



Volume 17, No. 4 November, 2021

# FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

American Express Small Business Saturday  
*Join Us in Historic Downtown on November 27*



The Sights & Sounds Holiday Festival & Parade  
*Downtown Fort Pierce on Sunday, December 5*



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



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

**Friday, November 19, at 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club**  
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*Sponsored by*




**HOSTED BY**  
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**Food Family Friends Fun**  
1st Friday of each month, Historic Downtown Fort Pierce  
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**Join Us at Friday Fest on November 5th with Live Music by Big Coque**



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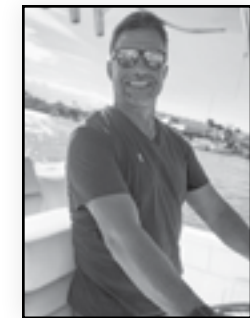
130 S. Indian River Dr., Suite 402  
Downtown Fort Pierce

Telephone: 772.468.8887  
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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

# Enjoy the Holiday Spirit in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

by Britt Reynolds




We are getting back into the groove of doing what we do best — organizing public events. Did you catch *Friday Fest* or the *Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Walking Tours* last month? These are both of our events and ones we work hard to put on for the community. If you have not been to *Friday Fest* lately come check out the new layout and enjoy the cooler weather downtown.

Speaking of public events, one of our most special events will be back this year — the *Sights & Sounds Festival & Parade* which is immediately followed by the lighting of the community tree and the start of the *Holiday Lights Spectacular* show

that will be on display every evening in Marina Square for the entire month of December and through the New Year. All of this fun happens on Sunday, December 5th.

Downtown Fort Pierce is the only place you need to go to get your holiday shopping done. There are some special merchant events happening this month to help you get ahead of the chaos and frenzy of holiday shopping. Check out the annual *American Express Small Business Saturday* event happening the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Downtown Fort Pierce has a special passport promotion where every completed passport is entered into a drawing for a chance to win a downtown shopping spree. Each year the prize gets bigger and bigger. Don't miss this fun holiday shopping tradition.

*We hope to see you often downtown during the holiday season.*

**MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE**

Volume 17, No. 4      November 2021

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# Calendar

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



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

**November 19, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR** — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; *Sponsor – Fort Pierce Utilities Authority*; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; [mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://mainstreetfortpierce.org).

**November 27, Saturday: AMERICAN EXPRESS SHOP SMALL SATURDAY & Downtown Fort Pierce Annual Passport Shopping Event** — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; see details on next page.

## SAVE THE DATE

**December 5, Sunday: 33RD ANNUAL SIGHTS & SOUNDS ON SECOND FESTIVAL & PARADE with Annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony & start of Holiday Lights Spectacular show on Melody Lane** — 466-3880; [mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://mainstreetfortpierce.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](http://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

**Sailfish Brewing Company**  
*Facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company*  
**Pierced Cider**  
*Facebook @piercedcider*  
**Cobbs Landing**  
*cobbs-landing.com*

**Bottom's Up Public House**  
*facebook.com/bottomsuppublichouse*

## SUNRISE THEATRE & SUNRISE BLACK BOX

772-461-4775 • [sunrisetheatre.com](http://sunrisetheatre.com)

**Tuesdays: Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre** — 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.; 460-5299; [jazzsociety.org](http://jazzsociety.org).

## MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • [ManateeEducationCenter.org](http://ManateeEducationCenter.org)

## DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

462-2787 • [www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/](http://www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/)  
Page to Screen Book & Film Discussion Group for adults; e-mail [johnsonjen@stlucieco.org](mailto: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](http://commongroundvineyard.com).

**First Church;** 464-0440, [firstchurchfp.org](http://firstchurchfp.org).

**Fort Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church;** 940-6728, [haitianmethodist.org](http://haitianmethodist.org).

**Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church;** 466-9617, [notredamecc.com](http://notredamecc.com).

**St. Andrews Episcopal Church** (*founded 1893*); 461-5009 [mystandrews.org](http://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](http://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](http://st-lucie.lib.fl.us)

**Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society**  
772-460-5299 • [jazzsociety.org](http://jazzsociety.org)

**Fort Pierce Police Athletic League**  
772-370-6162 • [fortpiercepal.com](http://fortpiercepal.com)  
Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

**Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center**  
600 North Indian River Drive  
772-489-6473 • [cityoffortpierce.com](http://cityoffortpierce.com)

**Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society**  
772-460-5299 • [jazzsociety.org](http://jazzsociety.org)

**Heathcote Botanical Gardens**  
772-464-4672  
[heathcotebotanicalgardens.org](http://heathcotebotanicalgardens.org)

**Manatee Observation & Education Center**  
772-429-6266 • [ManateeEducationCenter.org](http://ManateeEducationCenter.org)

**National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum**  
772-595-5845 • [navysealmuseum.org](http://navysealmuseum.org)

**St. Lucie County Marine Center**  
772-462-3474  
[stlucieco.gov/marine\\_center](http://stlucieco.gov/marine_center)

**St. Lucie County Regional History Center**  
772-462-1795 • [stlucieco.gov/history](http://stlucieco.gov/history)

NOVEMBER 1: NATIONAL CALZONE DAY

NOVEMBER 2: ELECTION DAY

NOVEMBER 4: USE YOUR COMMON SENSE DAY

NOVEMBER 5: AMERICAN FOOTBALL DAY

NOVEMBER 6: NATIONAL SAXOPHONE DAY

NOVEMBER 7: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

NOVEMBER 10: MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER 10: NATIONAL VANILLA CUPCAKE DAY

NOVEMBER 11: VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 14: CHILDREN'S DAY

NOVEMBER 16: NATIONAL ENTREPRENEUR'S DAY

NOVEMBER 19: NATIONAL PLAY MONOPOLY DAY

NOVEMBER 23: FIBONACCI DAY

NOVEMBER 23: NATIONAL ESPRESSO DAY

NOVEMBER 25: THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 26: BLACK FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 27: SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 28: HANUKKAH

## Shop Local for the Holidays in Downtown Fort Pierce

The businesses of downtown Fort Pierce have your gift buying needs covered for this holiday season. Shop downtown for the most personalized gifts for your friends and loved ones. Check out these fun holiday shopping opportunities:

**Jarvis Treasure Boutique:** Sunday, November 14th, **St. Andrews Episcopal School** fundraiser. Friday, November 19th *Pink Friday*; [www.jarvistreasures.com](http://www.jarvistreasures.com), 101 N. U.S. Hwy. 1, 127 – **Historic Arcade Building**.

**Chic & Shore's 8th Annual Holiday Open House & Customer Appreciation Day** – Saturday, November 13th. Facebook page – [chicandshorethings.com](http://chicandshorethings.com), 205 N. 2nd Street.

**Art Walk** – Friday, November 19th, 5 to 8 p.m.

**Shop Small Saturday** – November 27th. **Shop Small Saturday** is a national event held on the Saturday after

Thanksgiving. This year, if you visit downtown Fort Pierce on **Shop Small Saturday** you can enter a chance to win a downtown shopping spree worth over a \$1,000. To enter this free drawing, participants need to pick up a downtown passport at **Chic and Shore Things** (205 N. 2nd Street) starting at 10:00 a.m. Have your passports stamped by eight participating businesses and return the stamped passports to Notions & Potions (116 N. 2nd Street, #103) by 6:00 p.m. The drawing will take place shortly on Facebook Live at 6:30 p.m. that evening, and the winner takes all. Participants need not be present to win but must be over 18 years old. Shop Small Saturday is a great day to get most or all of your holiday shopping completed early while supporting your local merchants.

## Save-the-Seagrass Fundraiser Comes to Downtown Fort Pierce

*Pierced Ciderworks Hosts Save-the-Seagrass Fundraiser for Manatee Awareness Month*

**Pierced Ciderworks** is partnering locally with the **Manatee Observation and Education Center (MOEC)** and **Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation (TCMF)** to celebrate **Manatee Awareness Month** with a fundraiser to **Save the Seagrass!** The event is on Saturday, November 6th from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 411 N. Second Street in Downtown Fort Pierce.

This free admission, outdoor event will include live music, plant-your-own seagrass activity, a large silent auction (just in time for the holidays!), prize wheel, bake sale, limited edition cider on tap, and more.

All fundraising proceeds will be directed to the Moore's Creek restoration project bringing freshwater and saltwater grasses from 7th Street all the way east to the **Manatee Center**. This seagrass restoration project comes at a time when the Florida manatee population is in peril. A record-breaking 957 manatees were found deceased so far in 2021, many sick or starving from lack of natural food sources in the Indian River Lagoon.

The planting of seagrass will begin in Spring 2022, and result in one acre of submerged aquatic vegetation in Moore's Creek. Donations to support this important project can also be directed to [www.GoFundMe.com/f/SaveTheSeagrass](http://www.GoFundMe.com/f/SaveTheSeagrass).

MOEC is a not-for-profit environmental learning center, located in downtown Fort Pierce, at the basin of Moore's Creek and the Indian River Lagoon. Now in its 25th year, the mission of MOEC is to promote understanding and responsible actions for the protection of the Treasure Coast's fragile ecosystem and its inhabitants. Innovative exhibits and displays allow for an up-close look at some of the unique and amazing creatures found along the Treasure Coast, as well as an opportunity to see the threatened Florida manatee in its native habitat. To volunteer or support the Center's continued work, please visit the **Manatee Center** at 480 North Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce, or call 772-429-6266 to learn more. ❖

# Mayor's Message **Fort Pierce To Evaluate District Boundaries for Equality, Fairness**

by *Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce*



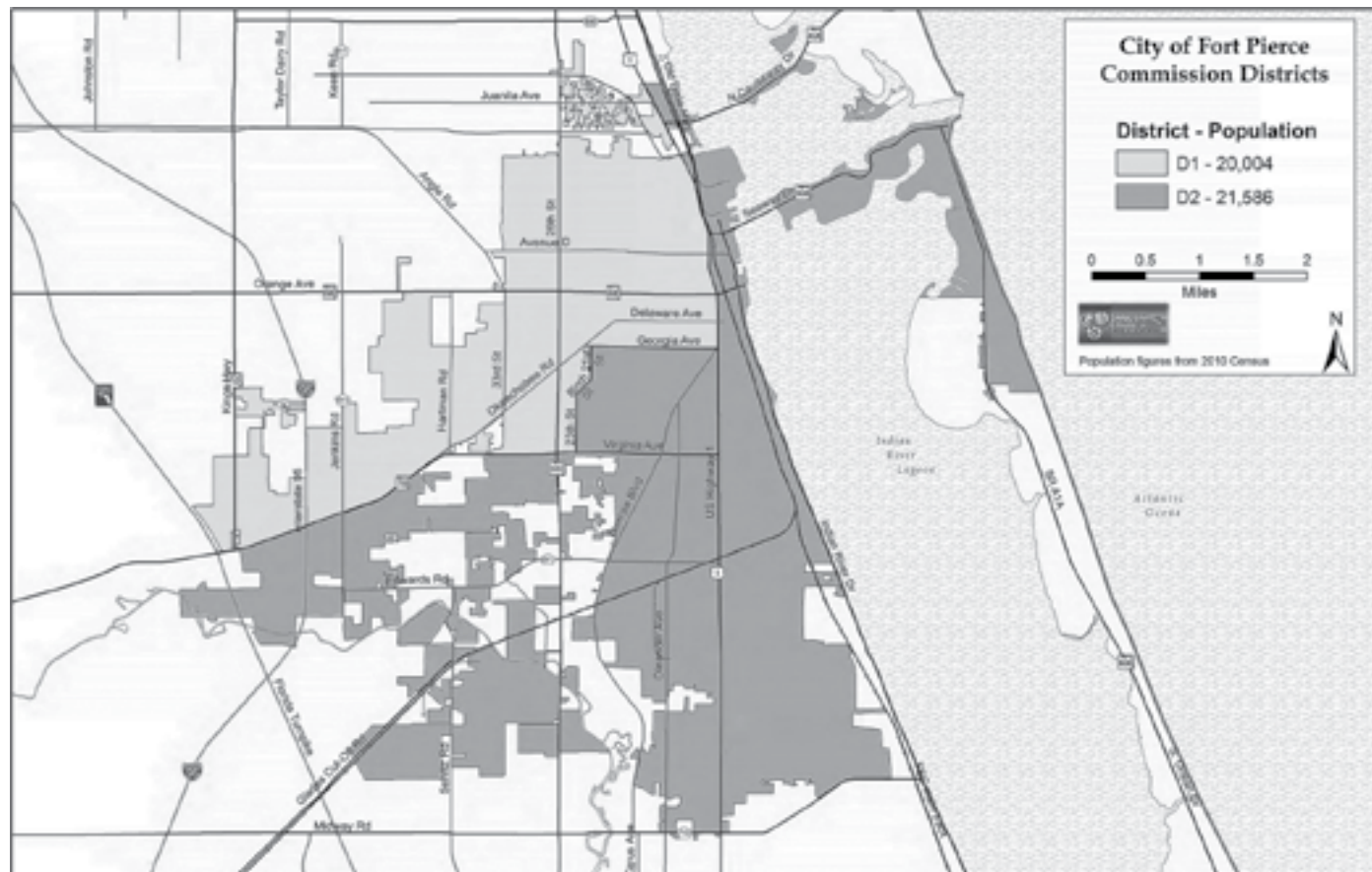
As a result of the U.S. Census every ten years, Fort Pierce has the legal commitment to insure “one man, one vote.” We do this by redistricting, a process by which legislative bodies equalize the differences in population of districts by making adjustments to district boundaries.

Fort Pierce charter language reads “The City of Fort Pierce shall have two (2) election districts to be known as District 1 and District 2. The boundary between said districts shall be determined by ordinance of the city commission on a periodic

basis. The district boundaries shall be adjusted in accordance with population changes as reported by the official U.S. census, so that the population of the two (2) districts remains approximately equal.”

According to Kurt Spitzer, in a Florida League of Cities webinar on drawing district boundaries, there are some general guidelines to follow when adjusting district boundaries.

Districts should make sense, be approximately equal in population, easy to understand, follow natural or man-made boundaries, like major roads or water bodies, and be compact and contiguous. Districts should not dilute minority voting



strength. Population means people, not registered voters. Nearly equal means about 3% or less differences between districts; districts with greater than 10% differences are problematic and probably subject to court challenge. There are rare exceptions to these guidelines, but they must be very well documented and compelling.

It is impossible to be 100% compliant with all of the general guidelines, but it's desirable not to draw incumbents out of their districts and to keep communities of interest in the same district. It is not desirable to draw a district boundary that is tortuous and does not make logical sense. We are prohibited from drawing district boundaries that discriminate based on race or language.

The Fort Pierce City commission has begun its initial process by tasking staff to contract with a third party to assist us in evaluating our current districts, and redrawing our district

boundaries, if necessary. We are committed to fairness and following best practices.

District One, roughly north of Georgia Avenue and Okeechobee Road, is currently represented by Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr. A special election is scheduled for December 7 to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Rufus J. Alexander, who died July 28, 2021. District Two, roughly south of Georgia Avenue and Okeechobee Road, and including South Beach, is currently represented by Commissioners Tom Perona and Jeremiah Johnson. These candidates are elected by the voters in their respective districts. The Mayor of Fort Pierce is the only elected official who runs citywide.

For more information about the redistricting process in Fort Pierce, contact me and/or any Commissioner. We want the public to understand the process and trust the resulting boundary changes, if indeed changes are necessary. ❖



## The City of Fort Pierce Launches Economic Development Initiatives

The City of Fort Pierce is pleased to announce the launch of a new website dedicated to the economic development and redevelopment activities in the Sunrise City. The website, [choosefortpierce.com](http://choosefortpierce.com), features interactive mapping tools, incentive information and is a hub for economic plans, studies, and reports, like the new *Retail and Market Study by Colliers International* and the recently updated *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency Plan*.

Economic Development has been identified as a high priority in the City's strategic plan. This new site is part of an ongoing commitment to ensure that resources to support the Fort Pierce community and economy are readily available.

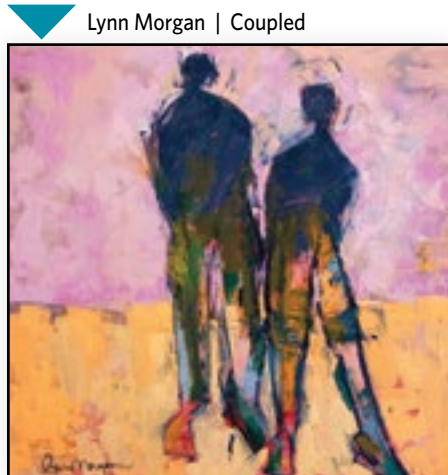
In addition, the *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency* (FPRA) recently approved several grant programs to support redevelopment projects, commercial property improvements, and residential infill development throughout the FPRA, including Commercial Façade Grants, Interior Uplift Grants, Business Innovation Grants, Residential Infill Grants, and a new Lien Reduction Incentive for new residential construction. The Commercial Façade Grant program will be the first to launch later this month. Information on the grants can be found online at <https://choosefortpierce.com/969/FPRA-Incentive-Program>.

For more information, please contact the City Manager's Office at 772-465-4170.

# The Backus Museum Announces the Prize-Winning Works of Art for the 40th Best of the Best Annual Juried Exhibition

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery is pleased to announce the prize-winning works of art that have been selected for the **2021 Juried Art Exhibition The Best of the Best**. A jury panel of three independent judges voted to accept 85 entries out of 243 submissions in four categories: Oil/Acrylics, Watercolor, Varied Techniques, and Three-Dimensional. The jurors selected the awards with the exception of the Director's Choice, which was selected by Marshall Adams, the museum's director. While on view, the public has the opportunity to vote for the People's Choice Award, which will be announced at the close of the exhibition. **The Best of the Best** is on view through November 12 at 500 N. Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

Name	Title	Category	Prize Awarded
Scott Woodward	Red-Winged Blackbird	Oil/Acrylic	Best of Show
Lynn Morgan	Coupled	Oil/Acrylic	Director's Choice
Karen Leffel-Massengill	Pigeon Key Shadows	Oil/Acrylic	First Place
Karin Huggins	Mother of Pearl	Oil/Acrylic	Second Place
Karen Leffel-Massengill	Marina Morning Revisted	Oil/Acrylic	Third Place
Angela Leggio	The Tendu	Oil/Acrylic	Award of Merit
Angela Leggio	Mabel and Her Posse	Oil/Acrylic	Award of Merit
Tom Gion	En Cathedra Del Mar	Oil/Acrylic	Award of Merit
Jenna Anderson	"Deep" Sleep	Oil/Acrylic	Award of Merit
Georgina Love	Early Bird	Oil/Acrylic	Award of Merit



Lynn Morgan | Coupled



Karen Leffel-Massengill | Pigeon Key Shadows



Frank Spino | Lemon Wedges

Frank Spino	Lemon Wedges	Watercolor	First Place
Lisa Arnold Franklin	Illusions	Watercolor	Second Place
Mary Gardner	Sardines	Watercolor	Third Place
Lynn Brouillette	My Way	Watercolor	Award of Merit
Lisa Arnold Franklin	Mondrian's Dream	Watercolor	Award of Merit
Frank Spino	Calamondins	Inside & Outside Watercolor	Award of Merit
Joyce McAdams	In a Jellyfish's Garden	Varied Techniques	First Place
Nancy Smyth Yannetti	Out of the Woods	Varied Techniques	Second Place
Barbara Lyons	The Domino Players	Varied Techniques	Third Place
Agnes Manganelli	Reborn	Varied Techniques	Award of Merit
George Pillorgé	Woman with Laptop	Varied Techniques	Award of Merit
Esta Rubin	Flight of Fancy	Varied Techniques	Award of Merit
Brenda Truesdale	Mother and Child II	Three-Dimensional	First Place
Jack Shelton	Pretty in Pink	Three-Dimensional	Second Place
Jane Goulston	Sand Man	Three-Dimensional	Third Place
Joan Earnhart	A Questionable Balance	Three Dimensional	Award of Merit
Eduardo Gomez Rojas	El Moro	Three Dimensional	Award of Merit
Laura Kay Whiticar-Darvill	"Why Can't We All Get Along Like Fish?"	Three-Dimensional	Award of Merit



Scott Woodward  
Red-Winged  
Blackbird

This year marks the 40th juried exhibition hosted by the **Backus Museum**. First presented in 1981 as the "Four County Juried Exhibition," today **The Best of the Best** has extended its participation over the years to amateur and professional artists throughout Florida and even beyond.

The judges for **The Best of the Best 2021** were Rebecca Eagan (Winter Park), Kevin Hutchinson (Stuart), and Derek Sober (West Palm Beach).

Regular Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 p.m. (closed Monday–Tuesday). Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. Visitors are asked to follow the latest public health guidance for the safety and comfort of guests, staff, and volunteers. ❖



**Nancy Arledge**  
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**Join Us**

Wednesday  
November 10th  
at 4 p.m.  
515 Avenue A



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# Havana George Café – Come as Strangers, Leave as Friends

by Dale S. van der Lugt

Have you tried this popular lunch spot, **Havana George Café**? George and Zaida Quesada, owners and operators of this authentic Cuban café, found that retirement did not suit them but, knew if they came out of retirement, it was important to do something they really enjoy. It had to be an extension of home, a natural move. Insert Zaida’s lilting voice saying, “It’s the whole experience, the food, the music, decorations; the smiles, friendliness, large and small, it’s all good here.” And then George whispers in my ear, “it’s my perfume.” And he might be right. — that smell of roasted pork ... garlic wafting its seduction in the air. It all draws the customers in and keeps them coming back.



George has a storied career as head-chef in such restaurants as the Fountain Bleu, Eden-Roc, and The Playboy Hotel and Country Club — and most importantly, The Diplomat Hotel — where he spent close to twenty years serving famous patrons such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., and The Beach Boys. But he takes greatest pride out of the restaurants he and Zaida created — full-service restaurant and bar Mambo Jambo and most recently, **Havana George Café** right here in local Downtown Fort Pierce.

They both remarked this is exactly what they wanted. Zaida explains everything on the menu is already foolproof, tested through the times, choosing only the best they’ve ever offered for **Havana George Café**. Sometimes, they will offer a special, and if it takes off they will elevate it to a menu item. So, if

you find something you really love and don’t see it on the board, mention it! It’s like a once daily special, the chicken, bacon and cheese sandwich with tomato and chipotle mayo, that George suggested to a customer to try pressed, and voilà, “The Fort” was invented!

It is evident George loves to please and his satisfaction is to see his guests happy with his food. Often heard

from locals is “The Best Cuban Sandwich Ever!”

And do yourself a favor, ditch the diet and have the dessert! Zaida’ pastelitos are made from the best ingredients she can find, sourcing the best guava paste and making the tastiest dough. And there are cakes and other bakery items often featured. Enjoy them with a Café Cubano, Cuban style coffees with a **Havana George Café** twist.

**Havana George Café** — come as strangers, leave as friends. Located in **The Galleria at Downtown Fort Pierce**; [www.facebook.com/Havana-George-Café-110461311244210](http://www.facebook.com/Havana-George-Café-110461311244210). ❖

*“You name it, We can prepare it”*



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(Historical Arcade Building, Corner US1 Orange Ave.)



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772.236.3482

# Sushi-Go: Fresh, Fast, Fun

by Dale S. van der Lugt

Historic Downtown Fort Pierce has turned into a kaleidoscope of numerous cultural traditions and representations in food and community. “A place of depth and progression, where every step is a different experience, with lots of personalities coming together in community,” says local business owners and entrepreneurs Saw Myat and brother, Saw



“Tommy” Cho. Together with their Dad Saw Thein, the three have chosen to open a “fresh, healthy alternative to fast food with an Asian twist,” as Saw Myat calls it.

**Sushi-Go** brings a bit of their home country Myanmar (Burma) with them. **Sushi-Go** offers sushi, poke bowls, and frothy boba tea to go. Their plan is to contribute and be a part of the building growth in Downtown Fort Pierce and sees it as a tight-knit area where its local businesses band together, supporting the local community. Downtown Fort Pierce is a place Saw calls, a “gem.”

Together, this family collaboration brings over twenty

years’ experience including franchising a sushi-to-go business through Publix stores located in Stuart, Jensen, and Port Saint Lucie. **Sushi-Go** is located in **The Galleria at Downtown Fort Pierce** and caters more to what they want and can adapt their business model as they recognize what their local clientele is looking for. While Dad Saw is more traditional, what son Saw Myat

brings to the table is “out-of-the-box” experimentation in food presentations and combinations. He is the “Sushi-ritto” and poke bowl expert. Tommy is into fitness and would like to see the smoothie recipes they offer expand further and developed to their guests’ taste preferences. He says look for green smoothies in the future.

Both brothers expressed that healthy food should not be a luxury. “Often fast-food venues have a stigma of being unhealthy and loaded with things that are bad for our bodies,” Tommy says. “Instead, it should be affordable, fast, and friendly.” “By offering sushi rolls, poke bowls and nutrient-rich smoothies, we wanted to add lots of colors and cuisine, different fruits, vegetables, and meats to create nutritious dishes and drinks. Our vision is to be able to open multiple restaurants and spread positivity throughout different communities to have the option of eating delicious, fun and healthy meals that provide energy, mind power, and most of all genuine smiles on each and every one of our customers faces.”

Join me in welcoming this family startup, **Sushi-Go**. Find them on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/SushiGO.MainSt/about> and at <https://www.instagram.com/sushiigo>. ❖

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## Firefighter Combat Challenge World Championship Comes to the Manatee Center

by Rachel Tennant, Manatee Observation & Education Center Manager

The **Manatee Center** is proud to welcome the **Firefighter Combat Challenge World Championship** this November 2nd through 6th! Join us for a special family day event open to the public on Saturday, November 6th. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day, enjoy *free admission* to the **Manatee Center** as well as an assortment of activities, educational games, and guest exhibitors bringing hands-on activities for a day of family fun. There will also be hourly fish-feedings and special visits from *Moe the Manatee* mascot that you don't want to miss! *Family Fun* is open to the public, and you do not need to be a **Firefighter Combat Challenge** participant to join.

**Manatee Center** activities will be geared toward fun for kids and family, alongside the World Championship challenge

happening in the **Manatee Center** parking lot area. The **Firefighter Combat Challenge** also brings with it a special **Kids Firefighter Challenge**, complete with stair climb slide, tunnel, hammer-slammer, and fire hose.

The **Manatee Center** is grateful for the opportunity to bring this event to you alongside the Treasure Coast Sports Commission and St. Lucie County Tourism, and grateful to all of our volunteers who make this possible. If you are interested in volunteering either in the exhibit hall, gift shop, or back office, please contact MOEC Volunteer Coordinator Wren Underwood at [Volunteer@ManateeEducationCenter.org](mailto:Volunteer@ManateeEducationCenter.org). And remember that all purchases at the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop** support the **Manatee Center** and our mission. ❖

## Manatee Center and Foundation Bring Seagrass Restoration to Moore's Creek

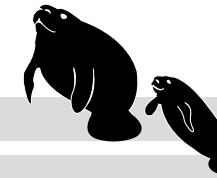
by Rachel Tennant, Manatee Observation & Education Center Manager

Later in the evening on Saturday, November 6th, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., join the **Manatee Center** and Foundation at **Pierced Ciderworks** in Downtown Fort Pierce for a fabulous fundraiser to *Save the Seagrass!* We are raising \$65,000 to restore one-half mile of seagrass in Moore's Creek from 7th Street all the way east to the **Manatee Center**, where seagrass restoration will double as a living exhibit for **Manatee Center** visitors to learn all about the logistics and importance of restoring seagrass in the Indian River Lagoon.

The Doris M. Carter Family Foundation will generously match \$10,000 raised at this important fundraising event, which means that every dollar raised on November 6th will actually represent \$2 toward seagrass restoration in Downtown Fort Pierce. We'll be raising funds through a silent auction, swag sales, prize wheel, 50/50, bake sale, and more.

This restoration comes at a time when manatees have died in record-breaking numbers due to starvation, apparently while swimming through the Indian River Lagoon. As of October 8th, 968 manatees died in Florida. The previous record was 830 manatees in all of calendar year 2013. The Moore's Creek project will not only bring a half-mile of grasses to the Indian River Lagoon, which will equal just under one acre of grasses, but will also be connecting to an existing project on 7th Street that is led by St. Lucie County and Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. Having a larger contiguous restoration project increases the opportunity for this ecosystem to restore and thrive.

With your support, we will bring this important restoration project to our community. So come on out, enjoy the live music and dancing, and *Save the Seagrass* with us! ❖



## The Manatee Center November Events

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

Dreaming of something fun to do with your family this fall? Why wait? Join us at the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** for some educational fun! Check out these awesome upcoming events!

**Saturdays, November 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 9 a.m.**

### Guided Kayak Trip

Look for wildlife, get up close and personal with mangroves, learn about the Indian River Lagoon on an easy ninety-minute paddle led by a MOEC naturalist. Great for intermediate kayakers who want to learn more about the Indian River Lagoon. The fee for this program is \$30 per person and includes kayak, paddle and safety gear. *Registration is required.* Call 772-429-6266 option #3 or email [Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org](mailto:Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org) for more information or to register.

**Saturday, November 6th at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**Firefighter Combat Challenge World Championship Family Day**

Support the St. Lucie County Firefighters as they defend their 2020 World Championship Title at this year's world championship, coming to Downtown Fort Pierce. Free admission, extra activities throughout the MOEC property and parking lot all day long.

**Saturday, November 6th at 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**  
**Ciderworks for Manatees: Save the Seagrass!**

Fundraiser at **Pierced Ciderworks**. There will be live swing music, amazing silent auction, prize wheel, seagrass plantings activity, and limited edition cider on tap to celebrate *Manatee Awareness Month*. All funds raised are being directed to the seagrass restoration project in Moore's Creek. We are raising \$65,000 to restore one-half mile of Moore's Creek with important grass habitat. Learn more at [www.GoFundMe.com/f/SaveTheSeagrass](http://www.GoFundMe.com/f/SaveTheSeagrass).

**Wednesday, November 10th at 11 a.m.**  
ManaTales Storytime and Crafts at the **Manatee Center**. Free with admission and led by the **Manatee Center** Educator.

**Friday, November 12th at 12 p.m.**  
**"Manatee Mystique" by Diane Morgan**  
*Lunch & Learn* — Kick off *Manatee Awareness Month* with a free presentation at the Manatee Center to learn all about manatees. Bring your lunch and bring a friend. *Free Event.*

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# Downtown Business Profile: Gloria Roa Bodin

## Famous American Immigrants who Helped Make America Great

Albert Einstein, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Alex Trebek, Bob Hope, Cary Grant, Oscar de la Renta, Michael J. Fox, Elon Musk and Melania Trump... What do all these people have in common? They are famous immigrants.

Most of these famous icons entered the United States as extraordinary or exceptional non-citizens. Except, of course, Melania Trump, a Ukrainian National and former model, who married a famous United States citizen.

Not all foreigners come to the U.S. undocumented or across the border. In our immigration law offices, we represent internationally renowned clients, such as a singer/composer/guitarist from South Africa; a real estate condo developer from Mexico; a Rear Admiral from Peru; a Balloon Artists; Guinness Book of Record winner from Venezuela; a soccer coach from the United Kingdom; a high fashion clothing designer from Germany, and many, many more.

Described below are the visas (green cards) available for the small percentage who have risen to the top of their field or have knowledge and experience that will benefit the U.S. economy, culture, or welfare (National Interest Waiver) or who have sustained national or international acclaim as exceptional/extraordinary individuals. The majority can self-petition.

Names of clients set forth below have been changed to ensure confidentiality.

**Employment Based One:** An alien possessed of extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics which has been demonstrated by sustained national or international acclaim and whose achievements have been recognized in the field through extensive documentation,

Juan Nunez, national of Venezuela, a violinist with Bolivar Symphony, Orchestra from Venezuela, who has performed different national and international tours through the most important stages in the world since 2004 to 2018 as a leading violinist.

### Employment Based 2 (EB2) Exceptional National Interest Waiver:

An alien of exceptional ability or advanced degree that has an endeavor that is of substantial merit and national importance and that he or she are well position to work on the endeavor. Also, must show because of his/her exceptional

ability he/she will substantially benefit the national economy, cultural or educational interests or welfare of the United States. Advantage: No job offer is required. Alien can self-petition. James Dolan, Doctor from Ireland was approved as a Health Services Administrator to work in inner city poor areas.

**Employment Based 2 (EB2) Schedule A, Group II:** Schedule A, Group II category requires a full-time job offer



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and documentary evidence that the beneficiary satisfies at least two of \*seven listed criteria. These criteria require proof of widespread acclaim and international recognition accorded to the foreign national by recognized experts in their field. Frank Solis, an attorney from Spain approved as an arbitrator to handle airline crash disputes.

**Employment Based Three Labor Certification PERM:** Application requires a job offer. Labor Certification PERM is the most widely used employment-based opportunity for obtaining a green card. Labor Certification PERM requires a U.S. employer to prove that there are no minimally qualified U.S. workers for the position. Once the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) "certifies" this application, the employer will be able to apply to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for permanent residency (a "green card") for the foreign employee. Aldrich Kittman, a Computer Science Engineer from Australia obtained a job offer from a Fortune 500 company. This position required advertising the position two Sundays

in a newspaper of general circulation to see if anyone qualified, willing and able was available.

**Employment Based Five Job Creation Visa:** Entrepreneurs who will invest \$500,000 to \$1 million in a job-creating enterprise that employs at least 10 full-time U.S. workers. No job offer required; just proof of source of investment funds. James McDonald sold his townhouse in Scotland for 1.3 million and invested \$500,000 in a manufacturing company in Ocala with 18 employees.

Gloria Roa Bodin is the President and owner of Gloria Roa Bodin, a Professional Association, with offices in Miami and Fort Pierce. She has been practicing immigration and visa procedures for more than 40 years. She is the author of *Immigration Law for Paralegals* (Fourth Edition) Carolina Academic Press. She has a bi-weekly radio show and regularly lectures on immigration and visa procedures. She is a graduate of UCLA Law School and a member in good standing of the Florida Bar and American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). ❖

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For over 20 years, the Education Foundation's biggest fundraising event has always been known as an "Evening for Education" featuring an elegant dinner celebrating public education. This year, for our 30th anniversary, we invite you to join us by enjoying an elegant dinner at your leisure and support the Education Foundation by participating in our **ONLINE AUCTION**.

Tickets are \$75.00 per person or \$65 for a teacher or School District employee. This will be a donation to the Education Foundation.

Tickets are valid from Nov 13 through Dec 5 with \$25 off any dinner at participating restaurants.\*  
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\*Note: Donor presents ticket to the restaurant and the Education Foundation reimburses \$25 back to the restaurant.

At your leisure enjoy your dinner and enter the ClickBid link anytime from November 7 to December 6 and shop for the holidays!  
 Contact Thom Jones at [thom.jones@efslc.org](mailto:thom.jones@efslc.org) or call 772 485-4790 for details.



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**Put together a plan.**  
 Since there is no guarantee that you won't lose power, decide now what you and your family will do should you lose power during a storm.  
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## Plein Air Painters of the Treasure Coast Art Show & Sale

Thursday, November 18th | 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. | Platts/Backus House | Main Street Fort Pierce Office | 122 A.E. Backus Avenue



The French phrase “En Plein Air” translates to roughly to “in the open air” and describes the act of painting outdoors, out of the studio and in the heart of nature. These artists capture the essence of a place at a particular moment of time — the shadows, the multitude of color, variances of light, and the effects of weather (sun, rain, wind, etc.) on a landscape. Landscape paintings painted *En Plein Air* had a rise in popularity with works created by famous artists such as Monet, Renoir, and Van Gogh. Our local Florida Hall of Fame Artists — A.E. Backus and the Highwaymen — used this technique to create many of their paintings.

*Main Street Fort Pierce* is proud to present a special art show on Thursday, November 18th, that will feature three artists whose art captures the beauty of the local area. Lori McNamara, Judi LeBlanc, and Diane Mesagno will each showcase their perspectives of local outdoor scenes, and this event is a wonderful opportunity to view local landscapes and find unique gifts for loved ones and friends for this holiday season.

Lori McNamara was born in Fort Pierce and still lives in her old home on Indian River Drive. She loves to paint the natural beauty of Florida and going to all the wonderful parks and beaches of Fort Pierce. She is the leader of *Plein Air Painters of the Treasure Coast* and organizes their paint outs. They paint at local places of interest in and around Fort Pierce.

Judi LeBlanc is a British artist who studied fine art at Wimbledon College of Art, London, UK. She arrived on the Treasure Coast just last year and quickly found the *Plein Air Painters of the Treasure Coast* run by Lori McNamara, who can be found every Thursday painting the views around Fort Pierce. As Judi says, “I arrived in Florida just as Covid became the new norm, and quickly fell in love with the Treasure Coast. The enthusiasm and friendliness



## Jazz Crafts and Arts Market Vendor Spotlight: *George Hewitt*

by Henry Szmyt



The **Jazz, Crafts and Arts Market** is thriving again. After a tenuous Covid start and persistent rains, the crowds are back, and tents are up. It cannot be overstated how important the market is to the vendors and the artists who show up every week, rain or shine to share their handcrafted treasures and talents with all of us. The **Jazz, Crafts and Arts Market** is their downtown storefront without the glass and the rent. As a result, we have talented vendors who have been with us for years. One of them is **George Hewitt**. George is a wood sculptor who has been exhibiting at the market for 15 years.

George has a fascinating story. He has been an arborist for 40 years and had plenty of work after various hurricanes. In fact, he was in Homestead when the infamous Hurricane Andrew hit. About 20 years ago, George decided to carve the wood instead of just cutting it. His experience as an arborist lets him spot perfect wood, sometimes on people’s property and happy to get rid of it. He uses a chain saw, die grinder, and palm sander for his carvings. Four coats of spar polyurethane are applied to the finished sculptures before they are ready for you to view, enjoy, and take home to display for all of your family and friends.

Incidentally, all the sculptures you see are done in old wood that has been down for a while and is nice and stable. His new carving is a tribute to some of the area’s most sought-after residents — the ones we don’t always have a chance to see up close. The ferocious bulldog pictured here is also his creation. ❖



of those I’ve met, and the stunning landscape are a constant source of inspiration. Not to mention the unique experience of hearing alligators grunting as I set up an easel, that, and the ever-changing views make the Treasure Coast the most exciting and beautiful place to paint, never dull.” For website details, see: [www.JudiLeblanc.com](http://www.JudiLeblanc.com).

Diane Mesagno was born and raised in New York and graduated from the New York Institute of Technology with a

degree in architecture. Before starting her career in architecture, she studied sculpture in Austria. Since moving to Florida, she devotes her time and energy to the disciplines of fine art; oil an acrylic painting, sculpture and murals. Her recent work depicts Florida land and seascapes painted plein aire.

This is an art show not to be missed. Come view and potentially own a piece of Florida captured forever on canvas by these talented artists. ❖



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# Love, JAZZ Community: Free Waterside Blues Concert Helps Us All "Turn the Page"

by Don Bestor

Every year, *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society* hosts a free blues concert on the waterfront at Melody Lane in beautiful downtown Fort Pierce as a way of showing our gratitude to the community which supports our efforts and enjoys our music all throughout the rest of the year. We bring a phenomenally talented group or musician down, set up all the equipment, and do our best to please Mother Nature, who always smiles down on our efforts to share great music and gratitude with the community. With a pandemic finally in decline and people starting to come out and play a little more often, on Sunday, November 21st, the stage will be up; the equipment will be hauled out, and the musicians will be ready to share an afternoon of professional music that won't cost you a single penny and may even help you to finally "turn the page" on the nightmare that has been this pandemic.

All we ask of you is that you bring your own lawn chairs and leave the bottles and cans at home. We'll have delicious food and refreshing beverages available throughout the afternoon of music we lovingly refer to as *Waterside Blues*, which will begin at 1 p.m. and go until 5 p.m. We'll start off with a little bit of jazz, then we'll take a left turn and bring you a little blues. And this year, we have a really special musical treat with the *Silver Mullet Band*. The *Silver Mullet Band* is a band dedicated to continuing the Bob Seger music experience, with nine fabulously talented musicians who will provide an afternoon of favorites like "Night Moves," "Turn the Page," "Like a Rock," and so many others. The free concert will begin at 1 p.m. with a long set from the *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society's* pros. At 2:30, they'll take a break and the stage will be re-set and the sound re-mixed for the *Silver Mullet Band* to start at 3 p.m.

It's an afternoon of music, fun, and friendship, and it's one way we can thank you for supporting our efforts throughout the rest of the year. Every time you come to a Tuesday evening *Jazz Jam* or spend a Wednesday night at the **Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens** and listen to great music at a great price, you help us provide thousands of dollars in scholarships for talented young musicians who are destined to be the stars of tomorrow. And we're grateful for that.

If you'd like to learn more about *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society*, or if you'd like to share the gift of membership with someone to show your own gratitude during this season of thanks, please visit us at [www.jazzsociety.org](http://www.jazzsociety.org), or call us today at 772-460-JAZZ. ❖



# TREASURES OF THE PAST

*100 years ago this month as reported in the Tuesday, November 1, 1921 edition of the Oklahoma Daily Live Stock News*

## Rum Smuggling Chief Industry Whiskey Runners Have No Fear of Law and Slow-Steamers Cutters

Liquor smuggling is the biggest industry along the southern Atlantic coast. The traffic goes on sweeping from Florida and Georgia ports to distant parts of the United States, in spite of prohibition laws and enforcement efforts.

Rum smugglers and bootleggers along the Florida coast make no secret of their lack of fear of punishment....

Aside from Miami and Savannah the chief rum smuggling ports along the southeastern coast are Jacksonville, Fernandina, West Palm Beach and Fort Pierce, in Florida and Charleston, S.C.

There isn't a single resort where liquor cannot be purchased, at low prices and in large quantities.

Palm Beach, Miami, and St. Augustine are expecting a rich harvest from the tourist trade this winter. One big hotel owner candidly said: "I hope the government doesn't do anything to stop the liquor coming in this winter, because we are depending on booze to keep the hotel filled with contented guests, and I hope liquor stays cheap like it is now...."

At Fort Pierce, a junction point mid-way between Miami and Jacksonville, liquor comes in from West End, in the Bahama islands, seventy-six miles away. Scotch whiskey can be had for \$4 a quart....

*100 years ago this month as reported in the Tuesday, November 15, 1921 edition of the Miami News*

## Two Ashley Brothers Thought Lost at Sea

### Ed and Frank Ashley Enroute From Bimini to Fort Pierce Caught in Storm

Reports from Fort Pierce state that Ed and Frank Ashley are

believed to have met death during a recent storm while enroute in a boat from Bimini to Fort Pierce. Another boat which has just reached port at Fort Pierce reports the Ashleys as declaring they would go down with their cargo. The Ashleys have not been seen since.

Ed and Frank Ashley are brothers of John Ashley, who is serving a term in the state penitentiary for the murder of an Indian. The Ashleys have been notorious characters in South Florida for years.

*75 years ago this month as reported by Sunday, November 17, 1946 edition of the Miami Herald*

## Mrs. Binney's Music Sung at Carnegie

Mrs. Edwin Binney of Fort Pierce and Old Greenwich, Conn., made her musical debut in New York's Carnegie Hall Friday night when Vladmir Elin, baritone, sang a group of songs, music for which she wrote. Rudolf Schaar was at the piano and Ray Fox assisted with the violin.

Mrs. Binney is one of St. Lucie County's pioneer winter residents. The 80-year-old composer is the mother of a son and three daughters, one of the latter, Mrs. Dorothy Blanding, being a resident of this community.

*75 years ago this month as reported by the Monday, November 18, 1946 edition of the Miami Herald*

## Fort Pierce Land Bought for Building

Sale of some 443 Fort Pierce lots to the newly-formed Fort Pierce Beach Development Co. headed by D.M. Siff of Miami, was announced Sunday.

Others in firm include Jack Liberman, New York radio manufacturer, and Joseph Laurans, head of a Miami Beach investment house.

Herbert N. Schwarz of Miami, attorney for the purchasers,



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said plans call for construction of an oceanfront hotel, and several apartment houses.

The city commission last week authorized issuance of temporary permits for remodeling existing Navy buildings on the property into 250 housing units.

*25 years ago this month as reported by Jim Reeder in the Saturday, November 30, 1996 edition of the Palm Beach Post*

## Money Coming to Study Redoing Sunrise Theatre

A \$15,000 grant to study the feasibility of restoring the old Sunrise Theatre in downtown Fort Pierce has been approved and a check should arrive soon from the state Bureau of Historic Preservation.

"The Sunrise Theatre ranked No. 2 on a list of 76 projects seeking the money," said Fred Gaske, grant supervisor for the state Bureau of Historic Preservation.

"The grant is for a feasibility study to guide and complement the architectural restoration," Gaske said.

Backers of the restoration project hope reopening the 1,000-

seat theatre will boost downtown Fort Pierce's revitalization just as the Lyric Theatre did for Stuart.

The project is also ranked No. 2 on a separate project list. That probably means the state legislature will approve a \$450,400 grant to help restore the theatre.

Local backers still must raise about \$2.5 million for the project, which they hold will end with the theatre's reopening in about three years.

Secretary of State Sandra Mortham, whose office administers historic-preservation grants, toured the Sunrise Theatre on Sept. 17 with Main Street Manager Doris Tillman and state Rep. Ken Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie.

All three expressed optimism that the legislature will approve the \$450,400 grant.

Employees of Columbia Lawnwood Regional Medical Center held a community workday in September to clear the interior of trash and tattered furnishings.

The Sunrise Theatre was built in 1943 by Rupert Koblegard, grandfather of city Commissioner Mary Ann Bryan.

## Annual Thanksgiving Food Giveaway Hosted by the City of Fort Pierce and Treasure Coast Food Bank Host


The City of Fort Pierce, in partnership with the Treasure Coast Food Bank, will host the Annual Thanksgiving Giveaway on Saturday, November 13, 2021, in an effort to help families prepare for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

The free, drive-thru food distribution will be held at Percy Peek Gymnasium, 2902 Avenue D in Fort Pierce, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or until supplies are distributed. Our goal is to distribute 500 holiday boxes, filled with the fixings for a family meal, along with a meat protein.

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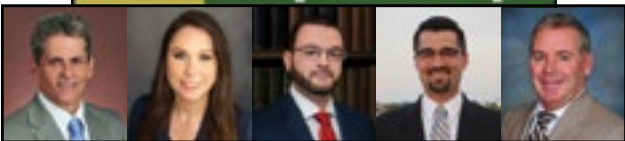
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# Choices

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



As I sit to write this article, I am pulled in several different directions. Yes, I had the morning news on. I navigated between several channels to be exposed to as many different views as possible. Frankly, we all have our unique thoughts on current events and the swirl of activity around us. Although it all grabs our attention, we go on about our daily affairs because this is what humans do. We make plans and we continue to make decisions big and small.

Currently in the throes of buying my home, the murmurings I see on the news profoundly shape my thinking. I am conscious of the need to make wise decisions even more so at this juncture in the world's history. Looking ahead used to be easier. We saw familiar terrain. We knew the basic "rules of the road." It feels as if this is no longer the case. We are experiencing things that are completely new to us. At times, it feels like driving in a foreign country where we are unsure of protocol, like being surrounded by an unknown language that blocks communication, like eating unfamiliar foods with unknown origin; all rather unsettling.

One of my morning musings is, how do we, despite uncertainty, still view life as an adventure awaiting our engagement? How do we, despite the thorns, enjoy the roses and, as far as I am personally concerned, how can I, without fear,

relish the process of finding a home and settling in? One way I have found to do this is to see the extraordinary in the ordinary. The home I have chosen, it seems, actually chose me. Years ago, I rented a lovely condo because of its immediate availability and proximity to my gallery. Although it was nice, it did not capture my heart. One thing that did call to me was a little patch of what would become a garden, just outside the living room window. It was where I sat and worked on my computer and, believe it or not, where I am sitting at this very moment working on the very same computer. Yup, years and several moves later, I am in the exact same condo! Somehow it unfolded that this spot would call me back home.

A delight that does not miss my attention is how the little garden that I planted years ago, just on a whim, as I never expected to stay here long and certainly never envisioned returning, is one of my favorite things about my "new" home. Planting just a few seeds years ago has produced heartwarming results. A smidge of attention back then combined with mother nature's magic and has produced a delightful splash of color, texture and even pure love. I am greeted each coming and going as I pass it, and my large living room windows with drapes drawn wide open always invite the garden in.

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At first glance, talk of a small garden may seem a bit trite but grows in significance once the message is seen. We do have daily decisions to make, some small some large. New, unfamiliar decisions have been thrown into the mix for sure. What helps me set a course through all of this is to remember "the garden." When I lived in this condo years ago, my life was more difficult than it is now. I had more responsibilities and less resources. For some reason, I was able back then, despite circumstances, to see the value — even the importance — of creating the garden. Little did I realize that by literally sewing those seeds then, I would reap a harvest now.

How do we practically apply this to our everyday life as we choose courses? One thing that comes to my mind is the value of, despite current challenges, engaging in the planting of seeds

in all arenas. The attention to seemingly small details of our daily life impacts our future. By bringing in snippets of beauty and hope we refuel ourselves and we are creating something that will grow and blossom in the future. Despite the twists and turns, the future will come; it will unfold. We have the opportunity now, as individuals and truly as a human race to plant that beautiful figurative garden in whatever our medium of choice is; be it art, music, acts of kindness, physical or financial assistance to others, education, as well as a plethora of additional offerings we have as individuals and collectively. Energy extended now, in this direction, buoys us up through these times and lays a foundation for a beautiful future. Our little town is doing a splendid job in this regard, Fort Pierce is growing, expanding and creating beauty in all arenas. We are planting and tending out garden well! ♦

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# November is for Fishing

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

Now that November is here bringing cooler weather and cooler waters, more fish are moving into the area. The mahi are being caught offshore and will become even more abundant as they begin migrating down from the Carolinas. The snapper bite also continues to be on fire with mutton and mangroves chewing on the reef at about 60-90 foot. Bottom fishing with live bait or cut-bait can see a good variety of large snapper on the line. Tripletail can be found inshore and offshore and typically swim around buoys, weed lines, and floating debris.

The Golden or Florida Pompano, simply called pompano, are very popular to catch for their great fight when hooked. Some consider them the best tasting fish in the sea for their mild and slightly sweet fillets. Small jigs or live shrimp are the best choice for pompano.

Inshore action has been great for snook, trout, and redfish. Your best chance for hooking a snook is live mullet, pilchards, or croakers. The key is to keep the drag tight and be ready to set back on the rod when a snook is on. If you are lucky enough to land one in the slot, between 28 inches and 32 inches, you'll have a great fish story and a great fish dinner! Snook season is closed December 15 through January 31st.

The photo this month shows a great haul by Fred, Rich, and Matt.

Remember to "Shop Small" this season. Buy all your fishing tackle and angler gifts at your local bait and tackle shops like Little Jim Bait & Tackle. Gift certificates for fishing charters are also a great idea! Your local businesses greatly appreciate the support.



Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and feeling thankful to keep Pullin Drag! ❖

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# Roots and Recipes IV

## Love Knots



Home to me is where I feel most comfortable and safe. It means the place I trust the most. A few places come to my mind because they are where I spend most of my time. First, my actual home, the place that houses my bed. There I feel safe and I'm there with my family. The smell that comes to mind is dog, sweat, and Lysol because I have a dog, two brothers, and my mom who is always cleaning. There isn't really a taste until dinner is ready. Secondly, is the baseball park that is close to my house. I spend a lot of time there because that is where my family plays ball, my friends hang out and also where I volunteer. I feel comfortable there and the smell of fresh cut grass, clay and fried food

just makes all my worries go away. A time where I feel most connected to my roots is when my entire family has family gatherings at my grandparents' house. My grandparents live on a big piece of property and it's always an adventure. Every month my family, aunts, uncles, cousins all go have lunch or dinner and make Love Knots at my grandparents' house. It's a great time for conversation, laughs, rough housing. I identify with Italian food because it is my absolute favorite thing to eat. I remember having spaghetti movie nights with my family and making our own pizzas during summer time. My favorite recipe is a Love Knot recipe. My family makes Love Knots every Christmas. I have been eating these foods for as long as I can remember.



## Recipe for Love Knots

- 1½ teaspoons vanilla
- 3½ cups flour
- ¼ stick butter melted
- ½ cup sugar
- 4 Eggs
- 2½ teaspoons baking powder

Add the baking powder last — then mix all ingredients in mixer. Knead the dough (use dough hook in mixer); keep kneading it until it is a solid ball of dough.

Take a piece of dough and roll it out until it is about the thickness of a pencil and tie in a knot.

Cook in 350-degree oven for about 20 to 30 minutes, depending on how big the cookie knots are. ❖

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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