



Volume 16, No. 7 February, 2021

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

DISCOVER THE **STORY** AND THE **ART**
 OF THE **HIGHWAYMEN**



Fishing Day Ends by R.A. McLendon (b. 1932). Oil on Upson board; 18 x 24 in.; Collection of Roger Lightle.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTRIBUTED BY A.E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY

PRSRRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
WEST PALM BCH FL
PERMIT NO 4595

Main Street Focus
122 AE Backus Ave.
Fort Pierce, FL 34950




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

VIRTUAL

Friday, February 19 at 8:00 a.m.
Main Street Fort Pierce on Facebook LIVE
www.facebook.com/main.pierce/

HOSTED BY
Fort Pierce Yacht Club, Main Street Fort Pierce, Orchid Island Juice Company, First Wave Coffee and The City of Fort Pierce. Call Main Street Fort Pierce for more information at 772-466-3880.

Sponsored by
The Crossing
community church




Rain or Shine — Our Focus is Quality.

- ☑ On-Site or Off-Site Prescriptions Welcome
- ☑ Eye Examinations by Optometric Physicians:
Shannon Clark Leitenbauer, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Kelly Jacobi Waddell, O.D.
- ☑ Contact Lens Services & Surgical Consultations Available

C.R. LAIT OPTICAL & L.W. VISION CARE

2305 Oleander Blvd. Fort Pierce, 34982
(Corner of Virginia and Oleander)
www.CRLaitoptical.com • 465-6616



BLJ

BRADFORD L. JEFFERSON, P.A.

Proud supporter of Main Street Fort Pierce

- ◆ Personal Injury
- ◆ Wrongful Death
- ◆ Commercial and Civil Litigation

130 S. Indian River Dr., Suite 402
Downtown Fort Pierce

Telephone: 772.468.8887
Fax: 772.468.2226

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Loving Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

by Sue Dannahower



If you haven't already fallen in love with Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, make February the month to do so. We have a beautiful waterfront community with a rich history. Fort Pierce is home to many top-notch restaurants, wonderful places to shop and lots of artist studios.

Food lovers are encouraged to go on a culinary journey. With so many choices there is a restaurant for everyone: fresh seafood, gourmet tacos, upscale Italian, awesome bakeries, and more. The Sailfish Brewing Company and Pierced Ciderworks produce wonder libations.

The A.E. Backus Museum and Seriously Mixed Media are a few of our many art galleries. If you love the water, Salty's Water Sports offers boats, jet skis, paddle boards, kayaks and more to rent. Freedom Boat is one of Fort Pierce's best boat clubs.

The Fort Pierce Marina is home to some of the finest fishing charters on the east coast of Florida. *Focus* writer, Captain Bo Samuel owner of Pullin' Drag Fishing Charters, knows all the best fishing spots.

We have a lot on our plate so we could use your help and support. If you aren't a member, I encourage you to complete and send in the membership application found on page 18. If you are a member and would like to be more active, we always need volunteers to help with events as well as help in the office.

Call the office at (772) 466-3880 and we'll put you to work in an area that is of interest to you. Volunteering at a *Main Street* event is a fun way to be involved in promoting our beautiful, waterfront, and Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

Please shop and dine local! ❖



Volume 16, No. 7 February 2021

Publisher Main Street Fort Pierce Inc.
Editor Joanne Blandford
Advertising Director Main Street Fort Pierce Inc.
Graphic Design Susan M. Roberts
Contributing Writers Britt Anderson, Joanne Blandford, Michelle Cavalcanti, Sue Dannahower, Pam Gillette, Michael Howard, Mayor Linda Hudson, Anne Satterlee, Holly Theuns, Doris Tillman, Laura Louise Tingo
Photography John Culverhouse, Mary Ann Ketcham

Copyright © 2021 Main Street Focus Inc. All rights reserved. Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Main Street Fort Pierce. Contents may not be reproduced without prior written permission of Main Street Fort Pierce Inc., 122 AE Backus Ave., Fort Pierce, FL 34950. PHONE 772-466-3880 • FAX 772-466-3917 • tillman.dd@gmail.com.

Jewelry and Watch Repair



Since 1926

Happy Valentine's Day!

Family-Owned
Phone (772) 461-4686
209 Avenue A ~ Fort Pierce, Florida 34950



2020 – 2021
Officers, Board of Directors & Staff

Sue Dannahower President	Britt Reynolds Vice President	Patti Craft Secretary	Dave Miller Treasurer
-----------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Board of Directors

Charlie Hayek Jeremiah Johnson	Dana McSweeney Michelle Miller-Morris	Donna Sizemore
-----------------------------------	--	----------------

Doris Tillman Manager	Michelle Cavalcanti Marketing Manager	Mimi Ewan Finance	Joanne Blandford Focus Editor
--------------------------	--	----------------------	----------------------------------

Phone: 772.466.3880 • mainstreetfortpiece.org

Mayor's Message City of Fort Pierce Events Reimagined

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



January, February and March are considered the “season” in Fort Pierce. We anticipate crowded streets, stores and restaurants filled with snowbirds who spend those cold months here, rather than back home in any number of northern states. The City of Fort Pierce and our local non-profits plan their celebrations and fund-raising events for these months. In 2021, the events will probably be very different.

In December 2020, we did not have the *Main Street Sights and Sounds on Second Street*, but we did have the *Holiday Lights Spectacular at Marina Square* and we held our *City Lights Competition*. We also added decorations to 13 additional spots and streets, including three roundabouts. Together with Fort Pierce *Main Street*, we assisted our businesses downtown with festive lights, music and “Shop Local” marketing campaign.

In January 2021, the usual *Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade and Festival* was not held, but smaller and safer events were held to celebrate the spirit and wisdom of Dr. King. Also in January, the City, in collaboration with the Career Source Research Coast, St. Lucie County and the Economic Development Council held its 6th Annual Job Fair virtually.

In February, the City normally holds its *Highwaymen Heritage Trail Art Show/Sale and Festival*. Watch for information about how this celebration of the 26 original Highwaymen, and other artists who carry on the traditional speed landscape painting art genre. This annual event features many of the “original” and “2nd generation” Highwaymen artists. You can follow this Trail on your own safely in the open air. Visit <https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/501/Highwaymen-Heritage-Trail>. The City also has a *Zora Neale Hurston Dust Tracks Trail* in honor of the famed author and anthropologist who spent her last years and is buried in Fort Pierce. Follow this trail and get more information here <https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/386/Zora-Neale-Hurston-Dust-Tracks-Heritage->.

The A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery has an exhibit, *Right of Way: The Highwaymen*, which runs until March 7. Backus, a Florida landscape artist, was born Jan. 3, 1906 in Fort Pierce. The Museum celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year. The Museum usually hosts a *Sunday in Key West* brunch in January and an *All You Should Eat* brunch in March. Visit the A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery at 500 N. Indian River Dr. or visit <https://backusmuseum.org/>.

The City’s *House of Seven Gables*, 482 Indian River Dr., operated by the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce should be your first stop to learn about activities and events in Fort Pierce. Visit <http://www.saintluciechamber.com/>.



The House of Seven Gables, on Indian River Drive, is owned by the City of Fort Pierce, and operated by the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce. This historic house is a “must see” for its historic value, but also for getting information about sights and activities in Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County.

FEE, YATES & FEE
P L L C
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Frank H. Fee, III & Frank H. Fee, IV
Concentrating in Real Estate Transactions, Probate Proceedings, Mortgage Foreclosures, Special Assets Litigations, Loan Workouts

E. Clayton Yates
Concentrating in Civil Litigation and Criminal Law

Patricia L. Diaz, of counsel
Concentrating in Federal Civil and Criminal Litigation, Criminal Defense, Civil and Criminal Forfeiture, Internal Corporate Investigations and Dispute Resolution

Serving the Treasure Coast Since 1905
772.461.5020
Historic Poppell House • 426 Avenue A, Fort Pierce, Florida 34950
www.FeeYatesLaw.com

City of Fort Pierce Postpones Annual Florida Highwaymen Trail Art Show and Festival

The City of Fort Pierce’s annual tribute to the world-renowned *Florida Highwaymen* artists and their contribution to the rich cultural history of Fort Pierce will be postponed until further notice due to COVID-19 concerns.

While the actual festival is postponed, we will still promote local art and culture by way of partnering with *St. Lucie Cultural Alliance* to host a community-wide landscape art contest. This will encourage artists of all ages while highlighting and promoting the entrepreneurial spirit of the *Florida Highwaymen*.

The annual city-wide 5th-grade art contest and educational curriculum will still take place this year, with the winners’ artwork being displayed at City Hall throughout the month of March.

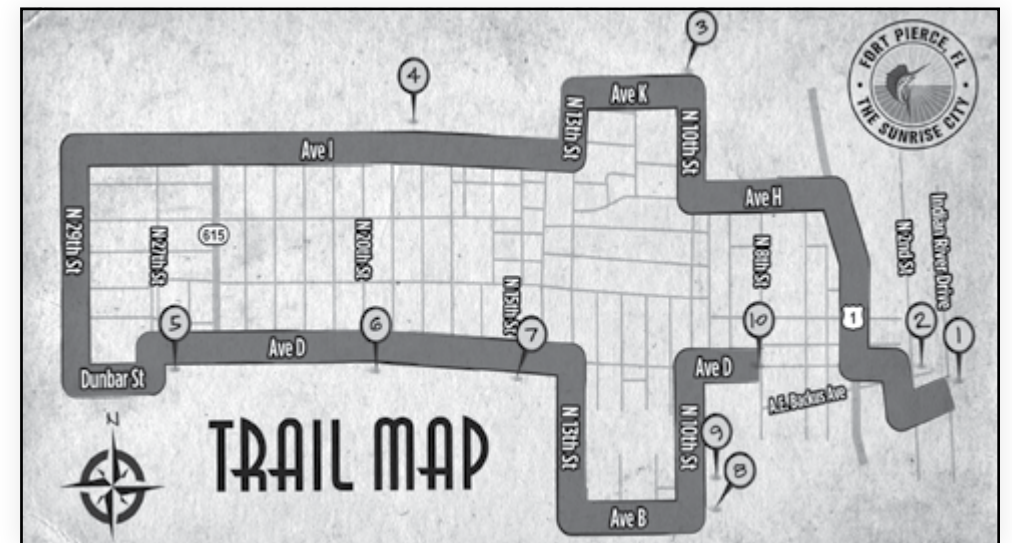
In February, a virtual guided tour of the award-winning *Highwaymen Heritage Trail* will be available at cityoffortpierce.com. The Trail’s colorful markers, magnificent public art, and detailed history will help convey the plight, fortitude, and accomplishments of these African Americans artists starting in the 1950s through their induction into the *Florida Artist Hall of Fame* in 2004.

The A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery, 500 N. Indian River Drive, in Fort Pierce, will host a special

Highwaymen Celebration with a vintage art sale of *Highwaymen* paintings on Saturday, February 20th, which typically takes place in conjunction with the annual festival. For more info, contact A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery at 772-465-0630.

The *6th Annual Highwaymen Heritage Trail Art Show and Festival* was originally scheduled for Saturday, February 20th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Moore’s Creek Linear Park, located in the heart of the Lincoln Park neighborhood, the birthplace of the *Highwaymen* artists who are said to have begun the ‘Last Great American Art Movement of the 20th Century.’

More information on the *Highwaymen Heritage Trail* or activities celebrating the *Florida Highwaymen* is available by calling 772-467-3168 or by emailing cscott@cityoffortpierce.com.



St. Lucie County
REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER
414 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce

Museum Hours:
Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday and Monday

Phone (772) 462-1795 Pineapple Patch Gift Shop
Fax (772) 462-1877 Featuring a Variety of
www.stlucieco.org/history Gifts & Books

Jacquelyn Modesitt Schindehette
*Fine Artist Specializing In Florida's
Unique & Mysterious Landscape*

Schindehette Fine Art Gallery
101 South 2nd Street
Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, FL
Next to Rosslow's Front Door

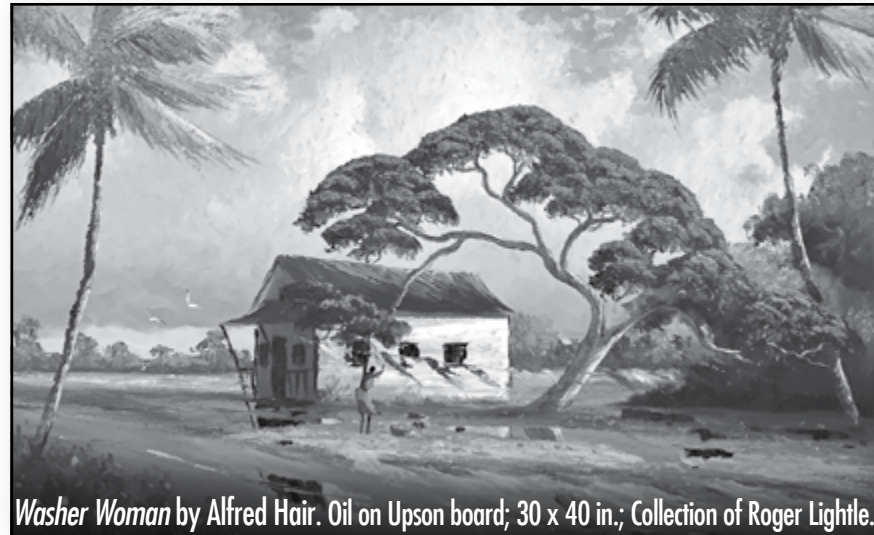
Open: 3rd Friday ArtWalk from 5 to 8 p.m. and by Appointment
Contact: jackieschin@aol.com

Historic African American Highwaymen Artists have the “Right of Way” at the Backus Museum

The A.E. Backus Museum presents the exhibition *Right of Way: The Highwaymen*. The show recognizes the accomplishments of the original Florida artists of African American descent who made their names selling their paintings on the state’s open roads.

Many of paintings in the exhibition are drawn from private collections with some never presented to the public. *Right of Way: The Highwaymen* is on view through March 7, 2021 at the Backus Museum, located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

During the Civil Rights Era in segregated Florida, a group of artists exercised their right to make their own way, and their



Washer Woman by Alfred Hair. Oil on Upson board; 30 x 40 in.; Collection of Roger Lightle.

own living, on their own terms. In the 1950s, generations of racial discrimination had led to insidious, oppressive systems in society that intentionally limited the opportunities for African Americans. Those who were trapped in these systems would need new, creative

skills to shift the course and find a path to prosperity.

In Fort Pierce and surrounding communities, Harold Newton (1934–1994), Alfred Hair (1941–1970), Mary Ann Carroll (1940–2019), James Gibson (1938–2017), R.A. “Roy” McLendon (b.1932), Willie Daniels (b.1950) and at least 20 others discovered and developed their innate talents as fine artists. They encouraged one another, grew, and innovated while

painting energetic and idealized landscape scenes of the Sunshine State’s natural beauty.

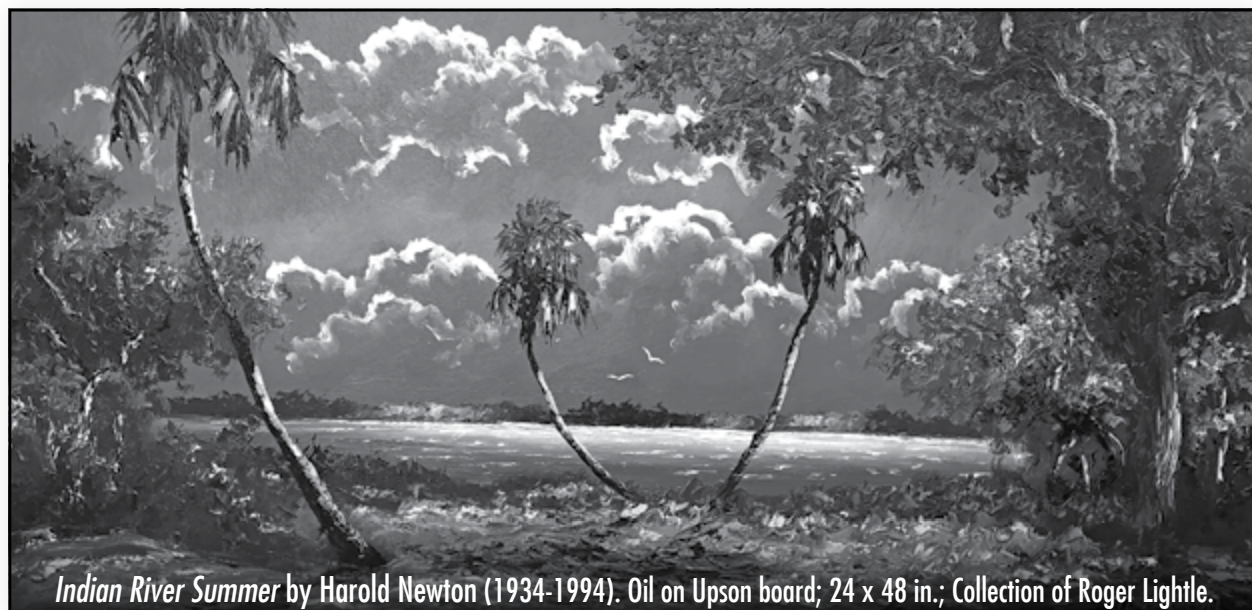
But in the days before their right to vote was recognized, they would need more than skills to find their path to success. One avenue to their achievements and artistic independence was the automobile and using it as a mobile gallery. At a time and place when a Black-owned brick-and-mortar business catering to white art patrons was impossible, these artists realized that adapting the “door-to-door” direct sales technique would allow them to take their paintings to the people.

The other necessary element to exercise their right of way was the freedom of the open road. While racial color lines could divide the geography, the networks of state and federal roads cut through and around many obstacles. The highway connected commerce and provided the way to find the individuals and businesses that might become enthralled by an original framed work of art (or two, or three, or more) sold for a modest price. As a result of selling their art from the trunk of a car, these artists would later become known as *The Highwaymen*, finding eager customers for their bold and vivid paintings up and down Florida’s Atlantic Coast.

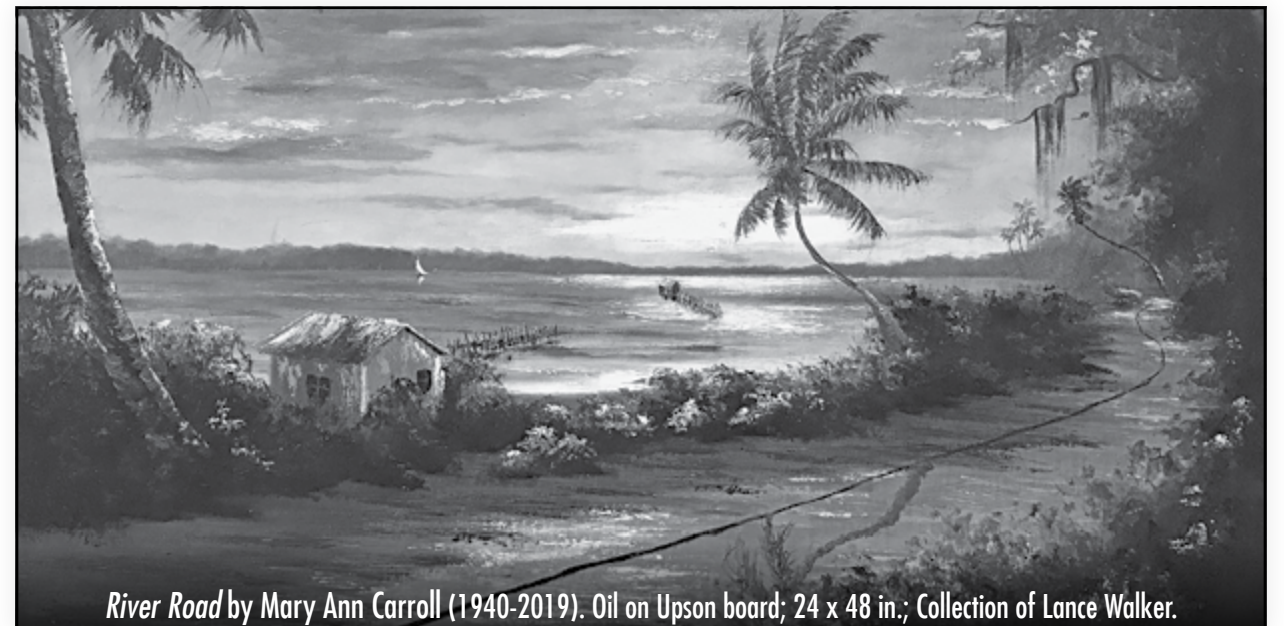
“Today when you look at these paintings, it’s easy to celebrate the accomplishments of these artists,” says J. Marshall Adams, Executive Director, “but it’s also easy to lose sight of the radical ways they were able to make their own success when society was stacked against them. Looking back gives us a clearer view of the national importance of this local movement.”

The Museum is working to present its annual favorite *Highwaymen Celebration Weekend* on February 19-21, in coordination with the City of Fort Pierce’s *6th Annual Highwaymen Heritage Trail Art Show and Festival* on Saturday, February 20. Please visit www.BackusMuseum.org later this month for more details as new coronavirus protocols are announced.

Right of Way: The Highwaymen features nearly 50 works by original *Florida Highwaymen* artists Harold Newton, Alfred Hair, Mary Ann Carroll, R.A. McLendon, Willie Daniels, James Gibson, and more. The exhibition explores through luminous images the dream and determination of these important African American artists. For more information, please visit www.BackusMuseum.org. ❖



Indian River Summer by Harold Newton (1934-1994). Oil on Upson board; 24 x 48 in.; Collection of Roger Lightle.



River Road by Mary Ann Carroll (1940-2019). Oil on Upson board; 24 x 48 in.; Collection of Lance Walker.

Seriously Mixed Media Welcomes Guest Artist , Sara Pinkerton



Seriously Mixed Media at 207 Orange Avenue in downtown Fort Pierce, is proud to welcome Seminole, Florida mixed media artist Sara Pinkerton as the featured guest artist in February.

Sara is relatively new to the art world having retired from banking just a few years ago and finding her artistic voice, specializing in mixed media, collage, acrylic, fluid acrylic, pen work and silk painting. She is well known for her bold use of color and materials.



Sara divides her time between Ohio and Florida and has exhibited her work in galleries and art centers in both states and is proud to have her work in private collections.

While admiring and respecting the world of realistic art, that is not Sara's approach. Her unique and quirky perspective is quite distinctive. Her use of vibrant color along with her imaginative approach to life is delightful! Sara's pieces reflect her creative, fun and funky view of the world.

Her show will run from February 11 through March 17, with the *Artist's Reception* on Friday February 19th from 3:00 to 5:00 and Saturday February 20th from 11:00 to 3:00. ❖



Star Knudson, Realtor®
 StarSellsbytheSea.com • 772.643.8421
 DALE SORENSEN REAL ESTATE

Have the power of knowledge on your side;
 Call... **Berger, Toombs, Elam
 Gaines & Frank**
 Certified Public Accountants PL



(772) 461-6120 (772) 219-0220



Chic and Shore
 things

Chic and Shore Things is the downtown Fort Pierce boutique shop for all of your coastal-inspired furnishings, unique seaside/seasonal home decor and one-of-a-kind jewelry needs. It's an experience for all the senses....

Facebook.com/ChicAndShoreThings | 205 North Second St., Fort Pierce, FL
 Open: Mon-Thu 10-5, Fri 10-7, Sat 10-5 * Call: 772-342-7505

Smooth Sailing Dental



W. ROGER LONG, DDS, PA
BETHANY WIERZBICKI, DMD, MBA

☎ 772.464.2943
 ✉ longdds@bellsouth.net
 🌐 www.smoothsailingdental.com

Dr. W. Roger Long, DDS, has been proudly serving the Treasure Coast since 1983. We welcome new patients to our practice located in beautiful and historic Fort Pierce.

A Smooth Sail to a Brighter Smile

🏠 1511 South 25th St., Fort Pierce

📱 📷 📌 📧 📍

Faitella Enterprises
 The PAINT HOUSE

Paint and Supplies

- Concrete Paints / Stains
- Primers
- Wood Stains
- Deck Paints
- Acrylic Pool Deck Coatings

Interior/Exterior Paint
 starting at **\$15.00 per gallon!**

We also carry...

- Sign Paints / Materials
- Paint Brushes, Rollers, Trays
- Floor Protection

Paint sprayers available for daily / weekly rentals.
20% discount for contractors on all Richard's products



Paint Made in Florida, For Florida

706 S. US Hwy. 1 Ft. Pierce, FL 34950 - Phone: 772.465.5862
 Your One-Stop-Shop for Cleaning, Painting, or Detailing Needs!

Are you ready to dig into that landscaping project you've been planning?

Know what's below, Call before you dig.

Sunshine811
 sunshine811.com



FPUA
 COMMUNITY PROUD

www.fpua.com

Fort Pierce Yacht Club Celebrates 40 Years

This January 2021, the Fort Pierce Yacht Club recognized the service of its outgoing Board of Directors and celebrated the incoming Board at its 40th Directors' Reception. The Club was incorporated in May 1980, bringing to fruition the idea of Dottie and John Brennan, and Al and Carole Sargent to form a yacht club dedicated to sailboat racing and social events. Founded by 10 individual members, the Club grew from its founding 10 to 100 members by the end of the year. Without a permanent home, the members met in the Coast Guard Auxiliary Building, the Colonnades Clubhouse and later claimed its home at the Inlet Marina.

Between July (its first organizational meeting) and the end of 1980, the Club held 10 sailboat races off Fort Pierce plus organized the first inter-club and community sailboat racing regatta in Fort Pierce. On January 31, 1981 it held its first Director's Reception when all Club members gathered to meet and greet its Board of Directors and committee chairs. In the words of Past Commodore Robert Penn dated Feb. 3, 1981:

Commodore's Letter to Membership

The Directors' Reception on January 31st was another successful function of the FPYC, with some 140 gay and interested yachting people in attendance. The Commodore wishes



to thank the Directors for their generosity in underwriting the expenses, and to especially thank the Directors' wives for their preparation and arrangement of the beautifully luscious table of hors d'oeuvres. Also, we all appreciated the splendid bar tending of our fellow members "behind the bar." This event provides a perfect opportunity for all members to become acquainted with their Directors,

officers, committee chairmen and fellow members. A continuous presentation of colored slides showing our boating activities was a very special attraction provided by the Bushes and Wrights. Our Racing Captain, Dave Rever, presented trophies for the Winter Series of races and announced a "Fun" race for February 21st; Dick Spalding, our Cruising Chairman, has arranged a cruise to the Bahamas for February 5th, and an interesting three-day cruise to the Manatee Pocket and Sandpiper Bay for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

On January 23, 2021, the current Board of Directors of the Fort Pierce Yacht Club upheld its 40-year tradition and hosted the membership for its Director's Reception in its now permanent home, on the patio, overlooking the Indian River. Our Club maintains a rich commitment to our traditions. To learn more about our history, visit www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com. ❖

Affordable Luxury Limousine
Ride in style every mile

BRAD SCHWERER
Owner/Operator
772-577-0334
lic/insured

RBSchwerer@aol.com
www.affordableluxurypsl.com

Applebee Electric

Serving the Treasure Coast Since 1951
John & Ken Applebee - Owners

3305 Industrial 25th St.
Fort Pierce
Lic & Ins #EC0002956

Ft. Pierce (772) 466-7930
Vero Beach (772) 231-7931
Port St. Lucie (772) 878-7938



Main Street Fort Pierce Fall Golf Tournament

held on December 19, 2020 at Gator Trace
Sponsored by Southern Eagle & John Jacobs Construction



◀ 1ST PLACE: SOUTHERN EAGLE



2ND PLACE: HILBURN BAIL BONDS ▼

▼ 3RD PLACE: DUDE WHERE'S MY PAR?



MAIN STREET FORT PIERCE



Downtown Fort Pierce Steakhouse Voted Best Restaurant of the Treasure Coast

by Dale van der Lugt

The Fort Steakhouse, with its romantic, elegant, and electric ambiance provides a fine dining experience with a big city feel in our Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. They have the distinct honor of being chosen as *The Best Restaurant of the Treasure Coast*; a title they will never take lightly. With their continued quest to source only the finest and best products they remain “particular” when choosing their vendors.

Some of the amazing selections made by Chef Kevin Darr of **The Fort Steakhouse** are Sher Australian Wagyu, one of the best in the world outside of Japan, Strauss Organic Grass Fed beef, and White Gold Label, upper-prime beef single sourced and sustainably raised. Another grand choice is their sustainable, Premium Black Angus Beef. If you are looking to try something exotic, their Great Range bison is sourced from the finest, premium ranches in North America, fed with a vegetarian diet, grass and grain fed. All of these selections include no hormones or antibiotics; two particularly important aspects stressed at **The Fort Steakhouse**.

When asked for a quote, Chef Darr humbly stated, “We treat our products with respect so they can shine on their own.”



He went on to point out he personally knows their choice in heirloom tomatoes are the best. He used to live just a few blocks away from the farm they are sourced from.

And so it goes, sourcing only the best items out there; from produce, beef, seafood, and so on, Chef Darr insists “simple is better.” Speaking with pride, he regaled me with the story of one of his staff who just a few nights ago texted a “regular” about a fresh brought in seafood item which this customer rushed on down to indulge. And that’s normal behavior for his team, and why, when

you choose **The Fort Steakhouse**, you’re not just choosing a fine dining experience, you’ll also fast become a member of their community, their family, their tribe.

Located on our own Main Street (South 2nd Street) in downtown Fort Pierce, **The Fort Steakhouse** was voted *The Best Restaurant* of the entire Treasure Coast. Like they often say at **The Fort Steakhouse** — “Come dine with us for a memorable experience.”



John Heaning, REALTOR®
772-834-4677
heaningroup@gmail.com
www.HeaningGroup.com




26 yr Navy Veteran, 18 yr Home Inspector here on the Treasure Coast, makes me a better Realtor for my clients!!!




Nick Rains
Owner

Office: (772) 464-4740
Fax: (772) 774-8369
Cell: (772) 201-6893

www.RainsInsurance.com | nick@rainsinsurance.com

VERO BEACH - FORT PIERCE

King’s Landing Grows to \$100 Million

Breaking news: the much-anticipated **King’s Landing** development downtown just got better. About \$25 million better.

Dale Matteson of **Audubon Development** recently announced he has reeled in a \$45 million-dollar hotel to form the centerpiece of the prestigious project.

Mainsail Hotels of Tampa has signed a letter of intent to construct a full-service 140-room hotel in the center of what will now be a \$100 million-plus mixed-use project. **King’s Landing** is slated to also feature upscale condominiums and townhomes, shopping and offices, all just a stone’s throw north of the historic downtown area.



The new hotel will have bars, fine dining and much-needed meeting rooms on its premises. **Mainsail** operates a small, but exclusive roster of hotels, many of them on Florida’s Gulf Coast. **Mainsail** operates one resort hotel at Scrub Island in the British Virgin Islands. The company also owns the **Epicurean** hotel in the Hyde Park area of Tampa across from the world-famous **Bern’s Steak House**. The **Epicurean** has become a haven

for foodies and includes a state-of-the-art culinary classroom for chef demonstrations.

Mainsail plans to include the Fort Pierce hotel as one of its Portfolio Collection, Matteson said. These units are custom-designed for each market and feature “a fit and finish far superior to previous hotel options we were looking at,” Matteson

explained. Those other hotel operators had proposed a \$20 million hotel for the development.

“To land an over-the-top product in Fort Pierce is remarkable,” Matteson added excitedly. “It was a huge undertaking to get the right hotel in **King’s Landing** and it’s going to be remarkable,” he said.

Other **Mainsail Hotels**, notably the **Luminarian** in Fort Myers, closely reflect historical associations in their markets. In Fort Myers, hotel designers chose famous winter resident luminaries Henry Ford, inventor Thomas Alva Edison and tire magnate Harvey Firestone, plus other local historical figures, as the theme of the hotel.

Matteson suspects they may do something similar here. Whatever or whoever they come up with, the new hotel’s addition to **King’s Landing** — where property sales of condominiums and townhouses have been described by Matteson as “brisk,” despite the challenges of COVID 19 — will add extra luster to what will become the crown jewel of the Treasure Coast. “It’s a giant, giant step forward,” Matteson said. ❖



Serving the Tri-County Area Since 1973



NISAIR
Air Conditioning & Heating

- Indoor Air Quality Specialist • Residential/Commercial
- Mobile Homes • Servicing All Brands • Installations
- Replacements • High Efficiency Filtration

3700 S. US 1, Fort Pierce
1-877-7NISAIR | www.nisair.com

Lic.#CACO-4199

2021.... We Are Ready for You!

by Trish Parker, Volunteer Program Coordinator, Manatee Observation and Education Center

In March, the Manatee Observation and Education Center will have been closed for almost one full year due to COVID-19 safety precautions to protect our over 100 volunteers, as well as our staff and visitors. To say it has been an interesting and challenging year would be an understatement. Regardless, we have continued to push through.

While closed, we have worked hard to stay engaged with our community of volunteers. Together, staff and volunteers not only updated indoor and outdoor exhibits, but also continued select Manatee Center maintenance efforts and events. Most importantly, we stayed strong together. And though we are still closed, we want to share with you the incredible work that our volunteers have done all year long.

First, staff and volunteers worked together to create a new history display in our theater room, with grant funding from the *Florida Humanities*. This display specifically features the history of Fort Pierce, including dioramas of the story behind the name "Treasure Coast," popular crops through the years like citrus and pineapple, and the story behind the name Fort Pierce. April, our Education Coordinator, also created an Ocean Trash display, which interactively conveys how long it takes different plastics to biodegrade in our oceans and estuaries. And I created a new reef display, beside our beautiful reef tank, which helps visitors understand the importance of and threats to local coral reefs.

We were also fortunate to partner with a Masters Student at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) extension office who volunteered his time to help us redesign two of our fish tanks in the museum. One saltwater tank is now home to fish that have been completely bred and raised in UF's Fort Pierce aquaculture facility. This is the first time ever that the Cuban Hog Fish and Florida Hog Fish, on display, have been captive bred. We also updated our Freshwater Tank, which is now home to lots of Cichlids to keep our Plecostomus company, and is furnished with new rock formations as habitat for them to hide in.

Although our inside exhibits have been closed to the public, Roving Naturalist (RN) volunteers continue to walk the observation deck and surrounding areas looking for manatees. These

dedicated volunteers have helped us keep up with our Manatee Count Sheets, collecting important manatee count data that we have tracked since the opening of the Manatee Center in 1996. We have been fortunate to welcome two new volunteers as RNs during the pandemic and one existing gift shop volunteer who cross-trained to RN just to be able to stay involved.

Also outside, our Butterfly Garden is tended solely by volunteers who have remained faithful through the pandemic, bringing hundreds of Atala butterflies to the Manatee Center property. Other volunteers are also helping to update the *Vanishing Mermaid Webstore* remotely, by updating product descriptions to help make your selections easier, *vanishingmermaid.org*. We are still offering online orders with curbside pick-up.

In addition, some volunteers have continued to help in the office with inventory, or in the *Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop* stock room. Finally, one family of volunteers comes in once a month to clean the turtle tank, and another two volunteers visit bi-weekly to eliminate fire worms from our touch tank. What are fire worms you ask? They are a critter that hitchhikes into tanks on rocks and shells. They are in the family of Bristle Worms, but these sting. They also compete with the touch tank animals for food, so it is best that they are eliminated. And when removing them, we have to get the whole worm because if one little segment is left in the tank, it grows a new worm.

Many of our volunteers also stayed active in select, socially distanced events and activities, such as helping to run our weekly kayak tours and our *Manatee Center 5K*. After being delayed a second time due to Tropical Storm Eta (as if COVID wasn't enough), we were finally able to host our *Manatee Center 5K* and 1 mile walk/run on Saturday, November 14th. Many volunteers helped stuff runner's bags in advance of the race and helped with the event on the day of the race. We even had ten teenage volunteers from Fort Pierce Central High School Key Club come out to cheer the racers on!

We are also very proud to have participated in the *13th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup*, which was held virtually this year from Saturday, July 18th to Monday, July 27th. A team of ManaTeam volunteers spent that week collecting trash in different areas throughout St. Lucie and Martin Counties

and reporting their time and weight of trash collected back to us. Altogether, 45 ManaTeam volunteers spent 112.5 hours trekking 13.75 miles to collect a total of 408 pounds of trash!

Volunteering plays such a vital role in our community and we are fortunate to have volunteers calling every day eager to help. We are grateful that we have been able to interview and hold orientation for about 10 new volunteers during the pandemic. I have not been able to give all of them training and hours as yet, but they are eagerly waiting in the wings until we open. I am still accepting applications but have only limited positions available at this time. Please call me to discuss opportunities. Dial 772-429-6266 and select option #4.

We are very much looking forward to the day we can reopen to have all of you back to see our new exhibits and upgrades. In the meantime, please come by the center and take a peaceful stroll around the grounds, enjoy the fresh air, the butterfly garden and hopefully see a manatee. Our Roving Naturalists are happy to answer any questions you might have.

Here is to a Happy New Year and many good things to come in 2021! ❖



**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
Historic Poppell House
426 Avenue A • Fort Pierce, Florida 34950
www.tctitleandescrow.com

Rosslow's Since 1950
Ladies' Fashion, Shoes & Gifts

*Family owned and operated since its opening in 1950,
Rosslow's is Fort Pierce's one-stop shop, offering
specialty items and excellent customer service.*

772.461.1222 • 772.466.2021 fax
RosslowsFL.com • crosslow@comcast.net
105 South 2nd Street • Fort Pierce, Florida



The Manatee Center February Events

Friday, February 12th at 12:00 p.m
*Fighting for Florida: Battling Invasive Wildlife
in the Sunshine State!*

Lunch & Learn — Presented by Jan Fore, the Nonnative Species Education Coordinator at the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. Grab your lunch, turn on your computer, and join us. This special presentation is hosted by FWC. The access link is available on the Manatee Center website calendar.

Saturdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27
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. The fee for this program is \$30 per person and includes kayak, paddle and safety gear. Registration is required. Call (772) 466-1600 ext.3337 or e-mail Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org for more information or to register.



**THE CLOCK SHOP
of Fort Pierce**

**Now Located in
the Arcade Building**

**Antique
Restoration
and Clock Repair**

101 N. US 1, Suite #123
Historic Downtown Fort Pierce
772-465-2768

**BRANCA REALTY
PROFESSIONALS**



311 S. 2nd Street, Suite 102A, Fort Pierce
Waterfront Properties | Luxury Homes
Commercial Properties
Acreage | Rentals | Property Management


Call 772.882.9583 or visit us at www.brancairealty.com

The Fort Pierce Monolith...

On December 16th a mysterious stainless steel structure was discovered on the grounds of Pierced Ciderworks by a cidery employee. The employee posted photos and video of the structure on Facebook, sparking widespread curiosity. Upon review of security camera footage, employees were unable to determine exactly how the structure arrived, due to a short-term disruption of the surveillance system. Pierced Ciderworks was visited by several news outlets, and *The Fort Pierce Monolith*, as it is now known, became a frequently visited attraction. On December 11th, *The Fort Pierce Monolith* was sold in an EBay auction, with one hundred percent of the winning bid donated to *Main Street Fort Pierce*. ❖



Michael R. Repoli, CPA, EA



In trouble with the IRS?
Owe money or need to file past taxes?
Need an affordable part time Controller?

INCOME TAXES. ROOT CANAL.
Fortunately, we can help with the more painful of the two.

Call: **772-878-3703** Fax: **772-343-7287**
www.repolicpa.com



I brake for auto insurance.

Bill Knight Insurance Agency Inc
Bill Knight Jr., Agent
2301 Sunrise Blvd
Fort Pierce, FL 34982
Bus: 772-461-7900
Se habla español

I'm here to help life go right™ by being there to help protect you, with coverage from the #1 car insurer in the country. CALL ME TODAY.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
Bloomington, IL

Texas County Mutual
Dallas, TX
1601580



On Saturday, February 13, First Church of Fort Pierce will be hosting "Project Love Impact." Volunteers will be committing their hearts and hands in support of the good work that is being done in our community. There will be seven different projects with a variety of jobs, ranging from working in a pantry, construction, sorting, first responder appreciation and beach clean-up. If you are interested in joining a team or want detailed information please go to our website, www.firstchurchfp.org.



FIRST CHURCH FORT PIERCE
Loving God and Loving People
Sharing - Growing - Serving
515 Avenue A, Fort Pierce | www.firstchurchfp.org

McAlpin Cavalcanti & Lewis CPA



is pleased to announce Christina McKenzie has joined as a partner of our firm.

511 North Indian River Drive
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
772-595-0500
Christina@mclcpa.com



OUR PHILOSOPHY

For a Bonsai Tree to thrive, its roots and crown must be meticulously nurtured and groomed. A well-maintained Bonsai can give its gardener a lifetime of beauty and enjoyment.


Like the Bonsai, from roots to crown, your teeth and health will benefit from proper professional care. Working together with your dental team, you too can enjoy a lifetime of oral health and a beautiful smile.

MENTION THIS AD FOR | \$79 Emergency Exam & X-rays



Serving the Ft. Pierce community for over 30 Years!!

(Reg. \$140) Offer expires in 90 days.

New Patients Only. Advertised fee is the minimum fee, subject to clinical need. One or more of the following ADA codes may reflect the treatment rendered under this offer. D140, D0220. IT IS OUR OFFICE POLICY THAT THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT OR BE REIMBURSED FOR PAYMENT FOR ANY OTHER SERVICE, EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT WHICH IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED-FEE OR REDUCED-FEE SERVICE, EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT. DN8524 | DN25092. This offer is not to be applied toward account balances or dental services already delivered and not in conjunction with any other offers, discounts or reduced-fee plans. ADV45342MA



Family Oral Health ASSOCIATES

Robert Gehrig, DMD
Mavi Cruz, DMD
General Dentists

1405 S 25th Street Ste B
Fort Pierce, FL 34947

FamilyOralHealth.com
Call Today! **772-318-4654**

Become A Member

It Takes All of Us to Make Our Historic Downtown Prosper and Grow!



Main Street Fort Pierce wants to invite you to become a part of the renaissance of our Historic Downtown area. Over the past twenty-nine years, we have worked to repair streets and sidewalks, upgrade storefronts, renovated the Sunrise Theatre, Old City Hall and the Platts Backus House, sponsor charrettes to design a downtown "Master Plan," built the Manatee Observation and Education Center and so much more! Annually, Main Street Fort Pierce sponsors over 30 events — most which are free of charge.

Yet there is still so much more to be done! We need you to be involved in our continued planning for the area. Become a member and support *Main Street* financially. We rely on the participation and the voluntary annual dues from our members to accomplish our goals and complete our projects.

Whether you own a downtown business or you just love Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, we need your energy and support to continue to rejuvenate our community's heart and soul.



Why Main Street Fort Pierce?

- Downtown Fort Pierce is an important employment center.
- The area is a reflection of the community image.
- Locally owned businesses keep profits in town and support other local businesses and community projects.
 - A vibrant downtown creates a feeling of "hometown pride" and sense of place.
- The downtown district is a public gathering area, where parades, special events, and celebrations are held in a unique setting.
 - Community character and historic integrity cannot be recreated.

What are Membership Benefits?

- Your membership dues are an investment in the future of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, helping us to sponsor improvements and events throughout the year.
- Members receive advanced notice and invitations to special events.
 - You will receive the monthly subscription to *Main Street Focus* magazine and links to *Focus On-Line*.

As a member of *Main Street* you are automatically aligned with others who want to preserve the past and influence the future of Fort Pierce. You can belong to Fort Pierce *Main Street* at one of eight different membership levels, starting at just \$15.

Main Street Membership Levels

Benefactor Levels	Community Levels	Corporate Levels
Headline Sponsor (\$1,000) Patron Sponsor (\$500)	Main Street Friend Membership (\$25) Main Street Family Membership (\$50)	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.

Name: _____ Membership Level: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Become a Member of Main Street Fort Pierce

Three Easy Ways to Join!

- 1 – Call Main Street Fort Pierce at (772) 466-3880
- 2 – Visit our Website at www.mainstreetfortpiece.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

Love, JAZZ Community: A Love Letter from Don Bestor

Dear *Focus* Reader,

Last February, I sat down at this keyboard (the one with 104 keys and all those letters!) to send a love note to the people of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County. I knew it would surprise people because I'm not exactly known for being gushy and 'love-dovey,' but I really wanted to share my love and gratitude with the people from this community which supports live, professional music, the arts and **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** all year long.

That was last February, right before the whole world seemed to shift on its very axis and start riding like a car with a flat tire. I'm not going to lie – this past year has shaken all of us to the very core, made us re-examine ourselves, our beliefs, our circumstances, and even our purpose. And here we are a year later, somehow finding the strength to go on and make our own kind of music each and every day. It's that strength and persistence that made me sit down at this keyboard to write another Valentine's Day (and every day, really) love note to the community which has come together to keep going despite the toughest challenges ever.

As musicians, our livelihoods rely on people gathering to hear us perform. It's not just how we make our livings, it's how we define our existence, so 2020 was especially hard for all of us. You know the old question about a tree falling in the forest, but no one is around still making a sound? Sometimes it feels that way for musicians, and this past year has made many musicians question their own 'sound.' The thing is, members of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** didn't have to question that because for so long, we've had a strong and vocal community cheering us on, laughing at our goofy jokes and Black Box repartee, and dancing to the songbook that has not only been the soundtrack of our memories but continues to carry us along even through the challenges today. Maybe we weren't able to get together much during the past year, and even when we did gather, it was 'distantly' or sometimes even via satellite or Zoom, yet we still found a way to connect, check on one another, and share a song and a smile. That, my friends, is love.

Any of us who have been married knows all too well that the fiery hot passion and utter adoration we feel during love's first blush quickly fades. With lots of love, luck, and hard work,

that fire hopefully simmers down to strong and steady coals fueled the small twigs and logs we add as time goes on, keeping us warm, cozy, and comfortably happy as the years go on. On behalf of all of us at **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, I want you to know we feel the love. We feel it on Tuesday nights at the **Sunrise Black Box Theatre**, where we are finally able to gather again – even if it is in smaller numbers. We feel it on Saturday mornings as we smile and wave while you stroll and shop outside and enjoy the beautiful and unique crafts at the Saturday morning *Jazz Market* and the *Fort Pierce Farmer's Market*. And we feel it whenever someone emails, likes us or makes a comment on our Facebook page, or chooses to join Fort Pierce Jazz Society to show support. I want you to know that we feel the love, and we are so grateful.

I've shared with you before that for most of us at **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, music was our first crush, our puppy love, the one relationship that has lasted our entire lives. Sharing it with you is our ultimate expression of love for you, the community. Today, as I did a year ago before everything changed so much in our daily lives, I wanted to take a moment to let you know, on behalf of all of us at **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, that you are loved. We keep our ticket prices very low to ensure it's not a hardship for you and to give everyone a chance to enjoy great music, and we work hard all year long to raise funds to provide scholarships for up-and-coming young musicians to keep live music alive. It's our commitment to you, and it's our in-the-flesh expression of our love for the music and the community which helps to feed that love and keep it alive and thriving. If you'd like to show your love, please consider becoming a member, stopping by a *Jazz Jam* any Tuesday evening, or visiting us at www.jazzsociety.org, or call (772) 460-JAZZ today.

Love, Don
P.S. I love you!



Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market at 24 Years

What a great start to 2021! Weather is fabulous (finally) and life is somewhat returning to normal. The Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market continues to be the place to be on Saturday mornings in historic Fort Pierce.

For 24 years, this unique market has been open through thick and thin, hurricanes and freezes, rain or shine. The current pandemic has certainly altered the world, but the Market continues to be the Fort Pierce magnet on Saturday mornings. Postcard-perfect location on the waterfront at Marina Square where the manatees lounge and the seagulls soar, the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market is the gathering place for locals and visitors.

Public safety is the goal at the Market. Even though the crowds may come, social distancing protocol and mask usage

is maintained. Fresh air and sunshine contribute to the wholesome atmosphere while the open spaces give lots of room for strolling casually for browsers and shoppers. All vendors are required by both Market Rule and City agreement to wear

masks at all times and use gloves and hand sanitizer as needed. The Market strongly encourages all customers to wear masks as well and has an ample supply of reusable cotton masks for distribution to anyone who wants one. These masks are really comfortable and are completely free.

The founders of the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market are proud of the product of their planning 24 years ago. This year, the annual Celebration is on February 20. As usual, the entertainment will get the crowds jumping and dancing. *Firewater Tent Revival* returns as a local and statewide favorite with their own brand



of funky bluegrass. Board members will be on hand for sales of the *Anniversary Edition* of the Market bag. Created with art by a local artist, the bag is durable and washable. The artist and bag will be revealed on that day and be sold only on Anniversary Day. Make sure to get yours early and have it signed by the artist.

Supporting local businesses is the main reason the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market exists. The Mission Statement includes providing a venue for healthy, fresh food and horticultural products to Saint Lucie County and to encourage commerce, entertainment and trade in Downtown Fort Pierce. The various vendors achieve this goal. Whether purveying fresh locally grown produce, or locally made jams and jellies, fresh cooked to order meals, or honeys, and products made from local sources, the vendors of the Market are proud business owners and enjoy the benefit the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market provides.

Every Saturday morning, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m., the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market is a family-oriented event at Marina Square on the waterfront in historic

Downtown Fort Pierce. Leisurely stroll the seawall and admire the life in the lagoon or browse through the vendors while eating and drinking your morning away. Dance in the aisles to the live music. There's something for everyone. Make it part of your day — it's a Saturday morning tradition!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or see our webpage www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com for more information. ❖

Buy or list with

McCurdy & Co. Realty

Residential | Commercial
Waterfront | Land | Rentals

Stop in or call!

772-216-2821 cell | 772-242-8436

joanmccurdy1@aol.com
171 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce
www.mccurdyrealty.com



Joanne McCurdy,
Broker/Owner

CenterState Bank N.A. NMLS #403455

CenterState

For all your banking needs!*

- Auto/Boat Loans
- Home Equity Loans
- Checking/Savings Accounts

*All loans subject to credit approval.

Nancy Arledge
200 S Indian Drive Suite 100
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
772.462.8820
NMLS #572813

Member FDIC

CenterStateBank.com

Beach Front
Mann Realty

Sales ~ Management ~ Rentals



Nobody Knows Hutchinson Island &
The Treasure Coast Better!

772.467.9229 800.817.3703
www.HutchinsonIsland.com

StLucie
BATTERY & TIRE
COMPLETE CAR CARE CENTERS
Home of Honest, Reliable Service



Connect with us! [Like](#) [Review](#) [Follow](#)

Stop in our downtown Fort Pierce location TODAY!

1-800-432-1064 • SLBT.COM

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL

LIC 560064

"Peace of Mind"

QUALITY DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM
CERTIFIED • ACCREDITED • CHRISTIAN STAFF

VPK 8:30-11:30, Free
Speech Therapy Available Onsite
Ages 12 mos. – 5 yrs., 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
3114 Okeechobee Road, Ft. Pierce

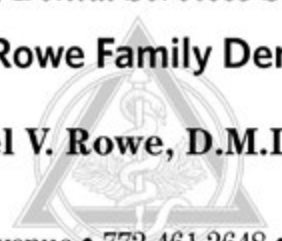
465-3414

"GOLD SEAL" ACCREDITED • MEMBERS of UMAPS

Providing Dental Services Since 1959

Rowe Family Dental

Samuel V. Rowe, D.M.D., P.A.



605 Citrus Avenue • 772-461-2648 • Fort Pierce
RoweFamilyDental.com

CrossFit
Fort Pierce

STRONGER TOGETHER
CALL TODAY - 772.252.4355

[f](#) [i](#)

TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the February 20, 1921 edition of the Miami Herald

Fort Pierce Items

Frank P. Davis of this place and Syracuse, N.Y., owner of the Wasp, said to have been in 1918 the third fastest speedboat in the United States, wants to race his boat at Ft. Pierce against that owned by Mr. Hedson of New York and Vero. Mr. Davis offers to put up \$1,000, Mr. Hedson to put up the same amount, and race on a winner-take-all basis. The Wasp, it is said, won the Alexandria Bay races in 1915 and 1916, and at the beginning of the war Mr. Davis turned it over to the federal authorities for duty with the mosquito fleet. Indian River at Ft. Pierce is regarded as an excellent course for speedboats, and it is hoped that Mr. Hedson may accept Mr. Davis' challenge.

75 years ago this month as reported in the February 12, 1946 edition of the Miami News

Navy Releases Burston Hotel at Fort Pierce — Structure will open to public after being renovated

The Burston hotel, occupied by the navy for the past three years and officially released only a few days ago, will be reopened to the public the latter part of this month, according to George J. Gilbert, owner, who has also managed the hotel for the past 20 years and will continue in that capacity.

The structure is being completely renovated inside and outside and will be completely furnished with new and the most modern furnishings and equipment, Gilbert stated.

The building is a three-story structure with 55 bedrooms and several store and shop rooms. It was taken over by the navy February 1, 1943, to accommodate personnel on duty at the then newly-established U.S. Naval Amphibious Training base and to serve as base headquarters. Later, a family dependents' hospital was opened on the third floor and some 250 babies were born to service families there.

The new Fort Pierce hotel, which has also been occupied by the navy, is also expected to be released shortly but no announcement has been made as to its probably reopening date.

The Burston Hotel was built in the late 1920s as the Florida Land Boom era was ending. It was a 3-story, mediterranean style stucco hotel with 65 bedrooms and was reported to have the first elevator in St. Lucie County. Its original owner, Dr. Maurice Burston, was from New York and wintered in Fort Pierce. It was located in the vicinity of the current St. Lucie County Courthouse on South 2nd Street. The Burston Hotel, along with many other resort hotels, was leased by the military during World War II.

The end of the Florida Boom era and the extension of the interstate highway system marked the end of many resort hotels in Florida. Roadside motels became the new trend. The Burston Hotel was demolished in 1961.

50 years ago this month as reported by the February 9, 1971 edition of the Miami Herald, by Anne Wilder

Officials to Take Bids Soon

After months of delay, it now appears that the contract for St. Lucie County's new south bridge over the Indian River may be let within two or three months.

Arnold Ramos, district engineer of the Department of Transportation, confirmed Monday that the office has received unofficial word that use of land in Indian River Memorial Park for the bridge approach has been cleared in Washington.

When formal notification of the approval is received, DOT officials hope to move ahead with bid advertising and contract letting for the bridge itself.

St. Lucie County commissioners had urged that the project be separated into two contracts, one for the bridge itself and another for its approaches, so actual bridge work could start while details of the approach right-of-way were cleared up.

The major obstacle was a new regulation that use of any park property for roads must receive federal cabinet approval – a process that takes many weeks, since it involves both the Interior Department and U.S. Department of Transportation.

The new bridge will be located a little south of the present one and will have a high-level fixed-span eliminating the bridge opening delays.

The county and DOT also have filed condemnation action to secure a crossing of the Florida East Coast tracks for the new approach, which starts at U.S.1.

The railway objected to the crossing unless the present Seaway Drive crossing were abandoned – a move opposed by local and state officials.

A hearing on the motion for order of taking is set for 1:30 p.m. Mar. 5 here before Circuit Judge D. C. Smith.



Microsoft Tips & Tricks

by Sue Dannahower

➤ MICROSOFT WORD TABLES: PART II

Move Handle: The quickest way to select a table is to click its Move Handle. Click anywhere in the table to display this

LAST	FIRST	SALARY
Smith	John	\$55,000
Johnson	Robert	\$45,000
Miller	Suzanne	\$99,000
Brown	Valerie	\$35,000

handle — the small square icon at the top-left corner, shown in the figure. A single click of the Move Handle will select the entire table, so you can do the following:

- Format it.
- Move it.
- Delete it.

Click the table's Move Handle to select the entire table. If you select a table and press **Delete**, you might be surprised to find the table remains. Pressing **Delete** removes only the data. To delete the entire table, select it and then press backspace.

Insert Control: Another quick way to format a table in Word is the Insert Control feature. You can create a new column or row with one click. Hover the mouse over a table. A bar appears right outside your table between two existing columns or rows. Click on it when it appears, and a new column or row will be inserted at that position. *Happy computing!* ❖

Daniel D. Fuller, MAI, SRA

STATE-CERTIFIED GENERAL REAL ESTATE APPRAISER RZ567

FULLER~ARMFIELD~WAGNER
APPRAISAL & RESEARCH, INC.

772-468-0787

FAW_APP@BELLSOUTH.NET



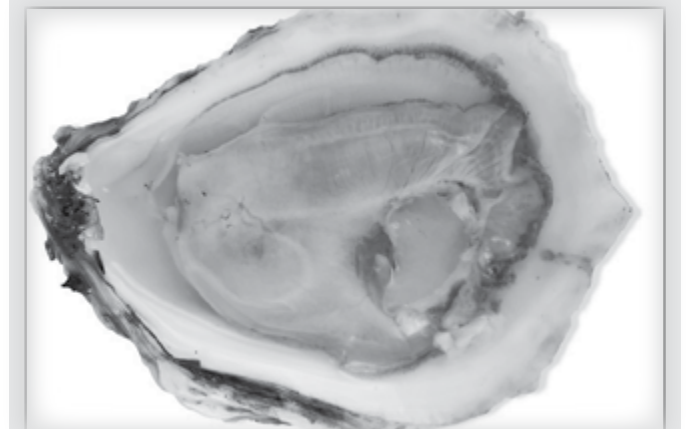
by Sue Dannahower

Oyster Talk

When you bring raw oysters home, store them in their shell, large shell-side down, in the refrigerator for up to five days, although the flavor is best within 24 hours of purchase. They should be packed in either a mesh bag or in an open container covered with a damp cloth. Do not seal live oysters in an airtight container—they will not be able to breathe and will die.

An oyster should taste like the ocean. Which ocean, however, depends on where it's been harvested. The Atlantic produces oysters with a sharp brininess and an intense hit of fresh, cold sea salt, while the Pacific's are rarely as salty and often taste complex and sweeter.

Don't worry about the "r" rule. You've likely heard about the unwritten rule that you should only eat oysters in months that have the letter "R" in them. This stems from back when all oysters were harvested in the wild. Now that oysters are farmed in hatcheries, that rule no longer applies.



Puppy Love in Downtown

by Beryl Muise, Notions & Potions

Come to Downtown Fort Pierce and support the Humane Society of St. Lucie County. Bring a donation of any kind to any participating location and receive a coupon to be redeemable at Notions & Potions for one ticket to enter to win our Couples Spa Basket valued at \$300! Melissa McInturff, Executive Director at Humane Society of St. Lucie County will be at Notions & Potions to answer all of your questions.

Artist Denice Vlachos will be doing pencil sketch pet portraits outside Notions & Potions for \$25 each; just bring a photo of your furry friend.

Supplies Needed: Pedigree yellow bag dog food, Purina blue bag cat chow, paper towels, Temptations cat treats, blankets, towels, sheets, peanut butter, medium and large size kongs, Dawn dish detergent, Fabuloso (any flavor), Milk Bone dog treats, cat nip, cat toys, 6-foot nylon leashes.

Participating Locations: Notions & Potions, The Cake Lady, Whirled Inc., 2nd St. Art, Chic & Shore Things, Glass Culture, Deli-cious, Madison Estate Gallery, Pierced Cider Works, St. Lucie Cultural Alliance, Taco Dive, Affordable Flooring, Florida Hemp Collective, Paws Required, Chaney's House O'Flowers, Sailfish Brewing Company, Varsity Sport Shop, Legit Cuts Barbershop, Hard Axe Lounge, Jarvis Treasures Boutique, Diane's Hairlines. ❖



13th Annual
MANATEE CENTER 5K
PLUS untimed ONE-MILE option!

March 20, 2021
\$35 for the 5K
\$20 for the one-mile
\$15 for kids 15 and under (all routes)
www.RunSignUp.com




This event is a Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation fundraiser

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER
480 N. INDIAN RIVER DRIVE
FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA
772.429.6266
www.ManateeEducationCenter.org

It's time to Pup-Up and show some Love
Donate supplies or money for our Rescue Friends.
February 13th • 10-4pm • Downtown Fort Pierce • 34950

kw
RYAN NOBLE
REALTOR®



772-631-1892 (cell)
Email: ryannoble@kw.com
Website: ryannoble.kw.com

Keller Williams® Port St. Lucie
9700 RESERVE BLVD, PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34986
Each office is independently owned and operated


Southern Comfort Marijuana Clinic

A Division of Southern Comfort Healthcare LLC
Providing Physician: Jessica McCain MD

Treating

Cancer • PTSD • Chronic Pain • HIV/AIDS
Anxiety Glaucoma • Depression • Epilepsy
Crohn's/IBD • Parkinson's • Multiple Sclerosis
and Other Qualifying Conditions

465 NW Prima Vista Blvd., Suite 204
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
772-218-7262
support@socommclinic.com
www.SoCoMMJclinic.com


Ron Fanaro, Esq. Taylor Hoskins, Esq. Richard A. Lavery, Esq. Justin Lefko, Esq. Kiernan P. Moylan, Esq.


Your Fort Pierce Law Firm

Auto Accidents • Social Security Disability
Bankruptcy • Veterans' Disability • Workers' Compensation
Located on 2nd Street (nextdoor to the courthouse)

464-4600
HTLLfirm.com

MORE OF WHAT YOU WANT.
hot water


LESS OF WHAT YOU WANT TO SPEND.
money



TANK OR TANKLESS! A natural gas water heater simply heats water faster and for less money than an electric water heater. And tankless water heaters never run out of hot water!

Take Advantage of FPUA's Natural Gas Rebate Program and receive a rebate of up to \$675 when you switch out your old water heater.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!
772.466.1600 | FPUAGAS@FPUA.COM | FPUA.COM



FGUPP19-001

DMHB
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes, PA
Established 1985

Accounting & Tax Services

Please visit our website at DMHBCPA.net

Two Locations to Serve You on the Treasure Coast

Fort Pierce 461-8833 Fax 461-8872 2222 Colonial Road Suite 200	Port St. Lucie 878-1952 Fax 878-1709 591 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd.
---	--

Do You Need a Green Card?



- Employment Based Green Cards (EB-1, EB-2, EB-3 and EB-4)
 - Marriage Cases (I-130, K-1 Visa, and K-3)
 - Investment Based and Treaty Investor/Trader Visas (\$200,000+ and EB-5 \$900,000+)
- PERM Labor Certification with the Department of Labor – need job offer
 - Affirmative/Defensive Political Asylum
 - Naturalization • National Interest Waiver – self petition

Gloria Roa Bodin, PA
215 N. 2nd Street, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950
(772) 429-2888 • Miami (305) 442-1471

Grow Your Business with SBA's Contracting Assistance Programs

by Francis Spampinato, published on www.sba.gov

The U.S. government is the largest single purchaser of goods and services in the world. Learn how to find, compete for, and win federal government contracts.

If you are looking for ways to grow your clientele in 2021, consider doing business with the federal government.

The federal government aims to award at least 23% of all federal contracting dollars to small businesses each fiscal year. The federal government exceeded this goal in fiscal year 2019, awarding 26.5% or \$132.9 billion in federal contract dollars to small businesses.

Federal agencies achieve small business contracting goals in a few ways. For starters, to help provide a level playing field for small businesses, the government limits competition for certain contracts solely to small businesses. These contracts are called "small business set-asides." Some set-asides are open to any small business, while others are open only to small businesses that participate in SBA contracting assistance programs.

Geared toward specific sub-sets of business owners, contracting assistance programs help small businesses win federal contracts through mentorship and exclusive contracting opportunities. Many small business owners have used SBA's contracting assistance programs as stepping stones on their path to success. For example, SBA's 2020 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Diana Lewis Jackson, President and CEO of Action Facilities Management, Inc., was a former participant in SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program, which provides technical assistance, business training, counseling, and more.

Learn about SBA's contracting assistance programs and consider whether one could be a good fit for you:

Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contracting Program: Specifically intended for women-owned small businesses (WOSBs), this program helps participants tap into the 5% of contracting dollars that the federal government aims to award to WOSBs each year.

8(a) Business Development Program: This program is geared toward small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged people or entities – a group that the federal



government aims to award 5% of contracting dollars to annually.

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOSB) Program: The federal government aims to award 3% of contracting dollars to SDVOSBs each year.

HUBZone Program: This program fuels small business growth in historically underutilized business zones (HUBZones) with a goal of awarding at least 3% of federal contract dollars to HUBZone-certified companies each year.

All Small Mentor-Protégé Program: This program enables small business owners to get valuable business development mentorship from an experienced government contractor. The program benefits both parties because mentors and protégés in the All Small program can form joint ventures together. This allows the mentor to qualify for set-aside contracts that the small business protégé is eligible for.

Natural Resource Sales Assistance Program: The government sells large amounts of natural resources and surplus property. The SBA works with federal agencies to channel a fair share to small businesses through small-business set-asides. This program covers five categories of federal resources, including timber, royalty oil, and more.

How to get involved in SBA's contracting assistance programs

If any of these programs sound like a good fit for your business, check SBA size standards to determine if you qualify as a small business for federal contracting purposes. Then, find out if the program you are interested in requires a certification. Each program has its own standards and processes for certification, so make sure to learn about the specific program and contact the Office of Government Contracting and Business Development with any questions.

If you don't qualify for SBA's contracting assistance programs but would still like to pursue government contracting, there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved. Review SBA's federal contracting guide and consider meeting with an SBA resource partner to start working on your contracting plan today.

For more information, visit www.sba.gov. ❖

A Breath of Fresh Air

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



Spectacular temperatures, nice fresh breezes and the turning of a page is the current forecast. Who knows what changes will evolve between the writing of this article and when this article gets into your hands? This is certainly the reality of our lives now, rapid global changes in a miniscule amount of time. We are on the roller coaster and the ride is in full swing. We all have heard the analogy, maybe even one time too many, of fighting the ride verses enjoying the ride. It's a nice story that would behoove us to apply and yet it is not always the easiest course to take. I do find myself vacillating between gripping the rail, clenching my teeth and tensing up through the ride, to bellying up and playing possum, to letting go, throwing my arms up in the air in delight and enjoying the feel of the adventure. I am working on a more balanced, perhaps less exhausting approach. My desire is to see the dips and rises in the ride as one fluid unit of experience; to ride the ups and downs as a flow verses a jilting stop and go. I endeavor to see myself as a capable sea captain, focused and steady at the wheel through it all.

At the core we are all so very similar. Everyone has their triumphs and tragedies; their own unique screenplay of life and all it brings. Some screenplays are virtually unwatchable because of the rawness of the life it depicts. Some screenplays so vividly mirror a Hallmark Holiday Special that we actually wonder if it is real. My guess would be that most fall somewhere in the middle, tragedy and triumph, hills and valleys, roses and thorns. Through this mulling I feel a kinship with my fellow humans. I honor their bumps and bruises and I feel the exhilaration of their joys. I visualize a web of humanity blanketing the earth, all lives entwined. Yes, as we view world events right now, we see glaring misalignments and even gaping holes in this web. Yet, if we remember an actual web that we may have encountered, glistening with dewdrops in surreal splendor, if we look for the beauty, even in this flawed web, we can find it.

When I write for the Focus, a topic, usually something I am sorting out within myself, emerges and I consider it a privilege to share on this level with you, my fellow humans. So, where my mind is taking me at this point is to solution mode. What do I personally do to remain as balanced as possible throughout this

wild ride and how can I do so more fully? I consider myself very fortunate to still, at times, be able to view the world with childlike wonder. Some may find this facet of me even a bit annoying when I stop in the middle of something to just immerse myself in a beautiful sight, smell or sound that has crossed my path. This may even lead to pulling out a sketch pad or a camera right on the spot. For me, it is a moment that I need to grasp on to imprint within myself. It is like food to my soul and spirit and it is the inspiration for my future creations through painting.

How can we safeguard this wide-eyed wonderment in connection with daily life? There are millions of books and millions of seminars and people pay thousands of dollars to specialists in connection with this quandary. With untrained candor, I will share 2 of my "go tos" in this regard. The first is to consciously quite the chatter within myself. Have you ever been watching a movie and your mind wanders and all of the sudden you realize you have missed a spectacular scene in the movie? With modern technology, we can rewind and see it again. With real life this is an impossibility. I endeavor to actively seek out these spectacular scenes and experience them fully, as they are only available in that moment and then vanish.

My second "go to" is spending time with a child. I am profoundly blessed in this regard. That little guy in the picture above this article is my grandson. Many of you have met him. I may be slanted in this regard, but I see him as a bright beacon amongst humanity. At his young age he has already experienced triumph and tragedies of large proportion and it has not dimmed his light but fueled it to shine even brighter. He refreshes my very bones with his eye for the beauty in life, his resilient spirit and his acceptance of what is. In this, he is my mentor and my inspiring "go to."

As our time here together comes to a close, I again thank you for the privilege of sharing my musings, as I remind myself that when a breath of fresh air comes my way, don't miss it. Quiet the chatter and plug in. Breath it in deeply, in all of its healing and fueling majesty. So, let's together, endeavor to fully experience these spectacular moments that will help carry us through the inevitable dips. Let's build them deep into our very being. By this we can weave beautiful strands into the stunning web of humanity that blankets the very earth. ❖

Finding Fish in February... Easy!

by Captain Bo Samuel

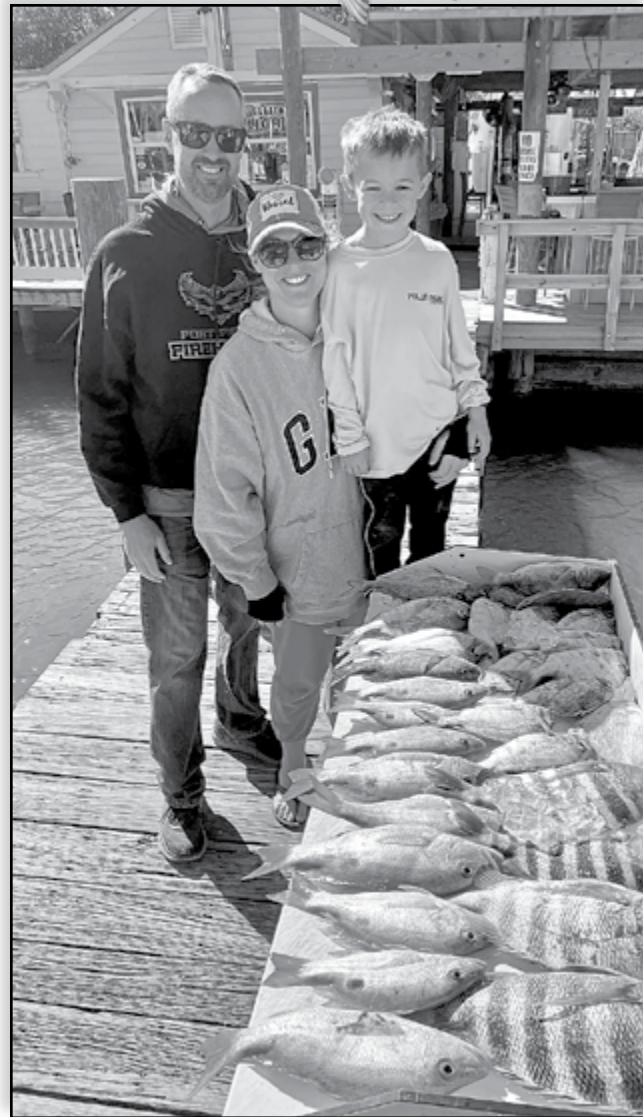
Catching fish this time of year is as easy as getting out on the water! Anglers are catching snapper, sheepshead, pompano, snook, trout, Spanish mackerel, blue runners, redfish, and kingfish.

Limits of sheepshead are caught regularly during this time on the reefs near shore in about fifteen to thirty feet of water. The best bite will be early in the morning using live shrimp. Light tackle with 25-pound braid, 30-pound fluorocarbon leader, and a quarter ounce jig head is the ideal set-up. Sheepshead can get up to 10-12 pounds and must be a minimum of 12" total length. Offshore bars are producing good numbers of kingfish. Use 40 to 60-pound wire with treble hooks and live pilchers or big silver spoons on a slow troll.

If the ocean is a little too rough, fish the channel ledges for snapper, sheepshead, pompano, and Spanish mackerel. Look for where the channel drops off to fifteen feet and start fishing. Live shrimp or frozen sardines are preferred. Remember to check around structures like buoys, channel markers, docks, and bridges. Tripletail are often seen floating by buoys and will hit shrimp and crab but will also chew small baitfish and artificial lures.

Photo is of the Reals Family after a charter for MJ's 6th birthday! Nice job. MJ!

Almost anywhere you go can guarantee fish for dinner so check out why Fort Pierce is a fishing paradise! Remember **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** for fishing rules and regulations, plus bait, ice, and food. If I'm not there at the dock it means I'm out *Pullin Drag!*



THE KOBLEGARD LAW FIRM
 R. N. Koblegard, III Amy R. Shevlin
 Attorney at Law Associate Attorney

200 South Indian River Drive, Suite 201
 Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

*Litigation, Business, Real Estate,
 Probate, Criminal, and Family Law*

Website: KoblegardLaw.com

Telephone: (772) 461-7772 Fax: (772) 461-0226

WHITE'S TACKLE
 SINCE 1935

FT. PIERCE, FL
 1106 South US 1
 Fort Pierce, Florida 34950
 (Telephone) 772.461.6809
 (Email) info@whitestackle.com
 (Website) www.whitestackle.com

Recipe Corner by Sue Dannahower

Romantic Oyster Recipes

February the 14th is time for a romantic Valentine's Day dinner. Start your meal with oysters, a symbol of passion in the food world. This is Val & Dave Krupa's recipe. They are a must-try if you love oysters.

Val's Garlic Butter Oysters

- 2 shucked oysters (on shell)
- 6 tablespoon butter
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 12 tablespoons fresh grated parmesan
- Lemon wedges for garnish

Preheat grill to medium- high. Meanwhile, melt butter & garlic. Put oysters on the grill. Let cook for 3 minutes. Spoon butter-garlic over oysters. Cook 2 more minutes. Sprinkle with parmesan, close grill, and cook until parmesan is melted. Serve with lemon wedges. *Makes 2 appetizer portions.*



Herb Butter Oysters

- 12 shucked oysters (on shell)
- 1 stick butter
- 3/4 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- Lemon wedges for garnish

Stir Preheat the oven to 425 F. In a skillet over medium heat, melt 4 tablespoons of the butter. Add the panko crumbs and cook, stirring, until the crumbs are lightly browned. In a bowl, combine the remaining 4 tablespoons of softened butter, lemon juice, and the lemon zest. Top each oyster with a scant teaspoon of the butter-and-chives mixture and then sprinkle each one with the buttered panko crumbs. Bake the oysters in the preheated oven for about 8 to 10 minutes, or until the oysters are cooked through and the topping is golden brown. Sprinkle with fresh chopped parsley and serve with lemon wedges. *Makes 2 appetizer portions.*

Main Street DINING




GATOR TRACE
Golf & Country Club

Lunch: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Monday to Saturday
Sunday Breakfast: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

464-7442 Clubhouse
Open to the Public

Great Golf Rates!
464-0407
Golf Shop

4302 Gator Trace Dr., Ft. Pierce
www.GatorTraceCountryClub.com



116 North 2nd Street, Suite 101
Fort Pierce, FL 34950 • 772-577-4070



SAVE TIME, ORDER ONLINE.
www.Subway.com
or Order From Your Favorite Delivery Service

\$5 FOOTLONGS
WHEN YOU BUY TWO
VALID ONLY WITH ONLINE ORDERS LIMITED TIME OFFER!



SAILFISH
BREWING COMPANY

TAPROOM OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
CRAFT BEER, PIZZA, WINGS,
FLATBREADS & MORE.
LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND

WWW.SAILFISHBREWINGCO.COM
(772) 577-4382

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE
130 N 2ND ST
FORT PIERCE, FL 34950



2nd Street BISTRO
DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE
TAP HOUSE & EATERY

Open for Pickup and Delivery Every Day
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Order online at www.2ndstreetbistro.com
or call 772.293.9191 ext 4

122 North 2nd Street • Historic Downtown Fort Pierce
293-9191 • 2ndStreetBistro.com



Over looking, the beautiful Fort Pierce City Marina



COBB'S LANDING
200 N. INDIAN RIVER DR.
OPEN DAILY @ 11AM
COBBS-LANDING.COM
772-460-9014

Ask about our banquet facilities for your next event



27 Craft Beers on Tap & Specialty Mojitos



LITTLE JIM
BAIT & TACKLE
FORT PIERCE, FL

LittleJimBaitandTackle.com
601 North Causeway
772-468-2503
7am-7pm • 7 days a week


Come by Land or Sea
Covered Outdoor Dining & Bar
Live Music Every Weekend

Try our
Tacos, Burgers,
Po'Boys and Cubans

To-go
Live & Frozen Bait, Ice,
Beer and Food

Veterans & First Responders receive 20% off with ID

Buy a Brick Help Us Pave the Way



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Payment: Cash Check Credit Card No. _____ Exp: _____

ORDER IS FOR ____ BRICK(S) AT \$100 PER BRICK (4" x 8")
Brick inscriptions are limited to no more than 12 characters per line (including letters, numbers & spaces.)

1.

2.

3.

Main Street Fort Pierce, 122 AE Backus Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34950 (772) 466-3880

Proceeds from the "Pave the Way" Bricks will go towards maintaining the courtyard landscaping in the Historic Platts/Backus House. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling Toll-Free (800-435-7352) within the State. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State." CH26923

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

The filing deadline for property tax exemptions, portability, and agriculture classification is **March 1**.



You may file for your exemptions online at **www.paslc.org**.

It takes less than 10 minutes to file online!

We are committed to ensuring you receive the tax saving benefits for which you are eligible.



Michelle Franklin
Certified Florida Appraiser

It is our pleasure to serve you, and we look forward to doing so.

Phone

Website

772.462.1000 **www.paslc.org**