



Volume 16, No. 5 December, 2020

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Mayor Linda Hudson in 2020

The future looks bright in Fort Pierce. Thank you to volunteers, contributors and voters for believing in me and the City of Fort Pierce. Congratulations to Commissioner-elect Curtis Johnson, Jr. and to Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, reelected to a second term. Let's keep Fort Pierce moving forward!

Linda

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Year in Reflection

by Sue Dannahower




In 2020, *Main Street Fort Pierce* celebrated 32 years of service to our community. We have been through many good times, as well as times that have challenged our creativity and perseverance.

We have faith that we will all come through this historical time, but as a not-for-profit we need your help. Each year we organize more than 30 events to benefit the downtown community and help it thrive. This year, most of our events had to be postponed but we were able to continue our mission by collaborating with local businesses to encourage safe dining and shopping efforts; we hosted several virtual *Coffee with the Mayor* events, a golf tournament and a pop-up *Friday Fest* event. We also continued maintaining projects like the fish fence that helped beautify and amplify our community's unique character.

To provide services in our community, we rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses for support. *Main Street Fort Pierce* would like you to consider our organization when you are choosing which groups to donate to for your end of the year giving. Every donation is important, regardless of size. Your generosity will make a difference by allowing us to continue our efforts to organize public events, maintain community beautification projects, promote entrepreneurship, and advocate the importance of local economic vitality in the heart of the historic economic center of the City of Fort Pierce.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors and staff, I want to thank our members, volunteers, and sponsors for their support of *Main Street Fort Pierce* during 2020. I wish you and your loved ones a very joyous holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year! ❖




MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

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December 2020


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Contributing Writers	Britt Anderson, Joanne Blandford, Sue Dannahower, Pam Gillette, Michael Howard, Mayor Linda Hudson, Anne Satterlee, Holly Theuns, Doris Tillmann, Laura Louise Tingo
Photography	John Culverhouse, Mary Ann Ketcham

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Main Street December Events

VIRTUAL REVERSE RAFFLE – *Main Street's* annual *Reverse Raffle*

event was postponed from Saturday, November 14, to Thursday, December 3, 2020. There are plenty of fun activities lined up for this virtual event including a live and silent auction. The highlight is always the *Reverse Raffle* itself with a chance to win the cash grand prize. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

12TH ANNUAL REFLECTIONS ART SHOW – This annual event is an incredible collaboration of local artists with an offering of unique artwork available just in time for the holidays. This year, along with Anita and Ginny Piech Street, *Reflections* is honoring Diane Mesagno and **Blue Hands Studio**, comprised of Perlie Petrillo, Valerie Johnson, and Kim Laffont.

Ginny Piech Street has been around the Treasure Coast for almost 30 years. While trained as a printmaker, Ginny has always been drawn to 3D art. When reintroduced to clay almost 10 years ago, she found it too compelling to resist. Since then, Ginny has been involved in co-creating two clay studios on the Treasure Coast. The first is in Fort Pierce, **Peacock Clay Collaborative**, and the second, **Indian River Clay**, in Vero Beach is a non-profit. And while her mouth waters at a table full of hand-painted paper scraps, she is continuously



pushing her clay boundaries. Look for both sculptural and functional clay pieces from Ginny this *Reflections* 2020 exhibit. Ginny will also have her annual Christmas ornament edition for those who collect.

Blue Hands Studio was formed in the spring of 2020 when Perlie Petrillo, Valerie Johnson, and Kim Laffont scheduled an impromptu playdate to experiment with Japanese indigo Shibori fabric dyeing. The process was so much fun, they met the following week to try their hands at dyeing Ice Blooms. The meetings turned into a regular date where they set to learning hot and cold fabric dyeing, tie-dyeing, fabric painting, stenciling, and discharging. As they tried each technique, they took notes, researched, studied, and tried to absorb as much as possible from the day. Powders and potions were cooked up, sheets were ripped and dipped, and string, rubber bands, and wire were put to use to twist and manipulate fabric. It got messy; it got hot, but they persisted. They fed off each other, trying to outdo each other's "wow" moments. The name came naturally after a particularly intense day of dyeing when they had shed their gloves in haste to unravel the treasures, they all ended up with blue hands. The weekly meetings have become part of their creative routine.

Although they work together to create the canvases for

their work, each works in different directions. Valerie uses the hand-dyed fabric to make wearable art such as necklaces and earrings and incorporates pieces into her jackets and purses. Perlle, president of SAQA (*Studio Art Quilt Associates*) pod 8, likes working with Asian techniques with stitching and stencils. Kim creates imaginative work waiting and watching for the fabric to speak to her with a focus on folk art and fantasy. She makes miniature quilts, like her pocket love quilts she will be showing.

No matter the technique, it's all about learning with, and from, each other, and most importantly it's about having fun. They support each other's creative vision and projects. They are happy to share their art, jewelry, and love quilts with you and hope you get as much enjoyment from them as they have.

Diane Mesagno, born and raised in New York, graduated The New York Institute of Technology with a degree in Architecture. Before starting her career in architecture, she studied sculpture in Austria. Since moving to Florida, she devotes her time and energy to the disciples of Fine Art; oil and acrylic painting, sculpture and murals. Her recent work depicts Florida land and seascapes painted plein air.

With the concerns regarding COVID, we are implementing docents at the door, limited persons viewing at one time, safe, outdoor socializing and refreshments. And now that masks are the "new accessory," please wear your most creative and wild mask. You won't want to miss this pre-holiday show, always a great opportunity to get those special gifts. If you can't come

to the Exhibit's reception on Thursday night, December 10th, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., there will be a second opportunity to see the art on Friday, December 11th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Wednesday, December 9th, we will post a live preview of the exhibit on *Main Street's* FaceBook Page. This exhibit is free to the public and will be held at the *Platts/Backus House* located at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. For more information call *Main Street Fort Pierce* at (772) 466-3880.

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE HOLIDAY LIGHTS SPECTACULAR

– For 32 years, *Main Street Fort Pierce* has organized and hosted the annual *Sights & Sounds on Second Christmas Festival and Parade*. It is with a heavy heart that the committee for this year's *Sights & Sounds* made the decision to cancel the event. With concerns from officials, schools, clubs, and churches about the increasing cases of COVID the decision was made for the safety of our community. It was not an easy decision and we look forward to bringing this event back in 2021 with more spirit than ever.

However, holiday cheer will be alive in well in downtown with the lighting of the annual *Holiday Lights Spectacular* in beautiful Marina Square on Melody Lane starting the weekend of Thanksgiving. The *Holiday Lights Spectacular*, presented by the City of Fort Pierce, consists of over 100,000 lights synchronized to holiday music. It is a must-see for both locals and out of town guests. The lights and music will run from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily until January 3, 2021. ❖



Backus Museum Features the Work of Award-Winning Photojournalist in *Insight: Photography of Jon Kral*



The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery will present *Insight: Photography of Jon Kral* from November 20, 2020 through January 3, 2021. The exhibition will feature work from renowned photojournalist Jon Kral who spent his formative youth growing up in Fort Pierce, back when it was a scruffy town on the edge of Florida's cowboy country. The show will be comprised of more than thirty black-and-white photographs including some reminiscent, old time Fort Pierce subjects, including several of A.E. "Bean" Backus; Florida cow-hunting images with Bud Adams; and numerous familiar street scenes that viewers may recognize. The images span the years from the early 1970s through to the 2000s. Many have never been on display or published before.

Kral spent decades working for several different daily Florida newspapers including eighteen years as a photojournalist with the *Miami Herald* where he earned an outstanding reputation for his work. During his time with the *Herald*, Kral covered decades of unmatched growth in Miami and the U.S. as well as civil and social unrest. Some of his most noteworthy photographs captured of the destruction of the Miami area caused by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Many of those images were included in the *Miami Herald's* submission that earned the newspaper a Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal in 1993. The prestigious Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal is awarded each year to an American news organization in the category of Public Service. Kral was also a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in news photography for his work showing the harsh reality of Venezuelan prisons. In addition, a project on Miami's teen gangs garnered Kral a Robert F. Kennedy prize for photojournalism.

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Along with his work with the *Miami Herald*, Kral has had his photographs published in many other major publications including, *Time* magazine, *US News & World Report*, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post* as well as others. Kral has always focused on his documentary interests, with a special affinity for people, places, and capturing just the right moment.

Over the last several years, Kral has turned more of his attention to book projects. His first book, *Cracker, Florida's Enduring Cowboy*, is a collection of photographs documenting the lives of Florida's cowboys. His other books include *Hotbloods: Beyond the Winner's Circle*, a book about horse racing, *Live Steam: Paddlewheel Steamboats on the Mississippi*



System, and *Fast Company: Motorcycle Road Racing's Pit Warriors*. His latest book, *Saving Leslie Jones: Rebirth of Spirit in Man*, depicts the efforts to save Thoroughbreds from neglect and slaughter.

Today, though retired, Kral is still taking photos; mostly candid street shots that capture subjects naturally or spontaneously in his signature journalistic style. Other things that he enjoys are fishing, a game of golf here and there, and sharpening knives. On most days you will find him cutting wood for the winter woodstove — good outdoor work to keep him fit and out of a gym. He enjoys a little bourbon and his pipe smoking. Kral lives with his wife, Beth, and his dog, Charley, beside a trout stream in the mountains of western North Carolina. ❖



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'SHOP AROUND DOWNTOWN' every Saturday until Christmas and enjoy music from the FORT PIERCE JAZZ & BLUES SOCIETY as well as appearances from SANTA atop the FPUA float on 2nd Street. Drop your letter to Santa in his special mailbox and wave hello. Also, be aware the GRINCH may be lurking around... 11a.m – 2 p.m.

WIN A HOLIDAY BASKET OF CHEER!!!

Show a receipt from any participating business and earn 1 ticket per receipt. Drawing will be held at 8pm on December 17th

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Enjoy holiday shopping in DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE. Shops will be open until 8 p.m. so you can get those unique items you need for Christmas! We will have refreshments, elves, live music and more. Grab something to eat at 2ND STREET BISTRO or cupcakes at the CAKE LADY and receive 10% off if you show them a receipt from that evening at one of our participating stores. Bring your receipts to NOTIONS & POTIONS to be entered to win the basket of cheer valued at \$150. 1 receipt = 1 ticket. Drawing will be held at 8 p.m. on December 17th.

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An Important Message from Moe the Manatee

by Meredith Bennett, MOEC Retailer and Marketer



Meet Moe-the-Manatee, the **Manatee Center's** mascot. This little fellow has an important message for everyone regarding their Christmas shopping and gift giving-habits. He would like everyone to consider the environment when picking out your gifts. Whether it is online or in a local store, please try to give gifts that are kind to

the environment or give back to the community. If you can give handmade crafts or home-baked goodies, that would be wonderful. But if you are going to buy new, how about buying from a non-profit? Spend your dollars where they can do the most good.



Moe visited the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop** recently and hand-picked many eco-friendly items for you to consider. Because he wants you to be sure of your selections, he actually gave them his mark of approval on the **Vanishing Mermaid** webstore. If the item displays a *Moe's Eco Pick* banner, you know it is special. These products are ethically sourced, safer for the environment and/or benefit a cause or community.

Some gift-giving suggestions from Moe: This suggestion is "on trend" and good for the environment: dish towels. Yes, you read that correctly, dish towels! Maybe one with a funny saying or pretty graphic would encourage you to quit using paper towels. So why not buy one for all your friends. Now, that would be good for the environment!

Another trend which strikes close to Moe's heart is reusable drinking straws. Did you know Americans use over 500 million plastic drinking straws in just one day? Many of those straws make it into our waters and eventually the ocean where they can harm marine life. Even if they make it to the landfill they do not deteriorate. You can help by skipping the straw

when you order your iced latte and use your own reusable straw. There are many styles to choose from; some even have their own carrying case.

Moe's favorite body care line is *The Naked Bee*. Right on the front of each bottle of hand soap, tube of lotion or jar of body butter you will read "*All the good stuff, none of the bad stuff.*"[®]

Although, *Naked Bee* products have a lot of great ingredients, the reason Moe approves of them is they are reef safe.

Moe would like to talk to everyone about gift wrap and the fact that it is so wasteful. Moe's suggestion is to make a special tote out of an old t-shirt and use it to wrap up your gifts. Then your loved one will have something useful after opening their gift. Check out your local thrift stores for those iconic t-shirt graphics. I am sure you can find one to fit any personality, gender or age.

If you would like a tutorial on how to make t-shirt bags, check out Meredith's video on the **Manatee Center's** Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=555850105114179&ref=watch_permalink.

Moe and all of the **Manatee Center** staff wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. Stay safe and try to bring some joy into your corner of the world.

Of course, the **MOEC** staff and Moe will be happy to accept any home baked goodies for the holidays! ❖

The Manatee Center December Events

Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Guided Kayak Trip

Look for wildlife, get up close and personal with mangroves, learn about the Indian River Lagoon on an easy ninety-minute paddle led by a MOEC naturalist. Great for beginners and anyone who wants to learn more about the Lagoon. Tours start at Fort Pierce Inlet State Park. The fee for this program is \$30 per person and includes kayak, paddle and safety gear (state park entrance fee of \$4-\$6 per car not included). *Registration is required.* Call (772) 466-1600 ext.3337 or e-mail Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org for more information or to register

Heathcote Botanical Gardens Holiday Lights Extravaganza

by Holly Theuns, Heathcote Botanical Gardens

Experience **Heathcote Botanical Gardens** in a whole new light at the *6th Annual Heathcote Garden of Lights*, a holiday experience to delight visitors of all ages. The outdoor illumination festival returns on November 27th, bigger and better than ever. Last year over 11,000 visitors enjoyed whimsical, colorful light displays throughout the five-acre gardens. Food trucks and the *Heathcote the Bear* are part of the holiday fun. This is an outdoor event, masks will be required and a special one-way viewing path, specially designed to highlight this year's illuminations, will be in use. Santa and Mrs. Claus are busy at the North Pole this year and won't be with us.



The most amazing thing about *Garden of Lights* is that the entire display is planned, created and set up by a team of very hardworking volunteers. They started in August to

begin planning this year's display. New creations are discussed, planned and executed — for 2020 the *Peacock* and a “*Cracken*” are new. A sparkling blue *River* and *Waterfall* forms the centerpiece of the Garden, along with a kaleidoscope of colorful flower beds, potting benches, vegetables, a

vineyard pathway and more to amaze guests at every turn. The Garden's *Bonsai Collection* is illuminated — a holiday memory in the making. It's not too late if you want to volunteer to help at *Garden of Lights* — e-mail Laura Cooper at



Coffee
WITH THE MAYOR



Mayor Linda Hudson invites you to join her for Community News and Special Announcements!

Friday, December 18
at 8:00 a.m.

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LCooper@heathcotebotanicalgardens.org, or call the office at 772-464-4672. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks each night of the display and it's another chance to wear that ugly Christmas sweater.

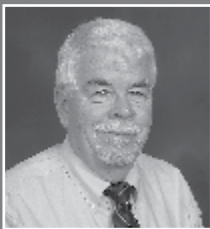
Garden of Lights kicks off on Thanksgiving weekend, November 27 and 28, and runs Fridays and Saturdays 5:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m., through the weekend of January 1 and 2, 2021. Except for Christmas weekend when the light are on Saturday and Sunday nights, December 26th and 27th. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for members, \$3 for children ages 6–12, and free for children under age 6. Advance tick-

ets can be purchased online <https://www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org/product-category/tickets/gol/>. The Gardens are located at 210 Savannah Road off Indian River Drive, in Fort Pierce. Sorry, no dogs at *Garden of Lights*. For more information visit our website at www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org.

Garden of Lights 2020 Calendar Planning Date Cheat Sheet: 11/27 & 28; 12/4 & 5; 12/11& 12; 12/18 & 19; 12/26 & 27 — closed 12/25 and open Sunday 12/27; 1/1 & 2/2021.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens is a 5-acre garden laid out as themed garden rooms, and home to the largest collection of tropical Bonsai on permanent display in the United States. The Gardens are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Garden is closed on Mondays. Well-behaved leashed dogs are welcome. There is an admission charge — \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors over 65, \$3 for children ages 6–12, Children under six are free, as are members, Veterans with ID, and American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program (Members of **McKee Botanical Garden** and **Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens** are free with their membership card). **Heathcote Botanical Gardens** is located at 210 Savannah Rd. in Fort Pierce. The website is www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org and phone number is 772-464-4672. ❖

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'Tis the Season

Fort Pierce Yacht Club has a 30-year history of observing the holiday season by giving to others, and this year has been no different. Despite the impact that COVID has had on the Club's financial situation, we have been able to follow through on our giving to others.

Throughout the summer, we partnered with **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** to bring the community *Jazz on the Waterfront*. Door proceeds went to the Society to fund their community outreach to children through music lessons and scholarships. **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** managed the bar operations during these events and the net proceeds enabled us to continue to be a contributor to the **Boys and Girls Club**, a charity to which **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** has donated every year. COVID was the stimulus to finding new partnerships, safe venues, and creative solutions to revenue generation — some good comes of everything!

Fort Pierce Yacht Club has held a *Trim-a-Tree* event for as long as the Club has been in existence. Our members pull together at these annual events to make Christmas a little brighter for others. Over the years we have contributed to children's fishing tournaments, *Avenue D Boys and Girls*



Club, PATCHES, Hammond Oak School for the Blind, and Aaron's Project to name a few. This year, COVID has again suggested a new theme for our giving: we will adopt a family or two who are in need due to unemployment caused by COVID and will brighten their Christmas with gifts from local

businesses who have also suffered due to shutdowns.

While we all have suffered from the effects of COVID, there are challenges and opportunities which have emerged from this which can brighten the time for others, as well as ourselves.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Holiday Season! ❖



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First Church Fort Pierce Welcomes New Minister



One of the oldest congregations on the Treasure Coast has a new minister. Tim Willcox grew up in sunny south Florida, residing in the West Palm Beach area most of his life. He has a wonderful family – Sheryl, his wife of 33

years; their twin girls, Allison and Amanda; son Jeff; golden retriever Hoagie and cat, Chloe. They love the outdoors, especially boating, surfing, fishing, fitness and lounging by the pool. Besides his passion for serving in the local church, Tim

has a heart for missions in Costa Rica, loving the people and country. He also loves the Miami Dolphins, but sometimes they make him cry.

Growing up surfing, Tim passed by First United Methodist Church Fort Pierce many times on his way to the north jetty. Now he gets to call it home. Part of his former life was being the owner of Palm Beach Yacht Service. He then was a youth pastor for 10 years and eventually taught 11 years at King’s Academy, coaching football and varsity softball. For the past four years, Tim has served at Killlearn UMC in Tallahassee as an associate pastor. It is amazing how God has brought everything back full circle for him to serve in Fort Pierce and help to make a positive impact on the community.

He invites you to check out **First Church Fort Pierce** online or in person and join his family on this new journey together. Visit <https://www.firstchurchfp.org/> to learn more about **First Church Fort Pierce** and Tim. ❖

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The Treasure Coast Photography Center

by *Laura Louise Tingo*

Fort Pierce resident, Robbie Sheets, and John Furlong believe in the power of membership. Both accomplished visual artists, now retired, they credit longevity and enjoyment of photography to sharing knowledge, experiences, and ideas with others who embrace the ever-evolving medium.

One such vehicle is the *Treasure Coast Photography Center*, a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization, whose mission is to foster creative collaboration between fellow photographers. Sheets has been a member — and a proponent of photography as art — almost since the club's inception in the late 1980s when he recalls, it was known as a “camera club.” “We realized we are not a club of ‘cameras,’ he said. “We are a club of photographers.”

Sheets said his fondness for photography started at a young age, “fooling around” with instamatic cameras and ultimately

mastering the art of shooting with a 5 x 7 view camera. “It was fantastic! I couldn't believe what I could do with it,” he said.

While recognizing that the medium has evolved greatly over the years, he prefers to stick to the basics. “We believe in shooting in manual,” he said. “With photography, you have to deal with the realism, compared today's editing capabilities... Photography is painting with light.”

The club offers classes to provide focused, personalized mentorship and coaching, and serves as a discussion group, with artists submitting images for feedback and criticism.

“Members offer suggestions...ways the image can be ‘improved,’” said Sheets. “In photography, a little bit of change can make the difference in an image.”

Other perks to membership include social opportunities like



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Jerry Swain, "Magnolia Bud"



John Furlong, "Bond Falls"



Gail Sheets, "Sewing For Ever"

field trips and monthly contests, with members competing in a vast array of inspiring themes, such as emotion and floral. An anticipated favorite for members is its traditional, end-of-year holiday tradition, when they pull from the winners of each month and choose the top for a cash grand prize.

Furlong, of Port St. Lucie, has enjoyed membership in the *Treasure Coast Photographic Center* for seven years. He picked up a camera for the first time in his early 20s and since, has enjoyed many elements of the medium including film de-

velopment, printing, shooting on slides, film, and digital formats, and underwater photography.

Since joining, he chairs the group's annual fundraising event with a Treasure Coast charity each year, has raised more than \$45K. Past beneficiaries of the event: "From the Heart Juried Photo Exhibition," have included, *Hibiscus Children's Center*, *SafeSpace*, the *Humane Society of St. Lucie County*, *Family Meals*, *Mustard Seed Ministries*, *New Horizons* and *GraceWay Village*.

Continued on page 19 ...

OUR PHILOSOPHY

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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.

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- Headline Sponsor (\$1,000)
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Community Levels

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

Corporate Levels

- Main Street Small Business Membership (less than 10 employees) (\$100)
- Main Street Medium Business Membership (11-50 employees) (\$250)
- Main Street Large Business Membership (51 or more employees) (\$500)

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.

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- 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

PHOTOGRAPHY ... continued from page 17

Photos contributed by Cultural Alliance Art Guild Inaugural Expedition Images



Robbie Sheets, "Working on the Railroad"

Throughout the year, members of the *Treasure Coast Photographic Center* are also invited to show their photographic works in exhibitions, in public and private galleries.

"We are trying to help artists and the community as much as we can," said Furlong, adding that the *Treasure Coast Photographic Center* finds a natural tie to the mission of the *St. Lucie Cultural Alliance*.

"We promote photographic arts, and the Alliance promotes our artists. We appreciate that," he said. "The Alliance has another organized arts organization that they can talk about and get more of a feel for inter-workings between artists and the artist community."

"Together we offer a place for photographers to learn and get exposed to a lot of things and serve as a way to rebuild the county's position and footprint as a cultural destination and center."

The *Treasure Coast Photographic Center* currently has 100-plus members, which Sheets credits mostly, to word of mouth. "When I see someone holding a nice camera," he said, "I walk up and give them a business card and invite

them to check us out online."

To learn more about the *St. Lucie Cultural Alliance* and the benefits of membership, please visit ArtStLucie.org; e-mail info@artstlucie.org or call 772-462-2783. To learn more about the *Treasure Coast Photography Center*, visit www.tpcinc.org, or get social with them on Facebook at *Treasure Coast Photography Center, Inc.* ❖



Kathryn Turney, "Fishing Shack"



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Holidays are Here at the *Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market*

It's that time of year! You know when the weather is cooler with less humidity and the days are sunny and bright, the holidays are just around the corner! The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** is the best place around to shop for all your family and friends' gifts. From necessities to whimsies, everything is conveniently located at Marina Square every Saturday. Strolling through the Market is at its best this time of year. Watching the sea life along the seawall, listening to the live music, catching up with old friends, it's what you do in historic downtown Fort Pierce.

Cooler weather brings out the best in local farms. **G&C Produce** has beautiful hydroponic lettuces and herbs. **AE Farms** showcases chicken and eggs along with their live sprouts and wheat grass shots. **Broken Plow** has an array of local vegetables as well as country kitchen baked sweet breads and hot pepper products. **Aunt Zorada** piles on the produce like their gigantic zucchini and squash. **Gibbons Organics** is the only local certified organic farmer and grows a vast variety of vegetables. This is the beginning of the growing season in Florida and it will continue through May. Of course, for those vegetables and fruits not grown in Florida, **Tony's Produce**, **Daniel's Produce** and **SW FL Produce** provide everything from asparagus to kiwi fruit.

For thoughtful gift-giving, **Garden Friends'** lavender sachets and eye masks are delightfully soothing. **Connie's Plants** has the most beautiful indoor and outdoor plants for the home or landscape. **Dog Days Barkery** has homemade dog treats for pampered pooches. **Goofy Foot Libations** makes delicious guacamole and salsa. **Anita's Guacamole** also has traditional, freshly made guacamole.

Little things are often the best gifts. **Macy's** smoked fish dip is perfect as a hostess gift. A jar of Gentlemen's Jam from **Kat's Southern Twang** is just right for a stocking stuffer for anyone who loves bacon. **Wicked Good Spices** has a showcase of exotic herbs and spices along with old fashioned candies. **Oils Originals** continues to be the place for a myriad of essential oil creations.

For a truly authentic Maryland style crabcake, **B-More Crabcakes** is the place, either for already prepared or for at-home preparation. **Importico's Bakery** is the best for artisanal breads, as well as amazing desserts and pastries. For real Jamaican

hand pies and other jerk dishes, **Faith Lunch** is great. The **Cheese Shoppe**, with a vast array of both domestic and imported cheeses, is superb with a knowledgeable staff to serve you. **Doc's Popcorn** will tantalize the taste buds with its fresh-popped popcorn treats.

For on-the-go eating or drinking, **Barefoot Gourmet** serves fresh brewed coffee and tea. **Fresh Fusion** makes smoothies and acai bowls sweetened with fresh pressed sugar cane. **Cider Donuts** is always a delicious quick bite. **Lemonade Shakeups** has the biggest menu for fresh-squeezed juice drinks, and **Seaside Smoothies** offers fruity smoothies made to order. **Cottage Garden Teas** can make a cup of tea or send home bagged tea for later enjoyment.

Local honey is available from **Gruwell Apiary**, **Buzz on In**. **PJ Honey Ranch** has a nice assortment of honeys from all over the world. **Native Armor** is the provider for locally made elderberry products.

The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** truly is the best place for all your shopping needs. Whether for yourself and your kitchen or gifts to be delivered to your favorites, your list will be filled beyond your expectations.

Of course, safe practices and social distancing are still in effect. All vendors are masked, and hand sanitizer is available. Free reusable cotton masks are also available at the Manager's tent and several vendors.

Open every Saturday, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m., the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** is a Saturday morning tradition! Visit our website, www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com, and follow us on facebook and instagram. ❖

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Love, JAZZ Community: A Visit from St. Scatman Jack?

(With Apologies to Clement Clarke Moore)

by Wendy Dwyer

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the city,
The shoppes were decked out looking festive and pretty;
The people were shopping from far and from near,
Finding treasures and gifts for the ones they held dear.

The children were laughing, enjoying the lights,
On the trees that played music and danced every night.
And mommies and daddies held hands as they strolled,
Enjoying this season that never gets old.

When just down the street, there arose happy noise,
And all of Fort Pierce said, "Oh, it's just the Jazz boys,"
They rushed down the street, Oh my! They did dash,
When the cymbals on Claudio's drum set went "Crash!"

And Don Bestor's keyboard started playing real slow,
While Mark Green grabbed his trumpet and started to blow.
Then what to our delighted ears did we hear,
But the sound of a jazz combo playing so near,

With a dude on a mic, and I knew then, by Cracky,
That Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues had called St. Scatman Jacky.
More rapid than rabbits, his bad jokes, they came,
And the crowd laughed at all but the jokes that were lame.

"Let's get this group going, Let's see where you're at,
When I rev up the music with my magical scat.
FDO or jazz combo, big group or small,
We love sharing music with one and with all."

And as beautiful horses can gracefully prance,
When they heard that great music, people got up to dance.
Whether big band or swing, classic songbook or blues,
People loved hearing music – that's probably not news.

And when, someone said, "Two, and a three, and a four,"
Mia started to belt out a favorite score,
As the crowd settled in with this gorgeous soundtrack,
Everyone knew Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues group was back.

With its Jazz Jams, free concerts, and Waterside Blues,
We're all dancing so much that we wear out our shoes.
These cool cats donate talent, their time, and a song,
And raise funds for scholarships all the year long.

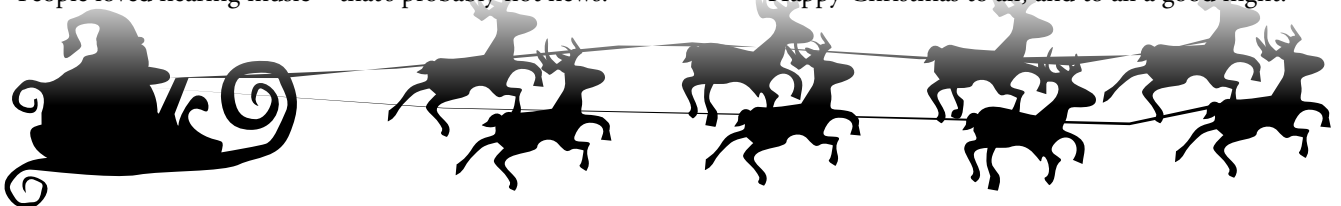
They offer young students a great chance to learn,
How to play with the pros, and a living to earn.
They play on their trumpets, their drums, and guitars,
And help young musicians who long to be stars,

And the audience smiles as they're tapping their feet,
To this music and the people who play it so sweet,
They cheer for the band, and they love Scatman Jack,
And they can't wait 'til Tuesday when the Jazz guys come back.

If you like them a lot, then why not join the band?
Your annual membership helps lend a hand,
You don't have to play sax, and you don't have to sing,
But supporting this group is a laudable thing.

So don't waste a hot minute, just go grab a pen,
You can become a member, or sign up a friend,
It's the gift that keeps giving to St. Lucie and back,
And it gives you a chance to meet St. Scatman Jack.

And I'll bet if you meet him, you'll hear him real loud,
Say, "Thanks for coming out and for making us proud.
All of us from Jazz Society wish you laughter and light,
Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."



TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in December 30, 1920 edition of the Miami Herald

East Coast Lumber Company of Ft. Pierce remembers workmen on Christmas Day

Presentation to seventy-five employees of life insurance policies of from \$1,000 to \$3,000 in premiums to be paid by the company, was made Christmas by the East Coast Lumber & Supply company. Policies were presented to each employee who had been with the company a year or more and who was able to pass the examination...

...Fort Pierce's fine new nine-hole golf course, pronounced by experts as one of the best in the state, will be formally opened for use New Year's Day with appropriate public ceremonies. The course is located about two miles north of the city on the ridge overlooking the Dixie Highway and Indian River. It has many natural advantages that go to make a first-class golf course, and the grounds have been extensively improved and beautified. The formal opening of the new club house, on the golf grounds, was held Christmas evening. A large number were in attendance from every section of the country.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, December 9, 1945 edition of The Miami Herald

Fort Pierce Naval Base to be Decommissioned

Formal decommissioning of the United States Naval Amphibious Training base at Fort Pierce has been set for Feb. 1, 1946, according to announcement of Capt. C. Gulbranson, USN, who commissioned the base early in 1943 and has been its commanding officer ever since. All training will be discontinued and personnel remaining will be transferred to other bases.

Control goes to the Seventh Naval District which will arrange for its disposal. More than 140,000 men were trained for successful amphibious warfare against the enemy at the Fort Pierce base.

50 years ago this month as reported by Jim Hardie in the Sunday, December 20, 1979 edition of The Miami Herald

Fishermen Await "Balling the Bait"

Any day now a phenomenon called "balling the bait," will be taking place in the ocean off St. Lucie County. It happens every year, and local fishermen in the know say that the period between Christmas Day and January 15 is the most likely time.

"Balling the bait" happens when sailfish gang up on a school of baitfish. In their frantic effort to escape the sailfish, the small baitfish begin rapidly swimming in a circle at or near the surface of the ocean. Seabirds diving into the circling baitfish are usually the signal to fishermen that "balling the bait" is taking place.

Other ocean gamefish are known to cause baitfish to nervously swim in a circle. But sails are most famed for the happening...

...We fished the area of the famed 12-A buoy which marks the site of the Dutch ship Amazon which was sunk by a German U-boat in May 1942. The hulk lies in 94 feet of water some 12 nautical miles southeast of Fort Pierce Inlet. Originally it was in 72 feet of water, but strong currents shifted sand on the ocean floor....

25 years ago this month as reported by Bill Sargent in the Sunday, December 10, 1995 edition of Florida Today

Seatrout story tough to swallow – Catch will set record, despite being eaten

While casting a top-water plug along the edge of a mangrove shoreline on a windy afternoon near Fort Pierce Inlet last May, Craig Carson made sportfishing history and didn't know it.

With his father, Red Carson, at his side in their 18-foot boat, Carson landed the biggest spotted seatrout ever taken on rod and reel tackle. It weighed an unbelievable 17 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 39.5 inches in length and 18 7/8 inches in girth.

It will be the all-time world record beathing the existing mark by almost 1.5 pounds. And, it's a record that may never be broken.

For Carson, a 30-year-old United Parcel Service driver from Orlando, it looked like just another big trout.

"I had no idea it was some kind of record and neither did Dad," Carson said.

Carson caught the trout at about 2 p.m. on May 11 on a Zara Spook plug in Tucker Cove, a small backwater north of Coon Island off the main channel of Fort Pierce Inlet. But, he didn't have it weighed until late the next day, after driving back to Orlando.

"Because it was so big, I thought I should have it weighed at a tackle shop," Carson said. "But nothing was open by the time I got home. So, I went downtown looking for a place and found a meat market open, Little Dan's Fish and Meats on Church Street. They weighed and witnessed it for me."

Then Carson did the unthinkable. "I took it home and cleaned it. Yes, I ate the big fish," said Carson, with a disappointed tone, but able to smile about his mistake, "I'm still kicking myself."

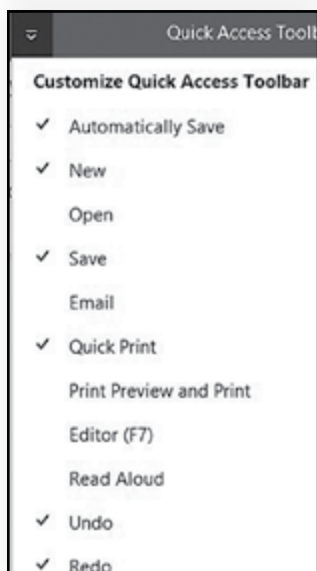
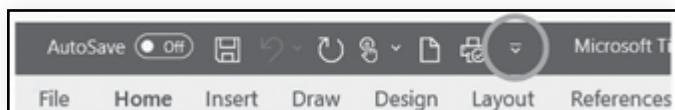
The carcass went in the garbage, he said...

Microsoft Tips & Tricks

by Sue Dannahower

➤ QUICK ACCESS TOOLBAR

The **Quick Access Toolbar** is a customizable toolbar that contains a set of commands that are independent of the tab on the ribbon that is currently displayed. You can add buttons that represent commands to the **Quick Access Toolbar**. The **Quick Access Toolbar** can be found in all Microsoft programs.



Click the Customize Drop Down:

The Commands that are on the **Quick Access Toolbar** have a check next to them. Click to check, click again to uncheck.

In the bottom section of this menu *Click More Commands...*

Here you can select a command from the left side and Add to the commands on the right side. Click OK when done.

Happy computing! ❖



by Sue Dannahower

Handy Tips With Towels

Chill a Bottle of Wine: Take a few sheets of paper towels and run them through some water. Shake off the excess water and wrap the towels around the bottle. Pop the bottle in the freezer for 15 to 20 minutes and, presto — your bottle is perfectly chilled.

Reheating Rice in Microwave: Use a fork to break up any large clumps of rice, then cover the dish or plate with a wet paper towel. Make sure the towel is laid directly on top of the rice. Cook on high heat until the rice is heated through.

Cooking Corn in Microwave: Wet a paper towel and wring out. Wrap the ear of corn in the moist towel, and place on a dinner plate. Cook in the microwave for five minutes. Carefully remove paper towel and enjoy!



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December 20 – Hark the Herald Angels Sing

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5 p.m., Thursday, December 24



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How Auto-Fulfillment Can Make Your Business More Efficient

by Anita Campbell, originally published on www.sba.gov



Rather than wasting time on tasks that you can easily handle with automation, you can re-allocate those valuable hours and resources to important business tasks.

More than half of today's employees believe they can save at least two hours per day through automation. For small businesses, this means you can re-allocate those

valuable hours and resources to important business tasks rather than wasting them on tasks that can easily be handled automatically.

Automation isn't just about adding robotic arms to manufacturing facilities. There are plenty of different ways companies can save time simply by putting processes into place to automatically handle recurring tasks.

For a lot of small businesses, ordering supplies and inventory or processing and fulfilling orders counts as one of those menial tasks that could easily be automated. This is where auto-fulfillment comes in.

Basically, this concept just means sending out recurring orders on a set schedule or as needed, rather than manually placing and fulfilling orders each time. There are several ways businesses can make use of this concept. Here are explanations of a few of them.

Auto-fulfillment for E-Commerce Businesses

Fulfilling every order individually requires a lot of time and resources from ecommerce businesses. In fact, retailers pay an average of 70 percent of the order value on tasks and resources related to fulfillment. This includes everything from shipping supplies to man hours spent processing each order. While you can't necessarily cut out all of those costs, you can streamline your operations to cut down on wasted time and resources, which can ultimately improve your profit margins.

With auto-fulfillment, you can allow your customers to set up automatic orders on a specific timeline or as needed. With this information, your business is better equipped to plan so you'll have the inventory ready and the fulfillment processes in place to get those orders out on a set schedule.

In addition, providing auto-fulfillment options can improve the experience for your customers. They don't need to spend as much of their time placing orders. And it also improves the likeli-

hood of repeat purchases, which means more money in your company's pocket.

This concept may not be applicable to every single ecommerce business. But if you offer supplies or items that people are likely to repeatedly order, like snack foods, household supplies, and personal care products, providing an auto-fulfillment option for your shoppers could make your business more efficient and help your customers at the same time.

Auto-fulfillment for Replenishing Inventory

Poor inventory management costs businesses hundreds of billions of dollars each year. From markdowns for surplus products to misjudgment of available products, it can be easy for businesses to make mistakes when ordering inventory manually. And even if you don't make any actual mistakes, you can waste a lot of time figuring out what to order and going through the process manually each time.

Auto-fulfillment takes a lot of the guesswork, and thus the mistakes, out of this process. You can automatically order new products based on real-time data from your POS system. Or you can set up recurring purchases based on sales analytics from past years. This allows you to essentially cut out the inventory ordering process and makes the ordering decisions much easier, since it's always based on actual sales data.

Auto-fulfillment for Purchasing Supplies

Even if you work in an office or service business where you don't handle physical products, auto-fulfillment can still support your operations. Think about all the office supplies or tools you use on a regular basis. If you need to spend time ordering things every time you run out of a commonly used item, that's time away from other important business tasks.

For offices, this concept can be especially useful when it comes to supplies you use at a steady rate throughout the year, including paper, pens, and printer ink. You can either set up a specific schedule with your provider or even use IoT devices to handle this part of the process automatically.

This concept can also apply to service businesses that use certain supplies or tools on an ongoing basis. For example, a dental or medical facility could set up auto-fulfillment for things like latex gloves, gauze, and syringes. And contractors could use it for plumbing, electrical, or painting supplies. ❖



Going Back, in a Good Way!

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



This certainly has been a year of new experiences. Challenges, what feels like setbacks, leaps ahead and sometimes almost stagnation have all been a part of the mix.

I must say, the most unexpected events; events that could actually be termed “going back” have been some of the most

initially confusing and then ultimately fulfilling unfoldings.

How odd is that in the past year I have moved back to the exact same condo I lived in three years ago and have also set up shop in the gallery/studio space I enjoyed in the past as well. How *deja vu* and yet how new!

It is a bit sobering to me to move back to my same condo, with many of the same people from the past as my current neighbors. Some have the same life as when I moved away, and some have lives that have encompassed drastic changes. It reminds me how uncertain our path may seem to us. Yet here we all are.

Over the past number of years, I have experienced sometimes unsteady changes. Some threads of my life have, however, remained consistent. Thankfully, still being an artist at heart and by profession are at the core of my life. Despite the unusual world climate, I am still able, most of the time, to see the beauty in it all and to feel motivated to create. I also see the magical web of art actually becoming more and more intricate in Fort Pierce, like a stunning summer plant that emerges, spreads its lovely shoots and blossoms profusely.

One of my most fruitful “going back” experiences this year has

involved the downtown *Kilmer Branch* of the St. Lucie County library. For years I took my son to this very library and now my grandson and I have probably put in equal time there. The books, the staff, the setting and, until recent changes, the programs drew us to this library like a magnet. Now, my thoughts, feelings and art are a permanent part of the library, with the inclusion of my book *Lisa's Little Secrets* becoming a part of their collection. To some this may not seem like much, yet to me, this is the opportunity dreams are made of. I now have the privilege of visiting people's homes and being a part of quiet moments over a cup of tea of an evening glass of wine perhaps. Today will be an exciting day as I bring my grandson to the library to share this accomplishment with him. I also relish the thought that this will encourage my grandson, Gavin, to reach for the stars in his own unique way.

Another huge “going back” has involved, as I touched on previously, moving my gallery and creative space back to **The One Eleven Building** on the corner of Orange and Indian River Drive in Downtown. Finally, all of my work space and show space is all in one location. Those of you that visited my much smaller gallery in the past often saw me scurrying between my gallery and my workspace a block apart. Imagine the luxury of huge, well-lit space that houses it all. With this “going back” I have been reminded of progress, accomplishments and the making and seeing the fruition of dreams and goals.

I highlight this because I feel that sometimes we, all of us, don't give ourselves enough credit. We often see what we have not accomplished, what is left undone and our desires that have not yet been met. Through the recent unfolding of events in my life, I get to remind myself of just how far I have come, and I also am moved to appreciate the fluid manner in which some of these events have unfolded. I don't know what will come next. Frankly, none of us do, even more so now than ever. I do know that these recent lessons in “going back” have moved me to appreciate my journey more fully. It is as if I have been put back where I belong and am yet coming back as a new person from the experiences that filled the time in between. I am coming back just as I should be, ready, willing and more able than ever to meet the new challenges, pitfalls, accomplishments, dreams and goals. So, here's to riding the waves that fill our ocean and trusting the outcome will carry us forward. ❖

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Catch a Keeper!

by Captain Bo Samuel

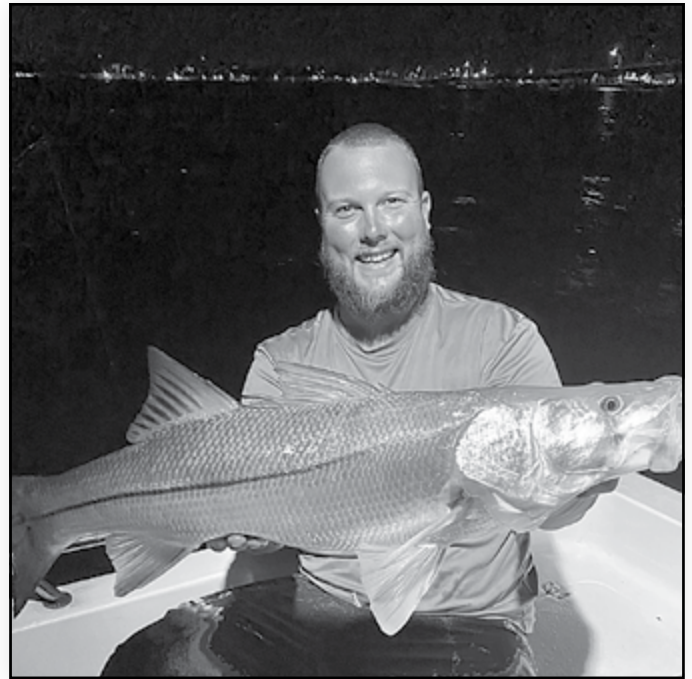


The cooler months are a great time to target the Atlantic Tripletail. This aggressive, pelagic fish is found throughout Florida waters and are considered by many anglers to be one of the best tasting fish in our state. They get their name from the closeness of the dorsal, caudal, and anal fins which appear to look like three tails. Tripletail have the ability to change colors (silver, yellow, or black) to blend in with their surroundings.

Shrimp and crab are favorites of the tripletail but they will also hit small baitfish and artificial lures. It's best to look for them around weed lines, crab trap markers, buoys, and channel markers. Place your live shrimp directly in front of the tripletail and be ready for some action. They are known for their runs and jumps and pulling drag. Using light tackle with 30-pound fluorocarbon and a small weight usually gets the job done. FWC states tripletail must be at least 18 inches long and the daily limit is two per angler.

Snook are always a favorite of anglers and you can catch some action in the Fort Pierce Inlet and around mangroves and docks. These aggressive feeders will hit hard and try to run right for structure. Be aware that snook season closes December 15th through January 31st.

When cooking up a tasty fish dinner, my advice ... less is more. No need for batter, just pan sear, bake, or broil your snook or tripletail. Fishing licenses and regulations can be found at **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** along with great food and great live music. Merry Christmas! If you see Santa, tell him all I want this season is to *keep Pullin Drag!* ❖




Frank H. Fee, III, and Frank H. Fee, IV, Principals

Stacy Consalvo, Manager, Paralegal
SConsalvo@TreasureCoastTitle.net

Jenny Fee, Business Development Manager
JFee@TreasureCoastTitle.net

Phone (772) 461-7190 • Telefax (772) 461-0487
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Recipe Corner

by Sue Dannahower

Semi-Homemade Holiday Recipes

I served both dishes at a Mother-Daughter Luncheon I hosted in September. Nelson's Family Farms on Midway Road (Fort Pierce) carries the Summerlin Smoked Fish Dip (SMAK) and the best Key Lime Pie made by Randy's. They also have an immense variety of fruits, vegetables, and gift ideas.

These are my "go to" ideas for the holidays. Each serves 8.

Festive Smoked Fish Dip

- 1 pint Summerlin's SMAK
- 1 box Captain's Crackers
- Paprika
- Capers
- Lemons, sliced
- Assorted Vegetables (cleaned):
- Carrots, Celery, Snow Peas, Jalapeno, etc.

Spray Pam in a 1 pint bowl, then line with cling wrap. Pack SMAK in the bowl, cover and refrigerate until ready to use. Unmold by turning it over on the serving plate. Sprinkle with paprika, top with capers. Add crackers & vegetables.

Key Lime Pie with Raspberry Sauce

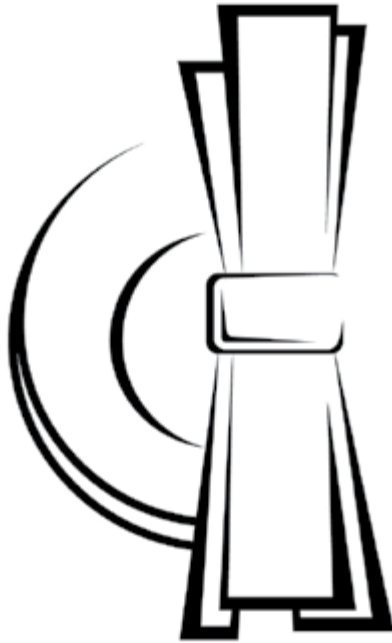
- 1 Randy's Key Lime Pie
- 1 bag frozen Raspberries, pureed, seeds removed
- 1 prepared whip cream

For a seedless raspberry puree, place your pureed raspberries in a fine-mesh sieve over a bowl. Using the back of a spoon or a rubber spatula, stir and mash the raspberries against the side and bottom of the sieve.

Continue to press the fruit to remove as much of the juice as possible. Be sure to scrape the bottom of your sieve; there is likely to be some seedless puree that didn't fall into the bowl yet. Discard the seeds.



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