Street Fort Pierce* extends a grand invite to all golfers to join them at **Gator Trace Golf & Country Club** on June 13, 2020. Participants can enjoy a round of golf while helping fund the programs and events of *Main Street Fort Pierce*.



Main Street's Annual Golf Tournament starts with registration at 7:30 a.m. and a continental breakfast and a beverage of your choice. The golfing begins at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start. Prizes will be awarded for men and women closest to the pin, the longest drives, as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

The cost is \$100 per player or \$350 per team. Your entry

fee will include a continental breakfast, a round of golf, lunch, a goody bag and raffle prizes. *Main Street* will have a putting contest and for a small donation you will get three chances to putt your ball through a special layout for a great prize.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available and tee signs will be set up around the course. Advertise your business by becoming a tee sponsor. Call the *Main Street Fort Pierce* office at 466-3880 to sign up your team, get a tee sign or to become a sponsor for the tournament. Sponsors of the tournament as of printing are **Southern Eagle Distributing**, **John Jacobs Construction**, and **CenterState Bank**. ❖

Father's Day is June 21st

A personalized gift is a special one to all that receive it. Small businesses specialize in personalized gifts and experiences. So, for Father's Day one quick trip to downtown Fort Pierce can provide a meaningful gift for any father. Within a few blocks are a variety of restaurants, each offering a different atmosphere and cuisine. There are several venues that offer live music or game nights for relaxing afternoons or entertaining evenings. Fishing, kayaking and other water excursions can be booked from the Chamber of Commerce in the **7 Gables House** or from several local charter services including our fishing columnist, **Pullin Drag Charters**. For art enthusiasts, there are several galleries in downtown Fort Pierce: the **Backus Museum** and gift cards for candle making, mosaic and other artistic expression classes. Gift cards and/or retail items range from apparel, jewelry, cooking supplies, auto supplies, cigars, home repair, gemstones, books, gourmet food and coffee, and more. Service items that every father needs include: auto repair, barber and salon services, spa

services, yoga and gym memberships. Last but not least, for those fathers with a sweet tooth there are several downtown businesses that focus on dessert items such as cakes, ice cream, gelato, cookies and breads and/or coffee. ❖



Together We Count

Compiled by Jann Widmayer

The U.S. census aims to count everyone in the U.S. Of course, that's not so easy because it depends on us to fill out and submit the form. I've heard

many people ask why, and how. Why should I fill out the form? Why are my answers important? How will my information be used? Why is it important to me? How does it impact me or my community? Let's try to answer some of those questions.

First and most important, rest assured that all census data is secure and confidential. The Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. Any violation of Title 13 of the U.S. Constitution is a federal crime, punishable by prison time and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. In fact, Census Bureau employees who have access to the data have sworn a lifetime oath to protect your information.

Did you know that the information gathered by the Census Bureau is used to make important decisions? Not only do census results determine how many seats in Congress each state gets but results also help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities each year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location.

This year the theme for the census campaign is *Shape Your Future*. When you take the time to learn the facts, you may be amazed at how true that is.

Think of your morning commute: census results influence highway planning and construction, as well as grants for buses, subways, and other public transit systems.

Or think of your local schools: census results help determine how money is allocated for the Head Start program, school lunches and for grants that support teachers and special education.

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Continuing education: The federal government uses census data to help plan billions in funding for the Federal Pell Grant Program. Every year, Pell

Grants make it possible for millions of students to continue their education beyond high school. These need-based grants help students pursue undergraduate degrees, teaching certifications, and certificates in fields such as cosmetology.

Employment and training: Census results affect planning and funding of programs for vocational rehabilitation state grants, dislocated workers, and American Indian and Alaska Native employment and training.

Community infrastructure: Census results affect planning and funding for Section 8 housing, federal transit, community development, and rural water and waste disposal systems.

And the list goes on, including programs to support rural areas, to restore wildlife, to prevent child abuse, to prepare for wildfires, and to provide housing assistance for older adults.

The impact for our community depends on *you* being counted and only *you* can fill out your census form. It's easy and it only takes about 10 minutes. Complete your form online, by phone, or by mail if you have your form. Visit www.my2020census.gov for additional information.

Shape your future. Fill out your census form today and *Make Fort Pierce Count!* ♦



Mayor's Message

Fort Pierce: Back to Work, and Protecting the Most Vulnerable

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Our city was quick to create help for businesses and residents hit hard by COVID-19. The *City of Fort Pierce* reassured its citizens from the date of our disaster declaration, March 17, that our city continues to conduct business and provide all es-

sential services to the public, including police, utilities, and public works. We urged our citizens to follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, reminded them their efforts were working, and acknowledged the significant impact that the Corona virus was having on residents and businesses.

Our city created a disaster recovery grant program that includes financial assistance to residents and businesses. We also partnered with a local lab and other agencies to provide testing to our residents in a local park. We recognized that many non-profits were offering food to our residents, so we created *Operation Dinner Table* to identify and provide food to those residents who may have been missed.

Our utility authority reduced monthly power bills \$2 per 1000 kw, providing continuous relief over a period of months. Additionally, all late fees are waived and payment plans with 0.0% interest were created. Further, the utility made contributions to non-profit agencies for help paying monthly service bills. Most importantly,

there are no disconnections during the disaster period.

Our local businesses have shown a great deal of innovation in trying to survive, many restaurants going to take out, retail and manufacturing businesses repurposing to make masks and hand sanitizers. One marina opened their parking lot for drive-in movie nights. A pizza restaurant partnered with Career Source, employers to provide free pizzas to job applicants with funds from a generous donor and provided "Slices for Seniors" to group homes for seniors. *Main Street Fort Pierce* held its first ever *Virtual Coffee with The Mayor*.

We continue to hold regularly scheduled commission meetings, with social distancing, with citizen input in person or via written communication. At each meeting we provide updates on our COVID-19 activities. We continue to remind our citizens to respond to the 2020 Census.

We kept our citizens informed by participating in St. Lucie County's weekly press updates; issuing daily COVID-19 updates; social media posts, and videos on our government C hannel 27. We created a special COVID-19 page on our city's website.

We are all in the same storm, but we are not in the same boat. I am proud of the way citizens responded to the crisis, especially to slow the spread, being "Safer at Home," taking personal responsibility, and protecting those most vulnerable. ❖



Mayor Hudson with Scott VanDuser and Dr. Shamsher Singh.



City of Fort Pierce Staff, Audria Moore-Wells, coordinated COVID-19 testing, working with Chris Gorman and Dynxx Diagnostix, for the City of Fort Pierce at Ilous Ellis Park.

Follow Main Street Fort Pierce on Instagram for Weekly History Tidbits and Information About Downtown Fort Pierce:



The P.P. Cobb building held some of the very first commercial businesses in the south Florida region during the late 1800s. Originally built by the Hogg (pronounced Hoag) family around 1882 and used as a trading post, Peter Cobb purchased the building from the Florida Canning company around the mid-1890s. He opened a general store with the motto “Everything to Eat, Wear and Use”. In the earlier days, supplies and mail would arrive by way of Cobb’s Dock (where Cobb’s Landing and the Fort Pierce City Marina resides today) from steamships and then later, by trains. Cobb’s store was the one-stop-shop of its day where people went to get their supplies, new, mail, gossip, etc. Cobb retired and sold in 1932. Pitt’s furniture bought the building and operated there until the early 1980s. Thankfully it was restored by David Cleveland in the late 1980s. Today, it is once again home to several small businesses. Prior to the Covid-19 restrictions, the St. Lucie County Historical Society volunteers ran the Bud Adams-Cobb Cultural Center on the 2nd floor (keep this in mind to check out in the future). ❖



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Florida SBDC at Indian River State College Urges Small Business Support Amid COVID-19

The *Florida Small Business Development Center* (SBDC) at **Indian River State College** (IRSC) encourages consumers to support small businesses in their communities during the coronavirus pandemic.

Small businesses are critical to our economy. They create two-thirds of net new jobs and drive economic innovation and competitiveness. According to the *SBA Office of Advocacy*, small businesses comprise nearly half (44 percent) of economic activity.

Yet, measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus have negatively impacted small businesses in Florida and across the country. According to a recent study by Thryv and America's SBDC, 42 percent of businesses indicated they can only survive one to two more months if not allowed to re-open in early May.

The Florida SBDC at **Indian River State College** encourages consumers to support small businesses in their communities and was pleased to announce and launch a social media campaign highlighting ideas consumers could use to support businesses from the safety of their homes.

The six-part video series, launched Sunday, May 24th, included examples of tagging small businesses on social media, purchasing gift cards, writing online reviews, and sending caring messages to small business owners.

To access the videos, visit www.floridasbdc.org/disaster/5-day-challenge. They will also be available on the Florida SBDC at **Indian River State College's** social media channels at @FloridaSBDCatIRSC.

The Florida SBDC at **Indian River State College** is a member of the Florida SBDC Network, a public-private partnership



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that leverages the resources of higher education and economic development to serve the needs of aspiring and existing small businesses. The mission of the Florida SBDC Network and SBDCs nationally is to provide the resources and expertise for small businesses to grow and succeed.

As part of its service offering, Florida SBDC professionally certified consultants and disaster specialists are also available to provide confidential, no-cost consulting and direction to help affected businesses assess their options and receive assistance in preparing loan applications. Florida SBDC disaster specialists can also assist with other post-disaster challenges.

"The Florida SBDC at IRSC is a valuable business assistance program and the team of credentialed consultants is on the job and

ready to assist small business in developing strategies to navigate the new normal," said Tom Kindred, Regional Director Florida SBDC at IRSC. "I would encourage every small business owner to set a date to meet with an SBDC consultant and use the program, its consultants and tools to prepare their business to re-engage in the marketplace."

The Florida SBDC Network recently developed a guide and other resources to help small businesses understand available federal disaster loans and provide tips for impacted businesses. To access the guide, and for more information on resources available to small businesses impacted by COVID-19, please visit www.FloridaSBDC.org.

For more information or to schedule a no-cost business consulting appointment, please visit www.FSBDC@IRSC or call Katie Muldoon at 772-336-6285. ♦

Help Available for Those Suffering Financial Hardship in the Wake of COVID-19



by Colin Lloyd

While there remains a lot of uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, one thing that seems to be a certainty is that it has and will continue to negatively affect virtually everyone financially. While our government has taken measures to soften the blow through the stimulus packages, these efforts will not be enough for most. As we enter into what seems to be a period of high unemployment, bankruptcy will be the best option to effectively solve the financial devastation this virus has caused. I am already seeing new cases caused directly from the virus and current events, however, the true impact will most likely be in a few months as eventually the banks and creditors will stop being lenient and forbearances on mortgages, etc. will become due. This will result in more aggressive collection including lawsuits, wage garnishments, and foreclosures which a bankruptcy would stop.

There are essentially two types of personal bankruptcies for consumers, Chapter 7 and Chapter 13. A Chapter 7 requires no repayment to unsecured creditors but will not protect all assets and will not help one save secured items if in default (i.e.

cars and homes if behind on payments). One has to qualify from an income level to be eligible as well.

A Chapter 13 is a reorganization where one can save cars, homes, pay delinquent taxes, and other items oftentimes at discounted values and rates. It also allows one to save unencumbered assets by paying a percentage of unsecured debt back over time. Another very successful component of Chapter 13 is the MMM program which is a mortgage modification program used to save properties that are in mortgage default. We expect these cases to be very popular and beneficial for people to save their homes as a result of this crisis.

In addition to these personal bankruptcies, Congress recently enacted a new reorganization bankruptcy for small businesses wishing to salvage ongoing operations called a Chapter 5. We anticipate a large filing of these cases which should result in many people being able to save their businesses and operate in the future.

Having practiced exclusively bankruptcy law for over 22 years, I have seen the financial devastation national crisis, mortgage crisis, hurricanes, etc. can wrought on small communities like ours here on the treasure coast. However, I also know that certain legal options such as bankruptcy can provide hope and a path back to normalcy. ♦

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Downtown Restaurants Prep for the Return of Patrons

Many of our downtown restaurants took time during the Covid-19 restrictions to make needed renovations and/or changes to accommodate the space needs of their customers. Here are a couple examples of what these restaurants have accomplished during this time.



Then on April 9th, there was a small fire in the kitchen. Although the fire was small, the damage was not. The owners were not going to just put a band aid on the problem. They instead rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Not only were the floors replaced, **Taco Dive** in Downtown Fort Pierce now has new kitchen

Taco Dive: According to one of the owners of **Taco Dive**, they have taken the down time during this pandemic to complete some renovations. The “little hole in the wall” has seen its share of traffic via thousands of guests who have walked through the door, enjoyed some fresh food and craft beers, then exited, *ringing the bell* before they leave! Replacing the flooring was already on the to-do list and they were looking for the right time to get this done. They took advantage of the temporary closure to get this task completed.

equipment, televisions and fresh paint! The restaurant now looks like a brand-new, shiny penny. But don’t worry, it will still be the same little hole in the wall that everyone has come to love. When life hands you avocados, you make guacamole — **Taco Dive** made the best out of a difficult situation!

2nd Street Bistro: The management at **2nd Street Bistro** chose to not do pick-up and delivery service immediately. Instead, they worked hard to clean and disinfect the entire

Waterfront Luxury on Thumb Point Drive

A black and white photograph of a large, modern waterfront house. The house has multiple levels, large windows, and a prominent balcony. In front of the house is a swimming pool and a dock. The property is surrounded by lush landscaping and palm trees.

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restaurant. Then they went about beautifying their space by re-staining the front door, re-painting the back deck, and sanding and painting the men's and women's bathrooms and the area behind the big bar in the dining room. They also painted the back-bar area and added new equipment. In light of the current circumstances, they invested in sneeze guards for the

bars and in between booths in the dining rooms ensuring that their customers have a comfortable dining experience when the restrictions lifted.

Thinking ahead, they utilized the area outside under their awnings for seating. It was after all these changes that the **2nd Street Bistro** opened back up for delivery and take out. ❖





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Close the Social Distance with Social Media and Art: Photography Project from the Backus Museum #EyeAmCreative

As the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** prepares to reopen, it has had to make adjustments to its planned exhibition schedule for the remainder of its 2019–2020 season. The Museum is unable to present its annual juried competitive photography exhibition *Through the Eye of the Camera*. Instead, the Museum announces an online social media project for photographers to share their creative vision beyond the Museum's walls.

Photographers are invited to share their original, creative images on social media (especially Instagram, Facebook, Twitter) with the hashtag #EyeAmCreative, and tag the Museum (@AEBBackusMuseum). Artists can also submit images to the Museum by email if preferred at info@BackusMuseum.org.

"Doing a juried exhibition during a pandemic didn't seem like a good idea," says J. Marshall Adams, Executive Director. "With so many challenges for artists and for a small museum, we decided the best way to have the widest audience during these challenging times would be to use social media. No entry fees, no jury, no prospectus or categories or deadlines, just the opportunity to put your best images out there."

The annual juried photography exhibition *Through the Eye of the Camera* is traditionally the last exhibition of the **Backus Museum's** regular season, and one of the most anticipated. As one of two juried exhibitions in a typical

year, it harkens back to the Museum's roots as a community gallery. "Normally, the call to artists would have gone out the week we closed in March," Adams said, "but like everyone else, we put everything on hold. Now as we start to emerge from temporary closure, given the circumstances, we want to shift and open up participation and a more far-reaching appreciation for this work."

The **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** is a community-based, 501(c)3 not-for-profit arts institution that relies on your support. Contributions during this challenging period will lessen the financial impact on the Museum, and can be





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made securely online at www.BackusMuseum.org/donate. Gifts can also be made as an ongoing monthly donation, as a way to extend contributions and provide steady support in this uncertain time.

Currently on View > Re-Opening May 16:

As a teenager, James Hutchinson (b. 1932) developed his artistic skills in the studio of “Bean” Backus, and quickly grew to become a renowned painter in his own right by following his own path. The special exhibition, *James F. Hutchinson: Visionary*




Truths, presents the artist's story through his journeys describing the idyllic beauty of the land (Florida, Jamaica, Hawaii), and his captivating insight for the Seminole peoples. Among a lifetime of honors, in 2011, Hutchinson was inducted into the *Florida Artists Hall of Fame*. Originally scheduled to close April 26, the exhibition will be on view indefinitely as the community recovers from the COVID-19

public health crisis. The exhibition is generously sponsored by **Fee, Yates and Fee Attorneys at Law**.

After May 16, regular hours will be: Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m. (closed Monday to Tuesday). Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free.

The **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** is located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce; info@BackusMuseum.org, www.BackusMuseum.org. ❖

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Native Species at the Forefront at the Manatee Center

by April Frederick, Education Coordinator, and Rachel Tennant, Manager

Outside, a monarch butterfly dances gracefully from one milkweed flower to another while a gulf fritillary opens and closes its orange wings slowly as it drinks nectar from a purple passion flower. These are just a few of the things you might observe in the **Manatee Center's** butterfly garden.

Butterflies belong to an informal group of organisms referred to as pollinators. These animals, mainly insects, birds and bats, are responsible for most of the plant reproduction on earth. Unfortunately, pollinator populations have been declining for some time. Native pollinator populations have been impacted in part by habitat loss and pesticide use.

The **Manatee Center's** butterfly garden provides an excellent example of one way that residents can support pollinator populations. The garden is planted primarily with native plants, which provide the best food source for pollinators. While most adult butterflies will drink nectar from just about any source,

many species require specific plants for the caterpillar stage. In order to provide butterflies with food at all stages of their life cycle, a wide variety of plants have been installed. Pollinators have evolved over time

◀ Native *Gaillardia Pulchella* (firewheel, Indian blanket, Indian blanketflower, or sundance)



◀ **Manatee Center's** volunteer butterfly gardener, Janet

with native plants so they provide the most complete nutrition source. Native plants are also adapted to local growing conditions making them easier to care for and more robust.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the **Manatee Center** grounds anytime to stroll through

the butterfly garden or relax on the shady bench to watch butterflies, bees and other small wild creatures as they go about their day's activities. Lucky visitors may even encounter the **Manatee Center's** volunteer butterfly gardener, Janet, who comes regularly to care for the garden and enjoy the plants.

Inside, a black edge moray eel, affectionately named *Danger Noodle* by popular vote in 2017, winds gracefully through his new home — an eel cave at the base of a faux dock piling. He shares his space with a handful of other native lagoon species, including *Potato*, a porcupinefish, who smiles for cameras and flirts with passersby, among a handful of other native species.

Their habitat is only half of an 800-gallon tank, sectioned off by tunnels housing live rock. Next door, a non-native, and highly-invasive lionfish lurks along the dock piling, often upside down or sideways.



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Black Edge Moray Eel, AKA, *Danger Noodle*

He shares his space with species who are nonnative to the lagoon, including a young and fast-growing snowflake eel, and beautiful, exotic sailfin tang, scopas tang, and black and white heniochus.

This tank redesign, modeled to appear as though you are looking “under the docks” in the Indian River Lagoon, was funded by the **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission** (FWC) and the *Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation*. It focuses heavily on the harm that invasive lionfish can do to our environment.



Native Porcupinefish, AKA, *Potato*

Together, these exhibits highlight the importance of protecting and encouraging native species, while preventing the introduction of non-native species to our local environment. Although not all non-native species are harmful to the environment, without natural predators, some can thrive and become a harmful invasive species. Unchecked, these non-native species can grow to outcompete native species, disrupting natural cycles and causing negative environmental changes that impact other native species, such as the Florida manatee. ❖

Worship Facebook Live Sunday 9:30 a.m.



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FPUA Responds to the COVID-19 Crisis

FPUA remains committed to keeping our customers and community safe by continuing to provide reliable essential services throughout this COVID-19 crisis.

In addition, the following measures are in effect until further notice:

- 🔥 Suspend service disconnects for all residential and commercial customers due to non-payment
- 🔥 Approved a \$2 reduction to the PCA starting in May
- 🔥 Waive all penalty and late fees assessed during COVID-19 crisis
- 🔥 Offer COVID-19 residential payment plan with zero percent interest and up to twelve months to pay
- 🔥 Offer COVID-19 commercial payment plan with zero percent interest and up to 6 months to pay
- 🔥 Commitment of \$100,000 to the Project Care COVID-19 Relief Fund to help residential customers most affected by this crisis, partnering with Mustard Seed and ALPI for fund management

Visit www.fpua.com for details and latest updates.

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-nine 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 \$15.

Main Street Membership Levels

Benefactor Levels

Headline Sponsor (\$1,000)
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Community Levels

Main Street Friend Membership (\$25)
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Corporate Levels

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Please Take a Minute to Join Today!

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

Name: _____ Membership Level: _____

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Street Address: _____

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Three Easy Ways to Join!

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

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

A Sign of the Times — Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market Drive-Thru at Lawnwood

What a month this has been! The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** has been operating at **Lawnwood Recreation Complex** on Virginia Avenue for the past several weeks. The change in venue has brought a whole new opportunity for all involved. Not only vendors, but patrons as well, have adjusted to this great adventure — drive through marketing!

Most of the vendors who are regulars at the Marina Square location are ‘mom and pop’ businesses and have no outlet for sales other than the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market**. Some have opted for online sales, and some have ventured to other locations, but most are happiest when doing direct sales face-to-face with their favorite customers.

Through the efforts of SLC Commissioner Dzadovsky and Ed Skvarch and Kate Rotindo of SLC Cooperative Extension, along with the Market Board and management, the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** has begun a new “Saturday morning tradition.” Every Saturday morning, vendors arrive, and the camaraderie begins — set up in the dark poses its own issues, but generators provide light; customers begin lining up for the drive through long before opening time at 8:00 a.m.



The parade of cars, full of eager customers, anxiously waits for the anticipated opening. Both customers and vendors have been extremely careful to wear masks and other protective gear,

as well as customers remaining in their vehicles, so that Covid-19 does not creep into this close-knit community.

Most of the regular vendors at the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** at Marina Square are participating at Lawnwood. Although anxious to return to “normal,” they are grateful for the opportunity to continue doing

business as usual. Even with the dramatic change in venue, customers seem to enjoy seeing, and purchasing from, their favorite vendors. Vendors are noticing a lot of new-to-market customers who have never been to Marina Square on Saturday morning.

The City of Fort Pierce has expressed its desire to have the Market return to Marina Square as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. The Market Board maintains close communication with Mayor Linda Hudson and several commissioners, and Mike Reals, Director of Public Works. Providing a safe environment for customers and vendors will be the priority until the all clear is sounded. The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** has always provided fresh nutritious foods and horticultural products and continues to provide and encourage commerce and trade to Fort Pierce and the surrounding areas. The ability to adapt to changing circumstances shows the resilience of our vendors, our customers, and our entire community.

The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** is thankful for the support of our community. The hope to return to historic downtown Fort Pierce is foremost in our plans. In the meantime, come visit the Market at Lawnwood — make it a new part of your Saturday morning. Follow us on facebook and twitter, and check our webpage www.https.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com. ❖

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Love, JAZZ Community: Blue Skies

by Don Bestor

Sing it with us, now. “Blue skies, nothing but blue skies from now on.” Way back in 1926, composer Irving Berlin shared exactly what we’re feeling in his famous tune, “Blue Skies,” and we’re channeling our best Irving Berlin and hoping for those skies to clear up and feeling confident when we say that we, “never saw things go oh so right,” again.

Like everyone else, members of the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** have had a pretty challenging year so far. The corona virus hit the area just before our annual *Jazz Week*, and while we are grateful that we were able to cancel the whole week of activities to help ensure the safety of our wonderful supporters and audience members, losing our *Jazz Week*, weekly *Jazz Jams* at the **Black Box**, and the closing of the weekly **Jazz Market** next door to the **Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market** has definitely taken a toll on the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** this year.

Many of our members don’t just love music; they’ve made a living performing. Many still rely on performance and ‘gigs’ to make ends meet, so when restaurants and bars and events were all shuttered and canceled, it wasn’t just the businesses themselves impacted. Every performance was canceled, too. And while you might think playing an instrument is like riding a bike — and part of it is — you probably also know that you’re a lot better at riding a bike when you practice and keep your skills current. During the time of ‘social distancing’ and ‘safer at home’ measures, I asked a few of our members what they were doing musically in a time of ‘social distancing.’ Here’s what they shared.

I have been practicing and have tried to stay in touch with colleagues. I try to stay positive, although moods vary somewhat, day to day. Luckily, I’ve experienced no health issues and

No anxiety to speak of during this period.

—Val Schaeffer, Bassist

I’ve been trying to use this time to catch up on some of the many aspects of playing that I’ve had on my “to do” list. I try to mix things up and practice different types of things on different days.

Because we’ve become the musicians that we are, we should have

enough self-discipline to work through this situation. I miss being with the people who are close to me, but modern technology has helped take some of the edge off that.

—Maurice Sedacca, Jazz Guitarist

We’re jazz musicians. We invented despair and depression, so that’s nothing new here. Self-employed musicians are hit hard when all work is dried up, so there is plenty of anxiety all around. But until it’s over, for me it’s practice, practice, practice. I’ve also put one mini-performance from my living room online with Facebook. Thankfully, no health issues for me and my wife. So far, so good.

—Larry Brown, Jazz Pianist

I practice my drumming every day including playing along with some of my favorite bands from Gordon Goodwin to Tower of Power. I’ve been experimenting with new drum techniques, sounds, colors, and textures on my drum set. I’ve been writing some new drum material for myself and improvising on themes and forms. After every one of my gigs for the coming year were canceled, I felt discouraged. However, it didn’t last long as it’s been nice staying home with my wife (she seems like a nice person) and our dog.

—Claudio Berardi, Jazz Drummer

I have continued my online teaching at the Indian River Charter High School as Director of Jazz Studies and learned many new and exciting ways to teach music. I keep myself fresh by playing my bass each day. Sight-reading, ear training and now vocal lessons round out my weekly musical rituals. No depression for me. I feel that I have a more personal approach to my music. There are so many wonderful musicians to learn from online, and I use them for inspiration instead of for comparison. Fortunately, my wife and twin six year-old daughters are healthy and safe. No anxiety during this period either. I just want my friends in the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society and all those who enjoy our music to continue to be safe and healthy through this trying time.

—David Mundy, Jazz Bassist, Dir. of Jazz Studies,
Indian River Charter High School, Schumann School for the
Visual and Performing Arts

Now that you know what some of our members are up to, I hope you'll indulge me while I share what I've been doing during this time of forced isolation. My practice routine was pretty constant for the first five weeks, but then I went on to try to learn new tunes, write some new material. Of course I've continued to stay in touch with the Board of Directors for the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, and we've been hard at work (from a distance) planning the 2021 schedule with a major concentration on the educational aspect of this wonderful Society. This crisis has given us all a chance to do some thinking, and I've been reflecting on what a wonderful and social group this Society is with the main emphasis on camaraderie. That is our trademark and continues to contribute to the well-being and success of this nonprofit organization.

The real anxiety comes when I think about working on ways to raise money for this organization to ensure that the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** stays viable and healthy. This will *not* be an easy task for the way forward. We depend upon contributions, grants, (not many for that category), and the *Jazz Market* held on Saturday mornings in downtown Ft. Pierce for the past 16 years. Without community support, donations, or funds, we will fade away. Rent, fees, insurances, utilities, etc., all still continue. This is the scary part of what I do as the president of the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, and sometimes I feel like I'm standing on a street corner and hoping people will make a donation before the light changes and they go on with their lives and forget about us. Donations are very much needed to continue. I'm hoping soon we'll all be singing "nothing but blue skies from now on." In the meantime, if you'd like to make a small donation to show your support, visit www.jazzsociety.org and look on the left side of the page for "Donations," or call us at 772.460.JAZZ (5299). ❖

Onward and upward, Don Bestor

Jazz pianist, and proudly the president of Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society for the past ten years



An Interesting Past Month

by Lisa Jill Allison. *Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery*



So, what did I spend my last month doing? Painting, painting, painting, writing, bike riding, sunning, organizing, cleaning — pretty much all done in my pajamas. And now we are told it is safe to go back to work. Major gear shift here!

Am I delighted to be opening back up? A loud yes! Am I feeling a bit traumatized by the whole thing? Another loud yes!

If you've met me, you know I am a hugger, not just a quick hand-on-shoulder-3-feet-apart-hug but the real deal, a hug that lets you know all is right at the moment. So, note to self, no hugging, at least for now. I'll remember to be conscious of space between myself and those who come to visit the gallery.

These may seem like minor business points but for the businesses in downtown Fort Pierce, where we all know each other and look so forward to seeing each other and where we welcome new customers and clients with wide open arms, this is something we are learning to wrap our heads around.

I will say, as I write this, so many thoughts are bubbling in my head, my hands literally cannot keep up on the keyboard, as we have been so greatly impacted by what just occurred. I have shared a bit of the physical/emotional aspect of reopening under the “new normal” These are uncomfortable but doable adjustments. There is also a very hard deep reality under the surface.

Our downtown businesses were shut down completely during the height of season. We are still, by and far a seasonal retail setup in Fort Piece. As you see our smiling faces greet you as you revisit our shops and restaurants and gathering places, look a little deeper and you will see concern, no matter how strong our positive outlook. Yes, lives and health are of the greatest importance in our human family and the focus of our concern. Yet, after every tragedy in life, which this has been, pieces are picked back up and life is restructured. Here we are, restructuring. Many of the business owners in downtown have put their life into their business. All of their financial, emotional and physical resources have been poured into their businesses year after year. We came into the pandemic tired and stretched thin

as we have diligently worked throughout the years in an “up and coming town” where it takes enormous energy to make a go of a small business.

My typical routine consists of “remaining in a creative mindset” while managing a brick and mortar storefront, painting, writing, hauling, cleaning, greeting smiling, donating, laughing, sometimes crying, handling home and extended family responsibilities, staying physically healthy and I am sure I have left out some aspects. Would I trade it for something else? Obviously not or I would have done so by now, being a part of the Fort Pierce art community for over 10 years.

So, I guess I am sharing all of this to let you all know, we are family and we need each other right now. I need you to come downtown to help breath life and yes economic resources back into our beautiful little town. As a side not, I will share that we did fair so much better than some of our larger neighboring cities in either direction. Having close friends in both directions, WE, Fort Pierce, maintained a very friendly, positive attitude as a whole during this crazy time.

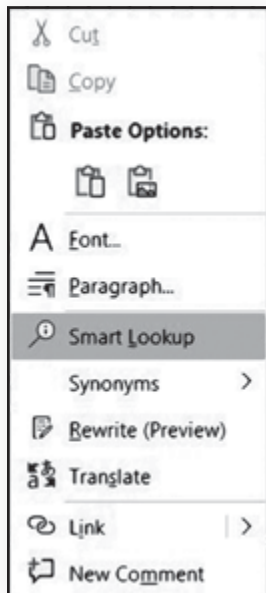
As we reemerge, please remember that the gallery has, for many of you, been your go to place to beautify your home with art, the place you have run by on your lunch hour when you felt a bit glum, knowing the gallery would brighten your spirits. the gallery has been a place to bring out of town guests after the farmers market, to mingle with others from town and a place to show off your visiting kids or grand kids. New relationships and even a first date that ended in marriage have happened right here :)

I feel comfortable saying this for all the downtown businesses, we can't wait for you to come back downtown! Come just to say hello and give a much-needed air hug. Come purchase if you can, many businesses will be offering incentives. Get outside into our beautiful, clean fresh air, under our healing blue skies for a stroll. We have plenty of space to do so. We do not know what the future holds so do this while we all have the opportunity and the freedom to do so. For all our sake, we will be glad we did.

Now it is time to head off to the gallery, so it's pajamas off and regular clothes on once again and *I just can't wait to see you!* ♦

Microsoft Tips & Tricks

by Sue Dannahower



USE SMART LOOKUP TO SEARCH THE INTERNET

Anytime you highlight a word or phrase and right-click it, you'll see "Smart Lookup," which serves as a quick shortcut to browse the web — without slowing down to open a separate browser window. From word definitions to news scans, this powerful tool can transform a simple question into a wealth of knowledge.

Example: A **bemused** expression came over their face when I asked if they knew what **banal** meant. I don't know what **bemused** means. Right mouse

click on **bemused** and click **Smart Lookup**.

Smart Lookup will give you all the information you need and more. *Happy computing.* ❖



Coffee with the Mayor

Volunteer of the Month



Charles Cuomo



Charlie Hayek



Mayor Hudson with Scott VanDuser and Dr. Shamsher Singh.



Sharon Cooper
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Don't Worry, *King's Landing* is Still Coming

by *Anthony Westbury*

So, who could be moving into the much-anticipated **King's Landing** development? Well, the Busch family from **Southern Eagle Distributing** for starters. Members of the family have reserved five condominium units at **King's Landing**, including the penthouse for Philip Busch.

The Buschs are just a few of those interested in snapping up property at **King's Landing**. Developer Dale Matteson reports that by mid-March, one third of the residential inventory had been spoken for.

It's not only homes that are going fast. A few of Fort Pierce's most iconic restaurants are planning to open eateries in the complex.



The coronavirus outbreak may have slowed things down, but it certainly hasn't derailed **King's Landing**.

Matteson of Audubon Development reports most work on the \$85 million project is still going on behind the scenes. Audubon is busy completing ground-

work soil surveys, including 3-D ground-penetrating radar to clear the way for deep pilings needed for the bigger buildings.

The hotel on the site? It may be a little larger than originally intended and could offer much-needed business meeting space, even a rooftop bar to take in that incredible view. So far, five national hotel chains have expressed interest, Matteson said.

When will we see the first bulldozers? Matteson hopes to break ground by the end of this year or early next, with buildings "going vertical" by late 2021.

King's Landing is still on pace to become the jewel in downtown's crown. It sounds as if it'll be worth the wait. ♦

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Prepare Your Small Business for Hurricane Season

by By DCG Communications published on www.sba.gov on May 06, 2020

While Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to impact small businesses across the country, it's important for business owners in certain regions to start thinking about and preparing for the Atlantic hurricane season, which begins June 1.

In addition to offering programs to help businesses recover from natural disasters such as hurricanes, the SBA also provides guidance to help you protect your business before the storm hits. If you live in hurricane-prone areas like coastal communities, here are a few things to consider to reduce risks to your business in the months ahead:

BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

➊ Ahead of hurricane season, these precautions can help prepare your small business:

➋ Back up data and make sure you can access important files remotely. Put these systems into place now in case your on-site computers or paper files are damaged or otherwise inaccessible during a storm.

➌ Implement a back-up power supply system. A back-up generator will enable you to keep essential systems online during a storm. It will also help you get your business up and running sooner after the storm passes.

➍ Establish an emergency communications plan. Make sure you have up-to-date contact information for all relevant stakeholders, including customers, employees, and suppliers.

WHEN A STORM IS APPROACHING

When a hurricane is approaching, follow these steps to protect your property:

➊ Install windstorm shutters or plywood over windows and doors. Doing so will help prevent interior damage to your building.

➋ Take precautions so that items outdoors will not blow away or cause physical damage. For example, remove all loose debris, anchor or relocate all nonessential equipment, and secure large cranes and other heavy equipment.

➌ Have cash on hand for post-hurricane needs. Cash may be useful for buying food and supplies or paying employees and contractors in case electronic payment systems are down.

➍ As the storm strikes, your safety and your employees' safety are what matters most. Follow any guidelines issued by state and local officials. If you are at your business during the storm, stay in an interior room on the lowest level of the building.

AFTER THE STORM

After the hurricane passes, the following tips can help you quickly start the recovery process:

➊ Carefully survey your business property for safety hazards. This could include live wires, leaking gas or flammable liquids, and poisonous gases. Inspect for damage to foundations or underground piping. If you are uncertain where to


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begin in this process, consult with an expert first to ensure your own safety.

➊ Begin debris removal as soon as possible to prevent further damage. For example, cover broken windows and torn roof coverings immediately. You should also clean roof drains and discard to prevent drainage problems.

➋ Apply for disaster assistance if needed. Check disasterloan.sba.gov to see if a disaster has been declared in your area. Then, create an account and apply for a loan on SBA's disaster assistance website.

For help preparing your business for hurricane season, consult with local SBA resource partners, including Small Business Development Centers and SCORE. Resource partners can also help businesses apply for disaster loans and provide guidance on how to get up and running after a hurricane strikes. Free and low-cost business assistance is now available remotely via phone, video chat, and email.

Additional Disaster Preparedness Resources. Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety: tips on how to create your own business continuity plan, how to rebuild stronger, and an interactive disaster hazard map. Ready.Gov: preparedness tips for risks including floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes cyber-attacks and active shooters. ❖

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Hass vs. Florida Avocados

The big difference: Florida avocados have significantly less fat. Now, less fat might sound good, but the fats found in Hass avocados are actually very healthy. Avocado oils are considered heart-healthy and good for your skin. Florida avocados have the same kind of fats but in much lower quantities.

In terms of cooking, the fatty Hass avocado cannot be beat. The richness of the fruit makes the Hass easy to mash and whip and richer in taste. For guacamole, avocado toast, warm pesto sauce, or a healthy fat component in baked goods, you want the Hass avocado.

The Florida avocado may be superior in just a few cases — namely, when slicing and dicing for salads. The firm, low-fat flesh holds its shape when you toss cubes of it into a salad. Try a Florida avocado and you'll see what we mean. It's easy to slice and handle, but has a watery taste compared to the Hass.

One cup of Florida avocado has 276 calories and 23 grams of fat. The Hass variety has 384 calories and 35 grams of fat.

The Florida avocado has some unique possibilities thanks to its firm, low-fat texture. For that creamy, healthy goodness that we all expect from an avocado, however, Hass is king.



Fishing Report for June 2020: Summer Snapper

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters



It's summertime and that means *snapper time!* As the weather warms up, the fishing opportunities do too, especially for snapper. Mangroves, lanes, muttons, and yellowtails are plentiful on the offshore reefs in about 50–100 feet as well as along mangroves and cuts with a good current. Snapper are aggressive feeders so it's ideal to throw a chum bag or at least some cut-up

frozen bait. Be sure to keep your live bait on the bottom with enough weight, depending on the current, and be prepared to enjoy the fight. There is no closed season on mangroves, lanes, yellowtails, or muttons.

This is also a great time to target mahi-mahi, or dolphin fish, by trolling from 80 foot or more. Watch for weed lines and floating debris for mahi and if you catch one, watch for others since they like to school. Live bait or fresh ballyhoo, either naked or skirted, on a slow troll is best for hooking one of these colorful and acrobatic fish. The photo is Darlene Ramsey with a very nice mutton snapper.

Take time to fish the beautiful waters around Fort Pierce and bring home dinner in the process. **Little Jim Bait and Tackle** is open again after closing for COVID-19. Come by and see me there but if the boat is missing, you know we're out *Pullin Drag!* ♦



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Recipe Corner

by Sue Dannahower

Beef Bourguignon

Meat & Stock

In a crock pot, place the following:

- 2 pounds beef chuck (whole)
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery (I also use the celery leaves)
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 10 baby carrots
- 1 cup dark wine, like Merlot
- 1 tablespoon beef paste (*Better than Broth* – soup section in Walmart)
- 1 package of *Lipton Onion Soup Mix*
- Enough water to cover the meat

Generally, 6 hours on high in the crock pot is the proper length of cooking time. Test the meat to ensure it is tender. Turn off crock pot. Put meat and stock in a large bowl. Let it cool on the counter and then place in fridge to let the fat solidify. This takes a few hours. Then remove fat from the top of the bowl. Discard the vegetables. Cut beef into 2" pieces.

Optional Vegetables

Mushrooms
Onion
Carrots
Baby new potatoes

Put beef stock in a pan and bring to boil, add mushrooms, sliced onions, vegetables like carrots, celery and/or baby new potatoes. And cook until tender. Remove vegetables and cool stock.

Gravy

Add 1/2-cup *Knorr's Demi-Glace* to cooled stock. Bring to boil and taste. I usually add another cup of Merlot. You may need more demi-glace, to taste. If you did not use potatoes, serve over noodles or mashed potatoes.



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Downtowns have the advantage of offering many spacious solutions for shopping and dining. Last month, in an effort to create more space for diners and customers, a section of 2nd Street was closed during the weekend to vehicular traffic from Orange Avenue to Marina Way. In a partnership with the City of Fort Pierce, businesses were permitted to expand their physical space to the parking spot(s) in front of their location. **Parklet** programs have been used in many Main Street downtowns and downtown districts to increase community vibrancy and pedestrian safety. Now the concept has an added functional purpose – to increase space for customers in the wake of COVID-19. The merchants and restaurants of downtown Fort Pierce are actively making adjustments to give their customers peace of mind while shopping or dining out.



PHOTO BY BERYL MUISE