



Volume 17, No. 8

March, 2022

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

King's Landing Transforms Fort Pierce

see page 17



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Mayor Linda Hudson invites you to join her for Community News, Special Announcements, Complimentary Coffee, Orchid Island Juice, Breakfast Treats, and more!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Celebrate St. Patty's Day and Spring Break in Downtown Fort Pierce

by *Britt Reynolds*



Ah, March. It is traditionally one of the best months for weather here in south Florida. Pleasant days are meant to be enjoyed outdoors and there are plenty of opportunities to relish the month of March in downtown Fort Pierce.

Spring break for most local schools is right around the corner. Looking for ideas to keep the kids and grandkids entertained? Here is a list of just a few of the ideas for those looking for activities to do with kids in downtown:

- Visit the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** to view the sea life in the fish tanks and the other wildlife exhibits. Then stroll around their butterfly garden.
- Look for special shapes and art in the ground and along the walls of the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**.

➤ Walk along the riverfront to the **City Marina** store where fish food can be purchased for a small fee. Count the fish and name the species.

➤ Grab lunch to go at one of the many restaurants for a mini picnic near the Marina Square downtown fountain.


➤ Visit the Kilmer Branch of the St. Lucie County Library for a vast selection of children's books.

➤ Enjoy an afternoon coffee and sweet treat or ice cream.

➤ Fishing charters, kayaking trips, boat rentals, and ax throwing are options for families with older tweens and teens.

Also happening this month is the annual **St. Patrick's Day on 2nd Street Block Party**. No, we don't dye the Indian River green but our downtown businesses do host a popular street festival every year with live music, street pubs from **2nd Street Bistro** and **Sailfish Brewing Company**, a *Vendor Village* and a children's area. This year's event will be held on Saturday, March 19. The event begins at 12:00 p.m. and will continue throughout the evening until 11:00 p.m. Do not miss this fun tradition and be sure to wear your green.

There is something for all ages in downtown Fort Pierce. *See you downtown!* ❖

MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

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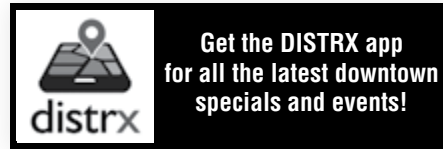
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Calendar

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



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

MONTHLY EVENTS

February 4, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by *Live Bait*; 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.

March 18, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; *Sponsor—Project Lift*; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

March 19, Saturday: ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY BLOCK PARTY — Hosted by **Sailfish Brewery** and **2nd Street Bistro**. 12:00 to 11 p.m.; Live music, Vendor Village, Street Pubs, Kid's area; www.sailfishbrewingco.com.

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

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Facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company
Pierced Cider
Facebook @piercedcider
Cobbs Landing
cobbs-landing.com
Bottom's Up Public House
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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

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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.

A.E. Backus Museum
772-465-0630 • backusmuseum.com

Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
772-462-1795
2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building

Downtown Fort Pierce Library
772-462-2787 • st-lucie.lib.fl.us

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

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
772-429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

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

MARCH: DOLPHIN AWARENESS MONTH

MARCH 1: FAT TUESDAY

MARCH 1: MARDI GRAS

MARCH 2: ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 4: NATIONAL EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

MARCH 6: NATIONAL OREO COOKIE DAY

MARCH 7: NATIONAL FLAPJACK DAY

MARCH 9: NATIONAL MEATBALL DAY

MARCH 14: NATIONAL PI DAY

MARCH 15: IDES OF MARCH

➔ MARCH 17: ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MARCH 19: NATIONAL LET'S LAUGH DAY

MARCH 21: NATIONAL COMMON COURTESY DAY

MARCH 25: INTERNATIONAL WAFFLE DAY

MARCH 26: LIVE LONG AND PROSPER DAY

MARCH 28: RESPECT YOUR CAT DAY

MARCH 29: NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

MARCH 31: NATIONAL CRAYON DAY

MARCH 31: MANATEE APPRECIATION DAY

City of Fort Pierce Seeking Tenant for Ground Floor Space in Sunrise Center

The City of Fort Pierce recently issued a solicitation inviting interested firms to submit a proposal for the development, build-out, and lease of the vacant ground floor space in the City's downtown parking garage, also known as **The Sunrise Center**. The space is approximately 4,000 square feet and is conveniently located at 300 Orange Avenue in Downtown Fort Pierce. The location offers constant vehicle and pedestrian traffic and is within walking distance to popular points of interest like the Historic **Sunrise Theatre**, City Hall, United States Federal Courthouse, County Courthouse, retail shops, restaurants, nightlife, and **Fort Pierce City Marina**. Downtown Fort Pierce has undergone a significant transformation and offers the most beautiful waterfront on the Treasure Coast.

The City is seeking proposals from firms having the financial resources and vision to create a unique addition to the Downtown business district. The City is interested in a tenant that generates or contributes to the overall economic, cultural and social well-being of the Fort Pierce community. The City will entertain all proposals but recommends the uses identified as the Downtown targeted tenant mix in the Colliers International Market Study. Lease terms are negotiable based on the proposal.

There was a non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting on Wednesday, February 16 at Fort Pierce City Hall. Proposals are due on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

For more information, visit: <https://cityoffortpierce.com/bids.aspx> or contact the City Manager's Office at 772-465-4170 or e-mail ecodev@cityoffortpierce.com. ❖

Mayor's Message Keeping Fort Pierce Beautiful

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



What can you do to keep Fort Pierce beautiful? The **Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Advisory Board** plans its activities to educate and motivate our citizens to keep our city litter-free.

Many citizens and groups throughout our city, have stepped up to adopt a local road or park. Hats off to *Chad Ingram* for adopting Avenue D, from 9th Street to 12th Street; *Lincoln Park Academy 4H20* students for adopting Veterans Memorial Park; *Men of the Sword, Because We Love Lincoln Park*, *Marine Cleanup Initiative* and *The*

Resource Center for adopting Moore's Creek Linear Park; *Fort Pierce South Beach Association* for adopting beaches and parks throughout South Beach; *SLC Florida A&M Alumni Association* for adopting Avenue M, between US-1 and 25th Street; *Main Street Fort Pierce* for adopting Backus Avenue; *Liberty Truth and Deliverance* for adopting Avenue B at US-1 to 17th Street; and several other adoptees throughout the city. Also, a big thank you to Miss Hoffman's *Westwood Prep* students and the *Fort Pierce Lions* for always volunteering for cleanup projects.

The **Keep Fort Pierce Advisory Board** organizes the **Great American Cleanup** (GAC) and is held annually in the City of Fort Pierce, which includes an Arbor Day celebration. In 2021, the GAC was held, but due to the pandemic, volunteers were encouraged to register online, pick an area to clean, take photos and submit them to show their participation. For Arbor Day, city staff and volunteers landscaped and planted trees along Sunrise Boulevard. The City of Fort Pierce has earned the Tree City award for 32 consecutive years. This year, the Great American Cleanup



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is scheduled for March 12, 2022. The same format will be followed as last year, where volunteers are encouraged to register online, pick an area to clean, take photos and submit them to show their participation. For more information on participating in this year's cleanup, please contact Kaitlyn Ballard 772-467-3795 or kballard@cityoffortpierce.com at the Public Works Department.

Paint Our Town Program is a collaborative effort to assist financially challenged individuals to maintain the exterior of their home. This is accomplished with volunteers from local businesses, churches, and other organizations throughout the City of Fort Pierce. The city provides the paint, painting supplies, and other materials, while the manpower is provided by volunteers.

World Changers annually visits Fort Pierce in the summer to help qualified residents with beautifying their home's

appearance. *World Changers* is a faith-based organization of young people from different states who come together to volunteer their time to help Fort Pierce residents.

There are so many ways you can get involved in the City of Fort Pierce, However, if you're unable to volunteer, you can help us keep Fort Pierce beautiful by downloading the See-Click-Fix App from the city's website. If you see a problem, take a photo, give a few details, describe the location, and submit it on the App.

For more information on volunteering and the See-Click-Fix App please visit the city's website at www.cityoffortpierce.com or call 772.467.3000. ❖

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1715 Spanish Plate Fleet Cannon at Final Destination

by Matt & Crystal Samuel, *Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Advisory Board, Fort Pierce Lions Club*

The final steps in a four year *Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful* project have been completed! History was made as the City of Fort Pierce just placed the recovered 1715 fleet iron cannon at the *Melody Lane Fishing Pier Plaza* on February 15, 2022. This very unique treasure now on permanent public display promises to inspire future generations of residents and visitors alike.

Beginning as an idea of the *Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Advisory Board* to bring more art to the city, this historic project immediately captured the attention and support of the community. Matt Samuel, of the *Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful*

Board, suggested that a cannon from a local shipwreck would be the best way to represent our status on the Treasure Coast. His longtime friendship with treasure salvor, Captain John Brandon, was the first step in realizing a *1715 Spanish Plate Fleet* cannon for historic display. Captain Brandon, Operations Manager, along with principles George Friedel and Ric Harshman, of *1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels, LLC*, agreed to donate the cannon from the Sandy Point Wreck to the City of Fort Pierce.

Captain John Brandon and Captain Dan Porter with salvage vessel, *Seatrepid*, used their expertise, time, and effort



Mayor Linda Hudson with Chrystal Netherton and Aaron Netherton of A-Tech Welding who did the final restoration work on the cannon.



Fort Pierce Lion members pose as proud supporters of this historic project

to recover the 303-year-old cannon from the sea floor on August 13, 2018. The cannon was preserved through a reverse electrolysis process requiring one year for every hundred years submerged in the ocean. This three-year process was done at the City of Fort Pierce Savannah Road Public Works Compound.

The final step was to restore the cannon to its former glory and build a carriage to hold it as it would have been 300 years ago. Aaron Netherton, of *A-Tech Welding*, completed this portion of the project in about four months with guidance from John Brandon for historical accuracy. The finished carriage and restored cannon exceeded expectations and are truly a sight to behold.

The unveiling of the cannon and informational kiosk was witnessed by approximately 150 attendees of the ceremony. Community support for this once-in-a-lifetime, historical project was phenomenal and included Jean Ellen Wilson and Lucille Rights of the *SLC Historical Museum*, Jeremy Noelke of *Sign Edge Graphics*, *City of Fort Pierce Public Works* staff, Special Projects Coordinator for the City of Fort Pierce Audria Moore-Wells, and the *Fort Pierce Lions Club*. The cannon's permanent home at the *Melody Lane Fishing Pier Plaza* is a new point of pride for Fort Pierce and all of our beautiful Treasure Coast. ❖



KFPB Matt Samuel, Commissioner Tom Perona, Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Arnold Gaines, and Commissioner Curtis Johnson Jr after unveiling the informational kiosk.



Captain John Brandon, KFPB Matt Samuel, Commissioner Curtis Johnson Jr, Commissioner Tom Perona, City Manager Nicholas Mimms, Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Arnold Gaines, FPPD Chief Diane Hobbly-Burney pose by the newly dedicated 1715 cannon.

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New Book Provides a Snapshot of the Life and Work of Jackie Brice, Florida Artists Hall of Fame Recipient

In 2007, when the Backus Museum decided it needed much more space to house the important and ever-growing permanent collection of Backus' work, it was Jackie Brice that former director Kathleen Fredrick asked to recreate the Backus painting still adorning the Museum's North Indian River Drive wall today. The mural-sized painting titled, Dawn's First Light, was meant to spark enthusiasm within the community for support of the Museum's greatly needed expansion.



Jackie Brice and A.E. Backus, her mentor and friend

Fredrick, who wrote the introduction for the book says, "Certainly, many of Backus' students went on to have successful careers, but none more remarkable than Jackie's. It is safe to say that of all the artists who passed through the studio of A.E. Backus, whether for regular tutelage or mere inspiration, Jackie's paintings most closely embodied the subtlety of color and nuance of light that distinguished Backus' later, representational work."

Jackie's incredible talent was validated in 2012 when she was inducted into the esteemed Florida Artists Hall of Fame. She shares this honor with other notable artists including Ernest Hemingway, Ray Charles, Burt Reynolds, Gloria Estefan, Robert Rauschenberg, and her friend and mentor A.E. "Bean" Backus, to name just a few. Her artistic abilities have also drawn together a remarkable and devoted group of followers. The list of collectors of Jackie's work reads like a directory of Who's Who of Florida and includes local, state, and US government entities.


Jackie had extraordinary talent before she started her studies with Backus, but his guidance helped her perfect her skills and led her to become a better artist. Jackie says "it might have

taken her fifty years to learn on her own what Backus taught her in just a fraction of the time."

Jackie remembers her first meeting with Backus. She took several of her paintings to his studio for him to critique. Within just a few minutes, Backus spoke words Jackie says she will never forget, he said, "I would like you to come and work with me." Jackie jumped at the chance and the very next day she began what would become a wonderful learning experience for a budding new artist,

but more importantly, a close friendship that would continue until the end of Backus' life.

Robin Dannahower, who wrote and designed the book, *Florida Landscapes: The Art of Jackie Brice*, states that the book provides a brief, but endearing snapshot of Jackie's life. She says the book was commissioned by Jackie Brice and her husband, Herman in part to acknowledge the dozens of people who have supported



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Jackie Brice in her studio

Jackie's work over the years. From her friend and mentor, A.E. Backus to the countless people who have shown and collected her work, to her family, Jackie has always felt blessed to have so many people in her life that provided support and admiration to inspire her so she could continue creating art.



Recreation of Backus' Dawn's First Light on the Backus Museum wall painted by Jackie Brice

What follows an informative narration of Jackie's life journey are more than 70 plus pages filled with her exquisite work. Whether viewing a wetlands painting, a beach scene, one of her Royal Poinciana trees, or a serene backwoods road, Dannahower says "readers will not want to put this book down. And when they do, they will want to come back again and again to enjoy the incredible scenes that will give them a peaceful feeling that only an artist like Jackie can convey in her work."

The book was printed as a limited edition, but a small quantity is being made available to the public for sale. The price of the full color, hardcover book is \$30. Individuals wanting a copy can visit DannahowerCommunications.com or e-mail Robin Dannahower at dannahowerr@gmail.com. ❖



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Support Manatees: Register for the 14th Annual Manatee Center 5K

by Rachel Tennant, Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation Board Member

Support manatees by registering for the **14th Annual Manatee Center 5K** (\$35) and one-mile (\$20) in support of the **Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation**. This year's 5K will be held on Saturday, March 19th and begins at 8 a.m. Starting at the **Manatee Center**, the course goes through Downtown Fort Pierce and around to Seaway Drive and over the beautiful bridge. (The one-mile route does not cross the bridge and is perfect for walkers.)

This event is the **Manatee Foundation's** primary fundraiser each year. Funds raised enable the Foundation to sponsor education programs for groups like the Boys & Girls Club, Hibiscus Children's Home, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the **Manatee Center's** annual summer camp. This year, the **Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation** and **Manatee Center** are also bringing seagrass restoration to one acre (or more, stay tuned!) of the lagoon in Downtown Fort Pierce.

It is more important now than ever to show your support. Last year, manatees experienced an unusual mortality event (1,101 deaths in only one year; surpassing the previous record of 830 in one year) due largely to lack of seagrass and food sources. Registering for the **Manatee Center 5K** ensures the continuity of these important manatee education programs and the organizations' ability to #SaveTheSeagrass and protect our beloved Florida manatees. Your support will provide MOEC

and TCMF with the resources needed to educate, protect, and restore in Downtown Fort Pierce.

There are three options: register for the 5K (3.1 miles), the one-mile route, or the **Virtual 5K** challenge where you can walk or run anywhere in the world and track your progress on www.runsignup.com.

All participants will receive a dry-fit race shirt and a participant's medal to commemorate your accomplishment. Top runners (M/F) and masters runners (M/F) will receive prize trophies. Kids 15 and under register for only \$15.

Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/ManateeCenter5K>. ❖



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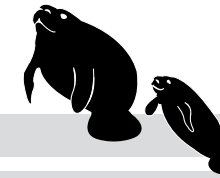
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Joanne McCurdy,
Broker/Owner



The Manatee Center March Events

MOEC is open Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
and Sunday 12 p.m.–4 p.m.

Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Homeschool Workshop: Marvelous Mangroves

Students will dive into the world of mangroves! With their field journal, magnifying glass and binoculars (provided), students will explore scuttling crabs, baby fish, soaring birds and many more animals that all use mangroves! Homeschool days are an opportunity for individual homeschoolers to experience hands-on learning. All classes are geared for students ages 6 to 12. Cost is \$4 per student.

This workshop is offered at a third party location. *Registration is required.* Please call 772-429-6266 option 3 to register.

Friday, March 11 at 12 p.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club

Seagrass Restoration

Lunch & Learn — Led by Sea & Shoreline LLC. Sea & Shoreline is a Florida-based aquatic restoration company that has two decades of experience in restoring fresh and saltwater habitats. Seagrass is the key to restoring water quality. Join Ryan Brushwood as he tells all about the effort to bring seagrass restoration to Florida waterways.

This event is free, so bring your lunch and bring a friend! Please note special location: Fort Pierce Yacht Club. *Free Event.*

Saturday, March 19 at 8 a.m.

14th Annual Manatee Center 5K or One-Mile Walk/Run

Challenge yourself and support nature's gentlest giants. Registration is \$35 for the 5K and \$20 for the one-mile. Kids 15 and under are only \$15 for all routes. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/ManateeCenter5K>. Walk or run across the Seaway Drive Bridge, relax and listen to live music, or bring the family to help clean up the riverside during the *Trash Dash Clean-up*. For more information call (772) 429-8597.

City of Fort Pierce Receives Grant for Moore's Creek Distinctive Communities Project

In response to the needed measures to help salvage the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), the City of Fort Pierce's *Distinctive Community Project* has received a \$106,500.00 matching grant award from the **Indian River Lagoon Council**. The City's initiative is fostered to protect the Lagoon from the laden amount of trash that enters through the Moore's Creek watershed.

"The steady influx of trash that originates from the west and floats through Moore's Creek, eventually emptying into our precious Indian River Lagoon, is what this project is striving to remove," stated City Engineer, Jack Andrews.

The *Distinctive Communities Project*, with its primary objective to keep area waters clean and healthy, benefits both the Indian River Lagoon and surrounding waterways since all waters are connected.

Grant funding will allow the City to purchase waterway trash traps, which will block the trash from floating further into the waterways, thereby preventing it from ever reaching the Indian River and further destroying its ecosystem. The trash will be intercepted at the 17th Street and 29th Street sections of the Moore's Creek, where a netting device, attached to the box culverts, will allow floating trash to enter and remain trapped until removed. These nets can fill with trash as small as 5mm and will still allow water to flow at its natural velocity. The result will be cleaned, pristine waters enhancing the beauty of the community and protecting the health of the Indian River Lagoon.

About IRLNEP: The Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP) is hosted by the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Council, which was established in February 2015 as an independent special district of Florida. The IRL Council includes representatives of five counties bordering the Lagoon (Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin counties), the St. Johns River and South Florida Water Management Districts, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The U.S. EPA provides guidance to the Council.

For more information, visit onelagoon.org. ❖

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King's Landing Transforms Fort Pierce

by Holly Theuns

King's Landing, a 140-million-dollar mixed-use development on five acres at the old King Power Plant site in downtown Fort Pierce passed by a unanimous vote of the City Commission. The project is bounded on the east by Indian River Drive, on the south by Avenue B, the west by 2nd Street and on the north by AE Backus Avenue. There is a second parcel on the west side of 2nd Street that backs to the railroad tracks that will be a construction staging area for **King's Landing** and then developed at a later date.

People have transformational events in their lives — graduating from school, getting married, having a baby — and when they look back, everything else is either or after that event. I think the addition of **King's Landing** to downtown Fort Pierce may be this kind of transformational event for the City. The downtown merchants, restaurants, and bars work hard to bring people in to downtown, but it can be a struggle. A downtown luxury hotel will encourage both in- and off-tourist season vacations and staycations; provide opportunities to house larger national and international fishing tournaments and athletic competitions; and allow

Fort Pierce to become a meeting and convention business destination. All of these potential visitors will provide an economic benefit to our small businesses by eating in our restaurants, shopping in our stores and booking appointments with local beauty and health service providers.

This partnership between the City of Fort Pierce and the developer, **Audubon Development**, will include residential — 106 condos and eight single-family Charleston homes — a 140-room luxury Marriott Autograph Collection hotel with meeting and banquet space; approximately 75,000 sq. ft. of restaurant space; and approximately 35,000 sq. ft. of retail space. All of the restaurant space has been reserved by local restaurateurs, no chains are planned. One of the planned restaurants will be a venture with Indian River State College (IRSC) Culinary Department to run a farm-to-table restaurant to be called **The Kids are Cooking**. This will serve as a showcase for the culinary department's skills since students will design and cook the day's menu offerings, as well as a real-world training ground in restaurant management.

Continued on page 18 ...



KING'S LANDING ... continued from page 17

The 114 downtown residential units will contribute to Fort Pierce's mission to be a *Live, Work, Play* city. The project has been designed to be ground-level friendly with walkable streets and wide sidewalks, plenty of benches and landscaping to encourage people to stop, catch some shade and sit a minute. The varying heights of the buildings and number of buildings in the project make it anything but cookie cutter.

With the success of downtown revitalization efforts, parking has been becoming a concern in recent years. Fort Pierce has a parking committee who have been working on the City's current and future parking problems for the last few years. Through studies and reviewing ideas from other communities, the Parking Committee, working with their parking consultant, are putting their heads together to come up with options to be taken to the City Commission for decisions and action. None of the current downtown zoning requires any of the businesses to provide parking. **King's Landing** will have 299 parking spaces on site, mainly to service the condos, and the developer has offered the City an opportunity to add two levels to the project parking garage, at the City's expense, to help with the parking situation. Parking is an issue for many historic downtowns and here in Fort Pierce the City is actively working on solutions to make downtown more accessible to those that visit for business, dining and shopping.

Change is inevitable and sometimes hard to accept, though the City of Fort Pierce factored what Fort Pierce needed into the bidding process. Some think that the 11-story sections of

the river-facing condo building are too big for Fort Pierce. Yet to obtain the highly anticipated Marriott Autograph Collection hotel as part of the deal and to fit all of the key items the City required as part of the bidding process on a five-acre parcel,



the answer was to go up. Many years of planning and preparation have gone into this project to give Fort Pierce the needed housing, hotel, retail and restaurant amenities without detracting from the downtown charm

that plays a vital role in attracting residents and visitors alike. Fort Pierce is unique and this project was designed with that in mind. It will feature an architecture style that will compliment our historic waterfront community.

We have an exceptional economic engine going in downtown. According to the St. Lucie County Economic Development Council's report (you can see the complete report on *Main Street's* website at www.maistreetfortpierce.org) the hotel alone is expected to bring in, per year:

- \$13,260,100 in direct spending from visitors
- \$253,748 in tourism development taxes
- \$6,746,400 in wages from 221 jobs
- \$2,029,300 in state and local taxes

This totals approximately \$20,811,400 per year, from the hotel alone. Multiply that by five or ten and you start to see the potential transformational nature of this project.

King's Landing anticipates breaking ground in April of 2022. Time will tell us if this project is the transformational event for Fort Pierce that I am imagining. I hope so. Fort Pierce deserves to be recognized as the jewel of the Treasure Coast. ❖

Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market – Continuing the Tradition

Winter is here? The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** is in full swing and by the numbers of patrons and vendors one would never guess its mid-winter! The weather has been chamber-of-commerce-perfect (most of the time) and everyone is taking advantage of the glorious sunshine.

Whatever the reason people come to the Market, the location is certainly part of it. Marina Square at the **Fort Pierce Marina** is one of the prettiest places along the Indian River Lagoon. Taking advantage of the venue has been one of the **Downtown Fort**

Pierce Farmers Market's biggest distinctions. Sitting on the seawall watching the manatees and dolphin or the seagulls and pelicans soaring overhead, or just enjoying a cup of coffee and a pastry are part of an easy Saturday morning.

Fresh hot coffee or tea, fresh baked pastries, made-to-order breakfast bowls, or fresh-squeezed juices and smoothies are great beginnings. Planning for later, prepared Jamaican curries, tantalizing gyros, or shrimp tacos make quick lunches or dinners. For the cooks in the crowds, stone crab claws and shrimp, or locally-raised beef, combined with the vast assortment of locally-grown and imported vegetables complete the menus for the entire week. Add cheeses, mushrooms, and of course, dessert, and the pantry is stocked.

Decorating the home is a snap with fresh cut flower bouquets and beautiful live plants. Exotic and tropical or southern traditional plants are perfect for patio or landscaping. Each one is grown with love and makes the perfect addition to any space.

Personal care ranges from natural elderberry products for overall health, to skin balms and lotions for all aspects



of skin care. Lavender is the perfect complement for soothing relaxation.

The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** has been striving for 25 years to provide healthy, fresh foods and horticultural products to Saint Lucie County and the surrounding areas, and to encourage commerce, entertainment and trade in Downtown Fort Pierce.

After celebrating its 25th Anniversary last month, the Market is continuing to grow, adding new vendors almost on a weekly basis. The crowds of patrons, both locals and visitors, are certainly enjoying

visiting with their favorite vendors and checking out the new ones. Looks like it's done a pretty good job continuing the tradition!

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the seating of a new Chair. Josh Macy, long-time vendor and lifelong Fort Pierce resident has assumed the leadership of the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market**. Outgoing Chair, Chet Boudrias, steered the Market through some tough times and now has handed the reins over to his successor. In addition, CJ Brown has stepped down as Manager and Will Goulet has taken over that position. Sad to see both Chet and CJ leave after their successful tenures and the Board and vendors wish both well.

The Market thanks its vendors and its patrons for the loyalty and support. Its success would not be possible without both. A dream became a reality and is now a tradition! Make it part of your Saturday morning.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or check out our website, www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com. *It's a Saturday morning tradition!* ❖

Love, JAZZ Community: Share Your Gifts & Talents as a Volunteer

by Don Bestor

One of my favorite stories about volunteering involves noted psychologist Milton Hyland Erickson and a woman he encountered who came to be known as the African Violet Queen of Milwaukee. It seems that Dr. Erickson was visiting a wealthy, unmarried woman who lived alone and was confined to a wheelchair. She was depressed and wished life would be over. As she



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

she showed him around her lovely but lonely home, they stopped in a greenhouse filled with African Violets that the woman had grown. Dr. Erickson couldn't help but notice the enthusiasm and love the woman had for her African Violets, and he knew just what to do next. He gave her a prescription. He told her that she must get a list of all the births, deaths, and other important life events from her church, which she'd stopped attending. For every one of the special events, the woman was instructed to take an African Violet she'd grown, put it in a gift pot, and deliver it personally to the intended recipient.

Years later, when the woman died, a Milwaukee newspaper published the obituary for the widely-known and much-beloved "African Violet Queen of Milwaukee" who had touched countless lives with the gifts of her time and talent. It seems the prescription had not only cured her depression by taking her focus off her own sadness and problems caused by her health issue but also opened her eyes and her world to new friends, neighbors, and complete strangers who were positively impacted through her kind gesture and small token of love.

The reason I'm sharing this story today is because I know so many people who feel lonely, isolated, and sad, and some of them become so caught up in seeing only their own problems that they spiral into lives of loneliness. I may not be a famous psychologist like Dr. Erickson, but I'm willing to share

his prescription with you and anyone you know who wants to give it a try. Volunteer! That's it. Just volunteer. You don't have to remember whether to swipe left or right, and you don't even have to come up with a clever catch phrase or first line. Just volunteer.

It doesn't matter if all you can do is stick stamps on envelopes for your favorite organization's newsletter, bake cookies for a meeting

or gathering, check names off at a registration table, or brew a decent pot of coffee — every minute you spend volunteering is one more minute that you won't have time to focus on what's wrong in the world or your little corner of it. And the bonus is that you'll probably meet some new people, and there's a good chance that you'll have something in common simply because you're both attending an event for something you believe in or enjoy.

Now, your ability to nurture African Violets may not exactly be legendary, and that's a really good thing because at **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, though we thoroughly enjoy African Violets and are impressed by anyone who has a green thumb, the kinds of volunteers we appreciate most are the ones who can sit in a chair, lick an envelope, make a pot of coffee, and maybe have a little conversation and help make someone else's evening a little brighter. If that's something you can do, guess what — we need you! Don't be shy; just pick up the phone and give us a jingle at 772.460.JAZZ (5299), or stop by any Tuesday evening at the **Sunrise Black Box Theatre** for one of our **Jazz Jams** and let us know you may not grow African Violets, but you'd love to help or become a member. I promise we'll fill your world with good music, good friends, and probably never a potted plant. To check out our upcoming programs, please visit us online at www.jazzsociety.org. ❖

TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, March 5, 1922 edition of the Tampa Tribune

Fort Pierce's New Power Plant

Fort Pierce's new electric power plant is expected to be ready for operation March 10, according to Charles Laresen, superintendent of the power plant. Power has been furnished heretofore by a plant with a limited capacity and subject to frequent interruptions.

100 years ago this month as reported in the Wednesday, March 8, 1922 edition of the Ocala Evening Star

Bridge To Be Built Across Indian River At Fort Pierce

An ambition long entertained by Fort Pierce folk for a beach resort on the peninsula across the Indian River here, will be realized in the next two years, if the initial step towards bridging the river, about a mile and a half wide, taken by Dr. C.G. Trauh, recently, is carried to the end.

The city council granted Dr. Traub's application for a permit to build the bridge. Under the terms of the permit he has eighteen months to begin construction and another eighteen months to complete the project. Dr. Traub expressed the opinion, however, that he would be ahead of the stipulations

by six months each way and that he hoped to have the bridge ready for service within two years.

75 years ago this month as reported in the February 24, 1947 edition of the Miami News

Decorated floats and antique wheeled vehicles will have a whack at winning worth-while prizes in Fort Pierce's March 8th celebration of the opening of Florida East Coast railway's new Lake Okeechobee-Fort Pierce cutoff line according to announcement of W.H. Boyd, who is to be parade marshal for the celebration.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, arch 2, 1947 edition of the Miami News

Fort Pierce Asks Bids On Light Plant Project

The city of Fort Pierce Saturday asked for bids for construction of an addition to the municipal light plant building to house new equipment which it is proposed to install. Proposals are to be received up to March 31.

A new 5,000-KW turbo generator, steam boiler and other equipment are to be installed in the plant to enable it to meet the steadily growing demands for electric current.

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Vendor Profile: MO Wood Design

by Henry Szmyt

Mario Oderda is another *Jazz Market* regular vendor and he's been with us for over four years. If asked, most folks will tell you more beyond just "I make these." In Mario's instance it was, "I blew the engine on my boat. I had all this time on my hands and wood-working machinery in the garage. I made a few of these as Christmas gifts for my family, and they wanted more for their friends." He visited the market and thought this could be a nice little enterprise, and **MO Wood Design** was born. His charcuterie boards, serving trays, cheese trays, etc., are items of beauty.

Mario is a successful immigrant from Italy, and I can see why he would be drawn to the *Jazz Society*. For ten years from 1998 to 2008, he owned a lodge in Northern Virginia in the vicinity of Washington, DC. It had 14 bedrooms upstairs and an Italian restaurant and lounge on the lower level. It also happened to have a grand piano in the lounge. It became a go-to place for big name musicians or session players touring that part of the country, the availability of bedrooms being a big draw. He mentioned guys working with Herbie Hancock, Spyro Gyra and others. He had a jam going a couple days a week, and it was a real treat when

some of these guys would come through. Mario being an amateur drummer didn't hurt either.

Mario uses high grade hardwood, walnut being one of them, to produce his trays. The various tints and colors you see are inherent to the wood he uses. I learned that a walnut log will produce a range of board colors depending which section of the log these are cut from. Mario is mindful that his boards will come in contact with food and does not use products or chemicals that would impact any food product. For instance, the preservative that he sells and developed is based on beeswax and natural oils. ❖



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Protect Your Small Business from Cybersecurity Attacks

by Mark Madrid, Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development www.sba.gov



Follow these steps to prevent your business from cybersecurity risks before you are attacked. The good news is businesses are effectively using the internet to conduct commerce. The bad news is bad actors are using the internet to commit crimes against businesses.

You don't have to be a large corporation in America to be vulnerable to cybersecurity attacks. In 2020 alone, there were over 700 thousand attacks against small businesses, with damages totaling 2.8 billion dollars and the numbers continue to rise every year. Fortunately, there are ways that you can strengthen your business against a cyberattack to minimize financial losses and reduce risks for employees.

Ransomware is a specific type of malware that infects and restricts access to a computer until a ransom is paid. Ransomware is usually delivered through phishing emails and it exploits unpatched vulnerabilities in software. SBA and its resource partners offer events tailored to help you consider how a cyberattack might impact your operations and determine how you can prepare before an attack is made.

How Small Businesses Can Prevent and Prepare for a Cybersecurity Attack

Here are some steps small businesses can take to prepare for ransomware attacks:

Train your employees. Employees and e-mails are a leading cause of data breaches for small businesses because they are a direct path into your systems. Training employees on basic internet best practices can go a long way in preventing cyber-attacks. The Department of Homeland Security's Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Stop Ransomware website and "Stop.Think.Connect" campaign provides small business owners free training to help employees prevent attacks.

Put a system in place to back up critical business data. Your data should be backed up regularly and should be accessible off-site, making cloud data solutions ideal options and unplugging backup drives from the internet.

Use antivirus software and keep it updated automatically.



Make sure each of your business's computers is equipped with antivirus software and antispyware and updated regularly. Such software is readily available online from a variety of vendors. All software vendors regularly provide patches and updates to their products to correct security problems and improve functionality.

Configure all software to install updates automatically.

Secure your networks. Safeguard your Internet connection by using a firewall and encrypting information. If you have a Wi-Fi network, make sure it is secure and hidden. To hide your Wi-Fi network, set up your wireless access point or router so it does not broadcast the network name, known as the Service Set Identifier (SSID). Password-protect access to the router.

Cyber-attacks on small businesses are on the rise and so are the costs to recover after a cyber-attack. Identifying and managing threats to your business data will prevent you from becoming the next easy target.

Understanding the Threat

Small businesses are attractive targets because they have information that cybercriminals want, and they typically lack the security infrastructure of larger businesses.

According to an SBA survey, 88% of small business owners felt their business was vulnerable to a cyber-attack. Yet many businesses can't afford professional IT solutions, have limited time to devote to cybersecurity, or don't know where to begin.

Start by learning about common cyber threats, understanding where your business is vulnerable, and taking steps to improve your cybersecurity.

The SBA is committed to helping your small business overcome any obstacle. We are here to help you prepare your business for cybersecurity attacks and other disasters. Our partners such as Small Business Development Centers, SCORE, Women's Business Centers, and Veteran Business Opportunity Centers are also available to help your business with coaching, workshops, and referrals. See SBA's online learning for free education by visiting SBA.gov/LearningCenter.

SBA is also proud to continue our work with public sector partners to keep small businesses informed, prepared, and aided in their efforts to stay safe. We encourage our state government officials to keep an eye out for our upcoming Cybersecurity for Small Business Pilot Program funding opportunity on Grants.gov. ❖

Float Tanks and Such

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



I love out of town guests! Most of my far away guests have been part of my life for decades. There is always so much catching up to do, as life rapidly marches forward. There are memory lanes to be strolled down and there are desires for the future to be shared. It is also a time for some downright fun.

Shopping downtown, bites to eat here and there and lounging on the beach are standard fare. A tradition with one particular guest, my sister-in-law, is to try something new each time we get together. We have enjoyed helicopter rides, carriage jaunts, Segway expeditions, rumrunners in paper bags and on this visit, a float tank. First, I will say it is magical. My sister-in-law, Darlyne, will attest to this. You may be wondering, what would possess anyone to willingly, even drive an hour and then pay, to float in the dark, in absolute silence, in a large pod of Epsom salt water with the lid shut. Well, when described in this fashion, it seems like a no go. In reality, in my book, it is a heck yeah! My takeaway, as well as Darlyn's, was rather profound and lingered for days. It was a brief time to put *everything* aside, to be suspended in time and space and "just be."

What does "just be" mean? I would imagine something different to each person. Watch a toddler "just be" through enjoying food. I mean really enjoying food, with reckless abandon, diving into the experience, no thought of decorum,

both hands in with a messy face. Perhaps observe a young couple enjoying their budding romance. To them, the rest of the world is distant and out of focus as they only truly have eyes for each other. A heart tug example of "just being" might be a glimpse of someone who has ridden this ride for many years and is now sitting in stillness in the riverfront park watching the moon rise.

Stopping and fully engaging seems to become more difficult as the world becomes more complex. Decisions, beliefs, desires and aspirations seem to shift more rapidly now in our society than in times past. Minds can race and feel cluttered. An illustration comes to mind. Many of us are familiar with the spring ritual of deep home cleaning and decluttering to begin the new year fresh. Wouldn't it be nice to do likewise internally? Wouldn't it be nice to sort through our being and toss what no longer is flattering; as if letting go of a worn, ill-fitting or unattractive article of clothing? Wouldn't it be prudent to address health challenges as if repairing an attention needing foundation? Yet, getting to this place of stillness to fully analyze this sorting and repairing process, can slip under the radar in our socially challenging times.

This reminds me of the fact that a home is only as strong as the bricks from which it is made. We, each one of us, is a specific brick in the cityscape of humanity. It is not selfish to stop, unplug, just be, sort through, address and repair. It is an act of service to self and to those around us. We become brighter, clearer, stronger, and ultimately a better support system for the bricks around us. All these lessons came more fully to the fore while floating. It was a jumpstart to the process. I am certain there are jumpstarts all around us. Immersing oneself in watching the majestic surf, consciously rising early to watch the sunrise, leisurely walking the dog, and with open heart, hugging one dear to us can all be the float tank of daily life. Yes, I love out of town guests. I love to show them my lovely little town, the delightful restaurants and the best beaches on the coast and I even more so, love sharing, learning and growing with my guests. ❖

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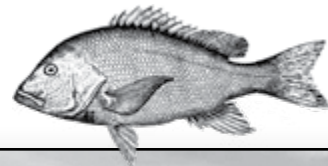
by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

March is a great time to go fishing and you don't need too much luck because our Treasure Coast waters are an angler's dream! Inshore, the bite is good for snook, redfish, sheepshead, and trout from high slack tide to the outgoing tide. Snook fishing is the main focus for many avid fishermen with pilchards and pinfish being top bait choices. Have your drag set tight when targeting snook as these linesiders are smart fighters and good at breaking off around pilings, docks, and other structures. Sheepshead are still plentiful on the inshore reefs and live shrimp will give you some steady action. I use light tackle with 30-pound fluorocarbon leader and a quarter ounce jig for a successful sheepshead trip.

Snapper have really been chewing offshore on the 60-90 foot reefs. Bottom fishing with live bait or cut-bait can bring opportunities for a variety of big snapper like mangroves, lanes, and muttuns. Remember to keep your bait on bottom with enough weight. Snapper like to tap your bait a couple times first but when you feel a solid pull, set the hook and reel.

This photo is of Stephen Noelke on charter with Pullin Drag holding up his personal best mangrove at 8.8 pounds! Great catch, Stephen!

Little Jim Bait & Tackle can answer questions about fishing rules and regulations, plus they have great bait, great food, and great drinks. So here's wishing you good luck on the water! Happy St. Patrick's Day and keep Pullin Drag! ❖



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Roots and Recipes IV

Recipes from My Roots – Isabella Mendez

Home is a feeling of being safe where you can relax and feel comfortable. Isabella feels her grandmother's house brings that feeling to her especially when she smells the amazing food she cooks coming from the kitchen. The taste of the food has different flavors and an explosive taste.



Ceviche is a healthy Peruvian dish that is usually served as an appetizer. It's generally made from raw fresh fish or shrimp that's marinated in lemon and/or lime citrus juices. It's Isabella's favorite dish that her family makes especially when her father makes it

The time when she felt most connected to her roots was at festivals or Quinceaneras. The music and food brought her close to her family, especially when they would make tamales for Christmas and New Year's. They would make so many they would eat them for months after.

for her. A specific memory is on her birthday when she and her family made it and she helped her grandma with peeling the shrimp and getting the fish. They had fun and shared jokes and it made it such a positive household. She is hooked on this dish and no pun intended.

Ceviche



- Shrimp
 - Limes
 - Lemons
 - Tomatoes
 - Red Onions
 - Cilantro
 - Jalapeno
 - Salt & Pepper
 - Cucumber
 - Avocado (optional)
- Cure in the juices and other ingredients

Recipe from My Roots is a collaboration with the St. Lucie County Public School's Career and Technical Education Program. Each month, Recipe from My Roots will feature a recipe from a student in the program and will highlight the significance of the recipe to that student.

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