



Volume 19, No. 3 October, 2023

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority Celebrates *Public Utilities Week*

See p10



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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall Fun!

by Donna Sizemore

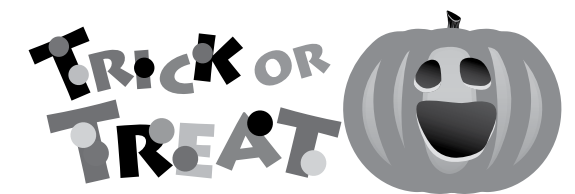



Fall is officially here, and this is my favorite time of the year! As a Fort Pierce native, my experiences with seasons have been much different from the norm. Although I've never experienced the colorful Fall leaves or the beautiful white snow (except for that time it snowed in Florida in January, 1977), there is still a much welcomed decrease in temperature and humidity once Fall is here. However, I remember some Halloweens, Thanksgivings and Christmases where I couldn't wear that new sweater or jacket because it was so warm. The weather might not always cooperate, so I cling to the seasonal traditions in Fort Pierce such as the *Ghost Walk in Downtown Fort Pierce* which is on October 25th and 26th this year. I know when it's *Ghost Walk* time that the holidays are fast approaching with Halloween around the corner.

My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving! This year my family and I are bringing back a tradition that we had for several years, and it's called *The Turkey Talent Show*. After dinner we put on a show and everyone shows their talent — young and old. Maybe its singing, dancing, writing and reading a poem, acrobats, or makeup and designer clothing for those performing. Everyone has a talent. *Turkey Talent* trophies are awarded at the end of the day. I'm thrilled to bring this tradition back to our family.

Soon after Thanksgiving is the annual Christmas parade in downtown Fort Pierce and the traditional lighting of the Christmas Tree in the roundabout near **Cobb's Landing**. There's something about sitting on the curbside, in your hometown, and watching the entire community come together to celebrate and listening to the cheers and applauds when the tree is lit. To me, it feels like a scene from a Hallmark movie. We are fortunate to have such traditions in Fort Pierce. Please join us in all the downtown festivities this season and make downtown Fort Pierce your place of traditions. To keep abreast of downtown festivities please visit <https://mainstreetfortpierce.org/>

Happy Fall! ❖

Volume 19, No. 3 October, 2023

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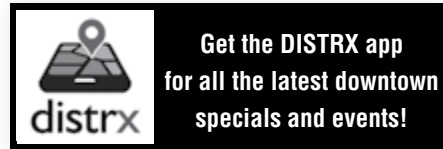
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Calendar

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



MONTHLY EVENTS

October 6, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by **Dave and the Wave**; 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.

October 20, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; **Sponsor** — **Fort Pierce Rotary Club**; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

October 20, 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

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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

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

OCTOBER: NATIONAL COOKIE MONTH
OCTOBER 1: INTERNATIONAL COFFEE DAY
OCTOBER 8: NATIONAL FLUFFERNUTTER DAY
OCTOBER 9: COLUMBUS DAY
OCTOBER 9: INTERNATIONAL BEER AND PIZZA DAY
OCTOBER 11: SOUTHERN FOOD HERITAGE DAY
OCTOBER 13: NATIONAL M&M DAY
OCTOBER 16: NATIONAL BOSS'S DAY
OCTOBER 18: NATIONAL CHOCOLATE CUPCAKE DAY
OCTOBER 27: NAVY DAY
OCTOBER 28: NATIONAL CHOCOLATE DAY
OCTOBER 29: NATIONAL CAT DAY
OCTOBER 29: NATIONAL OATMEAL DAY
OCTOBER 31: HALLOWEEN

Spooktacular Backus Boo Ball – Benefit for the Backus Museum

The A.E. Backus Museum's favorite Halloween-themed benefit extravaganza returns on Saturday, October 21, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on the Museum's *Outdoor Mural Plaza*. **Backus Boo Ball** tickets are \$50 each and are available online at www.BackusMuseum.org, or at the Museum at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce during regular hours.

It's no tricks and all treats for the signature masquerade party with artsy-funky fun for adults. Live music provided by *The Square Ones*, complimentary monster chow and a cash bar with witchy brews and wicked spirits available to fuel the zombie jamboree on the dance floor. And all those haunting the plaza can commemorate their evening by capturing their souls to share in the **Boo Ball** photo booth.

The frightful fun continues into the night, as attending ghosts and ghouls will be considered for the *Costume Contest* in one of seven categories including: Scariest ("Ultimate Nightmare"), Prettiest ("Wicked Beauty"), Funniest ("Scared Silly"), Most Original ("Unique Freak"), Best Couple ("Gruesome

Twosome"), Best Classic Halloween ("Chiller Thriller"), and the People's Choice Award rounding out an ominously delightful night. Cash prizes will be awarded as we approach the witching hour, so come dressed in your best creepy couture. The night will be a bloodcurdlingly boo-tiful bash for all!

Our **Backus Boo Ball** is inspired by the artist A.E. "Bean" Backus's legendary Halloween parties. In those days, younger friends of Backus were allowed to produce and host highly-anticipated gatherings every year that terrified and enchanted hundreds of guests. The **Backus Boo Ball** is inspired by that long-ago tradition, and is today a classy return to a fun Halloween-themed party at the Museum for grown-ups.

It's time to eat, drink, and be scary to benefit the **Backus Museum!** Tickets are \$50. Get your tricked-out disguise ready for your treats, but tickets are limited so get them before they're gone. Check online at www.BackusMuseum.org/boo-ball or call the Museum at 772-465-0630.

The 2023 **Backus Boo Ball's** Presenting Sponsor is **Boyd Law / J. Curtis Boyd, PA**; Costume Contest Sponsor is **John Jacobs Construction, Inc.**; Brews & Spirits Sponsor is **Framed Fort Pierce**; and Live Music Sponsor is **Presutti's Italian Subs**. Interested in sponsoring this Monster Mash? Please visit <https://www.backusmuseum.org/boo-sponsorship> to see how.

The **Backus Boo Ball** is a rain or shine event. Your startling exploits at the Boo benefit the work of the **Backus Museum**. All dates and programming subject to change; please check the website for any updates or cancellations. ❖

Become A Member

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

Three Easy Ways to Join!

- 1 – Call Main Street Fort Pierce at (772) 466-3880
- 2 – Visit our Website at www.mainstreetfortpierce.org, click the membership link
- 3 – Fill out the membership form and mail to:

Main Street Fort Pierce
122 A.E. Backus Ave.
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

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: _____

FOR MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AND PRICING, visit www.MainStreetFortPierce.org.

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Mayor's Message **Fall for Fun in the Fort**

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Levitt Amp Fort Pierce is a series of free live music performances at Museum Point Park every Sunday in October, 2:30–7 p.m. (and through November 5), made possible by a Levitt Foundation grant to St. Lucie Cultural Alliance. The Levitt Foundation invests in community driven efforts that harness the power of partnerships and leverage community support to make sure everyone has access to free, high caliber entertainment. For information about the artists, visit <https://artstlucie.org/levitt>.

Want to buy economically challenged students new school shoes and socks? On Thursday, October 19th, you can attend **Lil' Feet of St. Lucie County's** annual fund raiser at the **River Walk Center** in Fort Pierce. A nonprofit created by the firefighters of the *St. Lucie County Fire District*, local artists get creative with old firefighter gear, including boots and helmets, to produce works of art that are sold at a live auction. Contact blsmith@slcfd.org for more information about reservations.

Support the arts in a major way when you attend the **A.E. Bean Backus Boo Ball**, October 21st, held on the **Backus Museum and Gallery** outdoor patio. The presenting sponsor, **Boyd Law/J. Curtis Boyd, P.A.** promises another annual spooky adult eat, drink and be merry costume event with cash prizes, music and live auction. For tickets and other sponsor information, visit www.BackusMuseum.org/Boo-ball.

Attend **Main Street Fort Pierce Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Walking Tours**, October 25th and 26th. This annual event features local residents playing the part of early interesting characters. They include the Ashley Gang, Edwin and Alice Binney, Lt. Col. Benjamin Pierce, Alfred Hair, Zora Neale Hurston, Mary Ann Carroll, Harry Hill and Henry Flagler, to name just a few. For more information on this and other **Main Street** events, visit <https://mainstreetfortpierce.org/>.

Don't forget **Friday Fest** on October 6th and November 3rd; **Art Walk** is Thursday, October 19th, and November 16th; and **Coffee With The Mayor** is Friday, October 20th and November 17th. **Florida City Government Week** is October 16–22. Celebrate local voices making local choices with the *City of Fort Pierce* and 410 other Florida cities, towns and villages. ❖

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Main Street Fort Pierce's 19th Annual Ghost Walk Event

Learn about the people and events of Fort Pierce's past during the **19th Annual Ghost Walk**. This is an annual event with over 100 volunteers that help tell the stories from Fort Pierce's past. Throughout the evening volunteer actors and actresses will bring notable characters from the history of this waterfront community back to life. (However, these tours are *not* focused on paranormal activities.)

Tickets can be purchased on mainstreetfortpierce.org for \$12 per person. Check-in details are provided once tickets are purchased.

Here is the lineup for this year's event: (This is a rain or shine event. Tour characters are subject to change).

Wednesday, October 25th Waterfront Tour

1. St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Cora Stickney Harper and the Daughters of the American Revolution
2. 1715 Fleet & Treasure Hunting
3. Fort Pierce Hotel, Tyler Family
4. WWII & birthplace of Navy frogmen
5. Lt. Col. Benjamin Pierce & the Fort
6. Governor Dan McCarty & wife Olie
7. Captain Bravo & the river steamboats
8. Peter Cobb & Cobb's Store

Edgartown Tour

1. Dr. & Mrs. Platts (rural doctor, 1st SLC Schools Superintendent, & entrepreneur)
2. Zora Neale Hurston — Anthropologist & renowned author
3. Edgartown founding families — Mrs. Lagow & Mrs. Bell
4. Edgartown neighborhood happenings — the Comstocks
5. Mose Metzger — Local fisherman
6. Alfred Hair — Florida Highwaymen Artist
7. Annie Hogg — 1st trading post in area (PP Cobb building)
8. Henry Flagler & Harry Hill — Railroad tycoon and local photographer



Thursday, October 26th Peacock Arts Tour

1. Daniel Knowles — Railroad engineer
2. Fort Pierce 1st Methodist Church — Sanctuary tour
3. Churches on Orange
4. Mary Ann Carroll — Only female Highwaymen Artist
5. Decades of memories — Arcade Building
6. Adams Family — Florida Supreme Court Justice & Florida Cattle Ranching
7. James Paine — Early postal carriers & historic Fort Pierce Post Office

North 2nd Street Tour

1. History of Fort Pierce Women's Club
2. Mr. & Mrs. Charles McCarty — frontier family
3. Ashley Gang
4. Mr. & Mrs. Flagler & the East Coast Railroad
5. Will Tucker & the Tarpon Saloon
6. William Hatcher — Florida Land Boom Era architect
7. Sheriff Dan Carlton & the downtown shootout
8. Fee Family & Fort Pierce Bank Building

South 2nd Street Tour

1. Bill Jones & the Boston House
2. Courthouse Stories
3. Edwin & Alice Binney — creator of Crayola Crayons
4. Doc Anna — Florida Pioneer Doctor
5. A.E. Backus — Florida landscape artist & humanitarian
6. Sunrise Theatre through the decades
7. Sunrise Theatre auditorium ghost light
8. Charles Miley — Longtime local reporter

Sponsors include: **Fort Pierce Yacht Club; St. Lucie County Historical Society; Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd Law Firm; Fee, Yates, & Fee Law Firm.** ❖



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Fort Pierce Utilities Authority Celebrates Public Utilities Week

by the FPUA Public Affairs & Sustainability Team

Did you know that over four million Floridians, or about 19 percent of the state, receive their electric from public power providers like **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority**? This year, it is our hope to provide you with more information and updates about what that means. We want you, our whole community, to know that a public power provider like **FPUA** is more than just electricity or other services to your home or business, its existence is an investment in our shared community. An investment that stays here, in our hometown.

The value of public utilities starts with ownership. Every **FPUA** rate-payer is a utility owner and can influence decisions affecting our community. Because **FPUA** is a not-for-profit utility provider, rates are set locally in public meetings where community leaders make cost and service decisions to best serve Fort Pierce. Local officials and a board of directors govern **FPUA**, and a Utility Advisory Committee of citizen members provides additional public input and feedback on community engagement and more.

The core of **FPUA** is to provide economical and reliable utility services including electric, water, wastewater, natural gas, and fiber internet. We ensure that electricity gets to your home or business, such as for the air conditioner or lighting; that you and your family can access safe and good-tasting drinking water; and that your wastewater is properly handled and disposed of without creating environmental or public health hazards.

But serving our customers means caring for our community more broadly than that. We contribute to our community by cre-

ating jobs, supporting the local economy, volunteering, and sponsoring community-based organizations and events year-round. Just last year, **FPUA** employees volunteered nearly 1,000 hours supporting over 120 community activities and organizations.

This school year, **FPUA** volunteers joined forces with 18 community groups for “Pack the Backpack 2023” at the Fort Pierce **First Church of the Nazarene**. Together, staff donated school supplies and packed and distributed over 650 backpacks helping nearly 200 families get ready for the new school year. We also joined many community groups in “Tunnel of Hope” welcoming more than 1,100 students back to the new school year at St. Lucie Elementary School and F.K. Sweet Magnet School.

FPUA staff and the *City of Fort Pierce* work together in events and activities like: Hurricane Preparedness Housing Workshops held by the *Grants Administration Division; Fort Pierce Police Department Centennial Celebration; City of Fort Pierce Great American Cleanup; the Fort Pierce Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony; providing updates at Coffee with the Mayor; and sponsoring the Stars Over St. Lucie Fourth of July Celebration*. In December, we will once again bring holiday cheer to the *Sights & Sounds on Second Street Holiday Parade and Festival*.

FPUA also sponsors and supports community non-profit educational and community organizations like: *Learn to Read St. Lucie County; Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County; Incubate Neighborhood Center; Lincoln Park Young Professionals – Rooted in Change; Village Coalition of Youth Activities; Family Meals, Inc.; Treasure Coast Food Bank;*

the *United Way of St. Lucie County; St. Lucie County Lil Feet, and Mustard Seed Ministries*. These are just some of the groups and organizations **FPUA** supports throughout the year.

Environmental awareness and education programs through **FPUA's Manatee Observation and Education Center (MOEC)** features annual community events like the *Manatee Center 5K Fun Run for Environmental Education* and *NatureFest*. Along with its seasonal activities and special events, MOEC features a summer camp introducing campers to the beauty, adventures and creatures of the Indian River Lagoon.

October 1–7 is *Public Utilities Week* at **FPUA**!

The first full week of October every year, municipal utilities and the communities that they serve celebrate *Public Power Week* across the nation. It's a week dedicated to helping customers and stakeholders understand how they can better engage with their community-owned utility and benefit from all its offerings.

This week is also a celebration of *Public Natural Gas Week*, dedicated to showcasing public natural gas systems and the

The true value of **FPUA** is the community we serve, and the employees who try their hardest to weave together the fabric of that community through work, deeds and actions. The staff at **FPUA** are dedicated professionals committed to providing Fort Pierce the highest quality utility services, and being devoted to the local community where they live and work. We are your neighbors, friends and family. We thank you for your support and are honored to serve the Fort Pierce community as your public utility provider. Learn more about **FPUA** community activities at <https://fpua.com/community-involvement/>. ❖

tremendous benefits of them, as well as *Customer Service Week*, which is an international celebration of the importance of customer service and of the people who serve and support customers on a daily basis.

With so much to celebrate, in Fort Pierce, we celebrate *Public Utilities Week* at **FPUA** with a special presence at the October *Friday Fest*, where trucks, representatives, and more from all of our utility services are on display for you to see and learn. We look forward to seeing you there!

Main Street Fort Pierce Named FL Main Street's Program of the Month

The *Florida Main Street* Fall Quarterly meeting was held in Fort Pierce. The meeting was hosted by *Main Street Fort Pierce* in conjunction with *Lincoln Park Main Street*. More than sixty guests gathered in our Historic Downtown for this informative and educational conference.

Our Sunday, September 17th, the *Welcome Reception* was hosted by **Sailfish Brewing Company**. The meetings were held at the **500 Orange Convention Center** with numerous guest speakers: Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson; Kevin Crowder from **Business Flare**; Michael Powe from *Main Street America*; Nashid Madyun from the *Florida Humanities Council*; Shyanne Harnage from the *City of Fort Pierce*; Dale Matteson from *Audubon Development*; Brenda Burnette from the *Florida Citrus Trail*; Matt Haynes from *Main Street Vero Beach* and Thomas Lanahan from the *Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council*.

Sponsors included **500 Orange Event Center, Business Flare, St. Lucie County, Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, Natalies**

Orchid Island Juice Company, Nelson's Family Farms, Sailfish Brewing Company, Southern Eagle Distributing, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and Friends of Florida History, Inc.

Main Street Fort Pierce was awarded *Florida Main Street's* “Program of the Month” for September 2023. ❖





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Free Family-Friendly Levitt AMP Concert Series Comes to Fort Pierce

St. Lucie Cultural Alliance, in partnership with St. Lucie County and the City of Fort Pierce, presents the *Levitt AMP Fort Pierce Music Series to Museum Pointe Park* — an all-new ten free concert series with a diverse lineup of twenty top talents, from Grammy Award winners and nominees to international performers with a wide range of music genres. The series launches on Labor Day weekend, Sunday, September 3, and continues for consecutive Sundays until November 5. Show time is from 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Opening acts set the tone starting at 2:30 p.m. The spotlight shifts to the headliners at 5 p.m. Gate opens at 1:30 p.m.

The *Levitt AMP Fort Pierce Music Series* is supported, in part, by the *Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation*, which partners with communities across America to activate underused public spaces through the power of free live music, creating welcoming, inclusive destinations where people of all ages and backgrounds come together.

A three-year *Levitt Foundation* matching grant has been awarded to *St. Lucie Cultural Alliance* to present *Levitt AMP Fort Pierce*. The 2023 series is the first of three.

Levitt concert sites are community anchors where families, friends, and neighbors of all ages and backgrounds come together for a broad range of music genres and cultural programming. This music series will draw a diverse and engaged audience of music enthusiasts, locals and tourists.

The highly anticipated concert series will ignite the hearts of the community. Event goers will enjoy the enchantment of live music at a stunning waterfront view park and arts and crafts activities at the kids' corner, shop from local retailers and art vendors, and satisfy cravings with the delicious food truck lineup. The series will provide a family-friendly environment for all to share remarkable moments and create lasting memories with their loved ones and fellow music enthusiasts.

Museum Park is at 414 Seaway Dr. in Fort Pierce. Free parking for will be available across the street at Causeway Cove Marina, 601 Seaway Dr.

For individuals near the Downtown Fort Pierce area, free rides to the park are also available with **Freebee Fort Pierce**. To learn more, download the **Freebee** app or visit www.ridefreebee.com.

2023 SERIES SCHEDULE & LINEUP



Sunday, October 8 — Hitting the stage as the main act is America's Singing Cowgirl, Jessie Lynn, a multiple award-winning independent country music singer and songwriter. Lynn is a Nashville recording artist and a proud Academy of Country Music Awards, CMA, and Recording Academy member. Among her many awards, in 2019, ISSA (International Singer Songwriter Association) named her Female Vocalist of the Year.

First, The Hoochie Digs braces the stage to open the event. The duo has released a couple of albums, streaming on Spotify & YouTube, "My Baby Gone" & "Freedom." The best way to describe The Hoochie Dig genre is folk country.



Sunday, October 15 — High-energy, eclectic and amped-up, two-time Grammy Award winner artist, producer and songwriter Marlow Rosado headlines the show. With two Grammys and sixteen nominations, Rosado is a driving force in the Latin music industry and one of the leading components in the salsa scene.

Sharing the stage with Rosado and opening the concert is Oriente, an electric and authentic blend of Afro-Latin rhythms, soul, blues, and jazz. Oriente is melodic, colorful and spontaneous.



Sunday, October 22 — The Nouveaux Honkies, national genre neutral duo, is the principal act. "If Johnny Cash and Freddy King had a baby, it would be the Nouveaux

Honkies," said the *Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel*.

Opening for the duo is Stubborn Bastards. The band describes itself as four guys who love music, including songs from the 60s through the 90s.



Sunday, October 29 — Headliner Sammy Figueroa, two-time Grammy Award nominee, has long been regarded as one of the world's great musicians. Playing with some of the world's biggest stars, such as David Bowie, Chaka Khan, Mariah Carey and Quincy Jones. In addition to his two Grammy Award nominations for Best Latin Jazz, Sammy has been honored with numerous awards. These include two NARAS Awards for Percussionist of the Year, two Drummie Awards for Best Hand Percussion and the Jazz Journalists Association Award for Best Percussionist.

Opening for Figueroa is award-winning Italian singer-songwriter Chiara Izzi. In 2011, Izzi was awarded at the Montreux International Jazz Festival Vocal Competition by Quincy Jones. In April 2020, she also won one Independent Music Award for Best Jazz song with Vocals for her composition, "Circles Of The Mind."



Sunday, November 5 — Headliner Cassie Taylor is an American singer-songwriter, producer, and blues musician. Her formative years as a touring artist led her to share the stage and record with blues and rock legends, including Joe Cocker, John Oates, Gary Moore, and Keb' Mo'. Her track "Spare Some Love" hit 1 million streams on Spotify.

Set to kick off the event is The Shawn Tarver Project. This dynamic group brings a high-octane performance that blends elements of classic guitar-driven rock, blues, and infectious funky dance music.

The impressive lineup was curated in partnership with **Bluebird Productions** and approved by the *Levitt Foundation*.

The 2023 *Levitt AMP Fort Pierce* concert series is sponsored by **Causeway Cove Marina, Visit St. Lucie, Caborio, Sailfish Brewing Company, Remnant Construction, Bottom's Up Beverage, Varsity Sport Shop, Holiday Inn Express & Suites and District Planning Group**. Vendor opportunities are still available with the options to participate in all ten shows, five shows or individual show selections.

Music lovers and community conscious residents are encouraged to complete the volunteer form and get involved as volunteers. Another way to support this fascinating program is to make a tax-deductible donation to *St. Lucie Cultural Alliance* and help make it possible for the local nonprofit that brought *Levitt AMP* to Fort Pierce to continue hosting similar recreational programs and improve the quality of life in St. Lucie County.

For more information about *Levitt AMP Fort Pierce*, please visit www.artstlucie.org/levitt.

About St. Lucie Cultural Alliance. St. Lucie Cultural Alliance (SLCA) is the professional organization representing the arts and cultural sector in St. Lucie County. SLCA's mission is to better position the arts and cultural sector as a significant contributor to the vibrancy, and educational and economic wellbeing of St. Lucie County. SLCA is a proud partner of the *City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, St. Lucie County Tourism Division, and Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County.* ❖

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Ecology 101: Conservation Biology

by John D. Pinsof, Ph.D.

Conservation Biology, a relatively new field of ecology, has the overall goal of conserving natural resources and living organisms for all future generations. As an applied science, Conservation Biology studies human activities that are adversely impacting living organisms and determines what steps can be taken to reverse their effects. To achieve this goal, scientists consider the “large picture,” including the anatomy, physiology, and behavior of organisms in context of the specifics of their environment (for example, does the organism live in a forest? in a lake?). Often, Conservation Biologists work with local and federal officials, universities, and other organizations to make the public aware of potentially harmful situations or ways to solve a particular environmental problem.



A major part of Conservation Biology is the management of biodiversity, or the total variety of organisms living on the planet. Of the estimated 1.75 million described species, the vast majority are insects (about 900,000), followed by animals (about 280,000), plants (about 240,000), and then rounded out with lesser numbers of fungal, protist, and bacterial species. So why conserve biodiversity? There are many good reasons: living organisms provide most all of the foods we eat, a wide variety of medicines, and raw materials for many consumer

products. One could also add the joy we feel when diving on a coral reef or walking through a national park.

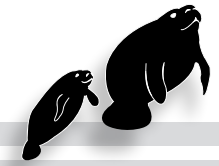
Protecting biodiversity is not an easy task. Did you know that many scientists believe we are in the midst of a modern extinction event? It is estimated that at least 10–20% of all species living today most likely will become extinct in the next 20 to 50 years unless planned, coordinated action is taken. The causes of these potential extinctions include habitat loss, exposure to man-made chemicals, and climate change. An endangered species is one that is on the cusp of becoming extinct throughout its natural range. Examples of endangered species are the giant panda, Florida panther, and black rhinoceros. Threatened species are organisms likely to become endangered in the near future. Examples of threatened species are the polar bear, northern spotted owl, and African elephant. As for our Florida manatee, *Trichechus manatus*, it was originally listed as endangered but, in 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service downgraded them to threatened. Some of the main threats to manatees are boat collisions, loss of their food supply, and becoming ensnared in fishing line or nets. It is sad to say that an estimated 1,100 manatees died in 2021, about 13% of the total Atlantic population.

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER



The Manatee Observation and Education Center is proud to be actively contributing to the conservation of the estimated 4,300 species living in the *Indian River Lagoon*. Following a fundraiser in November, 2021, the Center employed scientists from **Sea and Shoreline** to replant seagrass along a one-mile stretch of *Moore’s Creek* in an effort to bring native species (especially manatees) back to the waterway. Another project sponsored by the Center involves creating “living docks,” where oyster shells from local restaurants are attached to plastic mats and hung on pilings in the Fort Pierce marina. These mats provide suitable habitat for young oysters to settle and grow into adults. Once the goal of 17 pilings fitted with the oyster mats is reached, an estimated 85,000 gallons of water per day will be filtered by the new oyster residents, thus improving the overall water quality and health of the lagoon.

Learn more about the ecology of the *Indian River Lagoon* and its inhabitants at the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** located at 480 Indian River Drive in downtown Fort Pierce or find us online at www.ManateeEducationCenter.org. ❖



The Manatee Center October Events

Tuesday – Saturday at 2 p.m.
Fin-tastic Fish Feeding

Join us for a fin-tastic feeding program. The **Manatee Observation and Education Center** is home to over 30 fish species including lion fish, porcupine puffer fish, and a black edge moray eel. Learn more about these friends by visiting and attending one of our education programs.

1st & 3rd Friday at 1 p.m.
Creekside Chat

Join us at the **Manatee Center’s** back walk, right along *Moore’s Creek* for an informal educational talk led by a ManaTeam volunteer. Learn something new each month — and maybe even spot a manatee or two! Creekside chats are hosted outside in our outdoor classroom and are free to attend. No registration required.

3rd Wednesday at 11 a.m.
ManaTales Storytime, a Nature and Nurture Series

Nurture your child’s natural curiosity about nature through this Mommy and Me style program. Each session will focus on a new nature theme and includes a story, craft, and more. Some classes feature live animals! FFun for preschoolers.

Last Wednesday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Free Admission Day

We offer *Free Admission Day* as part of our regular programming on the last Wednesday of every month.

Friday, October 13 at 12:00 p.m.
Aquatic Restoration Presented by Sea And Shoreline’s Aquatic Science Team

Lunch & Learn — All life depends on water to survive. Our Treasure Coast ecosystems are precious to us all. Discover the delicate balance of these ecosystems and what is needed for them to thrive. Bring a lunch and bring a friend! This event will be hosted by **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** at 700 N. Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce. *Free Event.*

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Win a Masterpiece of Florida Art

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery is offering the chance to win a dynamic masterpiece of a familiar Florida subject by the internationally-renowned marine wildlife artist and conservationist Guy Harvey valued at \$10,000.

Blanco Solo, 2013, features the artist's signature subject, an Atlantic White Marlin cruising through a seascape of crystal clear ocean with

Continued on page 18 ...



Blanco Solo, 2013, by Guy Harvey (b.1955).
Acrylic on canvas, 30" x 40"

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 SUN., OCT. 22 2:30 - 7 PM THE NOUVEAUX HONKIES National Genre Neutral Duo Genre: Americana OPENING ACT STUBBORN BASTARDS	 SUN., OCT. 29 2:30 - 7 PM SAMMY FIGUEROA 2x Grammy Award Nominee Genre: Jazz OPENING ACT Chiara Izzi	 SUN., NOV. 5 2:30 - 7 PM CASSIE TAYLOR International Touring Artist Genre: Blues OPENING ACT THE SHAWN TARVER PROJECT

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MASTERPIECE ... continued from page 17

a splash of sargassum. The painting's composition gives a hint of the surface world above in the scattered glints of sunlight, but it is the expansive, cool blues that hint at the depths below, where the sleek and majestic marlin reigns supreme.

Guy Harvey is a unique blend of artist, scientist, diver, angler, conservationist and explorer, fiercely devoted to his family and his love of the sea. Growing up in Jamaica, he spent many hours fishing and diving with his father along the Island's south coast. He was obsessed with the creatures of the sea and began drawing pictures of the many different fish he observed. By 1988 he had fully transitioned from his advanced studies in marine biology to his deep dive into painting full time.

Dr. Harvey has traveled the world to gain more knowledge of the habits and activities of marine wildlife. He became an avid scuba diver and skilled underwater photographer. He pioneered a technique of diving and photographing free-swimming billfish. His personal observations made during these diving expeditions have better enabled him to capture the detail in his paintings that contributes to the popularity of his work.

A passion for the beauty and wonder of the underwater world has driven Dr. Harvey to be a leading conservationist and advocate for the protection of our environment. He dedicates much of his talent, time and resources to programs that protect our oceans, fish population and

reef systems. The *Guy Harvey Research Institute* at Nova Southeastern University and *The Guy Harvey Foundation* have taken on a leadership role in providing the scientific information necessary to understand and protect the world's fish resources and biodiversity from continued decline.

The **Backus Museum** is grateful to Guy Harvey for his generous assistance in making this painting available for our 2024 art raffle.

Tickets are available for donations of \$25 each, or \$60 for three, or \$100 for six chances to win! The winning tickets will be announced at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, 2024 at the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**, 500 N. Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce. You need not be present to win; the winner will be contacted. Only 3,000 tickets will be available. Complete rules are online and on display at the Museum. All proceeds will help support the Museum and its work in the community.

Many today still remember the altruism of A.E. "Bean" Backus, and how he used his paintings to help local nonprofits in their work helping others. For many years, the Museum continued a version of this tradition as a favorite fundraiser for our own work in the community. Today, we expand on this spirit to support the Backus Museum with the help and work of other master artists of Florida Art. Visit www.BackusMuseum.org/raffle to purchase raffle tickets online. ❖

Fort Pierce Police Department Hosts Trunk or Treat Event on Halloween

If you're looking for a safe and fun way to celebrate Halloween, then plan on visiting the *Fort Pierce Police Department's* annual **Trunk or Treat** event. It will be held on Tuesday, October 31, from 5–8 p.m. at the Police Department's Main Station, located at 920 South U.S. Highway 1. We will have a specially-themed

- Know the area you are going to and know your route.
- Trick-or-treat only in well-lit neighborhoods.
- Use sidewalks whenever possible. If there are no sidewalks, stay as far from the side of the road as possible and watch for traffic. Use a designated spotter if available to watch for approaching traffic.
- Only go to homes with their porch lights on.
- Incorporate some reflective attire or illumination for after dark (flashing lights, glow sticks, flashlights, high visibility safety vests)
- Drive with extra care. The streets will be

crowded with trick-or-treaters, often more concerned about candy than moving vehicles.

- Avoid costumes with masks. Wear comfortable shoes and avoid long costumes that may cause tripping.
- Adults should accompany small children. Travel in larger groups when possible.
- Thoroughly inspect all candies and trinkets after your children return home.
- Report suspicious activity or incidents that are not consistent with general and safe Halloween behavior.

Halloween drive-thru line and plenty of candy to hand out. For more information, call 772-467-6800.

SAFETY TIPS FOR TRICK-OR-TREATERS

It's imperative that everyone stay safe this Halloween, so if you plan on taking your children trick-or-treating, please follow these safety tips:

Safety Tips For Families Handing Out Candy to Trick-or-Treaters

- Remove or clear yard debris or fixtures that may become a hazard to visiting trick-or-treaters.
- Light up the exterior of your home.
- Ensure persons visiting your home approach only the areas of your home designated for trick-or-treating.
- Have extra people at your home (invite other neighbors or family members to sit with you while you hand out candy).
- Restrain pets to avoid unintentional encounters with visiting trick-or-treaters.

Annual Trick or Treat on 2nd Street Family Event – October 31st

Bring the family to Downtown Fort Pierce for **Trick or Treat on 2nd Street** from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Start anywhere and follow the one-way traffic. Pick up your map at any participating location and follow the signs (one way walking traffic). Go to each candy stop then wait for the group in front of you to advance. This is a family-friendly event and a great place to see and be seen in your Halloween attire!

Participating businesses: **Varsity Sport Shop, The Cake Lady, Dunkin Donuts, Notions & Potions, 2nd Street Bistro, 2nd**

Street Art, Sailfish Brewing Co., Legit Cuts Barbershop, Florida Hemp Collective, Taco Dive, Chic & Shore Things, Fort Pierce Marina, Crabby's Dockside, Havana George Café, Salon Bangz, Florida Mortgage & Loan, Old Florida Coffee, Cobb's Landing, Subway, Beach Bowls, Sara Jane & Co., Lion's Club, LylyJustLyly, and Importico's Bakery.

For an updated list of participating businesses and more information please visit the Facebook page – Notions & Potions Candles and More. ❖

6th Annual Night of the Thirsty Dead

Join **Sailfish Brewing Company, 2nd Street Bistro, Cobb's Landing, Pierced Cider, Crabby's Dockside** and **Bottom's Up Public House** for the best Halloween party on the east coast! On Saturday, October 28th, we're celebrating the **Night of the Thirsty Dead** with our spooky friends and the biggest *Halloween Costume Contest* cash prize the Treasure Coast has ever seen — again! There will be live music, Halloween inspired drinks, DJs, and your favorite haunts.

There will be over \$5,000 in cash prizes awarded to the best Halloween costumes: First Place — \$2,500, Second Place — \$1,500, and Third Place — \$1,000.

Contest information and rules: Must be 21+ to enter; must purchase pub crawl ticket to be considered for final top 21; ticket includes event wristband and 6 drink tickets (1 ticket per venue); must check in between 7:00–10:30 p.m. to participate in costume contest check-in.

Check in will take place at **Sailfish Brewing Company, 2nd Street Bistro, Cobb's Landing, Bottom's Up, Crabby's Dockside** and **Pierced Cider**. Please have your ticket and ID ready for check-in as this will help move the lines quickly. Faces

must be uncovered when presenting IDs and IDs are required to enter as this is a 21-and-older event.

Judging: Ticket purchase does not guarantee purchaser into the *Costume Contest* finals. Each venue will have a judge on site that will nominate three costumes.

All nominees will be approached by a judge, asked to fill out an entry card, have photo taken, and identified with a "nominated" pin. You must be nominated to participate in the final contest — if you have not been nominated you are not part of the final contest. All nominees must check in at **The Hideaway at 2nd St. Bistro** by 11:00 p.m., the contest begins at 11:15 p.m.

****Disclaimer**** ticket purchase does not guarantee purchaser entry into final contest at **2nd Street Bistro**. By purchasing this ticket you

agree to follow all venue rules and understand that there is no guarantee of entry into final contest.

For the official rules and to purchase tickets, please visit the events page at: www.sailfishbrewingco.com or the Facebook Pages of **Sailfish Brewing Company** and **2nd Street Bistro**.

Celebrate the **Night of the Thirsty Dead in Downtown Fort Pierce!** ❖





Notes from the Garden

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.)*

Garden Preparation

by Joanne Blandford

Gardening during late summer in South Florida can be tricky. The oppressive heat requires frequent breaks inside or in shade and the bugs can be relentless. However, relief will hopefully come this month. October is a great month to start overdue garden chores: weeding, trimming, refreshing soil, mulching, etc. It is also when you can start to plant the crops that do well during the winter months in Florida — brassicas, lettuces, cabbages, beets, carrots and other crops that prefer mild temperatures to grow.

My goal this month is to get a better grasp on organic fertilizer and understanding the signs a plant will show when it needs specific nutrients. This process reminds me of those science fair projects we were required to complete each year throughout elementary and middle school — except now I am excited to participate!

I wish I paid more attention in my high school chemistry class. I now understand the importance of the N (nitrogen) P (phosphorus) K (potassium) ratio of fertilizers. Plants need nitrogen to create new tissues and to produce leaf foliage. They need phosphorus to produce fruit or flowers and set good root growth. Potassium is needed for the overall health and regulation of metabolic activities of the plant. Sometimes plants will need less of one of these nutrients and more of another. That is where the local *Florida Agricultural Extension Office* can help with soil analysis. Visit the *University of Florida IFAS* extension website for more information: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

There are many other nutrients that your plants may need, but NPK are the major players behind the success or failure of a backyard garden. It has been interesting learning that too much nitrogen given to a tomato plant may lead to great leaf growth but may also lead to low production of tomatoes; or that most bean plants can produce their own nitrogen and will not do well at first if the soil they are planted in has too much nitrogen in it.

Backyard gardening has made me appreciate the time and effort that farmers put into growing the crops that sustain our country's and the world's food supply. Be sure to support our local growers and ranchers at the downtown Fort Pierce Farmer's Market held every Saturday. It is one of longest running, most atmospheric and most successful farmer's market in the state of Florida.

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A Special Invitation for Music Teachers, Parents, and Educators from the *Jazz Society*



The *Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society* wants to partner with your school to nurture young musicians in the art of music with an emphasis on jazz and blues, a truly African-American art form.

Our members are professional musicians, each with decades of experience from Broadway, to famed rock swing, jazz, and blues bands, to the Breakers Hotel.

For 20 years, we have offered *free* educational and inspirational music programs to Treasure Coast music teachers, band directors and their students, including:

- **Jazz Clinics** — our professional musicians come to your school, listen to your jazz group, make suggestions, and give pro-tips at no cost to the schools.
- **Eye to Eye** — Band directors who see students and know their potential recommend talented students who might not have the financial means to further their talent. We pair those students with a professional musician with expertise and experience with that student's particular instrument. This program provides six *free* lessons to that student and a lifetime of mentoring.
- **Jazz Jams** — Students can attend our *Jazz Jams* with free admission and are always encouraged to sit in with the pros to

hone their talent and build their confidence.

- **Scholarship Awards** — High School seniors present two jazz music selections and perform these with professional musicians together for a live audience. Their performance is judged by a panel of professional musicians/educators. Their preparedness and proficiency and their performance audition/experience could land them a \$1,000 merit scholarship which is awarded at our gala awards night at the **Black Box Theater** in Fort Pierce every May.

- **Summer Band Camps** — Beginning in 2024, the *Jazz Society* will hold four weeks of band camp jazz music camps, Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. These programs will be held during June and will focus on the basics of stage manners, music theory, jazz protocol, and the importance of musical conversations between each instrument.

These camps are taught by musical professionals/educators who are well-respected nationally. There's nothing at all that can beat experience, and our professionals have been there and done that, making their input priceless. The cost of these camps is always competitive, and there are a few scholarships available for these camps.

In short, we want to help your students succeed and make you the educator who inspired them forever!

Call or e-mail us today to partner with the *Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society* today: 772.460.JAZZ or info@jazzsociety.org ❖

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Local Business Celebrates 50 Years Serving the Community

When married couples celebrate a 50th anniversary, it's an illustration of love, commitment, and a willingness to evolve and grow over time. When a business celebrates 50 years of service it's much the same; love of what they do, commitment to the customers they serve and a willingness to grow and evolve in how they offer their services to remain viable and competitive. Making this even more worthy of celebrating it when the business has been locally owned, and family run for those 50 years.

Fort Pierce's **Haisley Funeral and Cremation Service** is marking their 50th year in business as our area's longest serving, locally-owned and family-run funeral provider. They are inviting the public to celebrate with them at an open house, Wednesday, October 25 from 5:30–7 p.m. at their Fort Pierce location (3015 Okeechobee Road).

"50 years is truly a memorial occasion, to have been blessed to serve the community where I was born and raised and help so many families during their most difficult time," said Richard F. Haisley. "Many of the families we have helped I've known from growing up here and so it's personal to me, to my family, to make sure their family is taken care of and comforted during their loss."

The Haisley family are Fort Pierce natives and have been serving the community for 50 years. Richard F. Haisley and Claude "Buddy" Hobbs, Jr. purchased the Fort Pierce Funeral Home, originally located on South US Hwy. 1, in 1973. Their commitment to the community was: "Serving the living, caring for the dead, giving dignity to man."

In 1978 Haisley and Hobbs moved the business to the current location on Okeechobee Road and officially changed the name to Haisley-Hobbs Funeral Home, Inc. It was also in the late 70s that they acquired part ownership in the Fort Pierce Cemetery, now Riverview Memorial Park on North U.S. Highway 1 in Fort Pierce.



Hobbs retired in 1998 and Rick Haisley was joined by his wife and fellow Fort Pierce native, Jimmie Anne, in owning and operating the business. They also furthered their commitment to being family-run when daughters Quinn Haisley-Wheeler joined the business as a licensed funeral director and embalmer and the manager of funeral service operations, and Lee Anne

Haisley-Bolonka, came on as the office manager. Son-in-law Chris Wheeler, is a licensed pre-need agent, guiding families in pre-arranging their end-of-life decisions. The Haisleys also changed their slogan to: *Our Family Serving Your Family*.

"Being a locally-owned, family-run business means a lot more than just living in your community," said Rick Haisley. "It means being involved in your community, in local organizations and in the lives of those who live alongside you."

The Haisley family truly believes in giving back to the community. The Haisley's have served on many non-profit boards, such as *Treasure Coast Hospice*, and are members of the *Fort Pierce Rotary Club* and the *Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis Club*. At times they have also been active in *March of Dimes* and *Easter Seals*.

Over the last 15 years, Quinn Haisley-Wheeler has volunteered as part of the *Sunrise Kiwanis* for *Main Street's Sights and Sounds Christmas Parade*. Along with her fellow club members they help orchestrate the staging and registration of

the parade participants and work alongside the *Main Street* team, the *Fort Pierce Police Department* and local city officials to make the family event fun for all who participate and attend.

The Haisley Family has also been a sponsor of *Main Street's Reverse Raffle* for many years and have always enjoyed donating to and attending the event each.

As our community and culture has evolved, so have the Haisleys in the services and programs they offer. The Haisleys started an Aftercare program — a grief counselling service provided to anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one — and have consistently developed online services and resources to make planning, and even attending, funeral services easier.

Never shying away from innovation and entrepreneurship, the Haisley's opened *Haisley Pet Loss Services* in 2012. "It was a natural extension of our brand," Haisley said. "Since opening the pet service, we have handled many pets of families we have served in the past and many of our pet families were so pleased with the service they received for their pet that they decided to pre-arrange their own personal funeral services with us."

With the trend of celebrations of life growing in popularity, the Haisley's again innovated by opening The Reception Center on their Fort Pierce campus, allowing families a place to gather and share food and memories after a funeral visitation or service.

"We have had baby showers, retirement parties and numerous community events in The Reception Center," Haisley said. "We even make the facility available for local non-profits to use as they need."

With the continued and rapid growth in Port St. Lucie, the Haisley's expanded their operation again in 2014, opening the doors to the **Haisley Funeral & Cremation Service Tribute Center**. The **Tribute Center** was built with the idea of going back in time when wakes were held in the family's home. "One of the most striking things you will notice when you walk into the **Haisley Tribute Center** is how much it feels like you are visiting someone's home," Haisley said. "It's not institutional and is instead very warm and comforting." Besides a small chapel, visitation room and offices, the **Tribute Center** has a large, state-of-the-art kitchen, the heart of every home.

In 2017, *Healing Hoofs Therapy Horses* was established with the goal to bring joy and comfort to those facing difficult times.

"*Healing Hoofs* uses the power of Calvin and Banks, our two certified therapy mini ponies, to prance right into the hearts of those facing medical, cognitive, emotional, or end-of-life difficulties," says Jimmie Anne Haisley. "They have been a part of the *Main Street Sights and Sounds Parade* several times and are a hit with spectators." ❖

Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency Launches Commercial Sign Grant Program

As part of its commitment to increase local business awareness, economic productivity, and overall visual appeal, the **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency** (FPRA) is launching a *Commercial Sign Reimbursement Grant Program*. This program encourages property owners to upgrade their signage and replace old, outdated, worn signs with new, modern, visually appealing signs. Upgraded signage is more aesthetically appealing for residents and visitors throughout our community and increases brand exposure of businesses which improves their chances of new customer acquisition and retention.

The FPRA *Commercial Sign Reimbursement Program* is set to launch on September 20, 2023. The program provides financial assistance by offering a reimbursable grant of up to

\$5,000 per property. This grant is being offered to existing businesses and can be used towards a new sign or to upgrade an existing sign.

The property must be located within the FPRA District to be eligible for this program (please see the FPRA boundary map below). The funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until all funds are expended.

For an application and a complete list of eligibility requirements, please visit: <https://choosefortpierce.com/969/FPRA-Incentive-Program>

For more information about the FPRA Commercial Sign Reimbursement Grant Program, please call 772-467-3786 or email fppra@cityoffortpierce.com. ❖

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A.E. Backus Museum Exhibitions and Events for 2023–2024 Season

EXHIBITIONS

October 8–November 10, 2023: *The Best of the Best Annual Juried Exhibition*

The **Backus Museum** is the home of the Treasure Coast's longest continuously held juried art competition, now in its 42nd year. This well-established commitment to practicing artists results in the annual presentation, which shines its spotlight on the finest artwork, by both amateurs and professionals from around the state and in a wide variety of media. Every year, a new independent jury panel discovers "the best," and rewards creative distinction, exceptional quality and skill, and outstanding presentation with cash prizes. *The Best of the Best* heralds the opening of our 63rd Season.

Season Opening Reception — Saturday, October 7, 5:00–8:00 p.m. | Remarks: 6:00 p.m.

November 17, 2023–January 7, 2024: *Kindred Spirits: Paintings & Letters from the Kiplinger Family Collection*

W. M. Kiplinger (1891–1967), a famed Washington journalist with a home on Sewall's Point in Stuart, discovered the art of A. E. Backus and befriended him in the 1950s. Despite the differences in their lives, Kiplinger found in Backus a close counterpart, and commissioned a number of significant paintings. A tireless letter writer, Kiplinger corresponded with his friend as well as with other artists he met at the *Backus Studio*, including a remarkable exchange with future *Highwaymen* artist Alfred Hair (1941–1970). This exhibition is the first public showing of these paintings and rare letters, and also includes selected works by Al Black, Walter Cole, Willie Daniels, James F. Hutchinson, Kevin Hutchinson, Therese Knowles, Roy McLendon, Harold Newton, and Sam Newton acquired by W.M. Kiplinger, and in recent years the Kiplinger Family, that honor the Backus legacy.

Opening Reception — Friday, December 1, 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Remarks: 6:30 p.m.

January 13–March 3, 2024: *Fast Forward: The Original Florida Highwaymen on the Way to Fame 1954–2004*

When a nineteen-year-old Harold Newton became inspired to paint the Florida landscape in 1954, his vision, courage, and accomplishments encouraged his friends and neighbors to take up paintbrushes and follow a new path as professional artists.

Over time, dozens of individuals joined the venture and unintentionally founded a movement. After more than fifty years in becoming an overnight success, the 26 landscape artists now known as *The Original Highwaymen* were inducted in 2004 into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. This exhibition of rarely seen paintings, gathered from private collections, celebrates their first fifty years of fame and bold course forward to the hard-won triumph of statewide recognition.

Opening Reception — Friday, January 19, 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Remarks: 6:30 p.m.

March 8–April 28, 2024: *Art of the Fantastic: Imaginative Illustration from the Korshak Collection*

The *Korshak Collection* features works by pioneering artists from over a century of published science fiction, horror, and fantasy. These original adventure and fantasy illustrations appeared on the covers and pages of timeless novels, and in classic pulp magazines from the 1930s through 1960s such as *Amazing Stories*, *Weird Tales*, *Fantastic Adventures*, and *Wonder Stories*. The exhibition features works by such masters as Aubrey Beardsley, Arthur Rackham, Gustave Doré, Howard Pyle, Virgil Finlay, Kelly Freas, J. Allen St. John, Frank Frazetta, and Michael Whelan. With outstanding images of Martian princesses, Arthurian legends, ethereal fairies, alien invaders, imaginative pasts and fanciful, uncertain futures, *Art of the Fantastic* is far and away a superb survey of the extraordinary.

Opening Reception — Friday, March 15, 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Remarks: 6:30 p.m.

May 10–June 21, 2024: *Through the Eye of the Camera Annual Juried Exhibition*

This favorite open competition by the **Backus Museum** continues its long tradition of appreciating photography as a distinct art form. For nearly thirty years, this annual presentation brings into focus the finest images in traditional and digital photography, by both amateurs and professionals from around the state. An independent jury panel each year considers every entry and awards the superior examples with awards and cash prizes. Entries accepted by advance appointment April 10–May 3; see Prospectus available March 13 for details.

Opening Reception — Friday, May 10, 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Remarks: 6:30 p.m.

EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Sunday, October 8, 2023 during regular hours: 63rd Season Grand Opening Celebration – Free Admission

Join us for the opening of the season and *The Best of the Best* exhibition!

Saturday, October 21 — 6:00–10:00 p.m. *Backus Boo Ball*

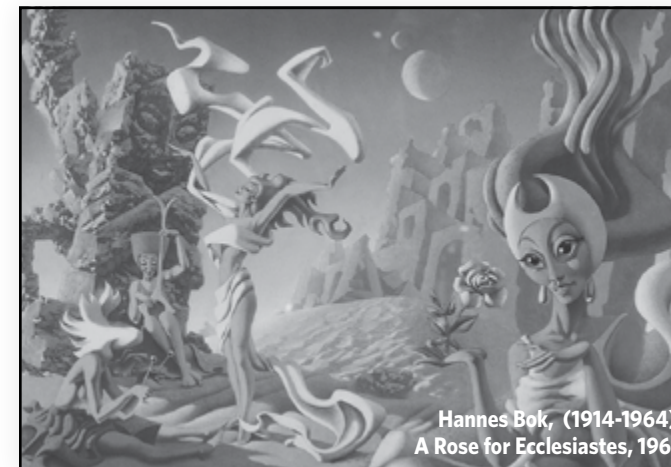
Eat, drink, and be scary! The frightfully fun Halloween-themed party for adults is back to casting its enchantments for all on the Outdoor Mural Plaza. Live music by *The Square Ones*, cash prizes for your creative couture in the costume contest, together with haunting witches' brews, hexy-sexy potions, and tasty monster chow, we promise a spellbinding evening of treats for all! Your startling exploits at the Boo benefit the work of the **Backus Museum**. Event tickets available September 6th.

December 1–23 during regular hours *Holiday Sale — Share Your Love of Florida*

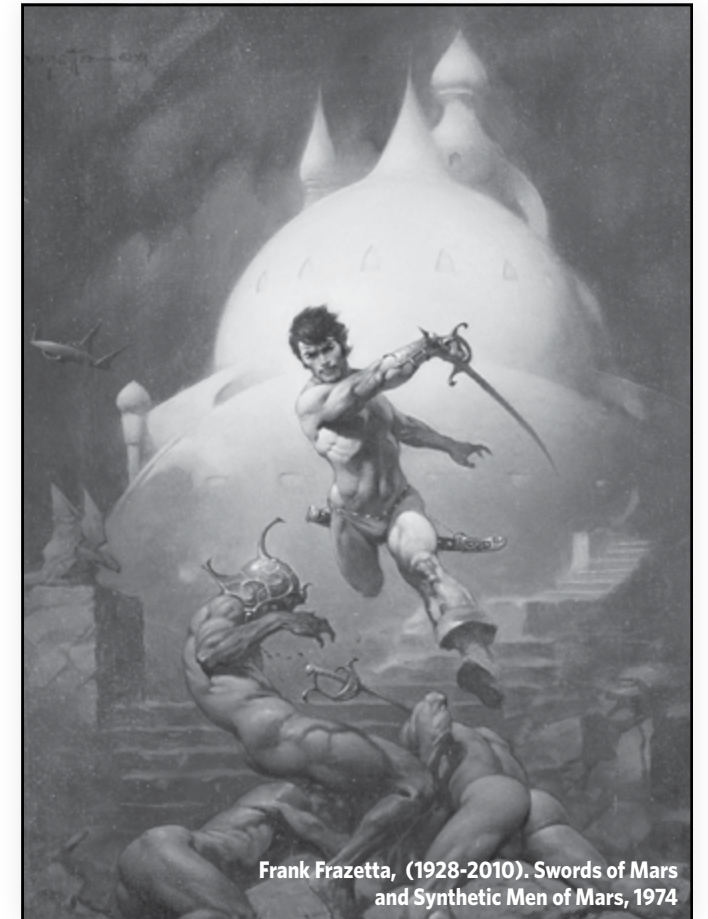
20% off most items! The **Museum Store** is your destination for unique and creative gifts that share your love of Florida. You'll find Backus-inspired items for the home or office, artisan jewelry, specialty books, notecards, and more festive joys waiting for you. Get your limited edition, hand-textured canvas reproduction of one of many beloved paintings in the *Backus Home Collection*. And don't miss this year's Backus commemorative holiday ornament! Shop early for best selection.

Sunday, January 28, 2024 — 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. *Sunday in Key West Luncheon & Auction*

Your winter getaway to the Florida Keys is closer than you think! Our annual signature event brings the charms of Key West nearer to home at the **Pelican Yacht Club** on the scenic Indian River Lagoon. The thrilling live auction of exclusive



Hannes Bok, (1914–1964).
A Rose for Ecclesiastes, 1963



Frank Frazetta, (1928–2010). Swords of Mars
and Synthetic Men of Mars, 1974

experiences and exceptional items is served with delectable food and friends in support of the **Backus Museum**. Reserve your seats starting December 1.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, February 16–18 *Highwaymen Celebration Weekend — Free Admission*

Browse a selection of vintage *Highwaymen* paintings available for purchase on the Museum's *Outdoor Mural Plaza*, and join informative gallery talks on the special exhibition.

Sunday, March 3 — 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. *Juice & Jazz and Win a Masterpiece of Florida Art Raffle*

It's worth the squeeze! Enjoy a jazzy time on the Indian River for our choice outdoor concert event. Live music on the *Outdoor Mural Plaza* accompanies a scrumptious assortment of sweet and savory delights, all with fresh juice, hot java and sparkling mimosas. And at 12:30 p.m. we hit the exciting climax — the drawing for the annual *Florida Art Raffle*.

Bop over and swing by for the favorite opportunity for fun and advance the mission of the **Backus Museum**. Event tickets available January 31. All dates and programming subject to change; please check the website for any updates or cancellations. ❖

It's the Mullet Run!

by Captain Bo Samuel

October means it's time for the mullet run! This month local captains and area anglers will be cast netting for the abundant schools of mullet along our Treasure Coast. The arrival of the mullet in our beautiful waters is proof of even more opportunities for great fishing and a much greater chance to catch trophy fish like snook, tarpon, cobia, redfish, and kingfish.

Look for these schools on the beach, moving through the inlet, and over the grass flats. Tarpon will hit mullet and provide a great fight but they are catch-and-release only. Since snook season is going strong, using some nice finger mullet as bait will definitely give you a fantastic opportunity to hook a photo-worthy linesider. I use a 40-pound leader with size three to five hook for best results. Be sure to keep your drag tight as snook love to run and cut the line on any nearby structure. Jack Crevalle are aggressive feeders who will also snack on



live mullet all day but don't mind artificials either.

Offshore, the kingfish bite is still good with some mahi mixed in at about 80 to 100 feet and we are still catching some nice mangrove snapper, too. The recent windy weather and passing hurricanes has made it a little challenging to get out but hopefully we see a lot of improvement this month. Mullet, threadfins, or blue runners on a slow troll are best choices to put some kings on deck. You can catch king-

fish all year with a limit of two kings per day.

The photo this month is my good friend Kyle Garrigus and his great crew on a recent trip catching kings and cobia!

Fall is in the air, plenty of bait to share, and we got the fishing gear! Support your local bait and tackle shops like **DeBrooks Fishing Corner** and my home base of **Little Jim Bait & Tackle**. When you're ready to get in on the fun of the mullet run, jump on board and start *Pullin Drag!* ❖

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Favorite Recipes from Main Street Board Members

Vegetable Tian

Ingredients

- 1 Large Vidalia Onion, sliced thin
- 2 Tablespoons Butter
- 1 Tablespoon minced garlic
- 2 potatoes (long and thin preferred)
- 2 Zucchini
- 2 yellow squash
- 2-3 Roma tomatoes
- 1 Tablespoon Italian seasoning
- Olive oil
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese

Instructions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Melt butter in a medium sauté pan. Add the sliced onion and garlic. Sauté on low-medium to caramelize the onions (usually takes about 30 minutes).

In a 9-inch pie pan, pour onion/garlic in to bottom of pan. Slice potatoes,

zucchini, squash, and tomatoes into slices no bigger than ¼-inch.

Arrange vegetables in a circle on top of the onion mixture, alternating veggies (i.e.: tomato, potato, squash, zucchini). When finished, it should look like a snail shell.

Drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with Italian seasoning.

Cover with foil and bake for approximately 45 minutes.

Remove from oven, uncover, sprinkle with cheese and return to oven for 15–20 minutes. To check for doneness, check to see that potatoes are cooked. Enjoy!



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