



Volume 15, No. 10 May, 2020

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The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Downtown Fort Pierce Stronger Together

by Sue Dannahower



We are living in unprecedented times. I hope you are following the suggested guidelines of local and national leaders to keep you and your family safe, keeping in mind that life will return to a “new normal” before long.

Main Street Fort Pierce is committed to helping our businesses get through this crisis. We are promoting online shopping for local businesses and posting a list of restaurant hours of operations on our Facebook page and our website: mainstreetfortpiece.org.


Several of our business are working together to ensure they serve their community. **Notions & Potions** is working with **Varsity Sports** to provide cloth face masks. **121 Tapas** is working with **Uncle Carlos** to provide take-out food. **Rooster in the Garden** is working with the **Braford** to provide food to our community.

Now is the time to become a *Main Street* member. Your membership donation will allow us to continue to be a vital part of your community and downtown Fort Pierce. For current members, renewals will be in the mail this month. Please consider upping your membership level in order to support our organization.

Remember, when this pandemic is over, it is crucial to support our businesses by shopping and dining in beautiful historic downtown Fort Pierce.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy May! ❖





MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

Volume 15, No. 10

May 2020

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Sunrise Coloring Page – Coloring Fun for All Ages

The **Sunrise Theatre** has always been a shining jewel to Fort Pierce's economic, social, and cultural wellbeing. The theatre was built by Rupert "Pop" Koblegard as a vaudeville theatre in early 1923 and opened in August of 1923. It was the largest vaudeville theatre built on the east coast of Florida. Back in the early 1900s, before silent movies came along, stage acts traveled from town to town to perform.

After the vaudeville era ended, the **Sunrise Theatre** became a silent movie house. Most silent movie theatres had a piano to play music during the movies, but the **Sunrise Theatre** had an entire orchestra pit. In 1927, "talking pictures" arrived and the **Sunrise Theatre** was wired for sound in 1928. Pop Koblegard was an influential and successful businessman. In the uncertain days of the depression he kept the **Sunrise Theatre** open by offering "bank nights" in which patrons could win cash prizes.

During World War II the **Sunrise** became a favorite source of entertainment to the visiting servicemen who were stationed on the islands. One rumor that has surfaced from those years was that a German submarine was captured offshore and one of the POWs had a **Sunrise Theatre** ticket stub in his pocket.

Sunrise Theatre

107 South 2nd Street

1923



Architect: John N. Sherwood

From Mediterranean Fort Pierce Activity Book produced by the City of Fort Pierce for the City's 100th Birthday in 2001.

In 1947, the **Sunrise** was one of the first buildings to install air conditioning and became even more of a draw to patrons on hot summer days.

In 2006, *Main Street Fort Pierce* opened the renovated **Sunrise Theatre** to a sold-out crowd. ❖

City of Fort Pierce Encourages Residents to Stay Connected with SeeClickFix

The City of Fort Pierce continues to encourage residents to stay connected through the **SeeClickFix** online reporting tool. The mobile-friendly platform enables citizens to report issues by submitting requests for city services from their smart phone at any time, especially in the event of a crisis, such as COVID-19.

SeeClickFix is free and easy to use and is a virtual way of informing city staff of issues or concerns in the community such as potholes, litter, or cracked sidewalks. By uploading pictures, videos, and descriptive information of the problem, **SeeClickFix** immediately sends the valuable data to the appropriate city department so the job gets handled efficiently and effectively. Citizens can also view, comment on, and vote to fix problems



submitted by their neighbors, and receive notifications on the status of their request. It is a convenient way for residents to connect with the City remotely.

The City of Fort Pierce proudly launched **SeeClickFix** in 2018 with the mobile app, "Fort Pierce

Works." The Fort Pierce Works mobile app is available for download on Android or iPhone at (<https://seeclickfix.com/pages/311-app.html>). In addition to the mobile app, citizens can send reports to the City of Fort Pierce's website (<https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/739/Report-an-Issue-See-Click-Fix>).

About **SeeClickFix**: Launched in 2008, **SeeClickFix** allows citizens anywhere in the world to report and monitor non-emergency community issues, ranging from potholes and planted trees to garbage and graffiti. Through web and mobile applications, as well as embeddable widgets, **SeeClickFix** empowers citizens, community groups, media organizations, and governments to work together to improve neighborhoods. ❖

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Living Docks on Moore's Creek

by Rachel Tennant, Manatee Center Manager

Do a quick internet search for “Indian River Lagoon oysters” and you will find that communities all along the coast have been working for years to restore oyster populations in our favorite lagoon. Some projects are restoring shorelines with bags of oysters on the shore or shallow lagoon, others are installing oyster mats on seawalls or dock pilings. Some restaurants collect oyster shells to donate to oyster reef projects. And the projects are being carried out on private and public properties throughout the lagoon.

Dig a little deeper and you'll learn that oysters are a local keystone species and famous filter feeders. Keystone species are essential to their surrounding environment because other species depend upon them for their survival. The natural presence of keystone species generally indicates a healthy ecosystem and environmental cycles. Since they are essential to their surrounding environment, their absence can create disruptions in the local ecosystem, and can be an indicator of an unhealthy system. Other keystone species in the *Indian River Lagoon* include seagrasses and mangroves.

Oysters are a local keystone species because of the important function that they play in the waters. Oysters are filter feeders and a single oyster can filter 50 gallons of water per day, pulling lagoon water in, trapping algae and sediments as food, and releasing cleaner, clearer water in the process. If the water is clearer, then more sunlight can reach the lagoon floor and its aquatic vegetation, like seagrasses. Seagrasses are an important food source (especially for manatees) but they're also an important habitat and breeding grounds for all sorts of species.

The community is bringing oysters to our beloved *Moore's Creek*. The **Manatee Center** partnered with the **Florida Institute of Technology**, the **Fort Pierce City Marina**, and **Indian River State College** to bring Oyster Reefs to the new and old docks on *Moore's Creek* east of Indian River Drive. The project is funded by the **Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation**.

Together, we will wrap 17 pilings with oyster mats each containing 50 to 80 oyster shells. Florida Tech will guide the process while



IRSC faculty and students volunteer their time to install the oyster mats in the creek. The presence of oyster shells will attract oyster larvae which will grow into a living oyster reef. If we estimate the minimum of 50 oysters per mat, these reefs will filter over 15.5 million gallons of *Moore's Creek* water per year!

We kicked off this project with a special fundraiser for our classroom campaign. Folks could donate \$1 or more to write their name on an oyster and attach it to a *Moore's Creek* oyster mat. All funds raised

were collected toward our campaign to install a classroom at the **Manatee Center** for environmental education programs. The classroom project will cost \$20,000 and we have raised \$16,000 so far, including about \$500 from the oyster mats fundraiser.

We're hopeful that these 17 oyster mats will only be the beginning of an effort to clear up *Moore's Creek* east of Indian River Drive. This section of the creek is the area where the freshwater pours out during big rainstorms, bringing with it much runoff and debris. If we can establish healthy oyster reefs, we hope to combat the effects of that runoff and create a healthier, richer environment for our visiting manatees and their resident lagoon neighbors.

Stop by the **Manatee Center** to learn more. If you'd like to get involved, or support an expansion to add more oyster mats to the *Moore's Creek* pilings, then contact the **Manatee Center** Manager, Rachel Tennant, at 772-429-8597. ❖



Mayor's Message

Fort Pierce on Pause; "Safer at Home, Not Stuck at Home"

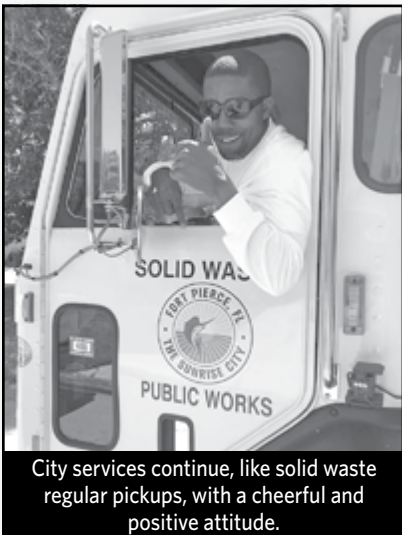
by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



What goes on behind the scenes when a local government declares a "local emergency?" The *City of Fort Pierce* and **Fort Pierce Utilities (FPUA)** have been in COVID-19 emergency mode since mid-March, but preparations began prior to the March 17 declaration date. Staff worked along dual tracks: keep normal business going and keep our city safe during the COVID-19 crisis.

Staff began planning to continue city services while working from home. They researched and prepared for required meetings that would comply with social distancing and accommodate public participation. Our city communicated timely and important information to the public daily in a variety of ways. Many of our employees had to juggle the demands of work and family; some virtual schooling from home. Those who could not work from home, like police officers, public works and select **FPUA** staff, continued providing their services, but in protective modes.

Many of our businesses and residents adapted quickly and cheerfully to the increasingly restrictive orders issued by state and local governments. When the state imposed strict social distancing, restaurants began to offer take out. Most businesses stepped up their social media communications to let patrons know how to continue purchasing their products. *Main Street Fort Pierce*, working from home, kept their social media information active to support local businesses. Some restaurants delivered complimentary food to our *Fort Pierce Police Department* and other first responders to show appreciation and support. Local businesses, and many residents, began to produce masks and sanitizing agents, offering them to first responders, medical workers and fellow residents.



City services continue, like solid waste regular pickups, with a cheerful and positive attitude.



Fort Pierce Police Department K-9 Max reminds citizens to protect themselves and others from COVID-19.

The majority of our residents, although worried about their health, and stressed about the economy, complied with Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and the government's *Safer at Home* order. We Americans, known for our "can do" spirit, found it very difficult to do nothing, and stay at home. The evolving nature of how best to combat the spread of the virus, without any past experience in such a pandemic, created an opportunity to learn something about ourselves and reflect on our daily lives in more "normal" times. When we return to "play" after the forced "pause," we could be the better for it.

As of this writing, what we're doing is working, but we need to continue social distancing, following CDC guidelines, not gathering in large groups and staying at home. While I am writing this in April, you won't be reading this until sometime in May. My fervent hope is our world will be closer to returning to "normal" in May. This is a temporary situation; we just don't know how temporary. Like the social media memes say, "April Distance Brings May Existence," and "We're safer at home not stuck at home." Be smart, stay safe, stay healthy, and see you on the other side of the "war on COVID-19." ❖

FPUA: Embracing Technology and Innovation

It is an exciting time for **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** (FPUA) as innovation meets advanced technology. FPUA recently announced that the company is moving to the next generation of metering, replacing electric, natural gas, and water manual-read meters with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), using state-of-the-art metering equipment provided by Honeywell-Elster. The deployment of the AMI system began in March 2020 and is progressing smoothly. Deployment is expected to continue for a period of five years and will encompass the entire FPUA service territory.

AMI communication technology permits secure communication with utility meters located at individual businesses and residences. The data collected includes kilowatt hour reads, system voltage fluctuations, real-time power outage notifications, water consumption, water leak detection and abnormal gas usage. AMI enables FPUA to check meter status and perform various diagnostics which will reduce the number of times a truck is sent into the field. AMI can monitor system-

wide performance helping to identify leaks, tampering, voltage fluctuations, outages, will streamline connects/disconnects and billing services. AMI improves customer service, system reliability and supports efficient delivery of utility services.

For those that have had their meters upgraded, an online customer portal will be available to provide a friendly interface to monitor detailed daily consumption data. This data can help customers understand their usage patterns and aid them in making informed decisions about conservation which can result in reduced utility usage. Along with providing important usage information, customers will also be able to view their bill and process their payment in one convenient online location. The customer portal is expected to be fully tested and operational later this year.

Technology improvements can be seen in a variety of areas. FPUA's newly installed outdoor payment Kiosk accepts cash, card and check payments, and allows 24 hour access to customers. This access provides an alternative to waiting in

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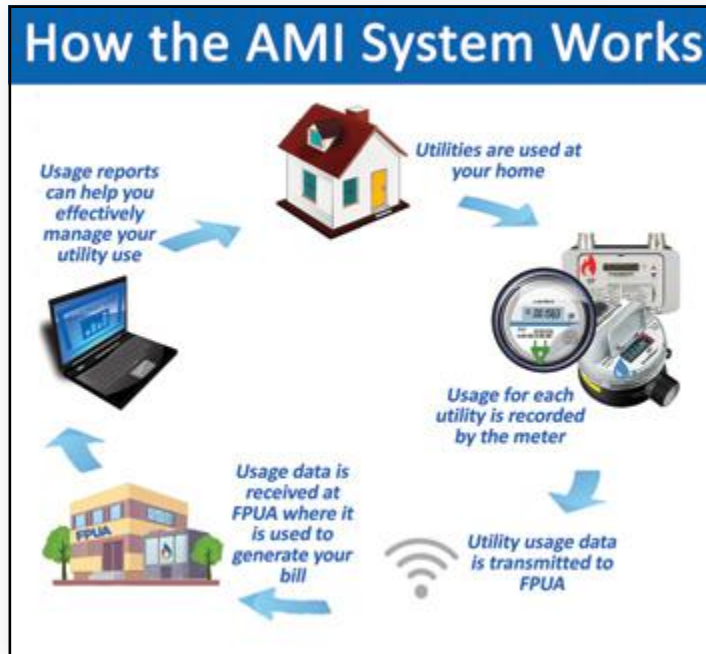
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the drive-thru lane to make a payment. In March, when it became necessary to close the Customer Service lobby to the public due to the COVID-19 outbreak, customers have expressed appreciation for the Kiosk and the range of online services available to them. The continued operation and extended hours of the drive-thru window offer the opportunity for customers to make payments directly to a representative while observing physical distancing guidelines. During the time of *Safer-at-Home* orders, the Information Technology Services department was able to effectively equip call center representatives with technology



that allowed them to work remotely. FPUA’s goal is to integrate technology that will provide effective delivery of services in a customer-focused environment.

FPUA is committed to utilizing advanced infrastructure and efficient system processes to fulfill their mission to provide economical, reliable and friendly service in a continuous effort to enhance the quality of life in our community.

FPUA is located at 206 South 6th Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34950 and can be reached at 772-466-1600, ext. 3900. For additional information, visit us online at www.fpua.com. ❖

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The Manatee Education Center Shares Activity Packets for Families

The **Manatee Observation and Education Center** may be closed during the COVID-19 outbreak, but it is still working to bring nature education to students and families. The Center began producing the *Daily Manatee*, a series of packets of fun, educational activities for families, on March 16th. Many families are faced with the new challenge of keeping young ones entertained and engaged in learning amid school and event closures. The *Daily Manatee* is a special release e-packet that contains a variety of fun learning activities for students of all ages.

Each day a new issue of the *Daily Manatee* is available via e-mail, Facebook and on the **Manatee Center** website,

www.ManateeEducationCenter.org. *Daily Manatee* packets focus on a variety of nature topics including manatees, of course, estuaries, sea creatures, native plants and much more. A combination of brain games, fun crafts and activities and curriculum-based lessons and practice worksheets will help students have fun and stay sharp while away from structured school days. Periodically, the packet will also feature some of the amazing education materials that have been produced by other Florida conservation organizations.

The **Manatee Center** is encouraging students to share photos of their favorite activities on Facebook, making sure to tag the Center @ManateeCenter and using the hashtag #DAILYMANATEE. ❖



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Keep Calm & Be Creative: Reframing Our Community After the Crisis

by J. Marshall Adams, Executive Director, A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery



Create the Community 2020

The marquee sign cradled by Pat Cochran's Sabal Sentinels sculpture that is seen on a typical pre-pandemic day by 7,000 cars and untold dog-walkers and fitness and fresh-air enthusiasts.

As I write this in mid-April, the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**, like all non- and for-profit businesses categorized as non-essential to managing a public health crisis, is closed to the public. And we, like you, are confronted with all of the “u” words: Unprecedented. Uncertainty. Uncomfortable.

It is a time filled with anxiety for us and for the things we have created — families and homes, careers and businesses, goods and services, and our systems of care, commerce, and government. In the haze of this pandemic and economic upheaval, we find our values, our faith, and our abilities and conviction to act individually and collectively in our own self-interest put to the test.

Hopefully by the time you read this, we will be at the point where we can allow ourselves to grieve for who or what we have lost. And in those endings, we can find the resolve to reflect on what we have learned and the strength to make the changes that will re-prioritize and refresh what we as a community think is important for our future.

When the **Museum** closed to the public on March 16, we changed the messages on our electronic marquee on Indian River Drive, from advertising our planned exhibitions and programs of the season, to messages of hope, resiliency, and importance. The illuminated sign cycled through new messages saying:



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*Be Kind**Check in on your Neighbors**Appreciate the Beauty and Wonder of our World and One Another**Now is the time to create the community you want to see*

As these messages shine over the landscape of a “new normal,” what should we do to create that community? After what we have seen and been through, in this clarifying moment we should:

Honor and validate the healthcare workers, the teachers, the grocery clerks, and all those who continued their important work to serve others that we are reminded is vital to our lives every day

Strengthen our commitments to care for the vulnerable — the hungry, the less fortunate, the children, the isolated, and for the environment that renews and inspires us

Take pride in and support the arts and all the artists, visual and performing, literary and media, for what they bring to our lives. And recognize the dark and empty world we would drift in without a beautiful painting, a moving performance, or those places to experience them, to discover them, and to learn about them and ourselves.

Definitions of “essential” during this time have been rooted in frameworks of national security, but to secure a future that promotes a beautiful, just, and caring society, we must reframe the arts and their support as essential to the community we want to create. Because, among many other reasons:

*The arts unify communities**The arts strengthen the economy**The arts drive tourism and revenue to local businesses**The arts have social impact**The arts improve individual well-being*

If you believe these things bring value to everyone, that we would be short-sighted and endanger our recovery and renewal without them, then now is the time. The first chance you get, I encourage you — I implore you — to act on your convictions. Donate to help arts and culture survive and succeed in Fort Pierce, in St. Lucie County, on the Treasure Coast and beyond. Make a charitable gift. Become a member of your favorite museum, botanical garden, and science center; subscribe to your favorite theatre and performing group; buy a piece of art from a working artist, generously tip the next musician you see, and keep your eye open for the creative individuals who are making our community unique, and support them.

In these difficult weeks, if you found enjoyment or guilty pleasure from the streaming media you binged, or solace in your favorite playlist, or insight from the dearest books you came back to, or beauty and connection in a treasured image, then it turns out that the arts helped you through this time. And now the arts need your help. The old adage is true: *Art Changes People. People Change the World.*

We are all creative, in different ways. Let’s act now with renewed purpose to be the change we want, to create the community we want to see to benefit all.

Note: Researcher Randy Cohen has a larger list that’s worth reading of what makes the arts important. Search online for “10 reasons to support the arts in 2020.” ❖



Main Street Fort Pierce Named Quarterfinalist for America's Main Streets Contest in Celebration of Small Business

Support Main Street Fort Pierce of Downtown Fort Pierce by Voting Today from the Safety of Your Home

The national small business movement, **Independent We Stand**, announces the quarterfinalists, including **Main Street Fort Pierce** of Fort Pierce, in the 2020 "America's Main Streets" contest. As the lifeblood of our cities and towns, Main Streets play an important role in the long-term success of communities and help build a sense of place. Ensuring the survival and vitality of our Main Streets is important now more than ever before, as many across the country stay home to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Independent We Stand invites the public to take action and play a role in the survival of Main Streets by voting online for their favorite quarterfinalist and moving a deserving Main Street one step closer to the cash grand prize of \$25,000.

Established in 1988, **Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.** (a not-for-profit corporation) is a local, public-private partnership funded by memberships, fund-raising projects and city government. **Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.** brings development, activities, recognition and an improved economy to the historic downtown area through a variety of methods. The organization coordinates downtown improvements, creates a positive image to attract customers and investors, rekindles community pride, enhances the visual quality of the downtown environment, and attracts strategic additions to the economic mix. **Main Street Fort Pierce's** track record includes the successful *Friday Fest*, *Sandy Shoes Seafood & Brew Festival* and *Sights and Sounds on Second*, along with other special events.

"We intend to continue our track record of supporting the

growth and stability of Downtown Fort Pierce, especially in these difficult times," said Doris Tillman, Executive Director of **Main Street Fort Pierce**. "While we're adapting to this new

normal, our priority is the safety, health, and vitality of this historic Downtown, and the people who are a part of making it a success."

More than 616,000 total votes were cast for 160 entrants during the nominations phase. The 2020 quarterfinalists in alphabetical order are:

Chattahoochee Main Street, Chattahoochee, Fla.; Downtown Bedford, Bedford, Pa.; Downtown Canton Georgia, Canton, Ga.; Downtown Jeffersonville, Jeffersonville, Ind.; Emporia Main Street, Inc., Emporia, Kan.; Fernandina Beach Main Street, Fernandina Beach, Fla.; Historic Downtown Hope, Hope, Ark.; Historic Downtown Ripon, Ripon, Wis.; Historic Downtown Snohomish Association, Snohomish, Wash.; Jacksonville Main Street, Jacksonville, Ill.; LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation, LaBelle, Fla.; Larned Main Street, Larned, Kan.; Main Street Altus, Altus, Okla.; Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., Fort Pierce, Fla.; Main Street Hayward, Hayward, Wis.; Main Street Homer, Homer, La.; Minden, Louisiana, Minden, La.; NewTown Macon, Macon, Ga.; Osborne Main Street, Osborne, Kan.; Pittsfield's Historic Courthouse Square, Pittsfield, Ill.; Public Square, Columbia, Ky.; Quincy Main Street, Quincy, Fla.; Springhill Main Street, Springhill, La.; Sweetwater Main Street, Sweetwater, Tenn.; and Sykesville Main Street, Sykesville, Md. Semifinalist voting begins April 27 at MainStreetContest.com and runs through May 24.



The top 10 semifinalists will be announced May 25. The winner of the 2020 “America’s Main Streets” contest will be announced June 2 followed

by a “Main Streets Make Us Better” celebration planned to occur on or near the Fourth of July, when the winner will announce how the prize money will be used.

Additional contest prizes include: **STIHL** Equipment Certificate for \$1,000 worth of **STIHL** equipment good at any **STIHL** Dealer in the U.S.; **Do it Best Corp.** \$500 shopping spree; Free One Day Downtown Assessment from *Flip This Town*; Nationwide Marketing Group \$500 shopping spree; PPG Paints \$500 shopping spree; Public relations and social media recognition; and a special plaque for the winner to proudly display.

For more information on *Main Street Fort Pierce*, visit: www.mainstreetfortpierce.org or contact mainstreet@mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Presenting Sponsor: **STIHL Inc.**, America’s number-one selling brand of gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment*, is the founding sponsor of *Independent We Stand* and the presenting sponsor of *America’s Main Streets* contest. The company follows a unique distribution strategy in the handheld outdoor power equipment industry, choosing never to sell products at big box stores, but instead remain loyal to its 9,000+ authorized local **STIHL** dealers nationwide.

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About Main Street Fort Pierce: Established in 1988, *Main*

AMERICA'S ★ ★ ★ MAIN STREETS

Street Fort Pierce, Inc. (a not-for-profit corporation) is a local, public-private partnership funded by memberships, fund-raising projects and

city government. *Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.* brings development, activities, recognition and an improved economy to the historic downtown area through a variety of methods. The organization coordinates downtown improvements, creates a positive image to attract customers and investors, rekindles community pride, enhances the visual quality of the downtown environment, and attracts strategic additions to the economic mix. *Main Street Fort Pierce’s* track record includes the successful *Friday Fest*, *Sandy Shoes Seafood & Brew Festival* and *Sights and Sounds on Second*, along with other special events.

About Independent We Stand: *Independent We Stand* is a nationwide movement of independent small business owners whose mission is to inspire other small business owners to better understand and celebrate their locally owned status while educating consumers about the importance and strong economic benefits of supporting them. The *Independent We Stand* movement is sponsored by **STIHL Inc.** **STIHL** products are sold through more than 9,000 authorized local **STIHL** dealers from coast to coast – not big box stores. Associate sponsors include Nationwide Marketing Group, PPG Paints and Do it Best Corp.

*“Number one selling brand” is based on syndicated Irwin Broh Research as well as independent consumer research of 2009-2019 U.S. sales and market share data for the gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment category combined sales to consumers and commercial landscapers. ❖

We are Main Street!

by Joanne Blanford and Michelle Cavalcanti

We were in the midst of putting together the April edition of the *Main Street Focus* when the Covid-19 virus closures began. One by one, all of our contributors had to pull their submitted articles due to event cancellations and facility closures. The first edition of the *Main Street Focus* was produced in August 2005. Our mission from the beginning was to produce a monthly newsletter that would highlight the positive changes, small businesses, events, history, and the people that intersect in our small community to create the unique character of downtown Fort Pierce. We have done this month after month for almost 15 years without fail but we suddenly could not operate. Of course, we were not alone, and sadly some of the hardest hit from this crisis now and in the months/years to come will be the small businesses that bring our historic downtowns to life and keep them vital.



As the days went on and the alarming reports about the spread of Covid-19 circulated, we were not sure what to do about the May edition of the *Focus*. With business as usual on hold for an undetermined amount of time, what positive news could we share? As it turns out, there are many positive stories to share. Entrepreneurship is not easy to begin with, but the individuals that pursue this

path are resilient and most are able to embrace change. Below are some stories of what our downtown businesses have been doing to help and adapt during these trying times.

Please remember as you read on that our small businesses were hit in the middle of tourist season here in Florida. As our community begins the process of opening back up, these businesses will need our support more than ever to help them survive. The storekeepers, restaurant/bar owners, artists, and the employees they hire are our neighbors and our friends.



Their profits and paychecks stay in our area to help our local economy. Please think of them this summer when you need gift cards for Mother's/Father's Day(s); when you need supplies; groceries; products, services, etc.; and/or when you need a great place to meet good company for a fantastic atmospheric meal. You can find just about everything you need in downtown Fort Pierce including but not limited to: dining gift certificates; clothing and jewelry; toys and books; auto repair and supplies; spa and hair services; **Sunrise Theatre** tickets; eco-tour and fishing charter experiences; art and home décor;

unique gifts; craft, baking and artist workshop gift cards; body and hair products; specialized beverages and cigars; personalized items and more.

Make Much-Needed Masks

As the news came out about the spread of the Covid-19 virus from unknowing asymptomatic carriers to others, it was advised and, in some cases, ordered that all people should cover their faces while in public. However, the need to not take supplies away from medical facilities was also stressed due to a shortage of these items. Beryl Muise, owner of **Notions & Potions**, came

Continued on page 18 ...

Please show these local businesses your support, today and in the future. The business hours listed below are subject to change as local restrictions are revised. Sharing this information makes a difference.

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Captain's Galley: open 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Thursday to Sunday, 772-466-8495

Carter's Grocery: open 4:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. (863) 801-6032

Casa Azteca Mexican Restaurant: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. (772) 302-3866

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Lorenzo's: open 11:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. (772) 460-5445

Mervis Café & Grille: open 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (772) 462-6600

Phatz Chick N Shack: open 10:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. (772) 882-4838

Pierced Cider: open 2 – 7 p.m. (772) 302-3863

The S&S: open 5 – 9 p.m. (772) 461-8354

Sailfish Brewing Company: open 12 – 8 p.m. (772) 577-4382

Sunrise City Café: open 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. (772) 242-1833

Taco Dive Downtown Ft. Pierce: 12 – 8 p.m. (772) 242-8635

Thai Pepper Restaurant: open 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. (772) 577-6986

The Cake Lady: open 11:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. (772) 242-8128

The Pot Belli Deli Sandwich & Sub: open 6:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. (772) 465-4888

The Rooster In The Garden & The Braford Steakhouse: open 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. (772) 882-9786

Thirsty Turtle Seagrill: open 11:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. (772) 465-4696

Uncle Carlos Gelato & Patisserie: open 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (772) 672-4401

Wasabi Thai Sushi Fort Pierce: open 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. (772) 242-1310



MAIN STREET ... continued from page 17

up with an idea to help those still needed masks. She already had a sewing machine in her store, as she is a talented seamstress and designs clothing to sell, so she put together a template to mass produce cloth masks. One Facebook post commanded over 900 orders so Krissy Gibbons, owner of **Varsity Sports Shop**, donated the use of her machines. Beth (Beryl's sister) and Chris Gardner (owner of the Kennedy Building & the soon-to-be-opened bed and breakfast — **The Peacock**) joined Beryl on the sewing machines to fulfill mask orders. Even though she could not open for normal business, Beryl put her talent and skills to use to provide a needed product.

Coloring Pages & Online Art Classes

Downtown Fort Pierce has many unique art studios and galleries as well the **Backus Museum**, which hosts numerous art exhibits throughout the year. Artistic expression is both enhanced and needed during periods of crisis. Steve Fogle of **Whirled Art Gallery** gave many a respite during the stay-at-home orders when he hosted a series of art classes online.

The Manatee Observation & Education Center Provides Daily Activity Pages for Children & Online Exhibits

Have you ever watched a snake devour its prey? This is just one of the live online feeding exhibits presented by the **Manatee Center**. Along with the Facebook live sessions, the **Manatee Center** distributes daily activity packs for children online and on their website.

Downtown Restaurants Offer Food-to-Go

You can always count on a good meal from any one of our downtown restaurants and they did not stop serving even after they were ordered to close their dining areas. Our local restaurants came up with creative ways to continue to operate and to provide meals to customers.

Taco Dive has been going to their customers with the **Taco Dive** food truck. You can find them set up at locations in Vero Beach, Port St. Lucie or Tradition. They ran a promotion offering a free roll of toilet paper with each purchase, which became an obvious hit. While supplies may have been limited, **Taco Dive** customers continue to show up and the food truck has sold out upon each appearance.

The **Rooster in the Garden** and **The Bradford** restaurants know beef. Established in partnership with **Adams Ranch**, both restaurants serve locally sourced **Adams Ranch** beef in addition to seasonal favorites. After closing their doors for a short time, they've returned with family-style meals and fresh burgers on the grill. Walk-up ordering is available or call ahead for their daily menu.

Live Music in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

And there's nothing quite like live music to keep spirits high. **Bottoms Up Public House** and **Pierced Cider** have both streamed local artists via facebook for fans to enjoy. You can virtually tip the musicians and lend your support to local businesses and artists by sharing with your own friends.

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.

Main Street Fort Pierce's largest community event of the year was the **Sandy Shoes Seafood & Brew Festival** which was canceled in late March. The April and May **Friday Fest** events were also cancelled. These fundraisers help support the projects, operating costs, and the loan payment for the Platts/Backus House Restoration. Like other small businesses and nonprofit organizations, the Covid-19 restrictions have hit **Main Street**, a 501(c)3 organization, hard. Its two employees have been working regular hours to promote the downtown area and help navigate through small business relief efforts even without their expected paychecks. ❖



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Adjusting to the Times: Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market Temporary Location

The arrival of Covid-19 to the Treasure Coast has brought change to every aspect of lives here in Fort Pierce. The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** has been affected just as our vendors and patrons have had to adapt to a new normal.

The abrupt closure of the **Market** due to concerns over the virus was countered with the quick actions of the Board and cooperation of the vendors. **Ace High Farms** generously invited the **Market** to an alternative venue west of town. The amazing response not only by vendors, but also by the faithful patrons seeking their usual Saturday purchases, was an amazing testament to the Board's thoughtful guidance.

Because of the tremendous response to this new venue, it was feared that crowds would convene and actually contribute to the spread of this new illness. At this point, several vendors were able to find alternative marketing options. Some have utilized internet sales, while others have designated pickup sites for phone orders. A few have store fronts that have remained in operation. Farms and farm stands deemed "essential" have continued production and sales at their farms.


All in all, the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** has such a solid foundation that it was only a matter of time before it was approached to establish a drive-thru market. Considering the fact that Marina Square in downtown Fort Pierce is the

venue of choice, location was a major factor in the decision to undergo such an endeavor. Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky, along with Ed Skvarch and Kate Rotindo of Saint Lucie County Cooperative Extension, suggested utilizing **Lawnwood Recreation Complex** for a drive-thru market. After much consideration, the Board came to the conclusion that this was a viable alternative until the threat of the virus has passed.

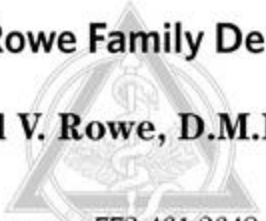
While vendors and patrons are anxious to return to historic downtown Fort Pierce, the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** continues to provide fresh, nutritious foods and horticultural products to Fort Pierce and the surrounding areas by relocating as necessary. Saturday, April 18, 2020, opens a new era for the **Market** at **Lawnwood Recreation Complex** as a drive-thru market. Customers have shown remarkable enthusiasm for the return of their favorite vendors.

Looking forward to a return to Marina Square, the **Market** plans to resume activities there as soon as deemed safe to do so. In the meantime, continue the support of local businesses and farms. The drive-thru concept is new to our area but looks promising. For now, we'll just make a new tradition by shopping at **Lawnwood's Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market**. Every Saturday, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. till noon. Follow us on facebook and twitter, as well as www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com. ❖

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Fort Pierce Yacht Club on the Water

by Diane Korbey, Commodore

We often write in *Main Street Focus* of the community service being done by the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** — its fundraising, its educational seminars, its civic service. But indeed, we are a *Yacht Club*, and nothing proves that more than the list of events we have had or will be hosting between March and June.

Well, that was the way I optimistically started my article for April's *Main Street Focus*!

We opened our doors to those in the community interested in meeting us for an afternoon Dock Party on March 1st. We filled the house with members, their guests and those who just showed up. It was so much fun that after the pandemic has passed, we will do more of these.

Each spring (and each fall) we host a women's sailboat race offshore in Fort Pierce. The **Betty Jo Memorial Race** in the spring is dedicated to our first woman commodore, Betty Jo Porter. This race was scheduled for March 14th and it was the last event that we held. This year, the **Betty Jo Memorial Race** anchored a week-long celebration of women: we began the week co-hosting a luncheon for *International Women's Day* and mid-week hosted a *Boating Women's Meet and Greet*. Celebrating and enabling accomplished women from all walks is part of our passion.

From that high, the cancellations began: our fundraiser **On the Water Poker Run** was canceled. We were extremely fortunate that the donors and the participants agreed to leave their donations earmarked for a summer intern scholarship at **FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute** which in turn allowed us to fund the 2020 scholarship.



Betty Jo Memorial Race women helmsmen and crew: Chris Pennington, Debbie Krivan (1st place winner), Linda Sampson, Diane Korbey, Deta Pearce, Elin Thomas, Ann Kern

We cap off our winter/spring season of monthly and more sailboat races with **Spring Regatta** — it has been postponed with a reschedule date to be announced. And our subsequent community sailboat races have also be postponed or canceled. (You cannot be six feet apart in the cockpit of most sailboats!)

June 20, 2020 is

Summer Solstice — and we are hopeful we will be passed pandemic and able to hold this. We hope to celebrate it again this year with sailboat races, raft-ups and events at the Clubhouse. Join our Facebook page to keep up with the schedule of events and or visit our website at www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com. We are all about being out on the water. Did I mention that this event is open to all community participants?

We, like everyone, are missing our friends and our times together. Therefore we are Zooming: we Zoomed our Members Meeting and last Friday Night Social. I am in the process of organizing a racing rules Zoom course. There are lots of positives that will come out of this tragedy. We are focusing on the good things that our friends and Club family are achieving; we are so thankful for all the good work being done by our community members. And we are looking forward. To help you keep up with the events on the waters around Fort Pierce, **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** has sponsored a new Facebook group, *Treasure Coast on the Water*. We hope that Fort Pierce entities with on-the-water events (no commercial announcements please) will post here, as well as those holding events in Stuart and Vero Beach. We are all about being out on the water. Did I mention that this group is open to all community participants?

Be safe; be healthy; see you out on the water soon! ❖

Love, JAZZ Community: Jazzing Up Your Summer Fun

by Don Bestor

May is when life starts to get a little bit more relaxed for the members of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**. The monstrously popular *Jazz Week*, with its multiple concerts and opportunities for live music every day has just finished up, and we're in the final throes of decisions for the year's **Jazz Society** musical scholarship recipients. You'd think we'd grab a cold brew, put our feet up, and enjoy a little well-earned rest. But you'd be wrong.

Every year, the professional musicians involved with **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** host a wonderful, fun, hands-on experience for music lovers of all ages realize a dream and gain musicianship, confidence and performance skills through their professionally facilitated **Jazz Camps**. Students ages 13 to 90 are invited to spend five days learning, playing, and growing as musicians and performers. Regardless of skill level or instrument, every participant walks away feeling more confident in his or her ability to connect with an audience and gain musical skills that will last a lifetime.

Students young and old come to the camp from 10 to 2 daily and jump right into the music, having a chance to play with the professionals and learning how to improvise, change keys on the fly, and how to scat like a natural, all while having a great time and learning from musicians who've played with the likes of Duke Ellington, Bob Hope, Sammy Davis Junior, Mel Tormé, Johnny Mathis, Styx, Journey, and many big stars. Led by the incomparable Mark Green, these camps are open to 'kids' of all ages and abilities and run June 1–5 and June 8–11. Participants can come to one or both weeks, which culminate with a public performance at the **Sunrise Black Box Theatre** on Friday, June 19th backed by the pros.

Because of the tremendous talent and passion of the participants, a third, **Advanced Jazz Camp** week is slated for June 15th to the 19th. The advanced week will delve into the finer points of instrumental jazz and blues performance. Led by drummer Claudio Berardi, the Advanced Instrumental Jazz Camp will feature Don Bestor on piano, David Mundy on bass, James Suggs on trumpet, and Gene Bruno on saxophone. That means your young musician — or you — could have a chance to learn from and perform with some of the country's most accomplished musicians.

Sure, the musicians from **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** could kick off their shoes and take five, but you know how it is with musicians ... there always seems to be a band playing in their heads, and they're so passionate about their music that they just want to share. So instead of sipping margaritas by the pool, they're sharing their time and expertise with you or your budding musician through three weeks of **Jazz Camps** that are educational, fun, and surprisingly affordable, too.

If you or someone you love would like to be a star — or at least learn to perform like one, call today to save your space for this year's **Jazz Camps** at the **Sunrise Black Box Theatre** and the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society's Jazz Shack on the River**. Call (772) 460-JAZZ (5299) or register online at www.jazzsociety.org. ❖



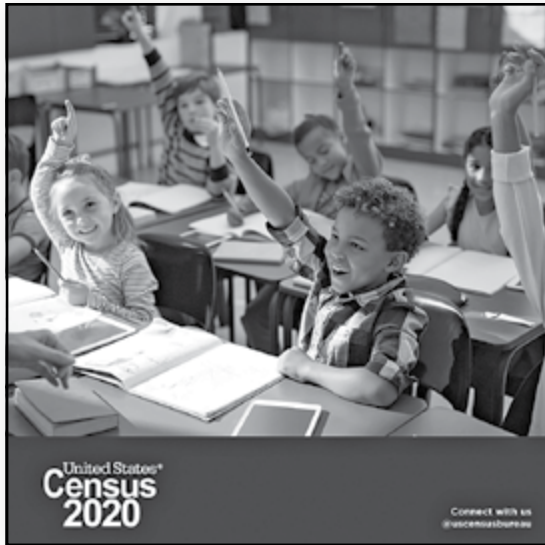
Why is the 2020 Census Important?

by Erick Gill, St. Lucie County Communications Director

If you've been frustrated the lack of testing during the COVID-19 pandemic, then make sure your voice is heard. Fill out the Census form and count every individual living in your residence as of April 1. Every person not counted could cost local governments \$1,600 in federal funds.

Why is the Census important? Because it determines how much federal funding is allocated to states, counties and cities to pay for things such as roads, schools and hospitals.

By now, every household in Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County should have received a 2020 Census form.



There are a lot of ways that you can help shape your local government. Voting is the big one, but every 10 years — you have the opportunity to impact your local government just by taking a few minutes to fill out the U.S. Census form.

The founding fathers included the Census as part of the Constitution and made sure that it's taken place every 10 years since 1790. If you don't complete your Census, numerators

will be dispatched in the coming months to conduct a door-to-door count. For your convenience and their safety, please go online and *be counted* — www.2020census.gov. ❖



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In Honor of All Moms Always

by *Lisa Jill Allison*



Under our present circumstances, I believe we are all a bit jangled, even raw. Some have seen this time as a good time to be more transparent, more willing to share at a deeper level. Today's topic is moms. With all that moms stand for, could there be a better topic in times of upheaval? Could

there be a better place for transparency and sharing?

I'll start by telling you about my mom. My mom is 90 years old and one of the most determined women I have ever known. I have always seen her do her absolute best under trying circumstances. Recently, with her at least second step to the edge of death's door, I saw her, by sheer will and determination, despite no one thinking it could be done, become mobile enough to leave a nursing home and return to her own home. I had the honor of being there when she was being evaluated for the next phase. I witnessed her soul reach into her body and dig deep to find the strength to move and move just enough to be released to go home. When I feel overwhelmed or incapable, I play this scene in my head and dig deeper.

Now on to the mother of all mothers, Mother Earth. What a stunning beauty she is and how we all long to be back at her beaches caressed by her waves. But, in the meantime, I personally

delight to see a renewed sense of appreciation for her presence right in our own backyards. Picnic blankets are spread on lawns and families play, laugh, cook and ride bikes up and down her streets; things long forgotten in our ever increasingly busy lives.

Now I'm thinking of my own role as a mother and of the great honor I have had in bringing my son to the human family. Never have I known a man more earnest and honest of heart and more dedicated to family and to providing the best life that he possibly can for those in his care. He had made the responsibility of being a mom worth it many times over.

The cycle continues with the amazing position of being a grandmother (Mum Mum.) I am in awe of being a part of this radiant little star's growth and understanding in this challenging world. This is, to me, the final reward of parenthood. Well, enough about me and thank you for letting me share my joys.

Where do you personally feel your place in this conversation about mothers? Whether you are a mother, embrace your mother, are bonded with mother earth or not, we all have a place of appreciation for at least one mother. Is your neighbor, the mom of a special needs' child, or the mom of that large blended family, an inspiration to you? Are you amazed at her patience and sense of humor pretty much all the time? Is your niece, who works three jobs to take care of the kids she is now raising alone because she found the way to leave an abusive marriage, who motivates you to just keep going? The list could go on and on and I bet you wouldn't have to look far to see a "moving mom moment."

Now is the perfect time to speak up; speak up and say, "Hey, great job! I see what you are up against and you nailed it!" We are going through, or hopefully at the reading of this article, have been through, a period of time where most of the faces we pass on the street, in the grocery and in our neighborhoods are covered by masks. We feel less human, less connected, less ourselves. So, let's help each other through this. Tell someone you see them, you connect with them right here, right now. Tell them you are moved and inspired by them. Let them gain additional strength from your affirmations and indulge yourself in the joy of giving encouragement. So, in honor of all mothers and all of those cheering them on, let's look each other in the eyes and say a collective, "We got this!" ♦

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 **Ask a Coach: Carrie Childs** 

Q: What is your favorite aspect of CFFP?

A: There are so many aspects that I love about CrossFit Fort Pierce it is hard for me to pick just one. For starters the community of people that are involved in gym is what makes our facility like a second home. Next, the fact that there is always something new to learn or improve upon has given me confidence and strength that I consistently draw upon in and outside the gym.

The CFFP community is truly indescribable. You look forward to going to classes not just for the workouts, but to be there with your fellow athletes. You are always surrounded by people that are completely different yet all the same. The camaraderie within is uplifting and inspiring. Everyone supports and helps each other in and out of the gym. I love seeing fellow athletes achieve things that they never thought they could. You are never alone at CFFP. It is more than just a workout; it is a family.

At CFFP egos are checked at the door. The only way to get fit and better is to take risks. You must be vulnerable and put yourself out there. And for someone like me that was slightly unsettling. But I did it anyway, and I started to get better. Success is magical – whether it is running 400m without stopping, throwing weights over your head, beating your personal best, you feel like you did as a kid learning to ride a bike without training wheels. The feeling is pure, unbridled elation! And you keep coming back for more!

During to the current circumstances, CFFP continues to operate through Zoom classes led by certified coaches with prescribed daily workouts modified to be completed at home. ❖



by Sue Dannahower

All About the Rice

Toast and season your rice before you boil it. While the rice water is boiling toast your rice. This helps rice to cook up into separate grains. Also, as with toasting spices and nuts, toasting grains before cooking can enhance the nutty depth of the grains by caramelizing some of the starches. Thus, lending an extra layer of flavor to a final dish. Rice can be toasted in a dry pan or sautéed with butter, garlic, shallots, spices and/or sesame seed oil. This adds a bunch of flavor before the rice boiled.



If you like to make individual servings of side dishes, there's an easier way than using multiple ramekins. I use a muffin tin as a mold. Spray tin with nonstick spray. When ready to unmold, lay a baking sheet over top and invert. You can vary the muffin tin size (from jumbo to regular to mini) depending on how big you want the servings to be.



The Treasure Coast: What's in a Name?

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

This is known as the Treasure Coast and I like to say the reason is because of the incredible water and fishing we have here. Between the ocean (inshore and offshore), the inlet, river, and lagoon, plus the amazing multitude of species, we couldn't ask for more. Treasure fishing is as good as treasure diving!

May is generally a great time to fish the grass flats and oyster beds for redfish and trout. Redfish, or red drum, can be caught using a popping cork or jighead with live shrimp. Be prepared for great action as these fish have a lot of strength and stamina. Try live bait or artificials around mangroves and seagrass beds for spotted sea trout. These trout are abundant and very tasty on the table. Snook can still be targeted around bridges and



docks with fast moving currents and are in season until May 31st. Your best bait for snook is live mullet, pilchards, and threadfins. Offshore the bite is still going strong for kingfish and mahi and some cobia, too. And remember grouper season opens this month. Bottom fishing on the reef with natural bait or along the edge of the channel will see a good chance to hook grouper.

The photo is of Carlos Gomez with a nice redfish. Redfish slot is 18" to 27" and limit one per day.

Although we are practicing social distancing and staying safer at home, we can still enjoy fresh air and fishing. It's a fantastic way of "gettin' groceries!" Keep safe, keep well, and keep *Pullin Drag!* ❖

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Recipe Corner

by Sue Dannahower

Rice Dishes With a Summer Twist

Cilantro Lime Rice

- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil or butter
- 2 teaspoons fresh cilantro
- 2/3 cup white basmati rice
- 1 cup water (use rice/water ratio on box)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 lime

In a 2-quart heavy saucepan, heat oil or butter over low heat, stirring occasionally until melted. Add rice and lime juice, stir for 2 minutes. Add water and salt, bring to a full rolling boil.

At boiling, cover, turn down to simmer over low heat until rice is tender and the water is absorbed, about 25 minutes. Add in the cilantro and fluff rice with a fork.
Serves 4.



Southwestern Rice

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium green pepper, diced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup uncooked long grain rice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/8 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 2 cups frozen corn (about 10 ounces), thawed
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes and green chiles, undrained

In a large non-stick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat; saute pepper and onion 3 minutes. Add garlic and rice; cook and stir 1 minute. Stir in spices and broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, until rice is tender, about 15 minutes. Stir in remaining ingredients and cook, covered, until heated through. Note: you can add cooked chicken breast.



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Covid-19 is not the first struggle Americans have faced and it won't be the last. Our strength is nourished by the communities we support and help build. The Fort Pierce small business owners join hundreds of downtown and small business districts nationwide in doing what is best to keep our communities safe. We ask that everyone continue to follow the current and future recommendations to stay healthy. Each of our unique businesses care about their customers and will use precautions to keep you safe when they are once again permitted to operate. Please remember them when you need items, services, gift cards, meals, a night out, etc. and keep the heart of our community going strong.

