



Volume 14, No. 7 February, 2019

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

4th Annual



Highwaymen HERITAGE TRAIL

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Main Street Focus
122 AE Backus Ave.
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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!

Friday, February 15, at 8:00 a.m. at Fort Pierce Yacht Club
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HOSTED BY Fort Pierce Yacht Club, Main Street Fort Pierce, Orchid Island Juice Company, and The City of Fort Pierce. Call Main Street Fort Pierce for more information at 772-466-3880.

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All Day Happy Hour & Bingo at 6pm

TUESDAY
Girls Pint Out 1st Tuesday Sip & Paint 2nd & 4th Tuesday

WEDNESDAY
Randall Wednesday & Game Night at 6pm

THURSDAY
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall in Love with Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

by Sue Dannahower



February is the month to get out and fall in love with downtown Fort Pierce. There is so much to do and things to see in this month. It is finally time to get back out and get moving again after the holiday season.

Not many cities have that beautiful water view we take for granted. There are a number of waterfront restaurants around our marina. You can enjoy local beverages from the **Sailfish Brewing Company** and **Pierced Cider Works**. There is ice cream and gelato, and be certain to visit our bakeries to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Art lovers can enjoy galleries such as the **Backus Gallery & Museum**, **Lisa Jill Allison Art Studio**, and **Seriously Mixed Media**, to name a few. Take in a performance at the historic **Sunrise Theatre** or learn more about Florida at the **Manatee Observation & Education Center**.

If you love the water, **Salty's Water Sports** offers boats, jet skis, paddle boards and more, to rent by the hour or by the day. And the **Fort Pierce Marina** is home to the finest fishing charters on the east coast of Florida.

Main Street Fort Pierce, in conjunction with the City of Fort Pierce, offers *Historic Downtown Trolley Tours* through the end of March. Call our office for more information.


March is an exciting month with our **Sandy Shoes Seafood & Brew Festival** to be held on March 23rd. Would you like to volunteer for this or another event? Call today and we'll sign you up!

I encourage *you* to become involved in our downtown by joining **Main Street Fort Pierce** as a member. Your membership dollars can be found hard at work — **Main Street** puts on more than 30 events yearly; most are free to the public. Call us today at (772) 466-3880. I hope you are in *love* with Fort Pierce, and please remember to *shop local!* ♦



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Vince Zalenski has been a volunteer with the **Manatee Center** as a "Roving Naturalist" since August of 2016. He volunteers on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Vince is a Vietnam War veteran and continued a career with the federal government, retiring after almost 50 years. He also volunteers at the **Elliot Museum** and will soon be a grandfather in February.



MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

Volume 14, No. 7 February 2019

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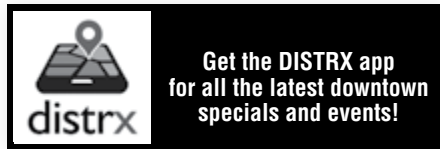
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Phone: 772.466.3880 • www.mainstreetfortpiece.org

Calendar

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



MONTHLY EVENTS

February 1, Friday: FRIDAY FEST — 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Marina Square & Melody Lane; Live music by **Will Vaughn O'Gees**; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 2, Saturday: HISTORIC TROLLEY TOURS — 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.; in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce; Reservations required, \$10 per person; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 7, Thursday: HISTORIC TROLLEY TOURS — 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.; in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce; Reservations required, \$10 per person; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 7 & 8, Thursday & Friday: 3RD ANNUAL CELEBRATING FLORIDA LANDSCAPE ART SHOW — Thursday, 5 to 7:30 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; featuring **Anita Prentice** and **Doretha Hair Truesdell** at the Platts/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Avenue; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 7, Thursday: DINING IN THE DARK AWARENESS DINNER — doors open at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. at **2nd Street Bistro**, 122 North 2nd Street; **Fort Pierce Lions Club & TC Chapter of National Federation of the Blind**; RSVP Crystal Samuel, 772-940-9939.

February 12, Tuesday: Mayor Linda Hudson to present **2019 STATE OF THE CITY REPORT** — 6:00 p.m. at the **Sunrise Theatre**, 117 South 2nd Street; City of Fort Pierce, 467-3065.

February 14, Thursday: 3rd THURSDAY EDUCATION SEMINARS — 6 to 8:00 p.m.; free to public; co-sponsored by **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** and the **Manatee Observation & Education Center**; www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com.

February 15, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**; sponsored by **HBK Wealth**; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 15, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; seriouslymixedmedia.com, artconnectionfp.com.

February 16, Saturday: ANNUAL HIGHWAYMEN HERITAGE TRAIL & FESTIVAL — 10 a.m. to 4

p.m.; Moore's Creek Linear Park; info on free trolley tour reservations, call 467-3183.

February 19 & 26, Tuesdays: YOUR COURTS UP CLOSE — free 4-night event; learn more about how the Judicial system works for you! Meet judges, attorneys and more; have questions answered; reserve your spot at yourcourts@circuit19.org or call 772-807-4370, www.circuit19.org.

February 21, Thursday: HISTORIC TROLLEY TOURS — 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.; in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce; Reservations required, \$10 per person; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 21, Thursday: ABSTRACTS, ORCHIDS & THE MOON II ART SHOW — 5 to 7 p.m.; Platts/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Ave.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

SAVE THE DATE

March 9, Saturday: 5TH ANNUAL CATTLEMEN'S DANCE AT THE ADAMS RANCH — 6 to 10 p.m.; at the **Sunrise Theatre**, www.sunrisetheatre.com.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wednesdays: Wednesday Green Market & Food Co-Op — rain or shine 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., Downtown Marina Square; 971-8480.

Saturdays: The Jazz Market — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north side of the Downtown Fort Pierce Library; Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299, www.jazzsociety.org.

Saturdays: Ft. Pierce Farmer's Market — 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

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772-461-4775 • www.sunrisetheatre.com
See Back Cover for Upcoming Shows

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

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

Common Ground Vineyard Church — 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.; 460-5414, www.commongroundvineyard.com.

First United Methodist Church — 9:30 a.m.; 464-0440, www.umatter2Godandus.com.

Fort Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church; 940-6728, www.haitianmethodist.org.

Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church — 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.; 466-9617, www.notredamecc.com.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (founded 1893) — 8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.; Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m.; adult Bible study at 9:15 a.m., nursery provided; 461-5009 www.mystandrews.org.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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

Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
772-462-1795

2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building
Open Fridays and Saturdays
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

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

Fort Pierce Police Athletic League
772-370-6162 • www.fortpiercepal.com
Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center
772-489-6473 • www.cityoffortpierce.com

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

Heathcote Botanical Gardens
772-464-4672 • heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

Manatee Observation & Education Center
772-466-1600 x3333 • www.manateecenter.com

National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum
772-595-5845 • www.navysealmuseum.org

St. Lucie County Marine Center
772-462-3474 • www.stlucieco.gov/marine_center

St. Lucie County Regional History Center
772-462-1795 • www.stlucieco.gov/history

Fort Pierce Celebrates Famed *Highwaymen* Artists During the *Annual Highwaymen Festival*

The City of Fort Pierce's annual tribute to the world-renowned *Florida Highwaymen* artists and their contribution to the rich cultural history of Fort Pierce will be held Saturday, February 16 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Moore's Creek Linear Park, at the corner of Avenue D and 8th Street.

Moore's Creek Linear Park is located in the heart of the Lincoln Park neighborhood, the birthplace of the *Highwaymen* artists.

This free event will feature many of the *Original* and *2nd Generation Highwaymen* artists as well as tribute booths for several of the deceased artists. The festival will also include displays from regional artists, live music, buskers performing throughout the day, an exhibit of 5th grade art contest entries, food, novelty vendors and a Kid's Zone.

Free guided tours of the award-winning *Highwaymen Heritage Trail* will be available throughout the event, by reservation only, by calling 772-467-3183. The Trail's colorful markers, magnificent public art and informative website help convey the plight, fortitude, entrepreneurial spirit and accomplishments

of these African Americans starting in the 1950s through their induction into the *Florida Artist Hall of Fame* in 2004.

The **A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery** that will host a *Highwaymen Open House Weekend* February 15–17 in conjunction with the *Highwaymen Festival*. (See page 9.) A free shuttle for visitors to travel between the *Highwaymen Festival* and the **Backus Museum** will be available.

Information on the event is available by calling 772-467-3183 or e-mailing bjosaphat@city-ftpierce.com. ❖



★ SAVE THE DATE ★ SAVE THE DATE ★ SAVE THE DATE ★ SAVE THE DATE ★

Tickets Available for the *5th Annual Cattlemen's Dance at the Adams Ranch*

Dust off your cowboy boots, polish your spurs and get ready to have a rip-roaring good time at the *5th Annual Cattlemen's Dance at Adams Ranch* in Fort Pierce on Saturday, March 9 from 6 to 10 pm. In previous years, the *Sunrise Theatre Foundation* organized the successful event. This year, the **Sunrise Theatre** will be hosting the annual fundraiser to support cultural enrichment for all ages and community outreach opportunities at the historic **Sunrise Theatre**. The **Sunrise Theatre** is excited to organize this dance for the community and encourages guests to come and support "your" local theatre for a great cause.

The **Sunrise Theatre** is pleased to have once again **Bev Smith Automotive Group** as the event's Premier Stage Sponsor for the fourth year. **Moonswiners Bar-B-Que** is providing a delicious, hearty BBQ meal with all the fixins! Guests will

enjoy the music of *Bruce Hunter and the Real Country Band*. They will provide a wide range of true country dance favorites and the *Wild Roses Country Dance Group* will teach guests line dancing and couples' dancing. For those folks that say they can't dance, well now you will not have an excuse with hands-on training by the *Wild Roses!*

Join us for an evening of entertainment, food, live and silent auctions, and just plain fun under the stars at the wonderful **Adams Ranch**. Tickets are \$60 per person; after March 1, \$75. Tickets are available through the **Sunrise Theatre** box office Monday–Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or at www.SunriseTheatre.com.

For more information about this event or to become a sponsor, please call Anne Satterlee, Marketing Director at the **Sunrise Theatre**, 772-467-3027, Asatterlee@sunrisetheatre.com. ❖

Abstracts, Orchids & The Moon II Art Show Features the Works of Robert McCall Jr. and Dick Robertson



PHOTO BY ROBERT MCCALL

An art show featuring the photography of Robert McCall, Jr. and Dick Robertson and the pottery of his late father, Robert McCall, Sr. will be on display at the *Main Street* office (Platts/Backus House) on Thursday, February 21st from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Select pieces from the show will be available for purchase.

Robert McCall, Jr. was born and raised in Minneapolis, MN. He first came to Ft. Pierce in 1973 after his father was transferred as chief inspector at St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant working through Kemper Ins. Co. He is a self-taught photographer and has been taking photos since the late 1960s. After enlisting in the military, McCall was an Army photographer stationed at Ft. MacArthur in San Pedro, CA. After the Army, he worked as a commercial photographer during the early to mid 1970s. He has devoted his talents to Fine Arts Photography since 1979.

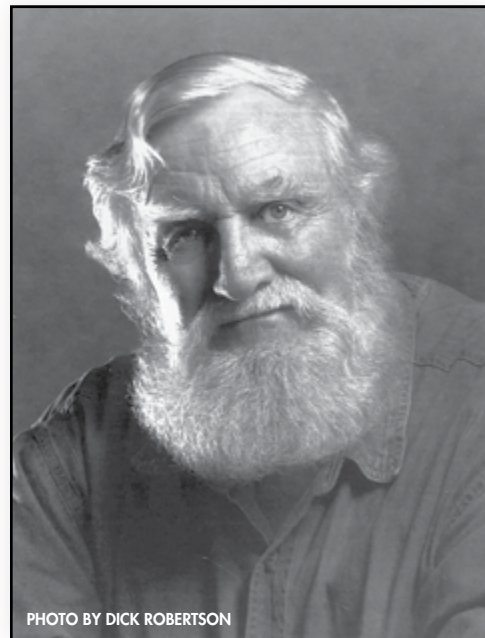


PHOTO BY DICK ROBERTSON

Robert is a traditionalist in the sense he still prints his photos using film and darkroom. "I develop my own film and do my own darkroom printing. All my photos are archival," he states. He has had one-man shows at Green Mill, Hennepin Center for the Arts, Minneapolis (1982); the Loretta Childs Art Gallery, St. Paul, MN (1984); the Enigma Gallery, Vero Beach, FL (1998); Dick Huss Gallery, St. Paul, MN (2003); Hudson Hospital & Clinic, Hudson, WI (2006); Stillwater Public Library, Stillwater, MN (2007); and the Grezzo Gallery, Northfield, MN (2008). His work was featured in the combined shows at the Frank Stone Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (2001 and 2003) and at the Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI (2007). He has won awards for his photos at the *Backus Juried Show* and *Art by the Sea* at the **Vero Beach Museum of Arts**.

Dick Robertson and his wife, Marcia, owned a prestige portrait studio in Stamford, CT. He earned the Master and Craftsmen Degree from the Professional Photographers of America, (PPA). From the CT Photographers, he received the *National Award* and the *Lifetime Achievement Award* for his dedication to photography and service to others. He and Marcia gave programs and judged around the country and at the National PPA Convention.

Dick has been a photographer using sheet film and the darkroom, and has now converted to all digital, doing High Dynamic Range (HDR) landscapes and fine art photography. He is now experimenting with Carbon Tissue Transfers, a process brought over from England in the 1860s. He processes his prints in the kitchen, using Knox Gelatin, sugar, India Ink, and alcohol, hot and cold water.

For the show, he is exhibiting 60 years of development as a photographer, from black and white silver prints, to color, and now to digital inkjet and carbon prints. He loves helping photographers that have his passion and believes that giving back is keeping him going. ❖



PHOTO BY DICK ROBERTSON

Celebrating Florida Landscape

by Sue Dannahower

Main Street Fort Pierce will host the *3rd Annual Celebrating Florida Landscape Art Show* at the Platts/Backus House on February 7th and 8th. This unique art show features two amazing local artists: Anita Prentice and Doretha Hair Truesdell.



Mosaic artist, Anita Prentice has created numerous public works including: a tribute for the *Highwaymen* on Fort Pierce Intermodal Train Station, grave markers for five *Highwaymen* artists, a butterfly mosaic at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden, 150+ benches throughout St. Lucie County, a Zora Neale Hurston Portrait series, Immokalee's 1920s above-ground pool, and the seawall at the former home of Jimmy Buffet in Key West. She served as Chair and on the St. Lucie County Cultural Affairs Council, Chair of Art in Public Places, St. Lucie Horticultural Board, Zora Neale Hurston Committee, and the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens Council member. Her most recent works include two "Tree of Life" mosaic and four benches for the newly constructed Tax Collectors office in Tradition.

For the show, Anita is presenting her popular miniature hibiscus mosaics, royal poinciana trees and an innovative mosaic design inspired by Julie Lounibos' "Sunrise Over St. Lucie Village" collection of photos.

Doretha Hair Truesdell is the widow of the original *Highwayman*, Alfred Hair. Doretha initially helped Alfred by shellacking boards and painting backgrounds. She



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PHOTO BY WENDY DWYER

is now an artist in her own right with her "Oil on Canvas & Masonite" landscapes. She is the founding member and currently president of the non-profit Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen, Inc., Treasurer of the Fort Pierce Woman's Club, and Lifetime Chair of Arts and Culture for the Woman's Club of Fort Pierce. Doretha also serves as an Ambassador for the Fort Pierce Police Department, Member of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Board for the City of Fort Pierce and committee member of the *Highwaymen Heritage Trail and Art Show* for the City of Fort Pierce. For the show, Doretha will be creating a new line of miniatures as well as her standard oil paintings.

Anita and Doretha met in 2004 while Anita was creating a mosaic tribute on Alfred Hair's gravesite in Pine Grove Cemetery. They quickly formed a lasting friendship. Prentice says "This is our third show together. We are two women, doing a similar subject matter that celebrates Florida's vanishing landscape. Having the show at Beanie Backus' house is like coming full circle. Beanie taught Alfred in the studio there. Now, almost 50 years later, his wife is showing where he got his start."

Please join us at the Artist Reception on Thursday, February 7th from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. or at the Second Peek on Friday, February 8th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be held at the Platts/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Avenue in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, Florida. The event is free to the public; light refreshments will be available as well as a cash bar. Call *Main Street* at (772) 466-3880 for more information. ❖

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 Whimsy Fort Pierce

Artists of Color: Place, Race, and Vision of the Florida Highwaymen

by Robin Dannahower

The **A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery** will celebrate the vibrant palettes and inspired innovations of the renowned African American artists in the exhibition *Artists of Color: Place, Race, and Vision of the Florida Highwaymen*. The special exhibition of vintage works assembled from private collections, some never exhibited before, will be on view January 11 through March 3, with the opening reception scheduled for February 15 to kick off the annual *Highwaymen Celebration Weekend*.

A unique combination of a variety of factors came together at a critical moment to launch a creative phenomenon that still resounds today. There was only one place where this story could begin, and that was in Fort Pierce, Florida. The well-known, successful artist A.E. “Bean” Backus (1906–1990) was a resident here, and renowned for his acceptance of others regardless of race, creed, or background. First, a young Harold Newton (1934–1994), then a younger Alfred Hair (1941–1970), and then a group of Hair’s friends and classmates met and got to know Backus, learning about materials, technique, and the art market. They learned from and about one another in a way that magnified their efforts.

In the 1950s and 1960s, employment opportunities were limited for African Americans. Isolated by geography and



Sam Newton, Oil on Upson Board



Harold Newton, Oil on Canvas Board



Alfred Hair, Oil on Upson Board

social conventions of race in the Jim Crow era, these young men quickly developed their own popular style of energetic painting — and developed a plan and sales approaches to find their customers by taking the art to them. Their dramatic scenes of the Florida landscape, in vivid colors, performed quickly in high volume for eager patrons, and often sold still wet from the trunks of their cars, made a living for them and sparked a movement.

Backus was the earliest supporter of these young artists of color, opening his studio and helping them to work around those social and economic constraints. He encouraged their vision and their latent talents, and he later exhibited their work in the Fort Pierce Art Gallery (the future **Backus Museum**). In fact, the very first retrospective of the *Highwaymen* was held at the Museum in 1995, and the tradition of honoring the origins and achievements of these artists continues today.

Artists of Color: Place, Race, and Vision of the Florida Highwaymen includes more than 50 works by original *Highwaymen* Harold Newton, Alfred Hair, Sam New-

ton, Roy McLendon, James Gibson, Maryanne Carroll, Willie Daniels, and Johnny Daniels. The exhibition demonstrates in powerful images how the *Highwaymen's* search for economic

Continued on page 10 ...

ARTISTS ... continued from page 9

independence, creative freedom, and a distinctive vision blended together in a way that transformed how we see the landscapes before us.

Highwaymen Weekend Celebration (free admission)
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 15–17

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15: Dealers offer vintage *Highwaymen* paintings for sale on the Outdoor Mural Plaza, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15: *Artists of Color Opening Reception* (members free; not-yet members \$20). Lecture by Roger Lightle, noted collector and guest curator of the exhibition, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.; reception and meet the artists, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16: *4th Annual City of Fort Pierce Highwaymen Heritage Trail Festival and Art Fair*, Moore's Creek Linear Park, 8th Street and Avenue D; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16: Dealers' sale of vintage paintings continues at Museum, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Gallery Talks, 11:00 a.m., 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17: Dealers' sale of vintage paintings continues at Museum, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.; Gallery Talks, 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

About the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery. With a recently added, multi-million dollar expansion, the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** houses the nation's largest public presentation of artwork by Florida's preeminent painter, A.E. "Bean" Backus (1906–1990), and is home to the state's only permanent multimedia exhibition on the *Florida Highwaymen*.

With a career spanning more than 70 years, Backus was the first Florida-born artist to build his professional renown by painting the landscape and scenes from daily life of his native state. He was fortunate to have known great success during his lifetime, with paintings hanging in the businesses and the private collections of many of Florida's most prominent citizens. A renowned humanitarian who abhorred the racist attitudes and segregation that engulfed the region, Backus taught and mentored the group of entrepreneurial African American artists who became known as the *Florida Highwaymen*. Their inspiring story is part of the A.E. Backus legacy.

In addition to preserving and perpetuating the artistic and humanitarian legacy of Backus, the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of national and international acclaim.

Regular hours are: Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m. (closed Monday and Tuesday). Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, and active duty military are free.

It was voted "Best Museum 2018" in *Indian River* magazine's annual "Best of the Treasure Coast," where it was described as "a fabulous place to visit."

Current members are always free. During the regular season, the first Sunday of the month is free admission day. The **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** is located at 500 North Indian River Drive in downtown Fort Pierce. ❖

Mayor's Message Fort Pierce: Rich History, Bright Future

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Incorporated in 1901, Fort Pierce celebrates its 118 birthday on February 2nd. Our city is fortunate to have a rich history and a bright future.

The **Sunrise Theatre**, built in 1923, has been restored and has been providing live entertainment since its rebirth in the early 21st Century.

Our City is now in the process of reinvigorating the Theatre to provide not only quality entertainment, but also community cultural events.

We honor the rich history of Fort Pierce with the **Annual Highwaymen Heritage Trail and Festival** on February 16, **Zora Neale Dust Tracks Trail**, and the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**. Further, we have partnered with the *Fort Pierce Lion's Club* to retrieve and preserve a 1715 fleet cannon to be placed at the pedestrian plaza located at the **Melody Lane Fishing Pier**. The Lions were also our partners in enhancing *Old Fort Park*.

The City has been requested by, and responded to, the offer from Brightline/Virgin Trains to locate a station in our city. The city has proposed two sites: one at the 7-acre, recently cleaned King plant site and the other south of Orange Avenue on Depot Drive. The King plant property is also offered for proposed development, should the site not be chosen for the train station.

Residents and visitors will soon see our city streets improving throughout the county as a result of the half-cent sales tax approved by the voters in 2018. We promised to be transparent and accountable for the promises we made, with a firm list of projects and a citizen's oversight committee to monitor our progress.

The **Port of Fort Pierce** is seeing a rebirth of activity, with two operators hoping to attract the mega yacht repair and retrofit industry. Other new businesses are now operating in the Port, as well as thriving current businesses. We are proud of the new businesses we have attracted to Fort Pierce, including **Radical Cosmetics, Precast Specialties, Chick-fil-A, Wawa,**

Camping World, Gander Outdoors, KOA, and others coming soon. The north **Publix** plans a complete rehabilitation and enlargement on its current site. A second **Wawa** is coming to the old K-Mart Plaza site.

The Lincoln Park neighborhood has seen improvements, as a result of the collaboration with *Allegany Franciscan Ministries* and the *Common Good Initiative*. The City's mural program includes two new murals along Avenue D, and the large sailfish mural at Georgia Avenue, Sunrise Blvd. and U.S. Highway 1.

The City created the *Peacock Arts District* along the Orange Avenue corridor, west of U.S. Highway 1. It includes the old St. Anastasia School building and will soon include the St. Lucie Public Schools Creative Arts Academy; both buildings are on the National Historic Register.

The Fort Pierce Police Department is the first to have body cameras for all sworn officers. Violent crime is down 15% and community cooperation and trust is expected to be enhanced with the formation of a Police Advisory Board.

St. Lucie Public Schools continue to show excellence with a graduation rate of 90.1%. **Indian River State College** is once again rated in the top three community colleges in the nation. We can be proud of the educational opportunities in St. Lucie County, along with some great private schools, like St. Anastasia, John Carroll and St. Andrews Episcopal Academy. **Lawnwood Regional Medical Center** continues to be a Level II trauma center and known for excellence in cardiac care.

Fort Pierce continues its efforts in protecting the Indian River Lagoon with the City Marina, Veterans Memorial Park and Indian Hills Restoration and Recreation water-cleaning projects.

There are many more positive projects going on in Fort Pierce. I am proud to be the first female Mayor of Fort Pierce, but I take greater pride of the staff of the City, its enterprise partners, like **Indian Hills Golf Course, the City Marina** and the **Sunrise Theatre**, and the **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority**. We are a team full of volunteers and employees who are dedicated to showcasing the City's history and making the future bright for Fort Pierce. ❖

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From Wench Cometh Valentine's Day

by Britt Anderson

I can't trace Valentine's Day back farther than the Romans but I'm sure there are more ancient roots than what I've found. The very earliest was a feast of Lupercalia to ward the wolves away from the newborn lambs. Ring a bell? Apparently, Lupercalia was the son of Juno, the God of love and marriage, and Romulus, one of the founders of Rome and connected with fertility and agriculture. The story gets a little confusing at this point. One version is that the Emperor decided that single men made better soldiers than married ones. But men of the soil also preferred hearth and home and a priest named Valentine performed marriages until he was jailed and later executed. Probably the first recorded history of "draft dodgers." His supporters gave him flowers and letters when they visited him in prison.

Another version is that an imprisoned man fell in love with his jailor's daughter and she sent letters to her "Valentine" until his death. A third version is that at the Feast of Lupercalia, boys and girls who had previously been kept separate (time period undefined but one can assume puberty), put their names in a jug and the boys picked out a name and what happened, happened. In any event, St. Valentine was put to death on February 14th in 270 AD.

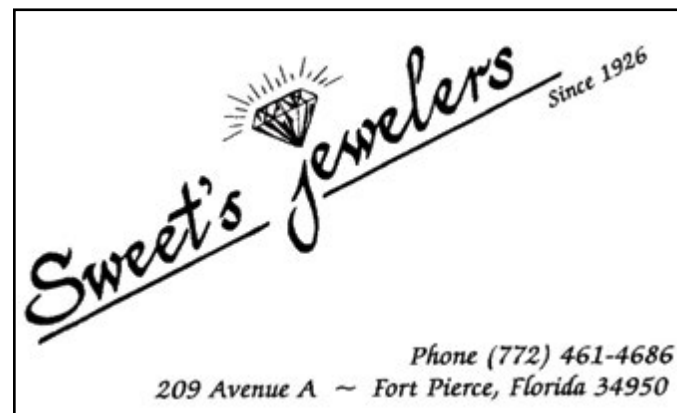
February, either the 14th or the 15th and sometimes the whole month, has been the month of love since the Middle Ages, sometimes associated with Cupid, the son of Venus — the God of love and desire — and the mischievous Janus. The month is also associated with the beginning of the mating season for birds. That brings together just about all the connections that

have been gathered to find the origins of our current holiday, whether good or bad; they all seem to grasp the same concept of love and renewal and new beginnings.

Modern man has added two additional ideas to the Valentine's Day tradition. The first is that of gifts, more than just flowers but jewelry as well. I can only conclude that this addition was promoted by the mercantile establishment and people's desire to show their love in a more demonstrative fashion. I admit my husband and I announced our engagement on Valentine's Day at a party.

The second idea is that of chocolate. While it was around for over 4,000 years in Central and South America, it wasn't brought to Europe until it was introduced in Spain by returning explorers in the 1500s. In 1615, chocolate was brought to France by King Philip's daughter. It was pretty much a delicacy of the aristocracy until the Dutch invented the coco press in 1825 and made chocolate affordable. Because of its history and prized status, one can only surmise that it didn't take long to become caught up in the Valentine's Day tradition.

Now that we have our background, let's discuss a few options downtown Fort Pierce has to offer for Valentine's Day. For the feasting part, we suggest two restaurants: the **Braford Steakhouse** and **121 Tapas on the Water**. The **Braford Steakhouse**, located at 100 South 2nd Street, is posh and elegant and serves everything from sides served fresh from the garden to your plate to steaks raised from local beef from the **Adams Ranch**. The menu is "a la carte" and reservations are required. This is a real gourmet treat both inside and in their walled ter-



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121 Tapas on the Water, located at 121 Melody Lane, is a delightful and more intimate alternative. For Valentine's Day, they will be having a set menu at \$65 per person — champagne to start and your choice of appetizers and entree's with desert to follow. All of their items are made on premises from scratch. There will be three seatings at five, seven and nine. You can reach them at 772-781-0943 or www.121melody.com.

For jewelry, downtown offers great options with **Brenda's Fine Jewelers** and **Sweet's Jewelers**. **Brenda's Fine Jewelers** offers quality merchandise and custom design, including engagement rings and stones which you can have set or styled of your own design. They have estate pieces and pearls and will restring these pieces as well. Free cleaning and inspection is available while you wait. They are located at 135 North 2nd Street and can be reached at 772-466-0768. They are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Sweet's Jewelers offers a wide variety of pieces and many specialized gifts. They've been family owned in Ft. Pierce since 1926. From now until Valentine's Day, they are offering 20% off all items in the store. They are located at 209 Avenue A and can be reached at 772-461-4686. **Sweet's** is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

If you are looking for flowers for that someone special, you will need to stop by or call **Chaney's House O' Flowers** located at 139 N. 2nd Street. They will be prepared not only with long-stemmed red roses but arrangements to delight any recipient. Remember to call ahead if you wish a particular flower. They can also provide balloons and chocolates with your arrangement. You can reach them at 772-461-4100 or 1-800-231-6851. They do deliver.

Last, but certainly not least, is **Brooklyn Sweets** located in the **Galleria** at 102 S. 2nd Street, Suite 102. If you have not stopped by here yet, put this one on your list. For Valentine's Day they will have chocolate-covered strawberries as well as other chocolate-covered fruits, chocolate cheesecake and other eatables and drinks. All can be boxed and tied with a bow. Call today at 772-281-1340.

But what's really important about Valentine's Day is that written expression of feeling. That note, card or pen-to-paper expression of love towards someone: be my Valentine; wishing you all my love; thank you for being my Valentine. These are the thoughts that will last. On that note, thank you for following me on this Valentine's journey in time. Have a very happy special day. Wishing you, as always, fair winds and following seas. ❖



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The Manatee Center Named Best Tourist Attraction of the Treasure Coast

by Rachel Tennant, MOEC Manager

Just one year ago, I wrote my first *Main Street Focus* article on behalf of the **Manatee Center**, inviting all *Main Street Focus* readers to join us at the **Manatee Center** and see what's new. Since then, we've had a wonderful year and hope you have all had the chance to see our updates along the way, including a new coral reef tank, a full-sized generator with educational wrap, a real-time water quality monitoring Kilroy in partnership with the *Ocean Research and Conservation Association*, and more.



We also hosted and co-hosted many events last year including the *St. Lucie County Firefighter Combat Challenge*, *Captain Don's Treasure Coast Lionfish Safari*, the *10th Annual Manatee Center 5K*, the *22nd Annual NatureFest Celebration*, a hugely successful halloween bash alongside the **Lincoln Park Academy** theatre students (dressed as zombies!), and more.

2019 will mark our 23rd year, and we have been named the *Indian River* magazine's *Best Tourist Attraction of the Treasure Coast*. We couldn't be happier, and it is all thanks to our community who voted for us. On behalf of all of the staff, volunteers, and partners who work with the **Manatee Center** day in and day out, thank you for this honor.

We hope you'll join us on Saturday, February 23rd 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for our 23rd annual *NatureFest Celebration*. *NatureFest* is an environmental festival at the **Manatee Center** that brings together over 35 local environmental nonprofits, parks, eco-centers and businesses for a day full of family activities and local nature and community information. There will be live animals, demonstrations, and hands-on educational and craft activities. We'll also be bringing Florida native plant specialist D.R. Bates *Liners & Gallons* again this year to offer native Florida plants and kitchen herbs for sale, as we add new native plants to the **Manatee Center** pollinator garden along Moore's Creek.

Next month, join the **Manatee Center** for our 11th annual *Manatee Center 5K Walk/Run* on March 16th. This will be

our "Lucky 11th" St. Patrick's Day celebration you don't want to miss. There will be live performances by local band *Lex Groovius*, runners' breakfast sandwiches from our Fort Pierce farm-to-table **Rooster in the Garden**, *Trash Dash* clean-up, and appearances from Moe the Manatee! Kids 15 and under register for only \$15, and adults register for \$30 until February 21. Proceeds of this 5K support the **Manatee Center** through the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation. You can sign up at <http://www.runsignup.com/race/fl/fortpierce/tcmfmanateecenter5k>

New this year for the 5K: Rooster in the Garden will be hosting a special pre-party packet pick-up event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 14th, with complimentary appetizers, plus drink and food specials. On the morning of the race, the first-place winner will receive \$100 that can be spent at the *St. Patrick's Day Block Party* at **Sailfish Brewery** (\$50) and **2nd Street Bistro** (\$50) starting at 2 p.m.

For more information about ongoing programs at the **Manatee Center**, or to volunteer or donate, please call the Exhibit Hall at 772-429-6266, or e-mail Manatee@ManateeEducationCenter.org. ❖

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The Manatee Center February Events

Season Hours: October 1st through May 31st we are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

Friday, February 8th at 12 p.m.

Hiking with the Florida Trails Association

Lunch & Learn: Join us for a free presentation at the Manatee Center hosted by speakers from the *Florida Trails Association*. You'll learn about the history of the Florida trail system and ways to get involved with the *Florida Trails Association*. Bring your lunch and bring a friend. *Free event.*

Thursday, February 21st at 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Eco-Evening Presentation at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club

Join us for a special presentation by Dr. Kelli Hunsucker from the Florida Institute of Technology. Barnacles, sponges, and oysters may be a problem on the hull of your boat, but they can significantly improve water quality. Join us to learn how creating living docks can be a force for good in the Indian River Lagoon. *Free event.*

Saturday, February 23rd at 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

23rd Annual NatureFest

Join the Manatee Center for our 23rd annual NatureFest environmental festival. With over 35 booths from local environmental and outdoor groups, including nonprofits, parks, and eco-centers, plus local businesses, you're sure to learn something new about the Indian River Lagoon. Great for kids and adults alike. *Free event.*

Recurring Programs

Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. — *Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding* — come meet the fishes in the Center.

Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. — *Tide Pool Touch Tank* — touch and hold tide pool critters.

Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. — *Meet the MOEC Reptiles* — and witness Diego the corn snake eating.

Fridays, 1:30 p.m. — *Seahorse Snack Time* — watch the MOEC seahorses eat and play.

Saturdays, 1:30 p.m. — *Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding* — come meet the fishes in the Center.

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday at 10:30 a.m. — *Mermaid Tales* — join us as we share tales from the sea. From the fantasy world of mermaids to the real-life, awe-inspiring world of marine animals, this is one story time you don't want to miss! ❖

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Two Exciting Shows Coming Up at the Sunrise Theatre

by Anne Satterlee, Sunrise Theatre Director of Marketing

What a great way to end February and begin March with all of the dazzling excitement of *Los Vivancos* — *Born to Dance* on Thursday, February 28th, and the *National Touring Company of The Choir of Man* on Saturday, March 2 at the fabulous **Sunrise Theatre** in historic downtown Fort Pierce. The two diverse upcoming shows will have you dancing and clapping to the talents of the performers along with the lively music.



Los Vivancos is composed of six brothers with a strong and loyal commitment to their ultimate passion, flamenco, which they studied at the prestigious Barcelona Spanish Dance Conservatory. As individual artists they have worked as solo dancers for Rafael Aguilar, the Scottish Royal Ballet and Joaquín Cortés. *Los Vivancos* was seen in a critically-acclaimed

guest performance on *Dancing With The Stars*.

Such worldwide appreciation is why *Los Vivancos* is said to be the musical-scenic phenomenon of this new decade. *Los Vivancos* are only starting to write their history now; don't miss being a part of it with them at the **Sunrise Theatre**.

Soaring energy, sculpted bodies, contemporary style melded with tradition, and pure virtuosity are the hallmarks of *Los Vivancos*, the contemporary popular flamenco dance artists. Their modern style dares to unify traditional flamenco with elements of ballet, martial arts, street dance, theatre and acrobatics.

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Another foot-tapping, hand-clapping show is the *National Touring Company of Choir of Man* coming to town on March 2nd at 8 p.m. The runaway hit of numerous international music festivals is hitting the road for its first U.S. tour! Known across the globe as “the ultimate feel-good show” (*Edinburgh Evening News*), *The Choir of Man* offers up 90 minutes of indisputable joy! It’s a party. It’s a concert. It’s a pint-filled good time that combines hair-raising harmonies, high-energy dance, and live percussion with foot-stomping choreography. The multi-talented cast of nine handsome blokes sings everything — pub tunes, folk, musical theater, classic rock — all to roof-raising heights. It’s the best singing, dancing, stomping concert you’ll ever attend.



Imagine the greatest pub gig you’ve ever been to and multiply it by 10 and you’ll still be nowhere near the fun that this show exudes throughout. The cast features world class tap dancers, acrobats, singers, instrumentalists and poets, ensuring that there is something for everyone in this joyous and uplifting show for all ages.

Not only is the concert set in a pub, but it has a real working bar from which the cast will pull pints and invite audience members to get up close and personal with the show — witnessing the action from chairs and tables among the guys — come ready to drink in the

action! Contact the **Sunrise Theatre** box office at 772.461.4775, Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and two hours before performances for tickets, or online at SunriseTheatre.com.

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Off the Beaten Path: Whirled Inc Gallery – Where Curiosity Meets Fun!

by Debra Magrann

An amazing transformation occurred last October in a small and nearly obscure storefront on Avenue A. In less than 300 square feet, Steve Fogle has remodeled his new retail gallery to sell his wares: a cacophony of earthy, hand-hewn items and graphically visual artworks.

As a Chicago-born artist who studied advertising design at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, Fogle ventured to Miami and Hollywood after graduating with an Associate of Arts degree. He has a gallery management background and creates photographic orbs and a host of illustrative original renderings.

His musings these days keep him rooted along the banks of the Indian River Lagoon. A resident of Sebastian, he is quite at home in Fort Pierce and hopes to make a footprint in the growing downtown Fort Pierce art scene.

“I moved to the Treasure Coast about 10 years ago,” Fogle says, to care for his mother. “When she passed away, I began drawing daily and got hooked,” he says. After a year of processing his grief, he came out of it.

His visual art has a rawness that stems from a duality of subject matter: sublime marker drawings that spring from his creative thinking and the academic discipline of graphic design. He is just as comfortable with Sharpies and paper as he is working with wood and metal. Ever the inventive mind, his palettes are salvaged scraps, infused with creative steam.



He is the artist behind an original *Bottle Women Collection* of prints that he describes as “top shelf quality.” He also has a greeting card line devoted to his two dogs — boyfriend and girlfriend rescues, Sharpie and Gigi — and three books on the way that he has written and illustrated.

His framed pieces — “therapist recommended wall art” — can only be described as ethereal and Stephen King-dreamlike. (Think clowns.) They are lively and evocative, bordering on tattoo stylization with a twist of the macabre. His zen is Pink Floyd meets Alien meets The Joker — all of them going to the circus. His colors are vibrant, and his marker flair is this side of fun. His imagination has run out of his head and on to the matte boards.

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With his machinations running wild, Fogle’s multilayered visuals border on the bizarre but beautiful. There definitely is a flow of creative energy that has channeled da Vinci and H.R. Giger. On the flip side, Fogle’s mind-to-hand-to-pulp evokes a free-flow of whimsical tree dreamscapes. We’re talking doodles, textures and man cave images.

These dreamy illustrations are not only complex, Fogle has invented his own hieroglyphs. They suggest techno blueprint scribbles and a bit of playful graffiti ornamentation. One thing is sure, this guy makes you think! You’ll just have to see for yourself.

Resourceful and clever, Fogle makes the most of salvaged stuff. His *Gourd-O-Phone* mock stringed instruments are assembled gourds he received from a friend. “They are more art



than an actual guitar, since I cannot play but they are pluckable and made with recycled guitar parts,” he says. Bamboo planters, ideal for air plants or flowers, line a wall paired with tobacco pipes.

A regular at the Saturday Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society’s Art and Craft Market for three years, Fogle will soon partner up with local musicians and like-minded artists for his interview-styled podcast. When he is not making art, Fogle is at home figuring out how to run his Japanese brand engraving machine.

“I’m not in this strictly for the money,” he states. “I have always wanted to have my own gallery. I want to offer art at an affordable price to my customers.”

His prints are reasonably priced and can be ordered online at his website. To view “The Mechanics of Funny and what makes him tick,” go to www.whirledprints.com/shop. Be forewarned: you are entering a creative zone. But read the titles and you’ll understand. Check out his incense burners and other rustics.

Although his gallery hours may change due to an “alien invasion,” for the time being they are Tuesday to Friday, noon to 6 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday. He has extended hours during *Friday Fest* and *Art Walk* evenings (third Friday of each month), noon to 9ish.

Steve Fogle invites you to come by and say hello. **Whirled Inc Gallery** is located at 207 Avenue A in Fort Pierce; 772.696.2105. ❖

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that employee engagement is fundamental to the success of any organization. We are thrilled that our efforts towards making SAEA a great place to work have been recognized by this national program," says Rhonda Blakey, Director of Development and Public Relations.

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Love, JAZZ Community: For the Love of Music – Our Valentine to You

by Don Bestor

Do you remember the first time you fell in love? I'm not talking your first crush or even puppy love, but that first time you fell — hard, head over heels in love. You probably felt like you were dancing on a cloud, and you didn't care about eating or sleeping — actually, the only thing you thought about was that love, right? And even though that first love and the feeling of euphoria it brought may not have lasted forever (it rarely does), maybe it will help you to understand how all of us at **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** feel about the music we play and share with the community all year long.

You already know that the musicians involved with **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** are among the top musicians in the country, having performed with nationally acclaimed acts like Sammy Davis Junior, Bobby Darin, Guy Lombardo, Nelson Riddle, the Temptations, Styx, and so many others, but what you might not realize is that when they walk onto the stage at the **Black Box** or when the leader counts them in at **Waterside Blues** or in the middle of Second Street during **Jazz Week**, you're getting the same musicians you've paid hundreds of dollars to enjoy all throughout your life. The quality is there; the professionalism is unparalleled; the only difference is that you don't have to take out a second mortgage to hear them play. There's one simple reason for that — they love this community! Plain and simple, the members of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** love you and the community they've chosen to call home.

Love is what they feel for the music, the community, and for the art form that is live performance. That's why these world-class talents choose to donate their time and talent to help build a better community and to support the treasure that is young musicians who are just starting to experience that first love — the love of music. All year long, members of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** work to encourage that love through opportunities to learn from and perform on stage with their musical icons and by creating scholarships to help fund the dreams of talented, young musicians in the throes of that first love of music that will carry them on the adventure of a lifetime.

And while you may not be a world class musician yourself, there's little doubt that music has formed the soundtrack of your life and been with you for the important moments, helping to create memories and cope with the ups and downs of the roller coaster we call a life well lived. You can help keep that music playing simply by supporting **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, sponsoring a scholarship or a portion of one, and by encouraging the love of music, the arts, and all cultural enrichment in the community we call home. Of course, we're delighted if you choose to join us as a member or volunteer, but we're equally delighted when you come out and cheer us on and get up and dance to your favorite tunes, laugh at our jokes, and share those special moments with us at the weekly **Jazz Jams**, free concerts, and **Jazz Week** events.

If you enjoy the music, this Valentine's Day, feel free to send us a love note, small donation, or gift someone you love with a membership that will remind them all year long how important music is in our lives and how it helps remind us of that crazy, wonderful, and all-consuming feeling of first love. We love sharing it with you, and we love that you show your love to us through your support and presence all year long. If you'd like to learn more about **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, want to know how to join (to get super discounts on upcoming events and activities), volunteer, or snag a copy of our schedule, call 772.460.JAZZ (5299), or visit us online at www.jazzsociety.org. ❖



One of the gifts **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** brings to the community are multiple opportunities to jump on stage and play with the band. Whether you're a trumpeter, bass player, or enjoy singing an occasional tune like local artist Debra Terrio (top photo), the professional musicians from **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** (Debbie Bestor, center photo), are happy to share the stage with members of the community at weekly jazz jams.

Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society Board Member and Drummer Claudio Berardi (bottom photo), kick up a little dust and provide a backbeat of music for the community.

City of Fort Pierce Presents "Movies in the Fort," a Free Outdoor Film Series

Hollywood stars debut under Fort Pierce skies in 2019, as *Movies in the Fort* brings big-screen entertainment to local parks for the very first time. From January to May, parks in six neighborhoods will host **free** outdoor movies featuring today's blockbusters and classic family favorites. *Movies in the Fort* gives residents in all parts of the city an opportunity to engage with their neighbors and community. Fort Pierce is committed to increasing access to family-friendly cultural opportunities, and this new movie series is a perfect example of this work.

Movies in the Fort Schedule

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22: *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, rated PG; movie begins at dusk (approximately 6:30 p.m.) at the River Walk Center, 600 N. Indian River Drive. Activity: *Cinema Under the Stars* presented by United Way of St. Lucie County

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28: *Sing!*, rated PG; movie begins at dusk (approximately 6:30 p.m.) at the Means Court Center, 532 N. 13th St. Pre-show activity: *Community input pop-up with Lincoln Park neighborhood.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 15: *Incredibles 2*, rated PG; movie begins at dusk (approximately 7 p.m.) at the Fort Pierce Police Department Main Station (920 U.S. Hwy. 1). Pre-show activity: Engagement activities with FPPD officers and staff.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9: *Peter Rabbit*, rated PG; movie begins at dusk (approximately 8 p.m.) at Jaycee Park, Melaleuca Drive. Pre-show activity: Easter Egg Hunt.

FRIDAY, MAY 24: *The Sandlot*, rated PG; movie begins at dusk (approximately 8 p.m.) at the former PAL Center (903 S. 21st Street). Pre-show activity: Community input pop-up regarding Fort Pierce Recreation.

All movies begin at dusk. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets. Patrons are also welcome to bring their own picnic dinner. Visit the City's Facebook page for details about pre-show activities on select movie nights.

Movies, dates and times are subject to change, for more information visit www.CityofFortPierce.com or call Joe Sweat at 772.467.3031. ❖

February is Here! Time to Celebrate at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market!

The New Year is here and what better way to celebrate than the anniversary of the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market!** For the last 21 years, folks have been gathering in the park at the waterfront on Saturday mornings to find the best locally grown and produced goods and the most delicious baked goods, fresh coffee, prepared specialties, plants, and body care products. They're never disappointed.

2019 was ushered in with the return of our seasonal vendors as well as our seasonal patrons. Our year-round regulars enjoyed the Market's offerings all year and know that the volume of visitors to the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market** swells as winter settles in.

Several new vendors have joined the ranks of the favorites. **Anytime Seafood** brings fresh caught wild shrimp from the ocean to the table, frozen on board along the east coast from the Carolinas to Cape Canaveral, picked up at the dock and delivered to the Market! **Summer Crush Vineyard** is selling their delicious locally grown and produced muscadine juice and other grape products from their vineyard here in Saint Lucie County.

To celebrate the anniversary this year, the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market** Board of Directors, chaired by Chet

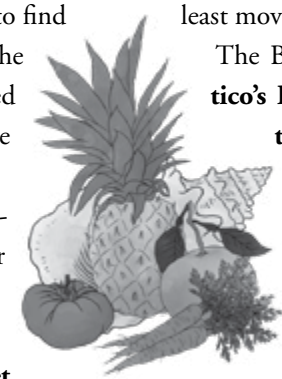
Boudrias, has arranged for the fabulously entertaining *Firewater Tent Revival Band* to delight the crowds with their funky mix of folk and roots music. Everyone will be dancing, or at least moving!

The Board will serve the scrumptious cake from **Importico's Bakery**. Did we say "free?" Absolutely! The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market** is grateful to the community for its support for the last 21 years and throws this huge party in appreciation.

Colleen Nash Becht has graciously donated her art for the anniversary bag this year. It is stunningly gorgeous! And she will be on site to autograph each of these beautiful natural canvas bags. Stop by to say hello to the artist as you purchase these one-of-a-kind reusable shopping totes.

The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market** has been part of the historic Fort Pierce community for the last 21 years and continues to provide healthy, fresh foods and horticultural products to Saint Lucie County and the surrounding areas, and encourages commerce, entertainment, and trade in Downtown Fort Pierce.

Come join the fun! Located on the waterfront in Marina Square, every Saturday morning, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. until 12. *It's a Saturday morning tradition!* ❖



Historic Downtown Fort Pierce Trolley Tours

February	2	Saturday	1:00 PM & 2:30 PM
	7	Thursday	10:00 AM & 11:30 AM
	21	Thursday	10:00 AM & 11:30 AM
March	2	Saturday	1:00 PM & 2:30 PM
	7	Thursday	10:00 AM & 11:30 AM



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Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson to Deliver 2019 State of the City on February 12

The City of Fort Pierce will be hosting the first annual *Mayor's State of the City Address* on Tuesday, February 12, at 6 p.m. at the **Sunrise Theatre**, 117 South 2nd Street.

Mayor Linda Hudson will be presenting *Fort Pierce: Rich History, Bright Future* aimed to bring the community together to celebrate our history, highlight our accomplishments, review the city's current standing, and preview the year ahead.

The event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available throughout Downtown Fort Pierce including the city garage between Orange Avenue and Avenue A behind City Hall.

For additional information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 772.467.3065.

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Florida Humanities Speaker Series

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery in partnership with Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. are pleased to present the following *FREE* Florida Humanities Speaker Series topics:

PHOTO BY SUZANNE WILLIAMSON



Tuesday, February 5, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

Florida Soul

PRESENTED BY JOHN CAPOUYA

Location: **Sunrise Black Box Theatre**
117 South 2nd Street, Fort Pierce

From Ray Charles in the mid-1940s to KC and the Sunshine Band in the late '70s, Florida has a rich soul music heritage that's been overlooked. Did you know that the great duo Sam and Dave ("Soul Man", "Hold On, I'm Comin") came out of Miami? Drawing from his book, *Florida Soul*, John Capouya will play classic R&B, show vintage and contemporary photos of soul greats, and share his research into this important musical history in a presentation that's as entertaining as it is educational.



Tuesday, February 19, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

Transparent Waters: The History and Significance of Florida's Springs

PRESENTED BY TOM BERSON

Location: **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**
500 North Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce

Florida's springs are not only unique in their size and number, they are also emblematic of a forgotten Florida, a mysterious frontier that once stirred the national imagination. Before Disney or even the growth of coastal resorts attracted visitors to Florida, travelers ventured in droves into the wild and enchanting Florida interior to visit the springs. This talk examines how springs were – and still are – symbolic representations of natural Florida and how they continue to stand at the critical and fragile intersection with growth and development.



Tuesday, March 5, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

Florida Transportation History: Planes, Trains, & Automobiles (& Steamboats too!)

PRESENTED BY STEVE NOLL

Location: **Sunrise Black Box Theatre**
117 South 2nd Street, Fort Pierce

Florida's history as territory and state can be told through the changing methods of transportation designed to move people and goods both to Florida and within Florida. Examining the changing transportation networks in the state, this presentation shows how Florida moved from a backwoods frontier to one of the most important states in the union. Tying transportation history to social history, this presentation moves from the Bellamy Road of the 1820s to the modern transportation issues facing Florida in the 21st century.



Tuesday, March 19, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

Patrick Smith's Florida is a Land Remembered

PRESENTED BY RICK SMITH

Location: **Sunrise Theatre**
117 South 2nd Street, Fort Pierce

This program isn't a "book lecture" or a "talk"; it is a visual storytelling produced and presented by famed author Patrick Smith's son, Rick (Patrick, Jr.), a professional media producer. Rick has created over 50 video clips, special visual and sound effects, music and more to bring his presentation to life. It has been shown over 240 times in venues all over Florida, to rave reviews. Rick will discuss his late father's body of work and why he decided to write about society's underdogs. Using video records of his father, you'll learn how Patrick Smith researched *A Land Remembered* for over two years before he could write it, and he'll share his thoughts about the "real" Florida.



Tuesday, April 2, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

Alligators in Florida Culture

PRESENTED BY JEFF KLINKENBERG

Location: **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**
500 North Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce

Few states have a relationship with an animal in the way that Florida does with the alligator. Whether it's a school mascot, being wrestled at a tourist attraction, or sunbathing on a golf course, these reptiles are ubiquitous to our state. After hearing Jeff Klinkenberg's lecture, and watching his accompanying video, you'll agree that there can be no Florida without alligators. Hey, keep your hands inside the canoe.

These lecture series are free to the public. Please call **Main Street Fort Pierce** at (772) 466-3880 (Monday – Friday); or the **A.E. Backus Museum** at (772) 465-0630 (Wednesday – Sunday)

to reserve a seat. You can also register by visiting

www.backusmuseum.com.



MIND/BODY/PERSPECTIVE: Finding Joy in Every Breath

by Margarida Tree



The beginning of the year brings a natural momentum of inspiration and often by the second month we need a little boost to keep riding this wave. Joy is an uplifting emotion that elevates our minds, bodies and hearts. To begin the simple process of cultivating joy in our day, begin by asking the question "Do I find joy in this...?" We can apply this question to ev-

everything we do in our day, from choices of food, exercise, friends, chores, clothing, etc. While we always have a choice, sometimes we find ourselves in situations that may not be joyful.

The second question we can ask ourselves is "How can I find joy in this situation?" An example might be, I do not find joy in the taste of broccoli, yet I find my joy in the benefits it brings my body; I find joy in having strong bones and blood cells.

Thirdly, at the end of our day we can reflect and ask ourselves the question of "Where did I experience joy throughout my day?" Especially if we have had a challenging day, we might take a few moments to reflect on our ability to meet a difficult experience and our ability to get to the other side. In yoga, we use a joyful breath throughout our practice called the "Ujayi" breath. "Ujayi" is Sanskrit and translates to the victorious or uplifting breath. The "Ujayi" breath uses a soft sound like the ocean on both the inhale and the exhale and this colors our breath, bringing our attention to it. When we are aware of a deep energizing breath, we naturally begin to feel more alive as our awareness of our breath grows, so does our joy in each breath. Take time for yourself to notice your joy this month! ❖



by Sue Dannahower

Plastic and the Microwave

I recently read this and thought I should pass it on. It has changed the way I microwave.

Many plastic products contain endocrine-disrupting chemicals, which may interfere with the hormones in your body. Heating in the microwave degrades chemical bonds, letting those substances leach into food more easily. That goes even if you're using "microwave-safe" containers; this label just means the plastic won't melt. When it comes to the microwave, it's best to use glass containers and cover them with paper towel or wax paper, not plastic wrap. ❖





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Fishing Report for February: Searching for Sheeps

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

While the season is open year-round, now is the best time to have fun catching sheepshead on the beach. Anglers catch their limit daily on the shallow reefs near shore as the sheepshead are in for feeding and breeding. Catching a fish with every drop of bait can't be beat! Young and old will enjoy the fight and the satisfaction of landing a sheepshead. These fish are known for their distinctive vertical black bars on their sides and sharp spines on their dorsal and anal fins. They are also known to make a tasty fish dinner or fried fish sandwich.

The best time to try for these fish is early in the morning as the sun comes up. Find the shallow reefs along the beach in fifteen to thirty feet of water and use live shrimp for your best opportunity to get a bite. Light tackle with 30-pound fluorocarbon leader and a quarter ounce jig is ideal. Sheepshead can get as large as 10-12 pounds or so, but they generally run about 2-4 pounds and about 10-24 inches long. The minimum length to keep one is 12 inches. These fish can also be



found near structure like bridges, docks, and jetties. Targeting sheepshead will also give you a good chance to catch some other great fish like pompano, snapper, triggerfish, and croakers.

For more information on regulations and license requirements, visit any local bait and tackle shop or myfwc.com. The weather is nice, the water is great, so get busy *Pullin Drag!*

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Recipe Corner

by Sue Dannahower

It's All About the Chili

White Chicken Chili

- 2 pounds skinless chicken breast, cooked & shredded
- 3 15 oz. cans of great northern beans, rinsed & drained
- 1 15 oz. can diced tomatoes
- 10 oz. Monterey Jack cheese, grated (or Pepper Jack cheese)
- 16 oz. Jar of salsa (mild, medium or hot)
- 1 Tablespoon Cumin
- 1 4 ounce can jalapeno relish
- 1 4 ounce can diced green chilies
- 2 Tablespoon Chili powder
- Garlic salt to taste
- Pepper to taste
- Hot sauce to taste

Combine all of the ingredients in a crock-pot. Cook on high for four hours or on low all day. Add water if it gets too thick. Serve with sour cream, grated cheese and/or tortilla chips.



Black Bean Chili

- 1/2 pound bacon, finely chopped
- 2 pounds sirloin, 1/4" cubes
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 poblano chili, chopped
- 2 Tablespoons garlic, diced
- 2 Tablespoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 3/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste
- 4 cups beef stock or canned beef broth
- 2 large can crushed tomatoes
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 2 16-ounce cans black beans or chili beans
- Garnish: Sour cream, cilantro, avocado & lime



Cook bacon in a large stock pan until browned. Drain and set aside. Discard all but 2 tablespoons drippings. Return the pan to medium heat. Add the sirloin and onion to bacon drippings and cook about 20 minutes. Stir in the garlic, chili powder, cumin, oregano, and cayenne pepper and cook, stirring constantly, for five minutes. Add beef stock, bacon and crushed tomatoes. Simmer for another 30 to 45 minutes, or until the meat is tender and the chili is reduced to desired consistency. Serves 8-10.

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