



Volume 19, No. 4

November, 2023

# FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



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in **Historic Downtown Fort Pierce**

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### 2023-2024 Mass Schedule

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Sunday, 8 a.m. (English), All Year

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. (English), December 10th, 2023 thru April 7th, 2024

Sunday, 11:00 a.m. (Creole) or 10 a.m. when there is no 9:30 a.m. Mass

*Come join us in worship, outreach, and celebration!*



**Notre Dame Catholic Church**

Fort Pierce, Florida



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Online Resources and *Main Street Fort Pierce* News

by Donna Sizemore



It's been busy at *Main Street Fort Pierce*. In partnership with *Lincoln Park Mainstreet*, we had the honor of hosting the *Florida Main Street Leadership Development Workshop* in downtown Fort Pierce in September. Over 60 folks from around the State attended. Did you know that there are over 45 *Main Streets* in the State of Florida? As I was searching to find out exactly where they were within the state I came upon this website [dos.fl.gov/historical/preservation/florida-main-street/main-street-news/](https://dos.fl.gov/historical/preservation/florida-main-street/main-street-news/). Here you will find a plethora of information regarding *Main Streets* in Florida, including the announcement of *Main Street Fort Pierce* being named the *Florida Main Street of the Month*. Congratulations!

As I continued perusing the website, I found *free* on-line publications of the *Florida Heritage Trail*. Some of the publications are available to download and print and others are available to read on-line. As a prior educator I was thrilled to find this documented research, on my home state, and felt the need to share this wealth of information with you. Enjoy!

The *Florida Department of State's Florida Heritage Trail* series began in 1991 with the publication of the *Florida Black Heritage Trail*.

Since then, additional titles in the series include the World War II, Native American, French, British and Florida Spanish Colonial Heritage Trails. The newest title, the *Florida Seminole Wars Heritage Trail*, was published in the summer of 2015. Designed to raise awareness of the state's cultural and historical resources, these educational and travel publications are popular resources for residents, students, historians and visitors to the state. Each volume identifies historical sites throughout Florida that are related to the volume topic and offers profiles and biographical sketches of significant individuals: [dos.fl.gov/historical/preservation/heritage-trails](https://dos.fl.gov/historical/preservation/heritage-trails).

On another note, *Main Street Fort Pierce* has been doing their own research looking to find the perfect individual to fill the role as Special Event Coordinator for *Main Street*. Our search is complete, and we are excited to welcome Jamie Becht to the team!

Jamie Becht, a proud native of Fort Pierce possesses an unshakable love for her hometown. After attending the University of Central Florida, Becht pursued a career in education bringing her back home to the best sunrise shores in the state of Florida.

On weekdays, Becht is a regular trivia and bingo enthusiast, bringing her knowledge and wit to her favorite watering hole, **Sailfish Brewery**, for some mid-week fun. When the weekend rolls around, you'll discover her out on the water, paddle boarding alongside her loyal rescue companion, Bennie, and her homegrown native husband, Brian Becht.

Her commitment to her hometown is unwavering, and she aspires to contribute to the growth of downtown while protecting its rich history among the developing landscape.

Some of the events that Jamie will be coordinating for the month of November will include Friday Fest, Plein Air Art Show and Coffee with the Mayor. For more information on these events visit <https://mainstreetfortpierce.org/>.

*Happy Thanksgiving Fort Pierce!* ❖



**MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE**

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Phone: 772.466.3880 • [mainstreetfortpierce.org](https://mainstreetfortpierce.org)



**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!

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

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**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.

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# Calendar

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



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**MONTHLY EVENTS**

**November 3, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE** — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music; 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.

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

**November 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**  
Facebook @piercedcider

**Cobbs Landing**  
cobbs-landing.com

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

**121 Tapas on the Water**  
facebook.com/121tapasonthewater

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772-461-4775 • sunrisetheatre.com

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

**MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER**

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

NOVEMBER: MANATEE AWARENESS MONTH

NOVEMBER 1: PRIME MERIDIAN DAY

NOVEMBER 3: GIVE SOMEONE A DOLLAR DAY

NOVEMBER 5: AMERICAN FOOTBALL DAY

NOVEMBER 10: NATIONAL VANILLA CUPCAKE DAY

NOVEMBER 11: VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 13: NATIONAL HUG A MUSICIAN DAY

NOVEMBER 19: NATIONAL PLAY MONOPOLY DAY

NOVEMBER 21: WORLD FISHERIES DAY

NOVEMBER 23: FIBONACCI DAY

NOVEMBER 23: THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 25: SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 30: CELEBRATE SHELTER PETS DAY

# Mayor's Message **FPRA Mural Program Begins Second Round**

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



The Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA) is seeking property owners to apply for murals on their buildings in the FPRA area. The target area for this round is U.S. Highway 1 to 10th Street, and Avenue B to Boston Avenue in the Peacock Arts District.

For more information on the FPRA Mural Program, contact Marsha Command, Redevelopment Specialist, mcommand@cityoffortpierce.com or visit cityoffortpierce.com/1056/Peacock-Arts-District-Mural-Program.

Don't forget *Friday Fest* on November 3 and December 1, *Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade*, December 3, *Coffee With the Mayor* and *Art Walk*, November 17 and December 15. Especially don't forget to shop small, shop local and support your local businesses in the holiday season and year-round. ❖

A call for artists occurs in November and December to apply and submit their ideas for murals. Once the artists have been chosen, and their designs approved, work begins in January, with a target completion date in April.

The first round of murals was celebrated September 25 at Orange Avenue and 7th Street, with all three artists in attendance. Take a walk west of U.S. 1 on Orange Avenue to see Zoey Allysa's murals at 500 Orange (the old Post Office), Niko Holderbaum's art at 605 Orange (the old Silver Palace Pharmacy) and Samara Ash's mural at 616 Atlantic. Finally, Zoey Allyssa has a second mural at 700 Orange Avenue.



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# Save the Date: The St. Lucie County Christmas Boat Parade December 9 at 6 p.m.

by Michele March, FPYC Public Relations and Social Media

The St. Lucie County Christmas Boat Parade, presented by Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast and hosted by the  $\zeta$ , will be held on Saturday, December 9 at 6 p.m. All Treasure Coast and visiting boaters are invited to 'light 'em up' for this greatly anticipated annual holiday tradition! All are encouraged to come out and watch this fabulous St. Lucie County happening. While there may be minor changes to the parade route, the parade will be transiting the Fort Pierce Inlet so make your dinner reservations at waterfront restaurants soon!



either Freedom Boat Club (Fort Pierce City Marina, 1 Avenue A, G Dock, Fort Pierce) or  $\surd$  (Fridays between 7-9 p.m., 700 N Indian River Dr, Fort Pierce).

Registration for the boat parade is open and is once again free for all participants and spectators as this is a great family-friendly event for all. Boaters looking for registration information should go to [tomiatc.com/christmas-boat-parades](http://tomiatc.com/christmas-boat-parades).

This year the St. Lucie County Christmas Boat Parade is collaborating with LeGit's Downtown Toy Drive. Parade participants are asked to bring an unwrapped toy to the captain's meeting on Thursday, December 7th. All others who would like to contribute can drop off an unwrapped toy between today and Friday, December 8th to

parades. Boats will be divided into three categories (small, medium, and large), with winners in each category receiving prizes based on scores determined by a panel of judges.

Details will be forthcoming on parade route, viewing areas, captains' meeting and awards ceremony so check the (newly created) 'St. Lucie County Christmas Boat Parade' Facebook page for updates.

We at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club are looking forward to this event as your hosts and as participants! ❖

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 Click on Membership Offerings tab to access Membership Categories  
 Contact Travis Stoelting, Head Golf Professional  
 772-466-4000 Ext 215  
 9425 Meadowood Drive, Fort Pierce

# 35th Annual Sights & Sounds Festival Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony Theme – “Under the Sea” Sunday, December 3

Presented by Main Street Fort Pierce, the City of Fort Pierce and the Sunrise City Kiwanis



### Schedule of Events

- 10:30 a.m. – *Outdoor Sunday Service* by the Common Ground Vineyard Church at intersection of Orange Avenue and 2nd Street
- 1:30 p.m. – *Santa Arrives in Fire Truck*
- 4:00 p.m. – *Parade Begins*

Santa will be at the *Sights and Sounds Festival* to take requests and photos with children. Other children’s activities include *Sights & Sounds on 2nd Tree Lighting Ceremony*

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free children’s activity booths from area non-profits, a “build a downtown” Lego brick area, face painting, and entertainment from local dance groups & musicians.

### Sights & Sounds on 2nd Parade

Grand Marshall – *Manatee Observation and Education Center and Moe the Manatee*

The *Sights & Sounds Parade* starts at Tickle Tummy Hill on Second Street at 4:00 p.m. It will travel south to Orange Avenue; turn east on Orange and North on Indian River Drive concluding at the River Walk Center.

### Sights & Sounds on 2nd Tree Lighting Ceremony

Immediately following the Parade will be the lighting of the holiday Christmas Tree located in the roundabout at Avenue A & Indian River Drive. The *Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society* will play holiday jazz music before and after the tree lighting. After the tree lighting, stay around for the *Holiday Lights Spectacular* in Marina Square on Melody Lane. The *Holiday Lights Spectacular* is presented by the *City of Fort Pierce*. The light show consists of over 100,000 lights synchronized to holiday music and is a must-see for both locals and out-of-

**Nancy Arledge**  
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SouthStateBank.com

town guests. The lights and music will run from 6:00–9:00 p.m. daily until the first weekend in January 2024. For over 35 years, *Sights & Sounds on Second* has brought residents and visitors together to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season in Fort Pierce.

For more information call *Main Street Fort Pierce* at 772-466-3880 or [www.mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://www.mainstreetfortpierce.org). Free parking is available at the City Parking Garage (Orange Avenue & Depot Drive) and County Parking Garage (2nd Street & Boston Avenue). ❖



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*Chic and Shore*  
things

**10th Annual Holiday Open House and Customer Appreciation Day**  
on Saturday, November 11th from 10-5. Refreshments  
will be served all day and you'll be entertained by  
Ed Humphries' amazing saxophone!  
Please join us for a fun day!

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

# Downtown Merchant Holiday Events

**Chic & Shore's 10th Annual Holiday Open House & Customer Appreciation Day** – Saturday, November 11th

Facebook page – chicandshorethings  
205 N. 2nd Street

**Art Walk** – Friday, November 18th, 5 to 8 p.m.

**Downtown Fort Pierce Shop Small Saturday Shopping Spree Event** – November 25th

**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 \$1500 and growing daily. 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 ten 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.

This year earn 1 extra ticket by bringing an unwrapped gift to donate to **Legit's Downtown Toy Drive Block Party** and/or get a stamp from **Harmony Music Lounge**.

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.

Check out the **Downtown Shopping Spree Giveaway** Facebook event for more information. ❖

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## U.S. Department of Energy Selects FPUA for \$5.8M Federal Funding FPUA will increase power grid resiliency across the Fort Pierce service area

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) selected **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** to receive \$5,828,993 to enhance and modernize the Fort Pierce electric grid. The funds will advance **FPUA's** broader initiative to storm-harden and modernize the electric grid ensuring grid reliability and quality of service for our customers.

"Today's announcement represents the largest-ever direct investment in critical grid infrastructure, supporting projects that will harden systems, improve energy reliability and affordability," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. "Extreme weather events fueled by climate change will continue to strain the nation's aging transmission systems, but President Biden's Investing in America agenda will ensure America's power grid can provide reliable, affordable power."

"FPUA is incredibly proud to bring this support and funding to our community," said Javier Cisneros, FPUA Director of Utilities. "These projects empower **FPUA** to maintain reliable electric service while reducing impacts on the grid caused by unexpected outages, extreme weather, and natural disasters. This project also represents tremendous effort by our electric and grant writing teams to build more resilient and sustainable infrastructure for Fort Pierce with support from grant funding."

The funds are part of the *Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program*, which seeks to enhance grid flexibility and improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change. Funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and administered by DOE's Grid Deployment Office, the GRIP program leverages federal and private investments to ensure that communities across the nation have a reliable grid that's prepared for extreme weather while also delivering affordable, clean energy and creating robust local opportunities for economic investment and jobs.

*Key features of FPUA's grant funded project include:* Upgrade two critical substation transformers to accommodate growing electric demand; replace four distribution transformers for modernization; upgrade a major substation to ring bus configuration for modernization and automation; and install 400 mounted reclosers to reduce outage frequency and duration.

**FPUA** is grateful to the U.S. Department of Energy for this grant funded project. This is major support toward **FPUA's** infrastructure initiatives and is just one of many current projects led by **FPUA** including: relocating the sewer treatment plant off the Indian River Lagoon; lining sewer pipes with PVC to protect against inflow and outflow from cracks in aging clay pipes; installing several more acres of seagrass grant funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida program; and more.

*About FPUA:* **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** is a municipal, not-for-profit utility provider. **FPUA's** mission is to provide our customers with economical, reliable, and friendly service in a continuous effort to enhance the quality of life in our community. Fort Pierce is one of more than 2,000 communities in the United States served by a community-owned electric utility, and one of very few who also provide water, wastewater, natural gas, and Internet services. Public utility systems are owned by the people they serve. All benefits from our locally controlled utility remain right here in the community. Additional information is available at [www.fpua.com](http://www.fpua.com).

*About Grid Deployment Office:* The *Grid Deployment Office* (GDO) launched in August 2022 to maintain and invest in critical generation facilities (such as hydropower and nuclear energy), increase grid resilience, and improve and expand transmission and distribution systems to provide reliable, affordable electricity to everyone, everywhere. Learn more at <https://www.energy.gov/gdo/about-us>. ❖



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## FPUA and MOEC Bring Seagrass Restoration to the Indian River Lagoon

by Ashley Levin, FPUA Sustainability Program Associate

November is here, and that means it's *Manatee Awareness Month!* Did you know seagrass is the primary food source for manatees and many other marine organisms? Seagrass meadows are among the most productive habitats in the world, not only providing food and shelter for marine animals but also assisting in improving the water quality by removing harmful pollutants like excess Nitrogen.

**Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA)** recognizes the importance of clean waterways and healthy habitats in our community and has been supporting the **Manatee Observation and Education Center (MOEC)** since 1996. Together, MOEC and FPUA have been implementing seagrass restoration activities within the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) for several years, working closely with Florida seagrass restoration experts at the widely recognized **Sea & Shoreline, LLC**.

During the 2021 *12 Days of Christmas Fundraising Campaign*, **MOEC** and **MOEC's** sister nonprofit, the **Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation (TCMF)**, mobilized and raised over \$58,000 to restore one acre of seagrass in Moore's Creek by the **Manatee Center**. This pioneer project was so successful that in early 2022, **MOEC** submitted a proposal to the *Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP)* and was awarded almost \$40,000 toward additional seagrass restoration activities including restoration research next to the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**.

These first two seagrass restoration activities were broken up into two phases. Phase 1 included the installation of more than



(left to right) Jessica Kadie Bradley, Manager of the Manatee Observation & Education Center, Ryan Brushwood, Biologist & Project Manager for Sea & Shoreline LLC, Javier Cisneros, Director of Utilities for Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, Representative Tobin "Toby" Overdorf, Florida House Representative for District 85, Ashley Levin, Sustainability Program Associate for Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, and Brilyn Sell, Legislative Aide to Florida House Representative Kaylee Tuck for District 55.

5,000 seagrass shoots starting at **MOEC**, the mouth of Moore's Creek, and continuing upstream. Phase 2 is located directly on the western coast of the IRL, adjacent to the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, and installed over 2,000 seagrass shoots. Throughout the project, **MOEC** volunteers donated over 900 hours as Roving Naturalists, counting manatee sightings in Moore's Creek and teaching passersby all about the seagrass restoration initiatives taking place in Downtown Fort Pierce.

The results of this project are estimated to remove as much as 220 pounds of nitrogen per planted acre over a five-year

*Continued on page 14 ...*

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**MOEC ... continued from page 13**

growth period, and an additional 42 pounds per year in the following years. To date, seagrass coverage has expanded from less than 5% coverage to roughly 85% coverage in several areas.

Fort Pierce is not the only community committed to improving our waterways and we proudly share our projects and results with neighbors. When news of **FPUA's** seagrass restoration initiative broke, Florida House Representatives Tobin "Toby" Overdorf (District 85) and the District Aide for Kaylee Tuck (District 83) visited to tour the project. Research from this initial, and future, restoration activities will assist in identifying the best species blends of seagrass and methodology to ensure success in improving the water quality in the lagoon.

**FPUA** continues to include seagrass restoration activities in our grant proposals related to relocating the Water Reclama-

tion Facility (WRF) off the IRL. Earlier this year, **FPUA** was awarded \$15 million dollars from the *Florida Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida* program toward the WRF Relocation, which included the installation of 2.23 acres of seagrass along the coast adjacent to the current WRF site.

This year, **FPUA** submitted an additional proposal to the *Resilient Florida Program*, which included the installation of an additional 2.47 acres of seagrass near the current WRF site. If awarded, **FPUA** will install a combined total of 6.2 acres of seagrass since 2022.

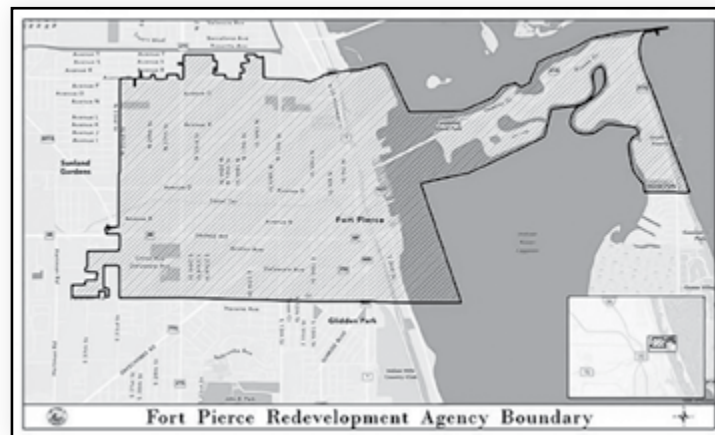
**FPUA** is grateful for the support of the many organizations and community members that make this work possible. Thank you. ❖

## FPRA Launches the Commercial Façade Grant

The **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency** (FPRA) is excited to announce the launch of the *Commercial Façade Grant Program*. This program will be available for application during three different periods throughout the fiscal year. The first application period will be open from Tuesday, October 17, 2023, until Friday, November 17, 2023.

This grant program offers financial assistance in the form of a reimbursable grant, matching 50% of eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$25,000. To be eligible for this grant, the property in question must be located within the FPRA District and must be commercially zoned.

The primary goal of the *Commercial Façade Grant Program* is to contribute to the revitalization of the commercial corridors within the FPRA district. It aims to achieve this by encouraging private investment in improvements that enhance the appearance of buildings and properties, thus eliminating blight and non-



conforming design standards. The ultimate aim of this program is to stimulate redevelopment in the FPRA, leading to improved visual aesthetics, increased property values, higher tenant occupancy, economic development, and job creation.

You can apply for this grant and find a comprehensive list of eligibility requirements by visiting [choosefortpierce.com/969/FPRA-Incentive-Program](http://choosefortpierce.com/969/FPRA-Incentive-Program).

It's important to note that this reimbursable grant program will also be available for application in March and June of 2024.

For additional information about the FPRA *Commercial Façade Grant Program*, please don't hesitate to contact

them at 772-467-3786 or send an email to [fp@cityoffortpierce.com](mailto:fp@cityoffortpierce.com). This program presents an exciting opportunity for property owners and businesses to improve the aesthetics of their properties and contribute to the overall development of the FPRA district. ❖

## Capturing the Essence of St. Lucie County An Art Show Featuring Diane Mesagno & Jackie Schindehetti

Get ready to be captivated by the extraordinary art show, *Capturing the Essence of St. Lucie County*, where the incredible talents of Diane Mesagno and Jackie Schindehetti will come to life. Save the date: November 9, at the historic **Platts/Backus House**, nestled at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue. The magic begins at 5:00 p.m. and continues until 7:00 p.m. Don't miss this unique opportunity to dive into the heart of St. Lucie County through their artistic lenses. Join us for an unforgettable evening of art and inspiration!

Jackie Schindehette, hailing from the vibrant city of Miami, Florida, is a devoted longtime resident of Ft. Pierce and a distinguished alumna of the *Backus School of Art*. Her remarkable oil paintings capture the essence of classic Florida with a masterful blend of representational artistry, bold brushwork, and an exhilarating palette of colors. Jackie's exceptional talent has earned her numerous awards, and her celebrated artworks grace collections both public and private, from the prestigious White House in Washington, D.C., to local banks.

"Art has been an integral part of my life for as long as I can remember. However, my true passion for painting was ignited in 1980 when I had the privilege of studying under the renowned Florida landscape artist, Albert Ernest Backus, affectionately known as 'Beanie.'"

Jackie's chosen medium is oil, allowing her to manipulate the paint with finesse, whether through a brush or palette knife, resulting in surfaces that capture light from various angles. This technique enables her to achieve subtle nuances of color as she works with the paint while it's still wet.

"As a native Floridian and the daughter of a dedicated bird enthusiast, a significant portion of my life has been spent outdoors, immersed in the study of our local flora and fauna. Consequently, my surroundings became my muse, and Mother Nature became my most inspiring teacher."

Diane Mesagno, a native of New York, is a distinguished alumna of The New York Institute of Technology, where she earned her degree in Architecture. Her passion for artistic expression led her to Austria, where she delved into the world of Sculpture. Currently residing in Fort Pierce, she has dedicated her time and energy to the captivating realms of oil and acrylic

painting. Her recent works, inspired by the local scenery, beautifully capture the essence of landscapes and seascapes, all painstakingly painted en plein air.

The evening preceding the paint-out day, meticulous preparation becomes the guiding principle. Keep your load light, but ensure you've packed everything essential. It's imperative to consult the weather forecast and tide tables, eliminating any potential surprises.

Rise early, just before dawn breaks. Reconfirm that you have all your supplies in order. Upon reaching your chosen destination, the first light of day casting its gentle glow, apply bug spray and don your trusty hat. Tug the cart, carry your chair, and take a moment to survey your surroundings. Find the perfect spot, set up with precision, securing the easel, and anchoring the canvas securely. Arrange your palette with care, then sit down, allowing yourself to sink into comfort and relaxation, taking in the surrounding beauty. Inhale deeply, let your eyes roam, and finally, exhale. You're ready.

Load your brush with anticipation, and thus, a new painting journey commences — an exhilarating moment, perhaps the most exquisite sensation for a plein air artist.

Join us at *Capturing the Essence of St. Lucie County*, where art comes alive, and it's all for you — absolutely free! For more details, reach out to *Main Street Fort Pierce* at (772) 466-3880.

This is an event you won't want to miss! So don't delay, mark your calendars today. ❖



Jackie Schindehetti



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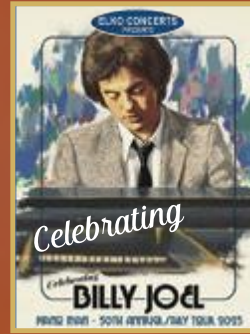
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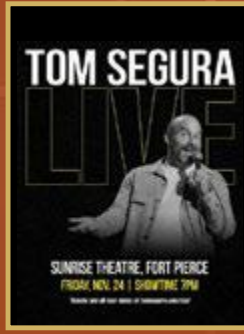
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# One of Fort Pierce's Oldest Businesses has Gone to the Dogs!

Formerly known as **Chaney's House of Flowers**, the new owners of this 86-year-old continuously run downtown business have updated its name and added new services. Now known as **Chaney's Art of Flower & Beautifications**, it will continue to offer the traditional products and services it had in the past as a flower shop but will also offer a 2nd business inside for its dog clientele. **Chaney's Dog Boutique** will sell much needed canine supplies to pet owners and their furry family members in downtown Fort Pierce.

**Alpha Retail Holding Group, LLC** bought **Chaney's** in July, 2023, with plans to further develop the existing flower business by implementing a carefully considered new shopping experience for the customers with new marketing strategies and business ideas for this region. They offer floral needs and arrangements for all occasions. Their marketing research led them to add the brand-new dog boutique shop-in-shop concept. With Florida being the #1 dog friendliest state, local pet owners now have a local business to service their pet supply needs. "We believe in Fort Pierce and its opportunities


that provide great potential in many different fields. We want to respond to this circumstance and think that next year will increase this fact even further. Entrepreneurs with visions and fresh ideas strengthen the region. They can ensure that purchasing power increases and jobs are preserved. Paying attention to this fact, ambitious entrepreneurs can create added value and a prosperous local environment that always gives something back to the community."

**Chaney's Art of Flowers and Beautifications** and **Chaney's Dog Boutique** is located in the historic **Raulerson Building**. After current ongoing refurbishments are completed there will be a relaunch and Grand Opening on *November 23, 2023*.

Chaney's Art of Flowers and Beautification and Chaney's Dog Boutique are located at 139 N. 2nd Street in Fort Pierce.

Visit them online at [www.chaneys.shop](http://www.chaneys.shop) and [www.chaneys-dogboutique.shop](http://www.chaneys-dogboutique.shop); Facebook: [chaneysartofflowers](https://www.facebook.com/chaneysartofflowers); Instagram: [@chaneys\\_art\\_of\\_flowers](https://www.instagram.com/chaneys_art_of_flowers); [@chaneys\\_dog\\_boutique](https://www.instagram.com/chaneys_dog_boutique). Store hours are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ❖

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## Observations and Confessions from a Very Amateur South Florida Gardener

*\*Do not take any advice from this column without doing your own research and/or seeking advice from real experts (medical professionals, trained herbalists, master gardeners, local nurseries, etc.)*

## “Cooler” Weather Gardening in South Florida

by Joanne Blandford

Predictably, the high temperatures of our Florida summer started to come back down last month. We had a couple fronts that brought the heat down to a more comfortable and tolerant level. And, once again, our mornings and evenings are seeing some cooler breezes. The plants have noticed these changes as well. Some established plants that refused to set fruit in hotter temperatures like peppers and tomatoes are flowering again. The Barbados Cherry tree I planted earlier in the spring has awoken from its summer slumber and started producing its delicious cherries. The Seminole Pumpkin plant started earlier this year now has new growth daily. It is interesting watching the changes in the different types of plants as the seasons progress.

I've also noticed that the sun is now further south than it has been all summer. It is amazing the differences you notice when you focus on providing the best conditions for your plants to survive (while also realizing you cannot control mother nature). It is also a great way to take a step out of the craziness of the world. I work from home so during my brain breaks I walk around the yard and check on each of my many plants. This routine is very relaxing and resets me mentally. I highly recommend it!

It is still planting season for cooler temperature vegetables. I planted some lettuces and cabbages last month. I plan on

planting a couple of different varieties of cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, and onions at the beginning of November; and will also be transplanting the seedlings I started in late September and October into the garden beds and along the trellis'. Speaking of the trellis, out of the 17 beans starts I had growing last month, only 5 remain. I suspect the wild bunnies but apparently it could also be birds. I ordered some chicken wire to make cages around each remaining bean plants and so far, this has worked. They are all still thriving as of this writing.

Get outside this month and enjoy the cooler temperatures! Happy gardening! 🌱

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## Love, JAZZ Community: 'Tis the sSeason to be Thankful!

by Wendy Dwyer



There is something about the month of November that kick starts our hearts and reminds us that there is always a reason to be grateful. For some of us, November is a time when we choose to keep a gratitude journal or just to reflect on some of the many blessings we have experienced throughout each day. For all of us at **Fort Pierce Jazz Society**, that attitude of gratitude is something we experience all year long, and part of the reason for that is you. Yes, you, dear reader.

You see, as musicians, of course we have a passion for music and work long hours over many years learning and perfecting our craft. And of course, we're good at what we do. However, no matter how much we've practiced, how much experience we have, or how skilled we are at making music, without you there to hear and enjoy it, it wouldn't be anything more than noise, and it wouldn't matter a single bit.

Remember the old head-scratcher about a tree falling in the forest and whether or not it makes a noise? This is kind of like that question for musicians. We all know in our minds that a tree falling in the forest should, indeed, make a substantial noise, but without anyone there to hear it, well ... does it really?

That's what we're thinking about this month, during the month of gratitude and that special time of year when we gath-

er with family to enjoy each other's company, a good meal, and reflect on how fortunate we are. We're thankful for all of the individuals who make the time to come out to hear us play. We're grateful for the ones who clap and smile or tap their toes in time with the rhythm of the music. And we're grateful for those who happily pay a small cover charge at the door and then spend an evening sharing the magic of music with us and experiencing that same magic and how it lightens our hearts and takes away some of the worries that have been keeping us from remembering how lucky and blessed we really are.

We are thankful for the volunteers who make the coffee, pour the drinks, check the sound system, and make sure that everyone is having a good time and feeling special. In short, we're thankful for you. And we try to express our attitude of gratitude with every note, every smile, and every joke (even the bad ones) we share when we perform for you because in our hearts and souls, we are so grateful to you for sharing this ride we call life.

If November has you feeling thankful, too, or even if you need a bit of a gratitude booster shot to help kick start those feelings of gratitude, we'd like to suggest that you plan to join us for one of our many monthly live performances here on the Treasure Coast. You can join us on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, often on Thursdays and Saturdays, too. In fact, there's hardly a day when we're not around, trying to make you smile with a little music, and as often as we can, we even try to do it at no charge to you. If you appreciate that, please consider joining us as a member of the **Fort Pierce Jazz Society**. It doesn't cost a lot to become a member, and the benefits include discounts on live performances and a chance to be part of a pretty exclusive group, too. If you're already a member, maybe you want to share the love with someone else as a gift of gratitude to them, too. ❖

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# What's in Store this Holiday Season at *The Fort Steakhouse*

by Dale van der Lugt

The **Fort Steakhouse** in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce is an exquisite gem of a place nestled across the street from the **Sunrise Theatre** and is the ideal restaurant to celebrate special times. From birthdays to anniversaries, pre-Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve parties and get-togethers, **The Fort Steakhouse** is the ultimate choice for planning your next special dining experience. Plan to dine in a place that is trendy, embodies elegance, and brings enchantment to your evening.

This Holiday Season, **The Fort Steakhouse** intends on elevating the magic. Already the location for choice, hand-cut meats and dry-aged steaks, exciting cocktails, and a charming staff that caters to your every need; don't be surprised to see added distinctions you'll only find locally at this unique eating establishment. Added to the menu will be wild game such as

bison, elk, wild boar, and venison, paired with seasonal local produce. Pair these savory dishes with smoky wines, a strong beer, or a single-malt drink and the flavor will surely be enhanced to dance on your taste buds!

And for a "Cheers" like atmosphere, **The Fort Steakhouse** bar is a great location to join friends or make new ones and sample some unique wines and spirits. Try the latest fall trend in cocktails, the *Ron Swanson*, a bacon-washed whiskey blend with apricot brandy, rum barrel aged bitters, fresh pressed apple cider and finished and smoked with hickory/oak wood chips with an added candied bacon for good measure. Or if you're wanting a traditional fall favorite of pumpkin and spice, kick it up a notch and order the *Pumpkin Espresso Martini*.

Beer lovers, you don't want to miss the first-time collaboration


of **The Fort Steakhouse** with **Sailfish Brewery Company**. Thursday, December 14, for a special one-time seating at 6 p.m., and with an exclusive menu chosen for this occasion, come experience this alliance of "community" with Treasure Coast's finest. Book your reservations now.

**The Fort Steakhouse** is booking now for holiday parties. So, take a break before and after your Thanksgiving and Christmas and schedule family and friends to join you for a culinary indulgence of meats, drinks, and scrumptious desserts at this local treasure. For New Year's Eve, **The Fort Steakhouse** will offer a pre-fixe style menu or guests may choose from their regular menu locals have come to love.

The Fort Steakhouse is located at 106 S. 2nd Street in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Booking holiday reservations now @ 772-882-9131. Visit them online at [TheFortSteakhouse.com](http://TheFortSteakhouse.com) or on Facebook & Instagram @thefortsteakhouse. ❖



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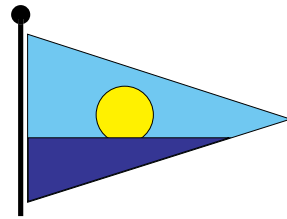
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# The Importance of Community

by Robynn Holland, FPYC Community Liaison

Google the *Importance of Community* and you will uncover numerous articles on how important “community” is to both individuals and to overall communities. Communities are made up of individuals who share common goals and interests, and volunteer to make their community a better place to live and work.

Fort Pierce is a city that is fortunate to have many non-profit, service, and faith organizations that work to make the city a viable community in which to live and work. Being actively involved in an organization in Fort Pierce gives one the opportunity to serve others, to meet others, to learn more about the community, and to have fun!! Having fun, learning, and meeting others are just three of the many benefits of serving the community.



The **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** is proud to be a part of the amazing community of Fort Pierce. The **FPYC** was formed in 1980 and has as its purpose to promote safe boating and activities for power and sailing craft, and to participate in community activities. And since 1980 the **FPYC** has been actively involved in the community of Fort Pierce

Three popular events coming up in December that will find **FPYC** members actively participating in are:

### 35th Annual Sights and Sounds on Second

This event begins Sunday, December 3rd, with Santa arriving at 1:30 and the parade beginning at 4:00. The theme this year is *Under the Sea*. **Sights and Sounds on Second** is a collaboration of *Main Street Fort Pierce*, *The City of Fort Pierce* and the *Sunrise Kiwanis Club*. The **FPYC** has been involved in this

event for many years and last year placed second in the Float Division. Congratulations to *Main Street Fort Pierce* Executive Director Doris Tillman, Board of Directors and the many volunteers of *Main Street Fort Pierce* for the honor of being designated the September 2023 Florida *Main Street Program of the Month*.”

### Annual St. Lucie Christmas Boat Parade

Sponsored by *Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast* and hosted by the **FPYC**, the **Christmas Boat Parade** will be held this year on Saturday, December 9. To register, find out more information, and be a part of this fun event go to [www.miatc.com/christmas-boat-parades/](http://www.miatc.com/christmas-boat-parades/)

### Annual Heathcote’s Gardens of Lights

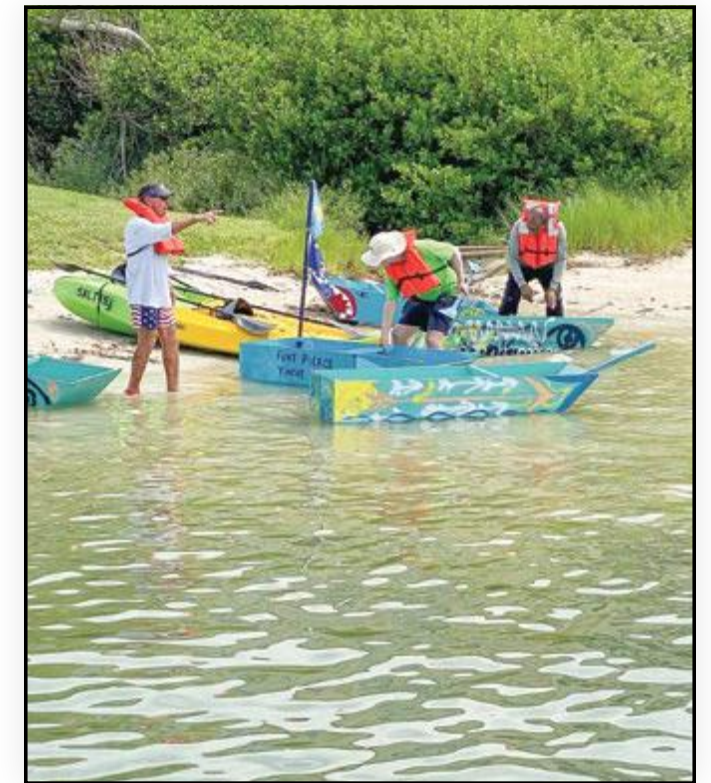
This event opens the week-end after Thanksgiving and runs through December. A family favorite and fun for all ages, many members of the **FPYC** volunteer for this amazing experience. For more information: [www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org](http://www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org)

While the **FPYC** is actively involved in the Fort Pierce Community, its members also participate in community activities through a myriad of different faith organizations and non – profits within the Fort Pierce Community. While not inclusive, members of the **FPYC** are also volunteers in other organizations such as: *Main Street Fort Pierce*, *Rotary International*, *Manatee Center*, *Courageous Kids*, *Treasure Coast Youth Sailing*, *Sunrise Theater*, *Heathcote Botanical Gardens*, *DAR*, *St. Lucie Impact 100*, *A. E. Backus Museum*,

*St. Lucie Historical Society*, **Project Lift**, **Treasure Coast Hospice**, *Fort Pierce Garden Club*, and *Mustard Seed Ministries*. Twenty volunteers from the **FPYC** served as guides or ghosts for *Main Street’s* very popular **Ghost Tour** held this past October.

One member of the **FPYC** who has been active in the Fort Pierce Community for over a decade is Charlie Hayek. Charlie is an enthusiastic volunteer and has served on numerous boards

*Continued on page 26 ...*



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FPYC ... continued from page 25

such as the *Police Advisory Committee* (currently chairperson), the *Historical Preservation Board*, *Main Street Board*, and the *Project Lift Board* to mention a few. Charlie was recently the chairperson for the *Police Centennial Celebration*, a co-chair of the *Sunrise Centennial Celebration*, and chair of the *Treasure Coast Youth Sailing's Wacky Boat Race*. Charlie has been recognized for his service by receiving many awards including the DAR Volunteer of the Year in 2022 and being twice voted the *Coffee with the Mayor* volunteer of the month.

Interested in getting involved and serving your community but not sure where to start. Ask around, see who is helping to sponsor various activities, read through *Main Street Focus*, google nonprofits and service organizations in Fort Pierce. As you search you will find organizations such as the *Fort Pierce Lions Club*, the *Sunrise Kiwanis*, *Main Street Lincoln Park*, **Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen Museum**, and the *St. Lucie Historical Society*, just to mention a few, who are actively involved in the Fort Pierce Community, plus many more. Choose to be involved in your community, have fun, learn, and meet new people. It is a win/win for everyone.

The FPYC salutes the **Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen Museum**.

The history of the *Original Florida Highwaymen* is fascinating and an integral part of the history of Fort Pierce. Doretha Hair-Truesdell, has been the determined lady behind the founding of the **Original Florida Highwaymen Museum**, located on 1234 Avenue D in Fort Pierce. In March of 2023, Doretha, the "Highwaymen Matriarch" was surprised when she was recognized as "Volunteer of the Month" at *Coffee with the Mayor*. Recently, the FPYC continued their support for the **Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen Museum** through a donation, presented to Doretha Hair-Truesdell by Robynn Holland, Community Liaison, on behalf of the FPYC.

Member Spotlight

The FPYC salutes following members for their community service: Jessica Pennell serves on the *Advisory Board of the*



*Sunrise Theater*, Bernadette Emerick serves on the *FSU (Florida State University) College of Medicine Ft. Pierce Regional Campus Community Board*, and Fran Livesey volunteers at *Mustard Seed Ministries*. Thank you to all volunteers for their community service to Fort Pierce. ❖



# Become A Member

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



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

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

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



### Why Main Street Fort Pierce?

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

### What are Membership Benefits?

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

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

### Main Street Membership Levels

#### Benefactor Levels

- Headline Sponsor (\$1,000)
- Patron Sponsor (\$500)

#### Community Levels

- Main Street Friend Membership (\$25)
- Main Street Family Membership (\$50)

#### Corporate Levels

- Main Street Small Business Membership (less than 10 employees) (\$100)
- Main Street Medium Business Membership (11-50 employees) (\$250)
- Main Street Large Business Membership (51 or more employees) (\$500)

### Please Take a Minute to Join Today!

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Fantastic Fall Fishing

by Captain Bo Samuel

Cooler weather and cooler waters means November is moving in and more fish are coming in, too. This time of year provides amazing opportunities to catch your own fish dinner so watch for those good weather windows around expected cold fronts and enjoy our great fall fishing.

Bottom fishing continues to be the best strategy with nice mangroves and big muttuns chewing on the 60-90 foot reef. Frozen bait will work but live bait is best and since they are aggressive feeders, I recommend using a chum bag to get them stirred up. Whichever bait you use, live or cut-up frozen, keep your bait on the bottom with enough weight and be ready for some action. Targeting snapper will give you a very good chance at a granddaddy grouper or two. Grouper season is open until the end of December, except for gag. FWC just issued a new executive order that closed recreational harvest of gag grouper in Atlantic state waters, as well as federal waters, on October 23rd. We're told the gag population is experiencing overfishing and this is part of the new rebuilding plan.



Inshore action has been great for snook and redfish. Live mullet or pilchards will give the best chance for hooking a snook. Keep the drag tight and be ready to set back on the rod when that snook hits. If you're 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!

The Fishy Photo this month shows Alex Gianniny, owner of **DeBrooks Fishing Corner**, with a nice pair of muttuns. Mutton to it!

November is *Manatee Awareness Month* so *Boat Slow and Look Below*.

Manatees begin their annual fall migration to the warmer waters of our rivers and springs which means it's very important to keep an eye out for them while boating and fishing.

November also means it's time to "Shop Small." You can get all your fishing tackle and angler gifts at our local bait and tackle shops like **DeBrooks Fishing Corner** and my home base of **Little Jim Bait & Tackle**. Rumor has it that gift certificates for fishing charters are always at the top of the wish list and *Pullin Drag* has 'em! Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and feeling thankful to keep *Pullin Drag*! ❖

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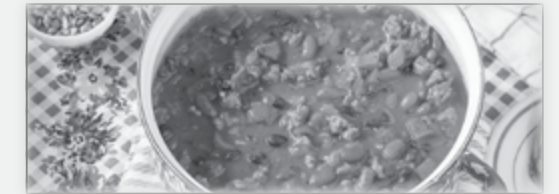
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## Favorite Recipes from Main Street Board Members

### Yes, Pumpkin Chili by Richard Ziarkowski



#### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. Olive Oil
- 1 lb. Ground Sausage (Spicy Italian)
- 1 Chopped Onion
- 1 Chopped Red Bell Pepper
- 3 Chopped Cloves of Garlic
- 2 tsp. Ground Cumin
- 1-½ tbsp. Chili Powder
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1 tsp. Pepper
- ½ tsp. Cinnamon
- 2 cans of Fire Roasted Tomatoes (Not drained / 15 oz. can)
- 1 can of Kidney Beans (Not drained / 15 oz. can)
- 1 can of Black Beans (Drained / 15 oz. can)
- 1 can of Pumpkin Puree (15 oz.)
- 2-½ cups of Chicken Broth

#### Instructions

Heat up oil, add sausage and cook. Once sausage is cooked, drain any excess oil. Then cook onion and bell pepper

until they are soft, stir in the garlic cumin, chili powder, salt, pepper and cinnamon and stir for about 30 seconds to 1 minute. Add in tomatoes, beans, pumpkin puree, chicken broth and already cooked sausage. Bring to a boil and then let it cook over low to medium heat for another 20 minutes. Then serve. You can add sour cream, cheese, chives, avocado and pumpkin seeds to the top.



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