



Volume 18, No. 8

March, 2023

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



**St. Lucie County
experiences a
record year
for tourism**

see page 9

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Main Street Focus
122 AE Backus Ave.
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the Air!

by Donna Sizemore



The official first day of Spring, in the Northern Hemisphere, is Monday, March 20, at 5:24 p.m. EST. Temperatures begin to slightly increase, and outdoor activities are planned! *Main Street Fort Pierce* has a plethora of activities planned for the outdoors this year and even more in the works for next year.

The Board Members, Director and Staff of *Main Street* met and began our Strategic Planning sessions for *Main Street Fort Pierce* and the outcome included several new and exciting ideas for downtown events that we believe that the community will enjoy. In addition to our current calendar of events some of these ideas included:

- Themed Friday Fests and maybe a cornhole tournament
- An additional Ghost Walk/Historical tour in February
- Bourbon Tasting Event

- Floral Arranging Class
- Fashion Show showcasing downtown business boutiques
- New Year's Eve Party Event on the river.

These are just a few of the new ideas that the Board has in mind. I'll keep you posted as each one comes to fruition.

Please mark your calendar for the first Friday of every month and join us downtown Fort Pierce, on the river, for our monthly *Friday Fest*. There is always a great band, lots of incredible food, and beverages.


St. Patrick's Day is a fun and festive celebration of Irish culture and celebrated on March 17th. Downtown Fort Pierce has several events scheduled for that weekend, one of which is a block party on 2nd Street on March 17th and 18th.

Have you watched the show *Yellowstone*? Well, if you are a fan you won't want to miss our *28th Annual Reverse Raffle* Event on Saturday, April 15th, 2023. There's an opportunity to win up to \$5,000 in prizes; a live auction; a silent auction; music, dancing and line dancing lessons; BBQ dinner and all for only \$100 per person. You are sure to see some Rip and Beth look-alikes. Go the *Main Street* website for more information and to obtain your tickets: mainstreetfortpierce.org.

As always, we thank our numerous volunteers for their hard work and support of ensuring that *Main Street Fort Pierce* remains the heartbeat of our community. ❖




			
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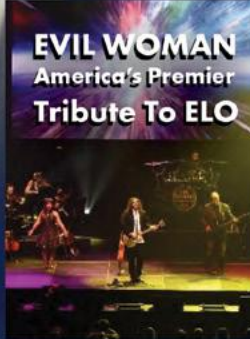


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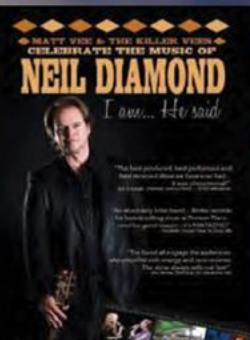
MAR 4




MAR 9



MAR 18



MAR 25



MAR 31

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Graphic Design	Susan M. Roberts
Contributing Writers	Joanne Blandford, Michael Howard, Mayor Linda Hudson, Anne Satterlee, Holly Theuns, Doris Tillman, Laura Louise Tingo
Photography	MaryAnn Ketcham, Valerie Krupa

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Coffee WITH THE MAYOR

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

Friday, March 17, at 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club
700 N. Indian River Drive

Sponsored by

Fort Pierce Yacht Club



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




FRIDAY FEST
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Calendar

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MONTHLY EVENTS

March 3, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by **Lindsey and Cash**; 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.**; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

March 9, Thursday: STREET DREAMS ON THE TREASURE COAST CAR SHOW — visit Facebook page for *Shift Culture*.

March 17, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; **Sponsor** – Fort Pierce Yacht Club; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.



March 17 & 18, Friday & Saturday: ST. PATRICK'S DAY DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE BLOCK PARTY — 2nd Street will be shut to celebrate the Luck of the Irish; live music on stage in the middle of 2nd Street; street pubs from **2nd Street Bistro** and **Sailfish Brewing Company**; a Vendor Village down to Orange Avenue and kid's area for families with wee ones; MARCH 17, 5–7 p.m., Violet Fraum Duo; 8–11 p.m., Rezen8; MARCH 18, 2–4 p.m. Potsdam Buskers; 5–7 p.m., Tombstone Chevy; 8–10 p.m., JamBush; visit www.sailfishbrewingco.com for more details or the Facebook page of Sailfish Brewing Company.

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

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, 6 to 8 p.m.
TheFortSteakhouse.com

Sailfish Brewing Company
facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company
Pierced Cider
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Cobbs Landing
cobbs-landing.com
Bottom's Up Public House
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121 Tapas on the Water
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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/

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

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**
- 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
 - Fort Pierce Police Athletic League**
772-370-6162 • fortpiercepal.com
Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606
 - Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society**
772-460-5299 • jazzsociety.org
 - Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center**
600 North Indian River Drive
772-489-6473 • cityoffortpierce.com
 - 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

- FEBRUARY: YOUTH ART MONTH
- MARCH 1: WORLD SEAGRASS DAY
 - MARCH 3: NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY
 - MARCH 3: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
 - MARCH 4: IDITAROD RACE
 - MARCH 11: KEY DEER AWARENESS DAY
 - MARCH 12: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS
 - MARCH 13: NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY
 - MARCH 14: NATIONAL PI DAY
 - MARCH 17: ST. PATRICK'S DAY
 - MARCH 18: SAVE THE FLORIDA PANTHER DAY
 - MARCH 20: WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR DAY
 - MARCH 29: MANATEE APPRECIATION DAY
 - MARCH 31: NATIONAL CRAYON DAY

Mayor's Message **Fort Pierce Police Department Celebrates a Century of Service**

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



One hundred years ago this March, the **Fort Pierce Police Department** was born.

In 1923, the city of Fort Pierce inaugurated a form of government wherein authority to make policy rested with a 3-person elected commission (that would change to five in 1927), one of whom was mayor with the city administered by a salaried city manager. Under the new regime, a Police Chief would be appointed by the city manager. The first Chief was Joseph Howard Richards, who had been the elected marshal. Born in Eden (settlement along the Indian River Lagoon just north of Jensen), Richards was the grandson of pioneer Eden settler Thomas E. Richards, a native of New Jersey. The city jail was located on Avenue A, between the FEC railroad tracks and U.S. 1.

The nature of crime in the Roaring Twenties was shaped by Prohibition-era smuggling and bootlegging of illegal spirits, traffic enforcement of drivers of the newly available automobiles and driving while intoxicated.

In 1951, the first African American officers were hired: Louis Gilchrist and Eddie Bailey. In 1973, the first female officer was hired: Fonda Doane. In 1988, construction was completed on the current police station on U.S. 1; in 2000, the Sergeant Willie B. Ellis substation was completed at 1220 Avenue D. Ellis was the first police officer killed in the line of duty.

Our city can be proud of our police department. We live in difficult times for law enforcement. The **Fort Pierce Police Department** is focused on crime reduction and community policing. In 2022, the FPPD dedicated the "Hero" statue at the main station and the **Sergeant Danny Parrish Fallen First Responders Park**. Parrish was killed in the line of duty in 1991. The main station is named for Captain Grover Cooper and



Sergeant Jimmy Wouter, both killed in the same 1987 line-of-duty incident.

Celebrations of the **Fort Pierce Police Department** in 2023 include a ceremony at the main police station at 920 S. U.S. 1 on March 21, and a **Back the Blue** event on Saturday, April 22, at Causeway Cover Marina. ❖

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Oyster Restoration

A fun and innovative event was held Saturday, February 4, in downtown Fort Pierce to build oyster mats for use in the Saint Lucie Estuary. There was an amazing turnout of volunteers enjoying a hands-on marine science experience at **Sailfish Brewing Company** who graciously hosted the event. Under the guidance of Lorae' Simpson Foltz, PhD, Director of Research and Conservation at **Florida Oceanographic Society** and Morgan Gilligan, Marine Scientist/Research Assistant, also of **Florida Oceanographic Society**, over 40 oyster restoration mats were created. The oyster mats, part of the *Living Docks Program*, will be deployed at docks in the Causeway Cove area and Mariner Bay to promote growth of living organisms which aids in improving water quality.

The *Living Docks Program* is supported by local citizens through the utilization of their docks for placement of



Lorae' Simpson Foltz, Bo Samuel, Zach Foltz, and Carrie Samuel ready to load up the mats.



Terri Foltz with Morgan Gilligan, Marine Scientist with Florida Oceanographic Society.



One completed oyster mat! Matt Samuel, Crystal Samuel, Bo Samuel, Dr. Lorae' Simpson Foltz, Kait Thomas, Bruce Foltz, Terri Foltz, Margie Lloyd.



This is how it's done! Matt Samuel and Brittany Doyle

oyster restoration mats and is funded by private donations. The particular mats created on Saturday were sponsored by a generous gift from Michael and Casi Jacquin of **Paul Jacquin & Sons, Inc.** and other involved sponsors. If you would like to be a part of saving our waters and want to learn more, please visit <https://www.floridaocean.org/living-docks>.

Dr. Simpson Foltz gives many thanks for the community rally around this event and to the great staff at **Sailfish Brewing Company**. Participants represented the *IRL National Estuary Program*, *Forest Grove Middle School*, *Girl Scouts*, *Fort Pierce Lions Club*, *Lincoln Park Academy "Students for H2O"*, **Pullin' Drag Charters**, **Manatee Observation & Education Center**, **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, and many other concerned citizens and dedicated volunteers. The cause is clear — cleaner waters start here! ❖



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Tourism in 2022 – A Record Year for St. Lucie County and Florida

St. Lucie County, which includes the city of Fort Pierce and city of Port St. Lucie and the beaches of Hutchinson Island, set a new record high for tourist development tax collections in fiscal year 2022. Just over \$6.3 million was collected, representing a 32.2% increase compared to the year prior. Tourist development taxes are generated from a 5% tax that is levied on overnight accommodations rented for six months or less. This includes hotels, motels, RV sites, private vacation rentals and others. The tax collections are a key indicator to measure the performance of the tourism industry in St. Lucie County.

“A combination of our robust economic development that generated corporate travelers, along with an influx of new residents that bring visiting friends and family, and a huge rebound in leisure travel since the pandemic all added to this increase — it was the trifecta for tourism growth in 2022,” said Charlotte Bireley, Director of Tourism & Marketing for St. Lucie County. “The County has also seen inventory growth with the addition of new hotels and campgrounds.”

“Another record year couldn’t have been achieved without the time and input from our *Tourist Development Council*. These dedicated and volunteer professionals regularly advise our Board and staff on the best use of our tourist tax revenues

so we can continue to market St. Lucie County and the cities to attract visitors and bring positive economic impact to our county,” stated Chris Dzadovsky, St. Lucie County Commissioner and Chairman of the *Tourist Development Council*.

The tourism success was also experienced on a statewide level. Bolstered by travelers from other states, Florida had a record 137.6 million visitors in 2022, stated Gov. Ron DeSantis’ office on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. People from other states accounted for just under 93 percent of Florida’s tourists. The overall visitor total was 12.9 percent higher than in 2021 and 5 percent higher than in 2019, the last full year before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the state.

About *Visit St. Lucie*: The *St. Lucie County Tourism Office*, also known as *Visit St. Lucie* is the official destination marketing organization for St. Lucie County. The office is responsible for marketing St. Lucie County and its cities as a destination and promoting activities and assets that will generate new or repeat visitors, thereby creating a positive economic impact for St. Lucie County. The office is funded by the County’s tourist development tax or “bed tax” that is paid by visitors staying in overnight accommodations for six months or less.

For more information call Charlotte Bireley, at (772) 462-1539 or email bireleyc@stlucieco.org. ❖



Music To Your Ears – “Juice & Jazz” returns to the Backus Museum

Enjoy a tuneful time on the Indian River for the return of the **Backus Museum’s** new choice outdoor concert event, *Juice & Jazz!* On Sunday, March 5 from 10:30–12:30, live music from the **Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society** on the Outdoor Mural Plaza complements a delicious assortment of sweet and savory delights with fresh juice from **Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice Company**, coffee and \$5 Mimosas, Bloody Marys, or Prosecco.



Tickets are \$25 in advance and can be purchased online at <https://backusmuseum.org/juice-jazz>, by phone at 772-465-0630 and at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. *Juice & Jazz* is a rain-or-shine event to benefit the **Backus Museum**.

At 12:30 p.m. we crescendo to the drawing for the annual **Win a Masterpiece of Florida Art Raffle**. This year, that masterpiece is a spectacular 18" x 24" oil painting by Sam Newton (b.1948), *Original Highwaymen* artist and inductee to the Florida Artist Hall of Fame. “Beautiful Morning,” 2005, eloquently captures the iconic beauty of Florida’s wild and wide terrains, through the eyes of one of the original masters of the beloved and unique landscape painting tradition that began here. This exceptional work of art is valued at \$6,500. The **Backus Museum** is grateful to *Highwaymen Art Specialists* for this generous donation to assist us in our nonprofit fundraising.

Only 2,500 tickets are available this year but are moving fast. Raffle tickets are offered for \$25 each, or three for \$60, or six for \$100 for the best deal and best chances! Supporters don’t have to be present to win, but *Juice & Jazz* is a great excuse to join us. Raffle tickets are available in advance while supplies

last, and supporters are encouraged to bring their stubs for the exciting drawing.

Join us for the new favorite opportunity for fun to advance the mission of the **Backus Museum!**

We are grateful to our generous sponsors for this event: **The Law Firm of Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd** — “John Coltrane Sponsor;” **Fortress RV & Boat Storage** — “Thelonious Monk Sponsor;” **Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice Company** — In-Kind Sponsor.

All dates and programming subject to change; please check the website for any updates or cancellations. We appreciate your understanding, your patience, and your support as we navigate the continuing pandemic challenges this season. ❖

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FPUA Awarded \$15 Million Resilient Florida Grant for Sewer Plant Relocation

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) has received a \$15 million award toward our sewer treatment plant relocation project from the *Florida Department of Environmental Protection* (FDEP) as part of the *Resilient Florida* grant program. The funds will be used toward the construction of the new **Mainland Water Reclamation Facility** and restoration of 2.23 acres of seagrass in the Indian River Lagoon. The *Resilient Florida* program aims to enhance Florida’s efforts to protect our waterways, coastlines, and shores using a coordinated approach to coastal and inland resiliency.

“This award is an investment in the resiliency of Fort Pierce and our critical utility infrastructure,” said **FPUA** Utility Director Javier Cisneros. “The relocation of our aging sewer treatment plant is our single largest active project and we are grateful to Governor DeSantis and the FDEP for their tremendous support.”

This award also represents a proactive effort by **FPUA** to seek grant funding in support of the relocation project and other critical utility projects. **FPUA’s** new *Public Affairs and Sustainability Department*, focused both on public engagement and grants, has submitted over \$40 million worth of grant



proposals in under one year. “These grants will provide a great benefit to the **FPUA** utility and customers, who would otherwise be funding these projects through rates,” said Public Affairs and Sustainability Manager Rachel Tennant.

On February 6, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that the award will be immediately available, using already-appropriated funding. Projects like **FPUA’s** wastewater treatment plant relocation “will ensure inland and coastal communities are prepared for the impacts of storm surge, hurricanes, and flooding, continuing our aggressive efforts to protect Florida’s natural resources and infrastructure,” said Governor Ron DeSantis in his announcement.

This critical project removes the existing island sewer treatment plant from the shores of the Indian River Lagoon, and places the new treatment plant five miles west, far away from the lagoon and in an industrial area away from neighborhoods. The project will replace aging infrastructure with new technology, increase resiliency, limit potential environmental impacts, and better serve the community.

The upgraded plant will be more energy-efficient and cost less to operate, saving our customers money. Its location next door to the *Florida Municipal Power Agency’s* natural gas power plant adds a unique sustainability element to the project too. The project will reduce an average two million gallons per day of draw from Florida’s aquifers by instead utilizing reuse water from the sewer plant for the 300 MW power plant cooling towers.

The **Mainland Sewer Treatment Plant** is a testament to **FPUA’s** commitment to providing the highest quality services to our community. We are honored and thankful to have been awarded this funding, and look forward to serving our customers with a new sewer treatment plant in the near future.

To learn more about this important relocation project, visit www.sustainablesewer.net. ❖

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GRAND PRIZE: Original Painting by SAM NEWTON, Original Highwaymen Artist, Florida Artist Hall of Fame, Valued at \$6,500.
 1st PRIZE: Limited Edition Hand-Textured Canvas Reproduction “Royal Paradise” by J.L.C. Foster, 18" x 24".
 FIVE 2nd PRIZES: \$75 Gift Certificates for Backus Museum Merchandise.
 TEN 3rd PRIZES: \$50 Gift Certificates for Backus Museum Merchandise.

The 5th Annual Charity Poker Run on the Water

The **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation**, the charitable arm of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, invites you to participate in their annual charity *Poker Run on the Water*, Saturday, April 1st from 12 noon to 4. The **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation** is a 501c3 and raises money to support the stewardship of the Indian River Lagoon, operate activities and programs which support the understanding and knowledge of boating and water safety, and supports the **FPYC** community mission.




From last year's charity Poker Run on the Water, the **FPYC Foundation** provided a scholarship to a college junior at *Indian River State College* for a summer internship at **FAU Harbor Branch** to do marine research. In addition, scholarships were provided for *Wesley Eco Camp*, an "immersive learning program that engages youth in environmental studies, restoration and stewardship of the *Indian River Lagoon*."

The charity *Poker Run on the Water* puts boaters and kayakers out on the water to have fun, fellowship, and to raise money. Docks are organized along the *Indian River Lagoon* for distribution of cards to players. When all stops are completed for each participant, they return to the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** for scoring and results, food, beverages, and music. Poker hands will be scored using standard poker hand rankings. **Pursuit Boats** is sponsoring a \$500 cash best hand.

There are opportunities for Business/Corporate Sponsorships as well as individual participation and this year's co-chairs of the charity *Poker Run on the Water* are Vice Commodore of Fleet, Victoria Westphal and Past Commodore and current Vice Commodore of Building and Grounds, Suzi Boardman.

To register or for more information on the charity *Poker Run on the Water* please go to: <https://www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com/poker-run> or email: fpycfoundation@gmail.com. ❖

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Welcome Home! From Casa Pasta Cucina

For an amazing homemade meal with a true Italian influence, head to **Casa Pasta Cucina**, a newly opened Italian restaurant in **The Galleria at Downtown Fort Pierce**. It's run by an enchanting, blended family from Argentina with a passion for cooking inspired by their Italian heritage, spanning generations. Chefs Patricia Albornoz, her son Matias Asenjo and Cousin Alejandro Parera all studied and graduated at the prestigious Gato Dumas Cooking School, one of the top culinary schools in Argentina, achieving multiple degrees and certificates, focusing their training on professional cooking, pastry, wine, baking, and beverages.



Matias spent much of his childhood with his grandfather who was from Calabria, Italy and his entire life enjoying the many flavors of Italy. Inspired by her mother and grandmother, Patricia partook in Italian family meal traditions where everyone gathered for Sunday dinner with family and friends. Once you've eaten at their table you're considered family, too.

At **Casa Pasta**, you'll more than likely be greeted at the Courtyard by Hostess and family friend Florencia Carca and

then ushered in by another family member, Head Waiter Rodrigo Eboli. They invite you to come and be **Casa Pastas'** guests of honor and "the most important people in their lives. The true raison d'être of their work," as Operating Manager (and husband of Patricia), Carlos Fernandez says. "We are a traditional family that loves our roots. When we discovered Fort Pierce, we loved the city and we felt identified with it. Because it is a city that, like us, loves its roots and its traditions."

After being honored to sample some of their signature dishes like Melanzane Alla Parmigiana, Casa Pasta Malfatti, Bolognese, Meat Balls, and Pomodoro, I look forward next in trying the Ossobuco Alla Milanese Risotto. I hear it is amazing! It's been difficult to resist returning, as they knead homemade pasta daily, the sauces adapted from old family recipes. The desserts, such as Affogato Al Caffe, Molten Cake, Tiramisu, and a traditional Pistachio Panna Cotta are a perfect complement to the end of the meal. And for the business crowd downtown, enjoy choices from their Fast Lunch Menu, a variety of quiches, paninis, and wraps along with toasts, and omelettes.

From **Casa Pasta**, "Welcome Home!" Grand Opening celebration is March 2nd. They can be found on social media @casa-pastacucina. And coming soon, their website is www.fortcaspasta.com. For reservations call 772-882-4984. ❖

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Pierce 1 Marina Making Progress at Fisherman's Wharf

Fort Pierce is one step closer to having its newest waterfront destination spot and the world's most advanced fully automated boat storage facility. **Pierce 1 Marina** is pleased to announce the company has submitted its site plan for Phase one to the *City of Fort Pierce*. Phase one will include improvements to the fishing pier, seawall, the dry-stack boat storage building, public docks, installing paved parking and the continuation of the greenway under the Seaway Drive bridge.



The *City of Fort Pierce* agreed to sell the 3.2 acres of waterfront property in Fort Pierce known as **Fisherman's Wharf** to **Pierce 1 Marina** in 2021. The property is located north of south causeway bridge along Indian River Drive. **Pierce 1 Marina** has agreed to pay \$5 million for the property.

"This is a monumental step in the development of **Fisherman's Wharf**," Chris Shelli, President of **Pierce 1 Marina**, said. "We began this process more than two years ago when we submitted an initial RFQ for the project. It takes a great deal of time and investment for a project like this to complete. We've had a large team of professionals working non-stop since we won the bid, including design, land development, environmental studies, borings and so much more. But it will be worth it. When this project is complete, it will be a crown jewel for the City of Fort Pierce, its residents and visitors. I'm anxious to put shovels in the ground!"

In addition to the purchase price, **Pierce 1 Marina** will refund the expense *Florida Inland Navigation District* made to

refurbish the boat ramp known as "Black Pearl boat ramp" and will contribute financially to have the boat ramp relocated to a safer and more accessible location. That new location, at *Harbor Pointe*, will include a better designed and engineered boat ramp system which will accommodate many more boats than the black pearl ramp.

Pierce 1 Marina is being developed by **Shelli Associates, Inc.**, a Fort Pierce, FL based finance and development company. The **Pierce 1 Marina** conceptual plan includes several 2-story signature restaurants, residential and retail spaces, a marina with a water taxi, lighthouse tower, a boardwalk connecting the project to downtown Fort Pierce and a fully-automated innovative dry stack boat storage facility (the **Boathouse**).

The proposed **Boathouse** will utilize the most advanced proprietary software in the world. The fully automated crane

technology will maximize the facility's dry storage capabilities and minimize boat retrieval time to the fastest in the world. The building will be hurricane rated to at least a category 5 hurricane, is environmentally friendly including solar and recycling boat washing system and will offer white glove concierge service to its clients. Shelli believes the boathouse will put Fort Pierce at the center of the maritime, boating and fishing industries. "As the first one of its kind in the world, I believe boating and fishing magazines will want this facility on their covers, putting Fort Pierce on the map in the maritime arena." The architectural style of the **Boathouse** pays homage to the history and architecture of the *City of Fort Pierce* and the nearby Edgar Town neighborhood.

Plans also include monthly "Rockin' the Wharf" events with concerts, food trucks, and festivals taking place along Indian River Drive and the boardwalk. **Shelli Associates** has already been contacted by more than a dozen restaurateurs and business owners with interest in leasing space.

Once permitted, construction for the entire project is expected to last 18 months.

Shelli Associates, LLC is a leader in the finance and development industry with more than 40 years' experience in financing billions of dollars of major projects throughout the United States and internationally. The firm has worked with clientele providing financial recommendations, assistance in obtaining loans for large scale commercial projects, and managing contracts and development projects. The **Fisherman's Wharf** project is being 100% fully financed through **Shelli Associates**.

"Many new developments are struggling to find financing for their projects," Shelli said. "Not only are we financing the **Fisherman's Wharf** project, but we have dozens of other projects throughout the United States and internationally worth billions of dollars that we are providing financing for. Learn more about **Shelli Associates** at www.ShelliAssociates.com." ❖

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Fair Winds are Blowing

by Robynn Holland, Community Liaison FPYC

January is the month of new resolutions, February the month of promised love, and in March the winds are “Roaring in like a lion and going out like a lamb.” When the wind starts to blow it often means new adventures and new horizons. Change can come quickly or slowly on the water, but all boaters know to keep an eye on the weather at all times and hope for fair winds.

Fort Pierce Yacht Club has certainly been experiencing their share of fair winds over the past few months. Although there has been a change of leadership and a new Board of Directors has been elected, some starting and others ending a term, the transition has been smooth sailing. Forest Blanton will remain Commodore, entering his second year at the helm of the **FPYC**.

The **FPYC** has really been “rocking the dock” over the past few months with several exciting events. On January 20th, the wind literally blew in special guest Sam Holmes, YouTube

solo sailing personality with over 209k followers. Sam stopped in Fort Pierce on his way sailing south as a guest of **FPYC** members, Past Commodore, Ken Milner and Vice Commodore of Fleet, Victoria Westphal.

During his visit he anchored at the **FPYC** dock and joined members at a Friday night social where he entertained members with his sailing adventures and answered questions. The next day he explored beautiful Fort Pierce, including the **Farmers Market**, and later in the week kite-boarded on the beautiful water in the *Indian River Lagoon*. His latest video on his *Sam Holmes Sailing* is entitled “My private island and Sailing to Ft. Pierce,” www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zt4qZ5DNYq4. You can



follow Sam and his sailing adventures, on YouTube at: *Sam Holmes Sailing*, or on Instagram: *@SamHolmesSailing*.

Another much-loved celebrity visiting the **FPYC** in February was sportswriter and long-time advocate for the *Indian River Lagoon*, Ed Killer. Mr. Killer is a 3rd generation Fort Pierce native and a long-time writer for the *TCPalm*. He has “covered outdoors, water quality issues and sports for *TCPalm* since 1994,” and is a prolific writer about all things outdoors. He was the guest speaker at the February **FPYC** members meeting and delighted his audience with stories and information about current issues on the water.

Regardless of which way the wind is blowing, one will find members of the **FPYC** out volunteering and enjoying the many social activities in Fort Pierce. Even though the wind was blowing hard on Saturday, January 14, it did not stop the **6th Annual Treasure Coast History Festival** sponsored by the **St. Lucie Historical Society**. Highlights were panel discussions in the historic **Sunrise Theater** including the history of *Lincoln Park Academy*, the **Sunrise Theater** and **Cow Creek Ranch**. All three entities “were born” in 1923 and are celebrating their 100th birthday this year! **FPYC** members who were sighted included Donna Special, Gary Bradford, Nancy and Greg Ryder, Ginny and Bob Harbison, Judy and Herb Bopp, and Robynn and Steve Holland. Greg Ryder, Bob Harbison, Herb Bopp, and Steve Holland braved the chilly winds to volunteer to help clean up after the event!!

A large crowd attended **Main Street Fort Pierce’s 5th Annual “Celebrating Florida”** on Thursday, February 9th including **FPYC** Commodore, Forest Blanton, and many other **FPYC** members. The art show featured artists Anita Prentice, Doretha Hair Trusdell, and master wood artist Jack Shelton. It was a delightful evening with three outstanding artists.

Change is certainly in the wind as the **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority’s (FPUA)** had a historic groundbreaking for their

Mainland Water Reclamation Facility. The groundbreaking took place February 3, at 4515 Energy Lane, the site of the new facility. After 20 years of planning the new facility is going to become a reality. “The sewer system’s conveyance system will be redirected from eastward to westward and the island plant is expected to be fully decommissioned in 2027.” Linda Hudson, Mayor of Fort Pierce, explained at the groundbreaking ceremony why the sewage plant was originally located on Hutchinson Island. “It was inherited from the Navy after WWII and there was nothing much on the island except mosquitoes and sand fleas!” While the sewer plant has obviously been updated since the mid 1940s, the new water reclamation facility will “replace aging infrastructure with new technology,” as well as protect the *Indian River Lagoon*. It was an historic afternoon for the *City of Fort Pierce*.

The **FPYC** is excited to be the sponsor of the March meeting of **Coffee with the Mayor**, held the 3rd Friday of the month, from 8:00 a.m. until 9 a.m. So regardless of how the wind is blowing that day, please join us for a delightful hour of community sharing of activities going on in beautiful Fort Pierce. Come early, seats go quickly and may you always have fair winds. ❖



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Love, JAZZ Community: Jazz Week – Our Gift to You

by Don Bestor

All year long, the members of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** make it our mission to provide great, live music at an affordable price and offer the community opportunities to enjoy live entertainment and a little bit of fun. Of course, we love to play and perform, but our real purpose is to raise funds for scholarships that are distributed to area students who are interested in a career in music and will become the next

generation to compose and provide the soundtrack of our lives. We are extremely grateful to the community for its support and encouragement of these endeavors, and once a year, we like to pull out all the stops and give back by sharing a whole week of awesome music from players near and far. 2023 is no exception, so mark your calendars and plan to join the fun ... all of it open to the public and much of it free.



Jazz Week 2023 will kick off on Sunday, March 19th with **Waterside Blues**. If you're not familiar with it, **Waterside Blues** is a free, annual concert held on Melody Lane, right by the fountains and the beautiful Indian River. This year, the afternoon concert will cover something for everyone, starting at 1:15 p.m. with **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society's** own **Jazz Ensemble**, playing music from the *All-American Songbook* and providing loads of opportunities for dancing and merriment. At 3 p.m., fan-favorites the **Reckless Shots** will take the stage and rock your world with bluesy guitars and an energy you just won't find elsewhere. Bring your lawn chairs, a blanket, or sit under the tents on chairs we'll provide — however you choose to listen, you'll enjoy every minute of this very special gift. Vendors will be on hand to offer adult beverages and food items to keep you well-fueled for the free afternoon of fun and music.

On Tuesday, we'll share our gratitude once again as we gather at the **Sunrise Black Box Theatre** in historic downtown Fort Pierce. We'll have our regular jam with sit-ins starting at 7 p.m., but at 8:30, the **Matt Wiggler Band** will take the stage and blow your mind. The **Matt Wiggler Band** has performed at venues and jazz/blues festivals around the world. Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Wiggler began his music career at the young age of 13, with the release of his first studio album. In 2009, Matt's second album, "Epiphony," was nominated for Best Jazz CD by the Washington DC Area Music Association.

As a musical artist, Matt has performed at major venues including The Kennedy Center, Strathmore Music Center, Adrienne Arsht Center, Detroit Music Hall, Blues Alley, Birdland Jazz Club, Monterey Blues Festival, and Motor City Blues & Boogie Woogie Festival. Wiggler's immense talent and ability to work a crowd will make for a memorable night of music and a great addition to **Jazz Week 2023**.

On Wednesday, we'll feature a special guest at our usual weekly jam session at **Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens** starting at 6:30, so help make hump-day go by with a little bit of music.

Thursdays during **Jazz Week** are always special as we close down 2nd Street and bring together **FDO**, our big-swingin' band playing music designed for dancing, which is exactly what will happen from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. right there on 2nd Street in our beautiful, historic downtown. It's fun for the whole family, and there are loads of wonderful eateries right there in downtown, so you can grab dinner and get a free show, to boot.

To wind up **Jazz Week 2023**, we'll be offering one final free concert on Melody Lane, and this one is perfect for a lunchtime picnic. Our beloved and talented Max Duhalde and his **Latin Heritage Band** will set the perfect tempo to start your weekend early and will play from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. right there by the waterside in Fort Pierce. And just when you thought it was safe to call the week and take off your dancing shoes, think again because at 7 p.m. at the **Sunrise Black Box**, we're planning one last thank you event to share our gratitude and love of music with the community we call home. We're not going to tell you who the surprise guest will be; just trust us — you'll want to be there to join the fun and enjoy the music.

We know it's a lot, and believe us, we're beat by the end of the week with all those concerts, but we wouldn't have it any other way, and we hope you wouldn't either. If you'd like to know more about what we do and how you can get involved, give us a call today at 772.460.JAZZ, or stop by one of our live events and introduce yourself. And if you want to know about all our upcoming gigs in advance so you can plan your week, become a member with just a click at www.jazzsociety.org, and we'll send you an invite to every one of them. ❖

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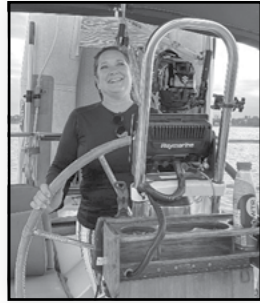
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On the Water

by FPYC Vice Commodore of Fleet, Victoria Westphal

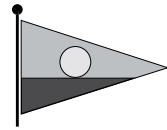
Water and wind are a very important part of life at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club, (FPYC)** and as the recently elected Vice Commodore of Fleet, I am excited to share information about our racing, along with cruises and raft ups, in which all our boaters can participate. **FPYC** kicked off our racing season with the first race of the year, the *Eggnog Race*. Rescheduled from a previous date



of January 2nd, four boats enjoyed the lovely weather, the camaraderie of being out on the water, and an exciting race. Due to light air, the committee opted for a shorter course of 6.8 nautical miles. The start line had three boats going over almost simultaneously. While SeaHawk II was over the start line last. They pulled out in front and were the 1st around the virtual 10A mark, with Ephyra rounding 2nd, then Perseverance close on her stern, and Sunday II rounding a couple of minutes later. After rounding 2R and heading to the finish, SeaHawk II crossed, with Perseverance, Ephyra, then Sunday II. After corrected time the order of finish was: 1st, Perseverance with Joe and Debbie Krivan; 2nd, Ephyra with Carl Fitz; 3rd, SeaHawk II with Fred Kern; 4th, Sunday II with Diane Korbey. If this sounds exciting to you and you want in on the action, e-mail vcfleetfpyc@gmail.com for more information on the racing schedule.

Women who sail are also an important part of the **FPYC** fleet activities and on Saturday, March 11th, the **FPYC** will be having the semiannual *Women at the Helm Race*, which is a memorial race, recognizing the first female **FPYC** Commodore Betty Jo Porter. Fleet will also be re-launching a *Women Who Boat* program with an exciting speaker, Janet Zimmerman, Assistant Executive Director at Florida Inland Navigation District. *Women Who Boat*

is a social and educational program to bring together women who are avid and not-so-avid boaters, to gather together those who have access to boats with those that do not, and to increase basic skills across the different experience levels. The awards dinner, which is open to everyone, will be held on Sunday, March 12th. Doors open at 4; dinner is at 5. ❖





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Support Manatees: Register for the 15th Annual Manatee Center 5K Race

by Jessica Kadie Barclay, Manatee Center Manager & Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation Board Member

Challenge yourself and support manatees at the same time! By registering for the *15th Annual Manatee Center 5K* (\$35) and one-mile (\$20) in support of the *Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation (TCMF)* you'll sweat for a good cause. The *TCMF* is a 501 (c)(3) organization established to support and enhance environmental awareness, education, conservation, and stewardship of endangered species and natural resources fulfilling its mission through the **Manatee Observation and Education Center (MOEC)**.

This race is the primary fundraiser for *TCMF*. All proceeds stay local and are dedicated to enhancing environmental education through the **Manatee Observation and Education Center**.

This year's 5K will be held on Saturday, March 18th 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.

Registering for the *Manatee Center 5K* helps ensure the continuity of these important manatee education programs offered through the **Manatee Center** and will continue to inspire future generations to care for and protect our beloved Florida manatees.

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://runsignup.com/Race/FL/FortPierce/TCMFManateeCenter5K>. ❖



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TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, March 25, 1923 edition of the Tampa Tribune

Chief of Police

Howard Richards, who the early part of December while the city administration was in power was elected to the office of city marshal, has been appointed chief of police by City Manager Ryan, and the appointment confirmed by the commission.

100 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, March 25, 1923 edition of the Tampa Tribune

Work Progressing

Boy Scout work in St. Lucie County is expanding and interest therein growing. The second troop was formed here Wednesday night, with County Clerk P.C. Eldred as scoutmaster and the third is to be formed next Wednesday night with R.E. Falls as scoutmaster.

100 years ago this month as reported in the Monday, March 5, 1923 edition of the Tampa Tribune

President Harding Expected to Make Visit to Ft. Pierce

President Harding while en route on his houseboat cruise down Indian River is expected to stop at Fort Pierce for a game of golf on the local course, as has been his custom on previous trips.

Preparations are being made for his entertainment and it is regarded as certain that he will stop over.

On one of his previous trips, after enjoying several rounds of golf on the local course, Mr. Harding pronounced the course one of the "sportiest" that he had ever played on.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Monday, March 1, 1948 edition of the Miami News

Fort Pierce Asks Beach Facilities

Provision of public facilities at Fort Pierce beaches has been set up as one of the major objectives of the Chamber of Commerce for the year.

At present, in so far as the public is concerned, there are no such facilities – only an open stretch of beach.

Were living and other facilities available, Chamber of Commerce board members contend, thousands of people would come here winter and summer to enjoy the beach.

The county already has budgeted funds with which to launch improvement of the old coast guard house of refuge area on North Beach, which is under long term lease to the county, and it is this area that probably will receive first attention.

Chamber directors also have called for improvement of the roads leading to the beaches, and for enforcement of zoning and building regulations applicable in the area.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Tuesday, Saturday, March 25, 1948 edition of the Miami Herald

Handcar Crew Leaps as Train Crushes It

The Florida East Coast Railway's north bound Champion, crack passenger train loaded with vacationists returning to their homes in the North from South Florida, was in a freak accident here Friday morning and delayed for a couple of hours, but no one was injured.

The train struck a motorized railroad handcar in the south end of town and pushed the car ahead for some 500 feet before coming to a halt. The two men who were on the car jumped and escaped injury. Neither were any of the train crewmen or passengers injured.

Air Brakes Locked

A piece of wreckage from the handcar, however, flew under the

train's big Diesel engine and severed a pressure pipe, causing the air brakes to lock. The train was uncoupled, the Diesel brought into town for repairs, and the coaches were pulled in a few minutes later. The train left at 1:10 p.m. to resume its northward trip.

Riding on the handcar were A.B. Bennett, signalman, of St. Augustine, and Robert Rouse of Oak Hill. They were returning from work at White City. The accident occurred on a curve.

The riders said they misjudged the time the train was due, and the first thing they knew it was rounding the curve. The two tried to slow up to lift the car off the tracks, saw they couldn't make it, then tried to speed up to outrun the train, which was beginning to slow down behind them.

They saw they didn't have time for that either, so they both leaped from the car just before the train struck it.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, March 21, 1948 edition of the Miami Herald

Easter Egg Hunt Planned for Indian Hills Children

The Easter Bunny will hide colored eggs for kiddies of members at Indian Hills Country club Easter Sunday. The children will be on hand to hunt for the eggs at 4 o'clock.

This is an annual event planned for little folks and this year Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fee are to be hosts, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bial and Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Register.

Each child is to take three colored eggs and a basket.



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Local Company Produces Line of Products to Highlight Bond Between Loved Ones

When Sandee Allen's first child was born in 1977, she coined the phrase "I Love You The Whole Wide World." It was a phrase that stayed with us through the years and relayed her all-encompassing love for her children and now, her grandchildren.

Five years ago, when she felt things starting to go astray in the world, she thought many people could benefit from knowing there was someone close to them that loved them above all else, that their world was better because they were in each other's lives.

Her idea was to create merchandise that relayed the special bond between loved ones, thus, the "I Love You The Whole Wide World" collection was born.

The recent creation of jewelry, teddy bears and decorative pillows will give you the opportunity to tell your special someone that message. Sandee invites all to visit her website www.thewholewideworld.store and view the beautiful products. Updates to the baby line will be available this spring. ❖



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How the SBA Helps Entrepreneurs Start and Grow Their Businesses

by U.S. Small Business Administration, www.sba.gov

Starting a business is a hallmark of the American Dream. Did you know that more than 10 million Americans have started small businesses in the last two years? This National Entrepreneurship Week, February 11-18, check out SBA's resources and programs so you too may one day join the millions who have already realized their dream of small business ownership.

Starting Your Business — Starting a business involves planning, making key financial decisions, and completing a series of legal activities. The SBA's Business Guide breaks everything down, step by step.

Planning: What is the need for your product or service? How can you find a competitive edge? Conducting market research will help you answer these important questions and form the basis for your business plan. If you're unfamiliar with how to write one, the SBA has you covered. An effective business plan showcases your value to lenders and investors, both of whom can assist you with funding.

Launching: It should come as no surprise that a lot of decision-making comes with starting a business from the ground up. Where should you build your business? Should you have a brick-and-mortar location, or is an online store enough? Choosing the right name and business structure will have a big impact on your trajectory. And, of course, there is registering your business, getting the proper tax IDs, and applying



for licenses and bank accounts. It can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. The SBA can walk you through it all with an expert perspective.

Growing Your Business — Once you've mastered your day-to-day and achieved a certain level of success, you'll want to take your business to the next level. The SBA can help you reach new heights.

Managing: What is standing between you and your next business goal? Perhaps it's upgrading a critical piece of equipment or revisiting your business plan altogether. Whether it's buying new assets, optimizing your marketing and sales strategies, or anything else management-related, the SBA can point you in the right direction. That goes for emergency- and disaster-preparedness, too.

Expanding: Growth could mean several things to you as a business owner. Maybe you want to invest more money or expand to new locations. The SBA offers resources for both. There is also assistance for entrepreneurs who want to branch out into uncharted territory. Are you interested in exporting your products or getting involved in government contracting? Reach out to the SBA to learn how.

Of course, SBA resource partners are here to support you every step of the way. Like you, the SBA's network is made up of those who share a strong passion for entrepreneurship. For more information about starting or growing your own small business, visit sba.gov/starting. ❖

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Treasure Coast Gold

by Captain Bo Samuel

March is a great month to try your luck at fishing and prove why we are known as the Treasure Coast! Our local waters are an angler's dream with many amazing species that will have you eating like a king. Inshore and offshore anglers are catching snappers, redfish, cobia, snapper, tarpon, snook, and sheepshead. Snook are highly prized for their great fight and amazing taste. I recommend live finger mullet, pinfish, or croakers when focusing on snook. A tight drag is a must for these smart fighters as they are very good at breaking off around pilings, docks, and other structures. Sheepshead are still around the inshore reefs and some live shrimp will definitely help get the action going. Target permit with live shrimp or blue crab on shallow nearshore reefs.

Offshore bottom fishing has been great for the snapper bite around the 60-90 foot reefs. Using live bait or cut-bait with enough weight will usually lead to a variety of big snapper like mangroves, lanes, and mutttons. Snapper will tap your bait a couple times but when you feel a solid pull, set the hook and crank the reel. Nothing beats catching your own snapper for a fresh fish dinner.

The photo this month comes from a recent oyster matting event for the *Living Docks Program* sponsored by *Florida Oceanographic Society* under the guidance of Dr. Lorae' Simpson Foltz who is holding one of the completed oyster mats. This event was hosted by *Sailfish Brewing Company* in downtown Fort Pierce. These mats will be placed around the Causeway Cove area to help improve local water quality by



promoting the growth of living organisms. Saving our waters is key to sustaining a healthy fishing industry.

If you're looking for that famous pot o' gold, it's in our Treasure Coast waters! Come visit me at **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** where there's always time for food, fun, and fishing. Here's hoping your St. Patrick's Day includes a bit of luck *Pullin Drag!* ❖



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Favorite Recipes from Main Street Board Members

Brooke Harris — Zucchini Lasagna



Ingredients

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 5 medium zucchinis, sliced into 1/8-inch slices | 2 cups spinach, chopped |
| 1 lb. lean ground turkey or ground chicken | 2 cloves garlic, minced |
| 1 onion, diced | Seasoning – salt & pepper to taste |
| 2 cups broccoli, chopped small | 1 25-oz. jar spaghetti sauce |
| 2 cups cauliflower, chopped small | 2 cups cottage cheese |
| | 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese |
| | 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese |

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 425° and line baking pan with parchment paper.
- Place sliced zucchini on baking pan and bake 5 minutes; flip zucchini and bake 5 more minutes.
- Remove zucchini from oven and adjust oven heat to 375°.
- In large non-stick skillet, cook meat until browned. Add the vegetables, seasonings, and spaghetti sauce. Simmer until vegetables begin to soften, stirring occasionally (about 10 minutes.) Set skillet aside.
- Mix cottage cheese and Parmesan cheese together.
- Spray two 8" x 8" or one 9" x 13" baking dish(es) with cooking spray.
- Layer baking dish(es) as follows: 1/3 meat sauce; 1/3 zucchini "noodles;" half of the cheese mixture. Repeat layer(s) for 2nd time.
- Top two layers of ingredients with 1/3 meat sauce and 1/3 zucchini "noodles"
- Sprinkle mozzarella cheese on top
- Cover with foil and bake at 375° for 50 minutes.
- Remove foil and bake uncovered for 10 more minutes.
- Let sit for 10 minutes before serving.

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