



Volume 17, No. 11

June, 2022

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

COME MEET WORLD CHAMPION SURFER
OLIVER KURTZ
AT THE JUNE 3RD FRIDAY FEST
SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer Fun in Downtown Fort Pierce

by Donna Sizemore




Happy summer Fort Pierce! Thanks to our sponsors, donations from local merchants and team players we had a very successful golf tournament in May at **Gator Trace County Club**. A huge thank you to our sponsors **AutoLabe; SouthState Bank; Conkling & Lewis Construction; Hoskins Turco Lloyd & Lloyd; Sunrise Kiwanis and Jacquin & Sons Construction**. A shout out to our downtown businesses for their donations: **2nd Street Bistro; Cobb's Landing and Little Jim Bait & Tackle, Notions & Potions, Harmony Music Lounge and Wine Bar, Sunrise Theatre, Public House and Pierced Cider Works**. Outside of downtown thank you's go to **Southern Eagle and Booth Laser Cutting**.

We introduced our new board members at our *Annual Board Meeting* in May. Please join me in welcoming James Taylor, **Jacquin & Sons Construction** (no, he doesn't sing lol); Lieutenant Richard Ziarkowski, *St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department*; and Thierry Sydne, **Fort Pierce Utilities Authorities**. A shout out to **Pierced Cider Works** and **Sailfish Brewing** company for sample libations and **Protein Harbor** for tea and protein donuts. It takes a village!

We have a lot going on in downtown Fort Pierce during the months of June and July beginning with *Friday Fest* on June 3rd. Many of our restaurants have the options of enjoying the fresh air and sitting outside but as the heat rises you may want to work your way inside to the air-conditioned seating.

Remember **121 Tapas on the Water**? Good news they reopened with new owners. Keep in mind that shopping is an option in downtown Fort Pierce! We have some great shops and boutiques. There is something for everyone. ❖

Volume 17, No. 11 June 2022

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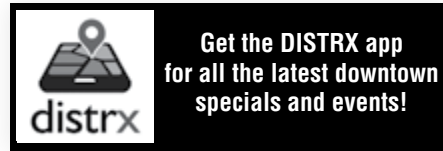
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Calendar

Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic, Downtown Fort Pierce!



Get the DISTRX app for all the latest downtown specials and events!

MONTHLY EVENTS

June 3, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by *Big Coque*; FPUA displays; sponsored by Cobbs Landing and Little Jims restaurants; **Please remove all vehicles from the permitted Friday Fest road closure area (Marina Way & Melody Lane) by 2:00 p.m.**; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

June 17, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

July 4, Monday: DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION — Melody Lane; Fireworks at 9:00 p.m. over the Indian River Lagoon.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wednesdays: Wednesday Green Market & Food Co-Op — rain or shine 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., Downtown Marina Square; 971-8480.

Saturdays: The Jazz Market — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north side of the Downtown Fort Pierce Library; Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299, jazzsociety.org.

Saturdays: Ft. Pierce Farmer's Market — 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN

Wine Down Wednesday Fort Social in the Galleria on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, featuring a different artist each week, 6 to 8 p.m. TheFortSteakhouse.com

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Tuesdays: Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre — 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.; 460-5299; jazzsociety.org.

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429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

462-2787 • www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/
Page to Screen Book & Film Discussion Group for adults; e-mail johnsonjen@stlucieco.org for more information.

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

Current service times may be effective by Covid-19 please call or lookup online for current information.

Common Ground Vineyard Church; 460-5414, commongroundvineyard.com.

First Church; 464-0440, firstchurchfp.org.

Fort Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church; 940-6728, haitianmethodist.org.

Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church; 466-9617, notredamecc.com.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (founded 1893); 461-5009 mystandrews.org.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Opening days/hours may be altered due to Covid-19 restrictions. Please call or check online for current information.

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772-465-0630 • backusmuseum.com

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Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society
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Fort Pierce Police Athletic League
772-370-6162 • fortpiercepal.com
Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center
600 North Indian River Drive
772-489-6473 • cityoffortpierce.com

Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society
772-460-5299 • jazzsociety.org

Heathcote Botanical Gardens
772-464-4672
heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

Manatee Observation & Education Center
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National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum
772-595-5845 • navysealmuseum.org

St. Lucie County Marine Center
772-462-3474
stlucieco.gov/marine_center

St. Lucie County Regional History Center
772-462-1795 • stlucieco.gov/history

JUNE: NATIONAL OCEANS MONTH

JUNE 1: WORLD REEF AWARENESS DAY

JUNE 3: NATIONAL DONUT DAY

JUNE 4: NATIONAL CHEESE DAY

JUNE 6: NATIONAL YO-YO DAY

JUNE 10: NATIONAL ICED TEA DAY

JUNE 11: NATIONAL CORN ON THE COB DAY

JUNE 14: FLAG DAY

JUNE 17: NATIONAL FLIP FLOP DAY

JUNE 18: NATIONAL GO FISHING DAY

➔ JUNE 19: FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 20: NATIONAL TAKE YOUR CAT TO WORK DAY

JUNE 22: NATIONAL KISSING DAY

JUNE 24: MIDSUMMER

Cool Off at Friday Fest with Craft Cocktails and Champion Surfer, Oliver Kurtz

This month's *Friday Fest* is going to be filled with fun and new surprises. **Southern Eagle**, longtime sponsor and local **Budweiser** distributor, is partnering with *Main Street Fort Pierce*, to introduce their "new big thing" — *Craft Cocktails on Tap* featuring products from alcohol beverage companies owned by Floridians. The Margarita is made with Costa Tequila Blanco which is the first ever hi/lo blend tequila brought into the United States. The owner of **Costa Tequila** is a Vero Beach resident Steve Gavula. There will also be Rum Runners on tap using a coconut rum and vodka lemonade using Hope-town Vodka.

As if the *Craft Cocktails on Tap* isn't enough excitement, Vero Beach native and champion surfer, Oliver Kurtz, will

be on hand at the *Friday Fest* booth to greet patrons. Oliver was around the age of 3 or 4 when he began surfing and around 8 years old when he began competing. At 15 he won his first competition at the *Volcom World Championship* in Newport Beach, California. His favorite surf spot is the pipeline in Oahu. While competing he traveled all over. He lived in California but has now settled in Jupiter, Florida. His favorite board to surf is JS Surfboards of Australia. Oliver and **Southern Eagle** will be raffling off a surfboard at the *Craft Cocktails* booth, so this is a *Friday Fest* you do not want to miss!

It may be hot but the sea breezes, shade trees and refreshing craft cocktails will cool you down! ❖

Property Fraud Alert

Due to an uptick in property fraud cases, St. Lucie Clerk & Comptroller Michelle Miller is encouraging all St. Lucie County property owners to enroll in Property Fraud Alert.

Property Fraud Alert is a free service offered by the Clerk's office that notifies property owners and businesses when a document is recorded in their name. This same-day electronic notification

allows you to take steps to stop a scammer from stealing your most valuable assets.

Just like signing up for alerts on credit card activity or other financial transactions, the Property Fraud electronic notification system helps protect your property and business from the threat of fraud. Names on recorded documents, including liens, deeds, easements, and court judgments, are reviewed at the end of every business day and compared to the registered alert users. If a match is found, a text or e-mail containing the document information is sent to the registered user.

To register for Property Fraud Alert, please visit www.st-lucieclerk.com/fraudalert and follow the directions to sign up for notifications.

For additional questions about the Clerk's office, please visit stlucieclerk.com or call 772-462-6900.

If you suspect you have been a victim of fraud, contact your local law enforcement agency. ❖





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Mayor's Message FPUA Ready for Growth

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



This year, the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) celebrates its 50th birthday. Since being formed in 1972, the FPUA has made it a priority "to provide our customers with economical, reliable and friendly service in a continuous effort to enhance the quality of life in our community." Using the tag line "Your Home Town Utility," FPUA provides electric, water, wastewater, gas and FPUA-Net communications services.

With a five-member Board, four of whom are appointed by the City Commission, and the fifth, the Mayor of Fort Pierce, the FPUA operates as a discreetly presented component unit and within the voter-approved city charter; it contributes about \$6 million annually to the City of Fort Pierce.

In recent years, FPUA has begun to add solar energy to its electric production. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) or "smart meters" are being installed system wide over several years. The FPUA is planning a "smart city" initiative with interactive kiosks in strategic locations in the city.

By far, the largest project the FPUA has embarked on is relocating the Island Water Reclamation Facility (IWRF). Since 2004, the citizens of Fort Pierce have expressed an interest in moving the IWRF off the Western Peninsula of South Hutchinson Island. FPUA has identified a location in western Fort Pierce on Energy Drive, next to the Treasure Coast Energy Center, a facility jointly operated by the FPUA and the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA). The FMPA is the wholesale power provider to a consortium of 31 public power companies in Florida, including the FPUA.

Both the City and the FPUA have passed resolutions establishing the relocation as a top priority. The price tag to move the IWRF, estimated to be \$100 million, prevented serious consideration about relocation, however environmental concerns about the Indian River Lagoon have reached a fever pitch, making the relocation not only desirable, but imperative



and time-sensitive. The State of Florida has placed the IWRF on a list of top ten facilities that pose potential environmental threat. In addition, the property adjacent to the IWRF is ripe for future development, but cannot be developed to its fullest potential unless and until the IWRF is relocated.

St. Lucie County is the 5th fastest growing county in Florida. That growth is coming to Fort Pierce. The FPUA is poised to move the IWRF with a swift and thorough plan. For more information on FPUA, visit <https://fpua.com/>. ❖



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Fort Pierce Mayor Awards Gold Hammer Winners for 2022

The City of Fort Pierce Mayor, Linda Hudson, announces the winners of the Mayor's Gold Hammer Award for 2022.

The Mayor's Gold Hammer Awards are presented in March and September in an ongoing effort to recognize improvement projects within the City of Fort Pierce. Recipients have added value to their neighborhoods by restoring, constructing, or enhancing their properties in a way that contributes to the character of their surroundings.

A well-kept home, neighborhood, or business means that residents take pride in their community. With pride comes value, beauty, and a great image for our city.

MAYOR'S GOLD HAMMER AWARD WINNERS 2022

- 1209 Delaware Avenue | Minton Law, PA | Commercial Renovation
- 310 S 33rd Street | The Fort Pierce Garden House | Residential Renovation
- 407 S 33rd Street | St. Anastasia Catholic Church | Commercial Renovation

The Mayor's Gold Hammer Awards are sponsored by East Coast Lumber and Supply Company. Each category winner receives a \$100 gift certificate from the sponsor, a grab bag from the FPUA, and a sign displayed in front of their home or business. Nomination forms are available on the City's website at www.cityoffortpierce.com.



Popular Downtown Eatery is Back in Business

121 Tapas on the Water is now open again! This restaurant features small Spanish savory dishes prepared with fresh ingredients by Chef Angela Acosta and also includes a top-notch, yet affordable wine selection, hand-picked by a friend of the Chef who is a Master Sommelier. The concept of tapas is small plates so you can taste a variety of different foods, and that you

share each plate with your family and friends of your dining party. This way everyone will get a little taste of each plate!

The theme of the restaurant is to blend the magical elements of Food – Art – Music, complemented with unique, excellent wine. This is the essence of Downtown Fort Pierce. The owner and team strive to provide an experience for all who visit. More music, art, wine tasting, and events will be offered in the near future. They have a dedicated team, serving small plates, a lot of variety, many healthy dishes, and only the freshest ingredients prepared by an excellent Chef Angela Acosta.

Make sure to come to check out the local artists playing the saxophone, cello, or violin. Their owner, Executive Chef, and small team hope that all who join them at 121 Tapas On The Water truly enjoy the food, wine, music, art, and other events that they will share with you. If you go away happy and plan to return, you will leave us all with smiles. They look forward to seeing you at 121 Melody Lane Tuesday to Thursday from 5 to 10 p.m. or Friday and Saturday from 5 to 10:30 p.m. ❖

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TAPS

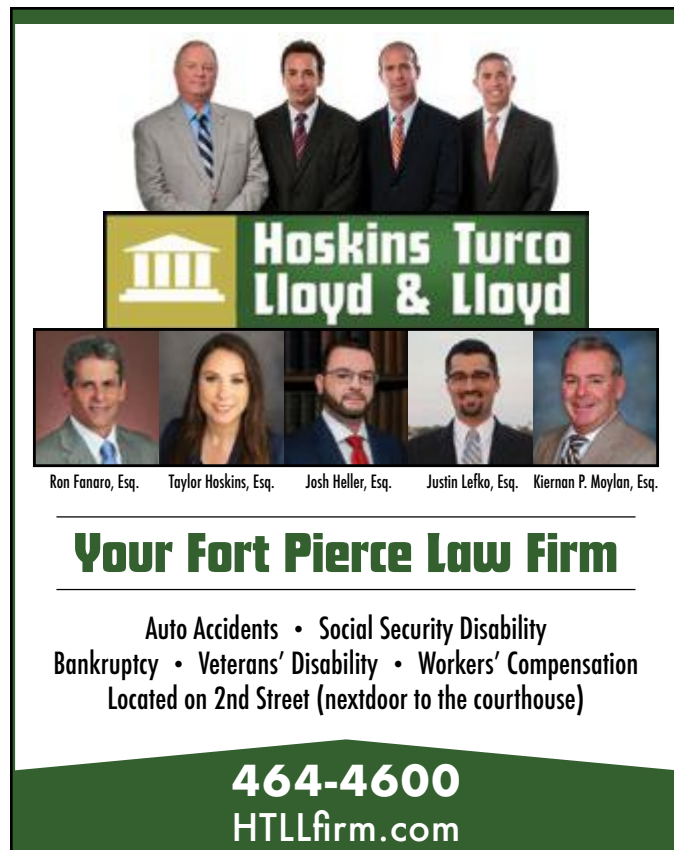
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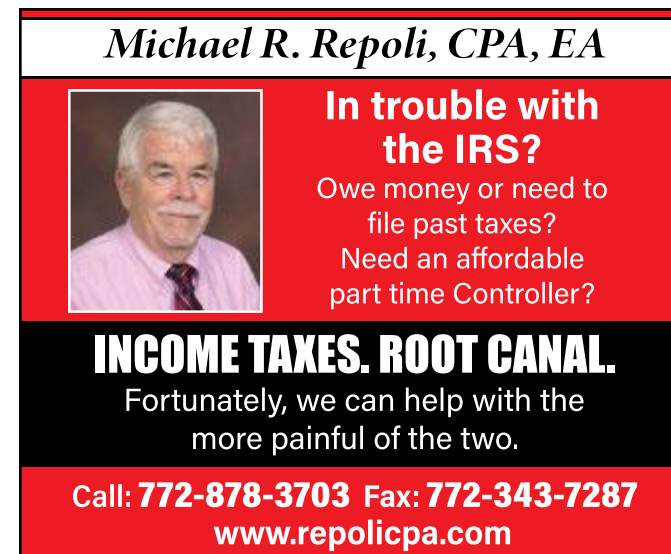
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HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE

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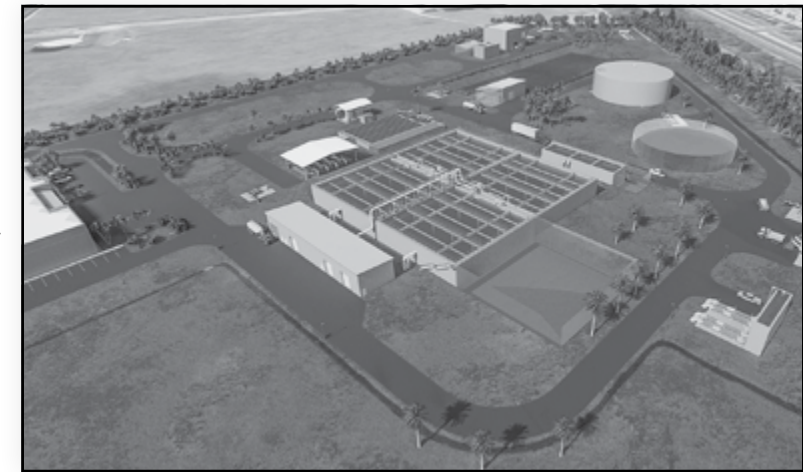
Historic Approval to Relocate the FPUA Wastewater Plant

by Rachel Tennant, Sustainability Program Manager

On May 16, the Fort Pierce City Commission approved plans by **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** to move the wastewater treatment plant off of South Hutchinson Island. This approval came after the **FPUA** Board of Directors unanimously approved the plan on May 3.

The new wastewater plant will be located far away from residences. Its new address will be on Energy Lane, near the **Treasure Coast Energy Center** natural gas power plant. Its new neighbor, the power plant, will have the added benefit of utilizing reuse water from the wastewater plant for its cooling towers — an important conservation effort that will allow the power plant to reduce its draw from the natural aquifers beneath it.

The new plant will no longer sit on the Indian River Lagoon. This is an important priority not only locally but at the state level. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently listed the current wastewater plant as requiring expensive upgrades (upwards of \$16 million) under the *Florida Clean*



Waterways Act due to its location on the lagoon. With the recent approvals, these upgrades can be waived since we will be building a new plant. The new plant will be located far from the lagoon, with added safeguards and extra failsafe backups to protect our environment.

Construction is scheduled to begin January 2023, with early work packages (construction prep processes) starting as early as this Fall. The existing wastewater plant will continue to operate for a number of years after the new plant is constructed. This will allow the new wastewater system to become active in phases, with the two plants operating simultaneously as the conveyance system is switched from eastward to westward flows section-by-section.

FPUA and community leaders have been working toward this historic relocation for nearly 20 years. We recognize the weight of this important decision. We are grateful for the trust that you and our community leaders have put in us to make it happen. Our collective investment in this project will provide not only environmental benefits, but also equip our future generations with a state-of-the-art wastewater plant that will serve them for decades to come.

FPUA is proud to be your hometown utility provider. Our mission is to provide our customers with economical, reliable, and friendly service in a continuous effort to enhance the quality of life in our community. We will continue to communicate important progress updates, including grants and appropriations pursuits, as well as construction news, as the historic project proceeds. ❖

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A.E. Backus Museum's Sunday in Key West Luncheon & Auction

May 1, 2022



Doug & Yvonne James, winners of the Lisa Jill Allison painting



Ed Fry, winner of the Ocean Dreams trinket box



Donna Regan, John & Brenda Jacobs



Spanish coin winner Paul Berg with Georgina Love and J. Marshall Adam



Megan Hinkle



Laura & Pat Murphy

DAR Honors Locals

Cora Stickney Harper Chapter, *National Society Daughters of the American Revolution* (DAR), has presented the distinguished 2021–2022 *Outstanding Teacher of American History Award* and *Community Service Award* to exceptional Fort Pierce citizens.

Dr. Joseph Noel received the *Outstanding Teacher of American History Award* for his work with students at Fort Pierce Westwood Academy: The WEST Prep Magnet. Dr. Noel is committed to improving the education of the students he teaches. He works to provide engaging lessons that inspire his students to think about how history connects to our present and future. “As a decorated U.S. military veteran, accomplished educator, and faithful church leader, Dr. Noel is more than deserving of this recognition” said Pat Bloomquist, Regent of Cora Stickney Harper Chapter, NSDAR.

Charles Hayek was recognized for his decades of service to Fort Pierce. Hayek serves on the Board of Directors of *Main*



Bruce Murray, Charlie Hayek, Lisa Potter, Pat Bloomquist, and Cora Stickney Harper, Chapter Regent



Carolyn Wilkins, Dr. Joseph Noel, Westwood Academy Principal Joseph Lezeau, Pat Bloomquist, Cora Stickney Harper Chapter Regent

Street Fort Pierce, the *Fort Pierce Police Advisory Committee*, and the *Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Club*. Hayek also serves on the Board of Directors of Project LIFT and was instrumental in bringing Project LIFT to Fort Pierce. Together with *Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Club*, Project LIFT will begin teaching at-risk youth valuable skills in boat repair and fiberglass finishing with the goal of teaching skills that empower self-confidence and lead to gainful employment. “Mr. Hayek has contributed hundreds of hours in support of our mission, and I was proud to recommend Mr. Hayek for the Community Service award” said Doris Tillman, Executive Director of *Main Street Fort Pierce*.

Bruce Murray was also honored with a *Community Service Award* for two decades of volunteerism in Fort Pierce. Murray volunteered at the **Manatee Center**, is a past Chairman of the *Treasure*

Coast Manatee Foundation and served as St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office District 9 *Citizens on Patrol* leader. Murray also volunteered with Fort Pierce Police Department and currently serves as Chairman of the Fort Pierce Police Department Charitable Trust and Danny Parrish First Responders' Memorial Fund. “Mr. Murray is a true and valued asset.” said Fort Pierce Police Chief Diane Hobley-Burney.

These awards recognize the contributions of these notable citizens which will have lasting positive impact on the Fort Pierce community for years to come.

To learn more about the vast array of women and their millions of hours of volunteerism through today's DAR, visit www.dar.org/TodaysDAR. ❖

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From the Garden

by Candy Wickham, Acting Manager of the Manatee Observation and Education Center



Would you like to have a beautiful home landscape that attracts birds, butterflies, and other wildlife but requires little of your time and hard work? Then a Florida-friendly landscape may be just the landscape for you. Established in 1993, the *Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program* is


centered around science based, environmentally friendly, and sustainable landscaping techniques that help to not only protect natural resources, but conserve water as well. The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program is offered through a partnership between the *University of Florida* and *Florida Department of Environmental Protection*.

Anyone can participate! This program has served as a water conservation and nonpoint source pollution program with a wide range of participants. Homeowners, developers, and landscape professionals can all reap the environmental benefits

of this unique program. With a little bit of work and planning up front, this amazing landscape technique requires little to no irrigation, fertilizers, or pesticides to thrive.

The *University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences* program acknowledges landscape areas based on nine environmentally friendly practices. These practices are: right plant right place, water efficiently, fertilize appropriately, mulch, attract wildlife, manage yard pests responsibly, recycle yard waste, reduce stormwater runoff, and protect the waterfront.

The **Manatee Observation and Education Center** has a beautiful butterfly garden on campus for visitors to enjoy. This garden, planted and maintained by volunteers, is a wonderful, peaceful place to visit right on the waterfront in downtown Fort Pierce. Home to one of Florida's more illusive butterflies, the Atala, the garden at the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** is truly a gem. Recently, this garden was officially named a Florida Friendly Landscape by the *University of Florida* IFAS office. This huge accomplishment would not be possible without the tireless efforts of some pretty amazing volunteers. So, if you would like to visit one of the prettiest places downtown, spot some rare butterflies, and maybe a manatee or two, stop by the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** and take a stroll through our garden. You won't be sorry that you did! ❖

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Seeing Is Believing: Announcing the Accepted Art & Artist Awards for the Annual Juried Exhibition "Through The Eye Of The Camera"

The **A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery** is pleased to again present the popular juried photography competition *Through the Eye of the Camera*. This year's exhibition features 87 of the year's best photographs drawn from professional and amateur photographers. *Through the Eye of the Camera* will be on view through June 24, 2022, at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

This year there were 61 artists who submitted 180 entries in one of four categories: (1) Animal subjects; (2) Flora & Landscape subjects; (3) People/Portrait subjects; or (4) Open, for subjects that are not included in the three major categories. The jury panel conferred 24 awards for the Best of Show, Best Black & White Photograph, Best Film / Traditional RAW Photograph, and 1st-2nd-3rd Places and Awards of Merit in the category awards.

The top eight award winners for 2022 are:

1. Best of Show – "A Shell Among the Mangroves" by Mark Stall (Port St. Lucie)
2. First Place, Animals – "Bathed in Light" by Joe Campanellie (Palm Coast)
3. First Place, Flora & Landscape – "Dead Leaf on Cardboard" by David Bence (Vero Beach)
4. First Place, People/Portrait – "Breaking Through" by Maureen Mackenzie (Port St. Lucie)



BEST OF SHOW, A Shell Among the Mangroves by Mark Stall

5. First Place, Open – "Savannah (2019)" by Austin Bell (Marco Island)
 6. Best Black & White Photograph – "Ft. Drum WMA" by Matt Erpenbeck (Vero Beach)
 7. Best Film/Traditional Raw Photograph – "Old Florida Morning" by Thomas Claud (Stuart)
 8. Director's Choice – "Foam-II" by Gregory McIntosh (Vero Beach)
- During the exhibition on view through June 24, visitors are invited to share their own vote for their favorite work on display. The results will be counted for the annual "People's Choice Award" given at the close of the exhibition.

"These annual juried shows are an important part of this creative community," says Museum executive director J. Marshall Adams. "The **Backus Museum** is well into our second decade of recognizing photographers as artists, and soon will be starting our fifth decade of recognizing fine artists in our fall juried show. Fostering artistic talent at all levels, in so many visual arts disciplines, has been one of the vital ways we extend the Backus legacy. And every year these exhibitions stop you in your tracks for their beauty, their quality, and their collective impact on viewers."

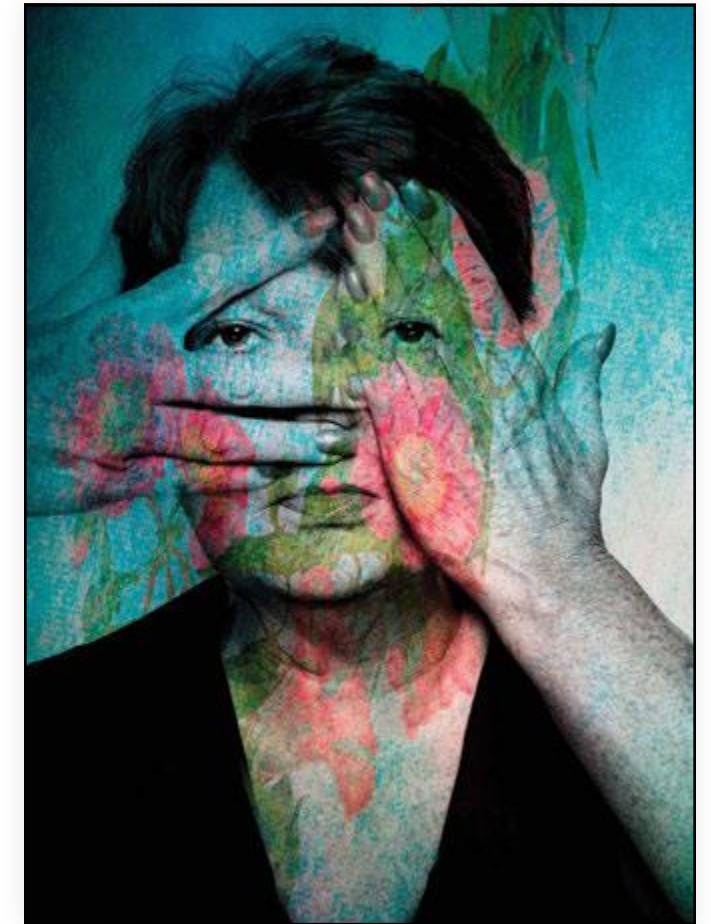


1ST PLACE, ANIMALS Bathed in Light by Joe Campanellie



1ST PLACE, FLORA-LANDSCAPE Dead Leaf on Cardboard by David Bence

The competition is stiff for this exhibition, and every year cash prizes are awarded for the most powerful pieces selected by the judges. Each year a new jury panel is assembled to provide independent eyes on the competition. This year's judges include:



1ST PLACE, PEOPLE-PORTRAITS Breaking Through by Maureen Mackenzie

Amanda Cooper — Chief Curator, Morean Arts Center | St. Petersburg. Amanda Cooper received her B.A. in Art History from the University of Florida in 1997. Since 1999, she has worked at the Morean Arts Center in St. Petersburg, organizing over 400 exhibitions, including works in all media by students, established and emerging artists and children.

Continued on page 18 ...



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1ST PLACE, OPEN Savannah 2019 by Austin Bell

She has also served as juror for various art exhibitions including Dunedin Art Harvest, Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, FolkFest St. Pete, Melbourne Arts Festival, ArtFest Fort Myers, Ocala Arts Festival and the Pinellas Association of Visual Artists Cool Art Show. She has served on art panels for Pinellas County and the State of Florida, and has been a member of the steering committee for the SHINE Mural Festival since 2015.

Tom Joule — Director, Art School at the Boca Raton Museum of Art | Boca Raton. Since 2019, Joule has been Director of the Art School at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, one of the premier museum art schools in the state of Florida. There he hires, supervises, and evaluates all art faculty and staff while establishing and maintaining creative and diverse programming for adults and children throughout the year. He has worked widely in academia and as an artist, with teaching positions at Digital Media Arts College, Miami International University of Art & Design,



BEST FILM-TRADITIONAL RAW PHOTOGRAPHY, Old Florida Morning by Thomas Claud [original photograph is in full color]



BEST B&W PHOTOGRAPHY, Ft. Drum WMA by Matt Erpenbeck

and Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. He received his M.F.A. in Film Production at the Miami International University of Art & Design, and his Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership concentrating in Education Technology at Argosy University, Sarasota.

Mark Mittleman — Fifth Avenue Gallery | Melbourne. With more than 40 years of experience as a commercial and fine art photographer, Mittleman has spent nearly as long combining and complementing his work behind the camera with his interests in modern computers and software. As chairman of the Fifth Avenue Gallery's "100% Pure Florida" juried competition since 2008, he works with a large array of artists in a wide range of media on an ongoing basis.

A complete list of all the accepted entries and the award-winning photographs are available online on the Museum's website at BackusMuseum.org.

All dates and programming subject to change; please check the website for any updates or cancellations. ❖



DIRECTOR'S CHOICE, Foam-II by Gregory McIntosh

Fabulous Farmers Market Meets All Your Needs

Spring is almost over! It's hard to believe it's already time for our winter visitors to leave, but also time for our summer vacationers to start arriving. The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** is in full swing! This may be our busiest year yet- we've added so many new vendors- everything from an onsite ATM to prepared foods.

The weather hasn't been too challenging so far this year. The Market is rain or shine, so every Saturday vendors have been prepared for whatever Mother Nature has on display. Beginning with spectacular sunrises along the lagoon, most mornings have been picture perfect. Even when the sky is gray, and the wind is kicking, patrons know the **Farmers Market** is going to be their go-to. After all, it's a Saturday morning tradition!

Not many long time patrons can pass up Cider Doughnuts and a good cup of coffee from David's or Rio Coco; young and old alike love the old-fashioned taste of these made on site doughnuts. Hearty fare is available from Chef Kev's Yum Yum or Waterfront Tacos and Bowls. Each delightful dish is made to order at these family businesses. For the health conscious, there's Fresh Fusion pressing sugar cane for their delicious juices, and Poke Smash creates beautiful acai bowls. Speaking of bowls, Beach Bowls is serving up a whole bunch of scrumptious and satisfying bowls.

Check out Grandma's Granola for that home-made granola. Local honey is available from Gruwell Apiary and Holman House Honey brings in a variety of honeys from all over. For the perfect pickle, try Kat's Southern Twang- her jams, jellies and pickles are superb. Buen Provencho is authentic Caribbean ceviche at its best. And for real flavor, Truly Delicious cooking sauces are unbeatable. Our own award-winning Brenda's Mix-a-lotta Sauces has outstanding hot sauces and chowchow.

On the savory side, Big Byrd's Barbecue makes the best turkey legs around. And Tony's Gyro's is still the best place for an authentic gyro. Bushdogs serves up perfect Maryland crabcakes and soups. All of these chefs create their best

for eating on site or for take home.

Browsing through the Market, listening to the sounds of live music, people are dancing and singing with the bands. The large dance area is a great place to get your weekly exercise and watch the dancers- traditional moves along with some more unconventional interpretations. People-watching at its best!

Farmers are proud to showcase the season's bounty. Aunt Zorada, Broken Plow, AE Family Farm and Gibbons Organics are local producers at the Market each week. Produce Buddies and Daniel Produce round out the variety with vegetables and fruits not locally grown. Al's Family Farm features citrus in season, as well as local peaches and blueberries.

Everyone needs fresh cut flowers or beautiful indoor plants. Party Flowers makes fabulous bouquets and Connie's Plants is the place for orchids and other exotic and tropical plants.

Shopping for the week, stocking up the pantry, Adam's Ranch Beef features locally raised pastured beef. Local Seas East Fisheries is the place for shrimp, mahi, and tuna, all locally caught. The Cheese Shoppe has taste tempting domestic and imported cheeses for all occasions. Wicked Good Spices has hard to find spices and herbs and old-fashioned candies.

While stocking up, look for Native Armor Elderberry immune boosting products and Oils Originals products for skin and health.

The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** has become a destination in historic Fort Pierce. Visitors return year after year and locals know it is the one constant in their charming hometown. Open every Saturday, from 8 til noon, rain or shine, it's a Saturday morning tradition! Make it part of yours.

Follow us on facebook and instagram, and check out our website www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com. ❖



Main Street Fort Pierce Annual Meeting

May 4, 2022



Love, JAZZ Community: Are You Connected?

by Don Bestor

If you think back on your own life, you can probably think of at least a few times when you landed a job interview or important gig simply because you were connected by a friend, relative, or friend of a friend. From the moment we are born, being connected is a basic human need. The members of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** understand that need for making connections, and they also understand the importance of sharing those connections with others. That's part of our mission as a group; not only do we connect with other seasoned, successful, professional musicians from around the country, we help connect aspiring young musicians with them, too.

Every year, in an effort to help young musicians develop and grow in their passion for music, our members traverse the entire Treasure Coast, visiting high school music programs, working with music directors, and sharing our time, talent,

and connections with the next generation of world-class musicians. We set up master classes, work one-to-one with aspiring, young musicians, and do our best to mentor and help make those critical connections that help build dreams, inspire goals, and launch careers. Each of us at **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** benefited from musicians who came before us, and we know our responsibility is to pay it forward and share those gifts with others, too.

The pandemic was challenging for all of us, and music programs were hit especially hard. With schools being closed and virtual learning being the norm, many music programs in the area had no choice but to temporarily shut down. Of course, that means there were no in-person master classes, one-to-one lessons, or opportunities for us to provide face-to-face mentoring and help encourage important connections. Now that things are beginning to edge back towards normal, we want to redouble our efforts to help young musicians on the Treasure Coast, but we need your help.

If you know a high school music director, band or choir director, or music teacher in St. Lucie, Indian River, or Martin Counties, we'd love for you to help us renew our own connections with them. We'd love to offer our skills as professional musicians, mentors, and connectors to help inspire the next generation. Please take a moment right now to call or e-mail us with the name and contact info of a music education professional in your area who might welcome a visit from a group of seasoned, professional musicians willing to share skills, tips, and connections. It won't cost you a penny, but it could change the life trajectory of an aspiring young musician just as the connection who helped you get that killer job interview helped alter yours. You can reach us by phone at 772.460.JAZZ (5299) or via e-mail at info@jazzsociety.org. Thank you for paying it forward, sharing your time, and helping make that critical connection. ❖



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TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the June 20, 1922 edition of the Palm Beach Post

Urge Building of Bridge Now at Fort Pierce

Citizens Want Span to Lead To Ocean – Casino Already on the Beach – Cost of Project Estimated at Around \$150,000

Plans for the proposed Fort Pierce bridge and causeway will be completed within the next few days according to the committee promoting the project. For some time a group of citizens have been trying to get action in regard to a bridge across the St. Lucie river to the ocean, but until recently nothing has been done that would warrant any comment. However, with the decision that Fort Pierce must keep pace with the other cities of the East Coast, a definite policy was outline and work was begun on the plans.

The St. Lucie river is about two miles wide where the proposed bridge is to be built and it will take about eight months to complete at an estimated cost of \$150,000. The bridge will be built from the Fort Pierce side to a point about halfway across, where it will be met by a causeway constructed from the opposite side.

At present a ferry boat is the only way that the ocean can be reached. The beach is said to be one of the best on the Est Coast and there is a casino on the beach that was built about ten years ago, but which will provide inadequate once the bridge is completed. A new casino will probably follow the building of the bridge.

Fort Pierce it was pointed out, has been a little slow in building of a bridge in comparison with some of the smaller East Coast cities Vero, Quay, Melbourne, Cocoa, and Titusville, all have voted bonds for the purpose of building a bridge or the bridge is already in the process of construction.

50 years ago this month as reported by Bruce Henderson in the June 10, 1972 edition of the Palm Beach Post

Large Downtown Complex Proposed for Fort Pierce

City commissioners here listened attentively Thursday night as a Fort Lauderdale real estate executive presented a scheme to rebuild the entire downtown area.

John T. Williams, secretary-treasurer of the Broward County Title Co. said he envisions a multimillion-dollar complex of buildings which would eventually enclose the entire downtown area. The complex would bridge US 1 and Orange Avenue as well as the Florida East Coast Railroad tracks.

The initial face of the project, Williams said, would be a 106,000-square-foot area between Orange Avenue and Avenue A, and North US 1 and the FEC tracts.

Williams met with the City Commission in a special session to determine if the city is interested in selling old City Hall which comprises 35,000 square feet of the proposed development area.

Only Commissioner Charles Padrick indicated he is opposed to the plan, but

the commission took no action.

“It is food for thought, but not anything we could do now or even in a year,” Mayor Dennis Summerlin said of Williams’ idea.

Summerlin did, however, agree to arrange a meeting with all property owners in the area as well as to forward Williams’ plans to the Planning Board for its comment.

Williams, whose wife has owned part of the proposed initial development area for 30 years, said his plan is to get all the property owners to agree to place their property in escrow for a limited period of time and engage a large real estate agency to locate a suitable developer.

He said he envisions the area developing into a building complex rising 120 feet above the street with a park at the top and on both sides and vertical indoor parking facilities for at least 1,500 cars.

“I visualize a major office building in the area, a high-rise motel – maybe a theater – and high-rise apartments nearby. A development needs people.” Williams said.

“A lot of people are worried about high-rises and too many people in this country. I don’t think the country is getting crowded,” he said.

He extolled developments in Fort Lauderdale and said Fort Pierce should be patterned after this.

This drew a reaction from Commissioner Jim Forbes.

“I don’t want to be negative or anything, but we don’t ever want to see Fort Pierce get like Fort Lauderdale,” he said.

25 years ago this month as reported by Drew Dixon in the June 24, 1997 edition of the Stuart News

Fort Pierce City Marina Succeeding Officials say the occupancy rate is high and plans for major improvements are on schedule

The Fort Pierce City Marina is increasing its occupancy, and major improvements should buoy a redeveloped downtown, city officials and business owners say.

After a few years of troubled waters, the marina at 1 Avenue A is on the road to recovery, said City Manager Dennis Beach.

“I’m not sure why some people refer to (the marina) as foundering. It’s going quite well and seems to be providing the activity that it was originally intended to do as a waterfront redevelopment tool,” Beach said.

Occupancy rates of boat slips at the marina have increased steadily since Dean Kubitschek was hired by the city to manage the facility in October. Transient boaters passing through for a day or two “have definitely increased,” Kubitschek said.

“People know it’s a city marina now and boaters are assured they’ll get fair prices. We’re not here to compete. We’re just giving transient boaters another option,” he said.

It’s an option boaters are taking full advantage of. The occupancy rate of the 240 boat slips has often reached 100 percent. About 30 of the slips are usually available for visiting boaters, he said.

“The best advertising is word of mouth

and the word’s getting out this is a good place to stay,” Kubitschek said.

The marina is also scheduled for major improvements by the end of the year, which should make the situation even better, Beach said. He expects about \$1 million to be approved by city commissioners to provide a solid, reconstructed internal basin.

Businesses in and around the marina welcome the plans.

“Our goal is the same thing, to bring new people to the downtown area and the marina,” said Bill Teitel, vice president of Creative Gaming Systems, the company that owns and operates the Midnight Gambler casino boat that docks at the Fort Pierce City Marina and opened for business about two months ago.

Teitel said he’s satisfied with the condition of the marina but is encouraged by the city’s desire to improve.

The marina “is paying for itself,” Beach said, although a profit hasn’t been reported yet. “To turn a profit would be ideal,” but that’s not why the city government took over the facility, he said.

The marina should be considered a corridor to the downtown, Kubitschek said. “My advertising is focusing on the downtown area. I’m selling the facility but I’m also selling the downtown area,” he said.

Work on the marina turnaround began in 1995. That’s when the city reclaimed control of the marina after a five-year hiatus during which developer Audie Morris quit making lease payments, Beach said.

Just last week, the city approve \$653,000 for repairs to the marina’s

floating docks, but mainly that was for standard repairs that come with any marina, Beach said. “They (floating docks) outlived their lives about seven years ago. Some of those docks have been there since the 1950s,” he said.

Also, the fueling system will be moved from the floating docks to the internal fixed basin for safety concerns, Kubitschek said.

But the secret to keeping the marina running smoothly will be the permanent internal basin, Beach said. That’s where restaurants such as the Tiki Lounge and Crazy Nick’s restaurant, among others, can draw the crowds.

“It just creates a lot of activity. Our primary objective is to use (the marina) as a catalyst for downtown redevelopment,” Beach said.

Allen Pellicere, manager of Crazy Nick’s, said there’s no doubt an improved marina with improve business. “I think it’s going to draw attention to business.

“It’s a good move. It’ll change the image of Fort Pierce. You know, a lot of people have tis image of a redneck town. This will make it more upscale,” Pellicere said.

Image is important, Kubitschek said. He said many of the boat slips in the internal basin will be reconfigured to handle small vessels and more large vessels.

“Some of these people (staying at the marina) are well-off and we may be able to get some of them interested in investing in downtown,” he said.

Bids for the marina project should be approved in August or September and “it’s highly likely” construction will be completed by the end of this year, Beach said.



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What a Great Idea!

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



Yup, I just got married. We kept it simple with just any of our kids that could make it and their kids. It was delightful. We exchanged vows at the gallery, amidst lots of love and a burst of floral paintings. Dinner followed at a local restaurant, allowing the kids to romp in the sand while the grown-ups nibbled, socialized and celebrated. As we scrolled through photos we had taken, something odd struck me. The two people getting married did — ummm — not look young. Here were two older individuals taking the leap of faith into an unknown future. Here were two people, who had weathered many storms already, individually and together, making promises, promises of utmost importance. We had declared before the most intimate group to be there for each other, through thick and thin, through laughter and sorrow, through times of boundless energy and through times of duress and illness. I will say, nothing feels more wonderful! Here is a live-in playmate to share all the bliss and downright fun with. Here is a beach buddy, cooking in the kitchen, running errands, taking bike rides and bathing the dog companion. Here is also the “I am sick in bed,” “my mom died and I am sad,” “I feel cranky,” “I need help with this” partner. Many of us have done this rodeo before, with less than stellar outcomes. My husband and I are a testimony to this as well. Yet, here we are, taking the plunge, having faith and tying the proverbial knot.

Life can be scary and past experiences leave their mark and take their toll. Yet, as humans, we are resilient and often times downright optimistic, and why not? Does getting caught in a bad storm keep us perpetually inside for the rest of our lives? Does food poisoning cause us to never let food pass our lips again? Absolutely not! We may check the weather before venturing out to avoid storms and we may more carefully choose

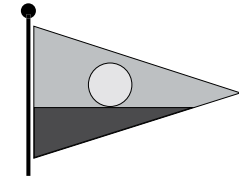
where to eat, even asking friends to make recommendations for us or help us steer clear from bad choices. So, why not likewise with one of the most delightful human experiences; the experience of love.

I share these thoughts because, number one, I am so delighted with my new life situation and number two, because I feel that the ideas have a much broader application. There are many ventures we may desire to embark on. We may have dreams, a bucket list, even unfulfilled childhood thoughts about our potential. That leap of faith applied to all of this. There is something out there, a partner of sorts, that desires to support us. The desire is to bring us joy, security, safety, passion and contentment, just to name a few things. We can leap and partner with this life force that desires to support us, love us and help us reach our potential through good times and challenging times or we can choose to remember past bumps and bruises, storms and illnesses and shy away from attachment to this potential catalyst to bigger and more fulfilling things. I say leap!

On another personal note, I recently watched my son, Luke, leap. He went from a man with unfulfilled desires to a half marathon, soon to be triathlon participant within less than a year. He heard the whisper ... yes, do it ... and listened to the call. He and his son are reaping the rewards of heeding the call. Early morning runs with his son peddling besides, bolstering each other up with encouraging words, are sheer delight for me to think of. Now, with my husband, 20–25-mile morning bike rides, as the sun coaxes a new day to begin, likewise bring delight to my physical and spiritual being. A partnering beyond what we can imagine is waiting for us to find it. Whether it be universal love and support, a literal marriage partner, friends and family or even a personal alignment with ourselves and our true desire can propel us into a fresh life of unexpected fulfillment and completeness. So, from these not so young people that tied the knot, we say align and jump ❖

Fort Pierce Yacht Club

by Robynn Holland, Community Liaison FPYC



After two years of navigating choppy waters and often stuck in the doldrums due to covid restrictions, the Fort Pierce Yacht Club and their charitable arm, the Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation are once again enjoying gentle breezes and smooth sailing.

The successful completion of the Charitable Poker Run on the beautiful blue waters of the Indian River enabled Ashley Boyle of Indian River State College to receive a scholarship of \$5,000 for a summer internship at FAU Harbor Branch. The day provided fun, friendship, and fellowship on the water for members of the FPYC and for the community. Diane Korbey, Director of Trustees of the FPYC Foundation gracefully and efficiently guided the event into a wonderful success. In addition, the FPYCF sponsored a Junior Counselor program at Wesley Island Eco Summer Camp and offer two scholarships for summer camp out of funds raised through other programs.

Under the capable leadership of Forest Blanton, Commodore of the FPYC, a partnership has been established with the Manatee Center to establish a site for the growth of sea grass around the dock at the FPYC. This along with an application to the Florida Oceanographic Society to be a part of their oyster restoration project and involvement in The Great American Cleanup and Waterway Clean Up has the FPYC on a course that shows their continuing commitment to be a viable partner to the community to protect the beautiful waterways of the Sunrise City.

The FPYC continues to host Coffee with the Mayor on the third Friday of each month and has members who are involved

in historic preservation and Main Street activities. In addition, FPYC holds monthly offshore sailboat races and two annual interclub regattas, open to community participants.

Fort Pierce Yacht Club is once again hosting the 12th Annual 4th of July Community Boat Parade and invites the everyone to participate. Held annually on the 4th of July at noon, we gather in the Turning Basin at 11:30 to start a 12 p.m. run east up the Inlet and then back west, south to City Marina and east again to Harbor Isle and Faber Cove. This is a community event so come on out and show us your colors!

The FPYC continues to host the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society for their summer program, 7 pm downbeat. From June 14 - October 27 the Jazz and Blues Society will be performing at the FPYC every two weeks on Tuesday evening from 7-10. Adult beverages will be made available by the Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation with net income from the 10 events donated to various programs in the community. Watch for announcements of who will be featured each week on the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society on their Facebook page or go to www.jazzsociety.org.

By being actively involved in the community the FPYC continues with their mission of “Celebrating the Beauty and Heart of Our Community by Land and by Waterways” as well as being an “Ardent Promoter of Outdoor and Water-related Activities in the Sunrise City”.

Don't miss out on our events: check us out at www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com or follow us on Facebook — better yet, join us!



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Summer Fishing is Hot!

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

The hot summer months are here and that means the fishing is heating up! These warmer months bring some fantastic fishing opportunities in our local waters. Targeting snapper is a great idea as the mangroves, lanes, and muttuns are easily found on the offshore reefs in about 50-100 feet as well as along the mangroves and cuts with good current. Live bait is best for snapper fishing but these aggressive feeders will hit frozen, too. I find it's ideal to throw a chum bag or at least some cut-up frozen bait and be sure your live bait is on the bottom with enough weight.

Trolling for mahi mahi, also known as dorado or the common dolphinfish, can be very successful this time of year. Look for weed lines and any floating debris then slow troll with fresh ballyhoo, either naked or skirted, for your best chance at hooking one of these acrobatic fish. Mahi are schooling fish so if you see one, watch for others and enjoy the fast-paced action. Targeting mahi is a win-win ... amazing fight and amazing dinner.

This awesome cobia photo is from a recent trip with Mike Murphy and his dad Dan. Great job on those cobia and kings!

Even though water temperature, migrations, tides, and weather all influence the fish bite, there's no shortage of fish in the great waters of Fort Pierce. Come see me at **Little Jim Bait & Tackle**, your home for **Pullin Drag Charters**, great food and drinks, fun music, and all your bait and tackle needs. Stay cool this summer and keep *Pullin Drag!* ❖



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Favorite Recipes from Main Street Board Members



The first day of summer is June 21st and the Fort Pierce temperatures will be rising. There is nothing more refreshing than a chilled watermelon during the heated months. Below is one of my favorite recipes using chilled watermelon.

Watermelon Salad with Mint

- 14 cups of cubed ripe seedless watermelon (one medium watermelon)
- 1/3 cup of lime juice
- 4 tablespoon chopped fresh mint
- 8 cups of fresh spinach
- 3 cups of sliced strawberries

No cook time: prep time 15 minutes: serves 8, dairy, vegan and gluten free.

Cube the watermelon and place it in a large bowl. Sprinkle with the lime juice then add chopped mint and strawberries and toss. It's that easy. Refrigerate and when ready to serve spoon over fresh spinach. You can add feta cheese to this recipe, if you like, but then it will no longer be a dairy free recipe. A poppy seed dressing goes well with this recipe. I like it without dressing.




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		Large Business Membership (51 or more employees) (\$500)

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

Name: _____ Membership Level: _____

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Street Address: _____

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