



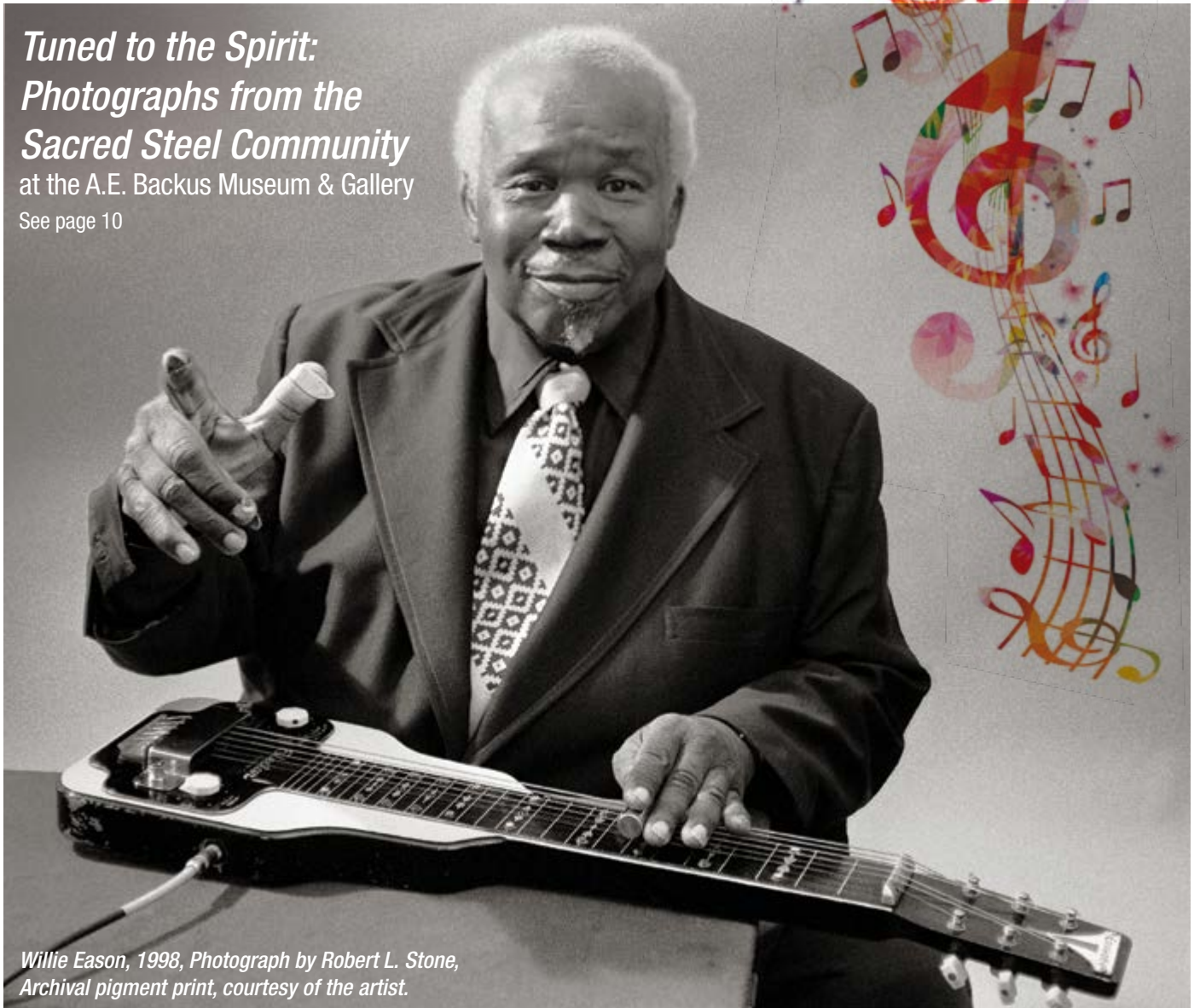
Volume 17, No. 9

April, 2022

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

*Tuned to the Spirit:
Photographs from the
Sacred Steel Community*
at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery
See page 10



*Willie Eason, 1998, Photograph by Robert L. Stone,
Archival pigment print, courtesy of the artist.*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April Showers in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

by *Britt Reynolds*



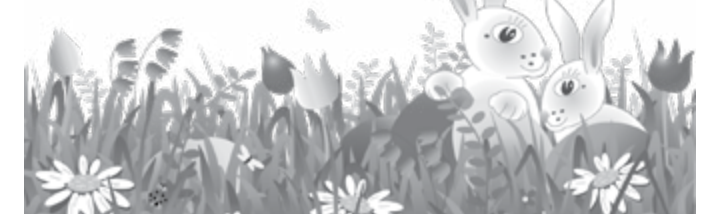

Greetings! I hope all of you had a wonderful March. It was filled with beautiful days and perfect weather here in Fort Pierce.

April will hopefully continue with mild weather with plenty of opportunities to enjoy early spring outdoor activities. If April showers bring you indoors, there are plenty of places to escape the rain. A favorite place for adults and children alike is the downtown Susan Kilmer branch of the St. Lucie Library. Susan Kilmer was a wonderful lady who served 33 years in the library system, and she was the director of the St. Lucie County Library for 22 years. She was a wonderful friend of *Main Street Fort Pierce* and was instrumental in keeping the new library in downtown after the decision was made to update and expand it from its original location (now the vacant lot next to the current library). She also oversaw a major expansion of the St. Lucie

County Library system with the building of the Morningside, Zora Neale Hurston, Lakewood Park and the downtown branch which was needed to serve the expanding population. Sadly, she passed away in 2015 yet she will always be remembered for her tireless efforts and positive spirit.

The downtown library features all the normal amenities of what you expect to find in any library. A special feature is the upstairs reading room. There you can find newspaper and magazine subscriptions near a great reading nook overlooking the Indian River Lagoon. Downstairs is an expansive children's section complete with access to technology and Internet access along with the new fiction and nonfiction books section, movies, and the permanent collection of books.

If you have a library card, you can hold books from the entire St. Lucie Library collection and have books from other libraries within the county shipped to the downtown branch to be picked up. There is also a great genealogy collection, book discussion groups and children's programs. For more information about all of these programs and the St. Lucie County Library, visit <https://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-and-services/library> or call 772-462-1615. ❖

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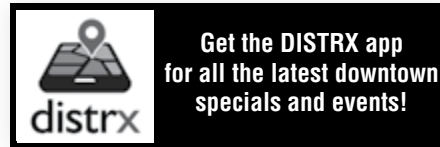
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Calendar

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



MONTHLY EVENTS

April 1, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by *Live Bait*; FPUA displays; sponsored by Cobbs Landing and Little Jims restaurants; **Please remove all vehicles from the permitted Friday Fest road closure area (Marina Way & Melody Lane) by 2:00 p.m.**; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

April 15, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; *Sponsor – Seacoast Bank*; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

April 15, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

April 17, Sunday: EASTER — See info about local churches for service details on this page.

April 23 & 24, Saturday & Sunday: 11TH ANNUAL FORT PIERCE OYSTER FESTIVAL — Veteran's Memorial Park & River Walk Center; Visit <https://www.pottcevents.com/fort-pierce-oyster-and-sea-fest.html> for more info.

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.

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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/
Page to Screen Book & Film Discussion Group for adults; e-mail johnsonjen@stlucieco.org for more information.

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

Current service times may be effective by Covid-19 please call or lookup online for current information.

Common Ground Vineyard Church; 460-5414, commongroundvineyard.com.

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

Opening days/hours may be altered due to Covid-19 restrictions. Please call or check online for current information.

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

Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
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2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building

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

Fort Pierce Police Athletic League
772-370-6162 • fortpiercepal.com

Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center
600 North Indian River Drive
772-489-6473 • cityoffortpierce.com

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

Heathcote Botanical Gardens
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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

APRIL: AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL: JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

APRIL 1: APRIL FOOLS' DAY

APRIL 2: NATIONAL PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY DAY

APRIL 7: NATIONAL BEER DAY

APRIL 11: NATIONAL PET DAY

APRIL 15: JACKIE ROBINSON DAY

➔ APRIL 17: EASTER

APRIL 18: NATIONAL ANIMAL CRACKERS DAY

APRIL 18: TAX DAY ↙

APRIL 22: EARTH DAY

APRIL 22: NATIONAL JELLY BEAN DAY

APRIL 27: NATIONAL DEVIL DOG DAY

APRIL 30: NATIONAL BUGS BUNNY DAY

City of Fort Pierce Announces Impact Fee Moratorium for New Residential and Commercial Construction in Redevelopment Area

Considering building a new home or business in the urban core of Fort Pierce? Take advantage of this economic incentive! Fort Pierce impact fees are currently suspended for new construction in the redevelopment area until September 7, 2022.

The City of Fort Pierce is pleased to announce an incentive that will reduce development costs for new residential or commercial construction in the redevelopment area. On March 7, 2022, the Fort Pierce City Commission approved an ordinance suspending the collection of City impact fees in an effort to stimulate and encourage new development within the boundaries of the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Area. Act now! Time is of the essence as this moratorium is temporary and set to expire in six months. To view the boundaries of the Redevelopment Area, visit: FPRA-District-Map (cityoffortpierce.com).

Urban infill and redevelopment projects are intended to improve existing neighborhoods and encourage investment

within these areas. The intent of this moratorium is to assist businesses and residents in the redevelopment area by reducing startup costs and contribute to the sense of vitality that occurs when buildings are occupied by commercial businesses and new homes are constructed. Since infill locations are within the urban core of our community, typically they already have much of the needed infrastructure. Unless extraordinary capital improvements are required, infrastructure costs can be substantially lower for infill development relative to a similar project in an undeveloped area.

The moratorium applies to all new residential and commercial construction within the boundaries of the City's Designated Urban Infill and Redevelopment Area for which a building permit is issued between March 7 and September 7, 2022.

For more information, please contact the City Manager's Office at ecodev@cityoffortpierce.com. ❖

Mayor's Message **FPRA Incentives For Businesses and Residents**

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Own property and do business in the *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Area* (FPRA) area in Fort Pierce? Check out the incentives developed to help you increase and improve your property and business, including the temporary impact fee moratorium.

First, check out the FPRA area to make sure you are eligible: <https://cityoffortpierce.com/DocumentCenter/View/3116/FPRA-District-Map?bidId=>.

Commercial Façade Grants

The *Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Program* offers financial assistance in the form of a reimbursable, matching (50%) grant up to \$25,000 to the property or business owner for eligible expenses associated with improving the external appearance of their business and to encourage businesses to invest in their operations. FPRA awarded four grants in March.

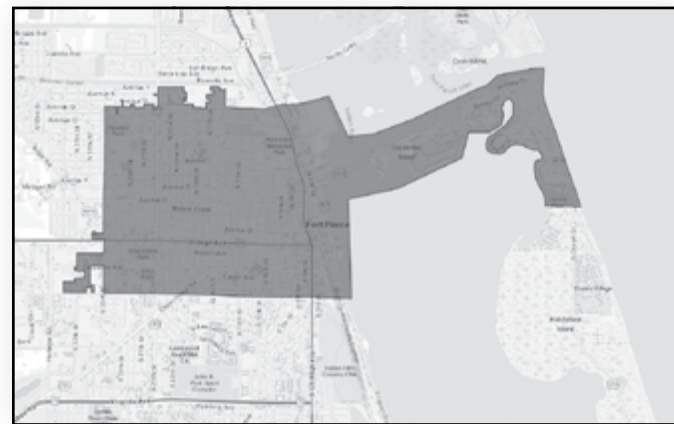

Interior Uplift Grant

Interior Uplift Grants provide matching grants to commercial property owners and tenants for interior upgrades with a focus on projects that remedy degraded building systems and extend the economic viability of the building. The *Interior*

Uplift Program offers financial assistance in the form of a reimbursable, matching (50%) grant up to \$10,000 to the property or business owner for eligible expenses associated with the construction or renovation of commercial space. These grants are in the process of being evaluated and awarded.

Business Innovation Grants

The *Business Innovation Grant* (BIG) *Program* is designed to assist businesses in the FPRA with \$2,500 grants to improve and/or invest in new equipment and technology in order to adapt to a contactless business model in the pandemic

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environment, improve operations, increase efficiency, and reduce costs and energy consumption, retain and create new jobs, enhance the skill level of existing jobs, expand sales revenue, improve competitiveness or enter new markets.

The BIG Program offers financial assistance in the form of a one-time grant in the amount of \$2,500 to be used to purchase new equipment or technology, or improve or upgrade existing equipment or technology to be used directly in the business at the applicant's address within the FPRA. These grants will be coming soon.

Lien Reduction Redevelopment Program

The City of Fort Pierce is developing an *Infill Lien Reduction Program* designed to promote reinvestment and revitalization of vacant infill property by providing a property owner reasonable relief from burdensome interest and liens levied prior to their ownership. Via development agreement, the soft

costs associated with city liens will be waived and 50% of the hard costs paid may be refunded. There will be specific time parameters associated with obtaining building permits and completing new construction to be eligible for the refund. This program will be available on an individual basis. For more information, please contact the City Manager's Office: sharnage@cityoffortpierce.com.

The FPRA is grateful to the hard work and innovation of the *Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee*, led by Sabrina Taylor and Hoyt C. "Pat" Murphy, Jr. Find out more information about redevelopment initiatives here: <https://cityoffortpierce.com/969/FPRA-Incentive-Program>. ❖




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Tuned to the Spirit: Photographs from the Sacred Steel Community

A moving musical tradition is revealed at the Backus Museum as it presents this special exhibition

The **A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery** will present *Tuned to the Spirit: Photographs from the Sacred Steel Community* March 11 to May 8, 2022. The Museum is honored to be debuting the traveling exhibition that will highlight more than

twenty years of “Sacred Steel” photography, which has a notable Fort Pierce connection. The exhibition is on view at 500 North Indian River Drive, in Historic Fort Pierce, Florida.

In the late 1930s, two related African American Holiness-Pentecostal churches began incorporating a novel, modern instrument into worship services — the electric steel guitar. The expressive and energetic music rendered on the instrument soon became

essential to the spirited worship services. Today, with more than fifty congregations throughout the state, Florida is a stronghold for the House of God and Church of the Living God, where musicians have passed down the unique musical tradition known as “sacred steel” for generations. Two of these churches (House of God No. 1 and House of God No. 2) are located in the City of Fort Pierce.

In three decades of work, photographer and folklorist Robert L. Stone has documented this music and church culture through images (photography, video) and audio recording. *Tuned to the Spirit* presents a selection of more than thirty soulful images, augmented by music

performances accessed in the exhibition through QR Codes on visitors’ mobile devices. Stone’s 2003 documentary film “Sacred Steel: The Steel Guitar Tradition of the House of God Churches” will also be available to see historic footage of these

important musicians.

Stone, based in Gainesville, Florida, worked for the Florida Folklife Program as Statewide Outreach Coordinator where he conducted extensive field documentation and co-curated the large traveling exhibition *Florida Cattle Ranching: Five Centuries of Tradition*, which has been viewed by more than 600,000 visitors from Florida to Nevada. Stone edited the exhibition catalog, which was published in February 2013 by

the Florida Cattlemen’s Foundation, and has contributed more than sixty feature articles to the *Florida Cattleman* magazine. His documentary photos have been featured in numerous other exhibitions and published in *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *Forum*, *Wooden Boat* and other print media as well.

During his tenure with Florida Folklife, he co-produced the “Music from the Sunshine State” and “Voices of Florida” radio programs, conducted fieldwork in a variety of cultural communities, and discovered in South Florida the use of steel guitars in African American Pentecostal House of God churches. This decades-long tradition was relatively unknown outside of that small religious community,



Robert L. Stone, *Worship Service*, House of God No.2, Fort Pierce, Florida, 2002. Archival pigment print, 18 x 24 in. Courtesy of the Artist.



Robert L. Stone, *Worship Service (Dancers)*, House of God No.2, Fort Pierce, Florida, 2002. Archival pigment print, 18 x 24 in. Courtesy of the Artist.

Robert L. Stone, *Deaconess Josephine Davis*, House of God, Pompano Beach, Florida, 2001. Archival pigment print, 18 x 24 in. Courtesy of the Artist.



prompting Stone to write *Sacred Steel: Inside an African American Steel Guitar Tradition* and produce eight CD albums of the music for Arhoolie Records. His latest book, *Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus! Photographs from the Sacred Steel Community* was published in 2020 by University Press of Mississippi.

Tuned to the Spirit: Photographs from the Sacred Steel Community is drawn from The Robert Stone Sacred Steel Archive, part of the Arhoolie Foundation Collection. The exhibition is supported by the Arhoolie Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the documentation, preservation, and celebration of regional roots music and its makers. Learn more at www.Arhoolie.org. ❖



Robert L. Stone, *Worship Service (Dancers 2)*, House of God No.2, Fort Pierce, Florida, 2002. Archival pigment print, 24 x 18 in. Courtesy of the Artist.



Robert L. Stone, *Musicfest*, House of God, Pompano Beach, Florida, 2003. Archival pigment print, 18 x 24 in. Courtesy of the Artist.



Robert L. Stone, *Worship Service*, Church of the Living God, Deerfield Beach, Florida, 2006. Archival pigment print, 18 x 24 in. Courtesy of the Artist.

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FPUA Launches Sustainability Program

by Rachel Tennant, Sustainability Program Manager

With rapid growth and change happening all around us, **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** is taking steps to ensure that we grow together, sustainably. Naturally, this includes an emphasis on environmental measures like renewable energy (i.e. solar farm projects) and reuse initiatives to reduce utility waste. Locally, FPUA's sustainability efforts also include a heightened focus on bringing *Smart City* technology to Fort Pierce and moving the wastewater treatment plant off of the Indian River Lagoon.



Though the *Sustainability Program* is new for FPUA, support for sustainability is not. FPUA has supported the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** (MOEC) operations since 1996, alongside the *Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation* nonprofit who fundraises for additional community initiatives led by MOEC. MOEC is a local environmental education museum and gift shop that reaches over 55,000 visitors and 5,000 students each year.

The **Manatee Center**, with FPUA support and over 100 volunteers, also brings important environmental impact to Downtown Fort Pierce. For example, MOEC leads the *Living Docks* program in Moore's Creek, installing oyster shells from **2nd Street Bistro's Raw Oyster Bar** on the docks in the creek. One oyster filters 50 gallons of water per day, and the **Manatee Center** has installed over 1,500 oysters in the creek so far. MOEC also adopted A.E. Backus Avenue in Downtown Fort Pierce and leads monthly clean-ups to help

keep trash out of the waterways. And this year, the **Manatee Center** and *Manatee Foundation* are bringing 1.5 acres of seagrass into Moore's Creek and the broader lagoon to help restore our local waterways and manatee food source.

In my five years serving as the **Manatee Center's** Manager, I hoped for the opportunity to share our vision of community stewardship even more broadly. Today, serving as FPUA's first Sustainability Program Manager, I am very proud and excited to do just that. Part of my focus will also be to elevate our grants program and prepare us to pursue the many local, state, and federal grants that have come available for exactly the kinds of projects that we are pursuing.

In turn, Candy Wickham has stepped in as the Acting Manatee Center Manager. She is a long-time educator in St. Lucie County and throughout Florida who also homeschooled her children and has served as a volunteer 4H Club Leader in St. Lucie County for the last seven years. Her connection to the homeschool and 4H communities has strengthened MOEC's ability to educate about the environment, and helped us to make our programs more accessible to more children.

Together, through the *Sustainability Program* and **Manatee Center**, we hope to celebrate Fort Pierce's beauty, growth, and unique community. We invite you to join us, and thank you for the opportunity to serve our community and environment together. ❖

The Importance of Sea Grass

by Candy Wickham

Did you know that Florida is home to seven different species of sea grass? Seagrasses are flowering plants that can be found in warm, shallow coastal marine waters. Since they require sunlight to grow, the depth at which they grow is limited by the clarity of the water. Florida seagrasses can be found in bays, lagoons, and the Gulf of Mexico. In fact, some of the largest sea grass beds in North America can be found in the state of Florida.

Florida's seagrasses are important for many reasons. Seagrass roots and underground stems help to stabilize the substrate and help prevent erosion. This is an especially important function during hurricane season, when storms threaten Florida's coastline. Seagrasses also help to maintain water clarity by trapping fine particles in the water. The more seagrass present in an area, the less the bottom is able to be stirred by waves, which increases water clarity. Seagrass beds are a nursery habitat for many of Florida's marine life. Many species of fish and shellfish harvested commercially in Florida depend on seagrasses to provide shelter and food for their young.

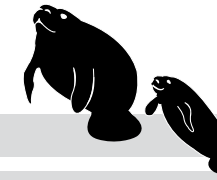
Not only do many species of fish rely on seagrass as a main food source, but so do many invertebrates, sea turtles, and the Florida manatee. In fact, an adult manatee can eat up to ten percent of its body weight in seagrass every day — up to 110 pounds!

What are the threats to seagrass? Florida seagrass beds are in trouble. Dredging and propeller scarring can physically damage seagrass beds. Since seagrass needs sunlight to survive, water clarity is necessary. With storm water runoff, and excess nutrients in the water causing algae blooms, water clarity has

been declining in the state for decades.

What can be done to help? With the health of seagrass beds in Florida declining, and seagrass dependent animals, like the manatee, feeling the effects, many people are asking what can be done to help. Each species of seagrass recovers at different rates. Some species take months to recover from damage, other species can take years. Boaters can avoid anchoring in seagrass beds, grounding in shallow areas with seagrass beds, and scarring the seagrass beds with propellers. By reducing the amount of nutrients in storm water runoff, by picking up dog waste, yard clippings, and decreasing the use of fertilizers and pesticides on our lawns, residents of Florida can help improve water quality and seagrass health.

The **Manatee Observation and Education Center** is very excited to help the seagrass in the Indian River Lagoon in a very special way. In April, we are expected to plant one acre of sea grass in Moore's Creek, a freshwater tributary to the Indian River Lagoon located right on our back steps! The generous outpouring of love and support from our community is what has made this effort possible. We hope that you will come visit, take a stroll on the back walk, and check out this exciting installation. The **Manatee Observation and Education Center** has also been selected to receive grant funding to plant an additional half acre of sea grass for seagrass enhancement research. We are excited to partner with **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** to have this installed right off of their dock in the Indian River Lagoon. Exciting things are happening at the **Manatee Observation and Education Center**. We thank you for your continuous love and support. ❖



The Manatee Center April Events

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

Thursday, April 7 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Homeschool Workshop: Life in the Lagoon

The Indian River Lagoon is one of the largest and most diverse estuaries in the world. Get your feet wet as we discover some of the creatures that make this amazing place their home. Homeschool days are an opportunity for individual homeschoolers to experience hands-on learning. All classes are geared for students ages 6 to 12. Cost is \$4 per student. This workshop is offered at a third party location. *Registration is required.* Please call 772-429-6266, option 3 to register.

Friday, April 8 at 12 p.m.

Which Way to the Sea

Lunch & Learn — Ashely Chelberg, President and Executive Director of Stella Maris Environmental Research will discuss important studies of hatchling orientation and ways that we can help improve their odds. Bring your lunch and bring a friend! *Free Event.*

Wednesday, April 13 at 11 a.m.

ManaTales: Best Friends

Learn all about Clownfish and their best friends: anemones! You won't want to miss this animal encounter! 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! FUN for preschoolers! Child's admission free with one paid adult admission. Please call 772-429-6266 option 3.

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HAVANA NIGHTS ... continued from page 17



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A Saturday Morning Tradition

The *Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market* is the best thing going in downtown Fort Pierce! For 25 years this unique venue has been the destination for thousands of locals and visitors every Saturday rain or shine. It just gets better and better each year!

Starting in 1997 as an idea for local farmers to sell their produce to the community, the Market has grown to one of the most popular events in the area. In the 2021 American Farmland Trust Favorite Farmers Market contest, the *Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market* was voted #1 in the Florida! It's no wonder that the Market continues to grow and thrive. Marina Square in historic Fort Pierce is a fabulous location- right on the waterfront with plenty of wondrous sights to see.

Every week brings an opportunity for vendors to show off their perfect products, whether home grown or homemade. From fresh locally grown produce, both conventionally grown and certified organic, to delicious jams, jellies and pickles, cakes, cookies, locally raised beef, locally caught seafood, onsite popped popcorn, prepared to order meals, there's something for everyone. Beautiful bouquets, fragrant lavender sachets, locally harvested honey, tantalizing fish dips, treats for your pooch or even fresh catnip for your kitty are just some of the delights to be found.

New vendors are continuously entering into the Market. Since January, at least eight have started and there are several

more coming along. Highly sought after, a place in the *Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market* is a coveted prize.


Sounds of live music keep everyone on their toes. The dance area at the north end of the Market has become a hotspot for dancers of all ages. Patrons dance through the aisles and sing along to their favorites. Each week brings a fresh new sound, from rock and roll, to bluegrass, to soft jazz, and everything in between, and the crowds love it.

The City of Fort Pierce has provided a free tram to ferry patrons from the parking garage at US1 and Orange Avenue/ Avenue A. It will drop off or pick up at any point along the way so shoppers don't have to worry about carrying packages long distances. This time of year is bountiful with delightful weather that is just perfect for enjoying outdoors and the Market is the perfect place to do that.

Meet friends, shop, eat. The *Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market* is the best place to be on a Saturday morning. Open from 8 till noon, rain or shine, it's a Saturday morning tradition! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or check our website fortpiercefarmersmarket.com. ❖



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St. Patrick's Day in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce



Love, JAZZ Community: It's Kind of Our Thing

by Don Bestor

Some people dig Wordle and are quick to share their score. Others practically tattoo their foreheads with the number of exclusive organizations they've joined, and still others will hold you hostage, scrolling through their phones to show their exotic vacation photos. That's their thing. At **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, we kind of have our thing, too. As a group of professional musicians and professional music lovers and supporters, we spend all year gigging, sharing our music and our knowledge of music with others, and raising funds to help provide support for the next generation of professional musicians. And every year, all that hard work comes down to April and May, the months when we get to audition young musicians and distribute scholarships to them to help them achieve their dreams the way others have helped us achieved ours.

Early every spring, our website www.jazzsociety.org begins accepting applications from high school seniors who are planning a career in music or music education. Applicants fill out an application and agree to perform two approved selections with the pros at one of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society's** weekly Tuesday Evening *Jazz Jams*, live, in front of an audience, at the **Sunrise Black Box Theatre**. In May, scholarships of \$1,000 per student are awarded to aspiring young musicians, which is fabulous, of course.

But what a lot of the scholarship applicants tell us was even more valuable than the awesome scholarship



was the opportunity to perform live with the pros. Admittedly, the students are nervous, but virtually all of them says that the chance to play with pros and experience the unspoken language and communication that goes on between the musicians during a performance helps them become better musicians immediately. It's also great fun for the professional musicians and the live audience at the **Black Box**, and if you've never had a chance to experience it, start marking your Tuesday calendars for the last couple of weeks in April, when audition nights will take place.

Scholarships will be distributed on Tuesday, May 24, in a night that is filled with laughter, tears, energy, and music, and we'd love to have you there for that celebration, too.



So, yeah, maybe we can't brag about our Wordle scores (well, maybe Al Hager can), and we promise never to scroll through our phones to share our vacay pics, but one thing you can always count on with **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, and our biggest reason to engage in the dreaded 'humblebrag,' is our commitment to encouraging the next generation of aspiring musicians to realize their dreams and helping put that dream into action. And you know, every time you come out and enjoy an evening of live, professional music, shop at the **Saturday Morning Jazz Market**, make a donation or become a member of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, you're helping a young musician keep dreaming, too. Thank you. See you at auditions later this month. ❖

TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, Sunday, April 2, 1922 edition of the Miami Herald

...John Sherwood of Miami, prominent architect of that city, was in Fort Pierce this week looking over the local field with a view to locating her for the practice of his profession. He is making his headquarters temporarily in the Goodwin & Baker office...

(John Sherwood would be the architect of both the Sunrise Theatre and Fort Pierce Elementary School)

100 years ago this month as reported by Agnew Welsh (reporter and historian) in Wednesday, April 26, 1922 edition of the Miami News

Tabloid Florida History by Agnew Welsh

The old "war" map of Florida, made in 1856 at the order of Jefferson Davis, then secretary of war of the national government, for use in prosecuting the second Seminole war, give the sites of some of the east coast military post and among others locates Fort Capron, using the following language in the descriptive matter accompanying the map:

"Fort Capron is situated on the west bank of the Indian River, opposite the Indian river inlet. Four and one-half miles south from Fort Capron is Fort Pierce. The growth on the shore between the two forts is pine. South of the latter post the ridge is covered with hammock growth and two miles below rises to a height of forty feet, where is the old Indian garden. Along the ride in this vicinity are a few dwelling houses. The inhabitants of these, with the lighthouse keeper at Cape Canaveral, are the only settlers upon the coast from the canal, ninety miles above Fort Capron, to the Miami river."...

75 years ago this month as reported in the Monday, April 21, 1947 edition of the Miami News

St. Lucie Board Wants More Pay

The local county commissioners want a hike in their pay.

They are advertising notice of intention to submit to the legislature a bill fixing their compensation at \$1,500 a year. \$125 per month.

Their present compensation is \$75 a month, set in a special act of several years ago.

In addition to serving as county commissioners, they serve also as ex-officio members of the Fort Pierce port district.

25 years ago this month as reported by Karen Cimino in the Sunday, April 5, 1997 edition of the Fort Pierce Tribune

Old City Hall is centerpiece of historic tour by Karen Cimino

Nowhere do the excesses of modern architecture and the simple elegance of the past meet more strikingly than at the new and old city hall buildings, nestled side by side in downtown Fort Pierce.

The new building looms symbolically of the old, pushing history into the shadows.

But it was the ornate Mediterranean flair of the old City Hall building that drew raves Saturday during downtown Fort Pierce's Art and Architecture Tour 1997.

Approximately 70 people passed through the Avenue A building during a tour of 16 sites around town. The tour, in its second year, was sponsored by the St. Lucie County Cultural Affairs Council, Main Street Fort Pierce, Neighborhood Housing Services, the Treasure Coast Art Association, the St. Lucie Mural Society and the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce.

Gail Wah and her husband Bill of Nettles Island went on the self-guided tour with four friends. They said they were most impressed by the old City Hall building, because the last time they saw it, it was still being renovated.

"They had gutted it," said Gail Wah. "The windows were gone. There were pigeons flying around."

The Wahs and others didn't see any pigeons Saturday. What they saw was the original high ceilings from the Italian Renaissance revival of the 1920s, plus restored windows and wood floors.

The renovations, sponsored by Main Street Fort Pierce, revealed the rippled effect of the exterior stucco walls and uncovered ornate details near the windows and barrel tile roof. Early on, the building was painted with a thick coat of rubber cement based paint that hid many of its best features, said Main Street manager Doris Tillman.

"It was a nightmare to remove," she said.

The old City Hall was the sixth stop on the tour which began at the gazebo on Indian River Drive near the downtown library then continued to the 122-year-old P.P. Cobb Building, the 77-year-old Raulerson

Building, the Treasure Coast Art Association and D. Rhodes Art Store and Gallery.

Called "The Bandstand," the gazebo is a replica of one built in the same area near the turn of the century. Other sites on the tour included local art galleries and studios, historic homes and apartments, the Sunrise Theater, Fort Pierce Elementary School and murals that grace buildings in the downtown area.

A couple from Vero Beach who went on the tour said they came because they love downtown Fort Pierce.

"It's like an old-fashioned downtown used to be," said Suzanne Liggett. "You can park and walk around."

Liggett said she was excited to see new places. "What we figured is we'd be able to see things we wouldn't normally be able to see," she said.

Bob Russell, chairman of art in public places for the St. Lucie County Cultural Affairs Council, said the tour is important to the future of art and history in Fort Pierce and the county.

Russell is especially excited about the promise of a renovated, 1,000-seat **Sunrise Theatre** on Second Street. "It's eventually going to be the glue that holds the downtown redevelopment together," he said.

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Understand Your Finances and Grow Your Business

by Mark Madrid, Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development www.sba.gov



Understanding your finances is key to small business success. With small businesses across America still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic, financial literacy is more important now than ever.

Financial Literacy Month was first established in 2004 to encourage Americans to learn about finance best practices and to boost their financial well-being. It can also serve as a reminder to take stock of your overall financial outlook and set finance-related goals — whether that's to obtain a loan, increase your revenue, or learn more about business taxes. Chances are, there's an SBA resource that can help you take the next steps toward achieving your goal.

To highlight three immediate educational resources to tap into, please consider the following:

A local business advisor — SBA resource partners can also help you get a clearer picture of your finances. One topic many small business owners work with resource partners on is preparing to apply for a small business loan. Resource partners can help you review your business plan, organize tax return documents and bank statements, and complete other important tasks before your loan application is sent to your lender.

Free online classes — For training on any small business topic, the SBA's Learning Center and new Ascent platform provide readily available expert insights. An essential course for early-stage businesses is the Financing Your Business course. This course outlines various funding options, including loans, grants, venture capital, and crowdfunding, and concludes with a downloadable worksheet to help you assess your own financial needs.

Financial advice for every area of life — SBA is a proud member of the Financial Literacy and Education



Commission, and fully supports the well-being of all individuals and small business employers. While special projects like Money Smart for Small Business (MSSB) (a joint curriculum of SBA and FDIC) provides an introduction to topics related to starting and managing a business, the FLEC-sponsored website MyMoney.gov is full of financial literacy resources for students, retirees, and more.

SBA-Guaranteed Loans and Lender Match

SBA-guaranteed loans are often an ideal funding option for small business owners who are creditworthy but don't qualify for conventional financing. SBA works with participating lenders to reduce their risk, increasing the likelihood your loan will be approved with the terms that work best for you.

If you decide SBA-guaranteed loans are a good fit for your business, SBA makes it easy for you to connect with lenders via our Lender Match tool. Lender Match is SBA's free online referral program that connects small businesses with more than 800 participating SBA-approved lenders.

To get started, just answer a few questions about your business. Then, you'll receive an email with contact information from lenders who have expressed interest in your loan. From there, you'll be able to compare rates, terms, fees, and more. Visit this page to get started.

Community Navigators being launched soon!

In the immediate future, we are expanding our reach through an even more expansive network of business coaches, called "Community Navigators." Navigators will accelerate information, education, training, and mentoring for small businesses in rural, underserved, and tribal communities. Please stay up-to-date by visiting sba.gov/navigators.

Whatever your financial goals for your business, SBA is here to help you get to your next step with personalized guidance and tested tools and resources. Learn more at sba.gov. ❖

How Some Brains Work

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



Sometimes it takes a visitor to set things straight in one's mind. I had such an experience this weekend. My Grandson, Gavin, was the catalyst for my setting things straight experience. A wonderful day had been had. A lazy, huge breakfast of the usual favorites and a quick round of virtual reality meditation and focus had been enjoyed. An inspiring day at the gallery, with meeting many from far and wide, chatting and sharing art, followed.

Dinner had been lovingly prepared, a few games played and jammies drowsily cozied into. The familiar snuggles and tickles and nighttime chatting by the glow of the nightlight had topped off the delightful day. Tucked in snug, in Camo pj's, under of weighted blanket, covered in upwards of 50 stuffed animals, our secret childhood indulgence, Gavin felt a bit warm. I suggested it might be due to the toasty PJ's and the weighted blanket. He wisely suggested that the body heat from all the animals was contributing to his too warm experience. This is a line, that when I am old and grey, will chase any blues away. The rapid workings of a clever mind, the sheer joy at sharing an amusing thought, and the blurring between reality and fantasy delighted all of my senses and brought a smile to my very soul.

How is it, that despite all of the chaos, disrupt and confusion in the world, a young mind can still elevate to find the clever, absurd, delightful and fantastic in a very small encounter or experience. What is this super power and where does it come from? I, as an involved grandparent, like to think that it may have something to do with our in-depth conversations on all things since toddlerhood. Concepts such as the value of a light heart and a good laugh, the importance of art, nature, communication, kindness, joy, love, acceptance, goals...and the list goes on and on, were common topic on our sometimes-long car rides. We shared ways to see beyond the surface of a situation, place or person and to see the hidden gems beneath: the rich veins that support the workings of life. Although some of these conversations were years ago, he will still remind me of them now.

These may seem like big thoughts in connection with a charming joke, but are they? Doesn't it take something special, an intentional way of being, to look beyond, to find humor in the "ordinary." Wouldn't it be a down-right funnier place to be in the world if the value of humor was highlighted? Yes, there is certainly a time and place for serious thought and contemplation. Equally so, they just might be a place of equal weight for humor, light-heartedness and even frivolity. We may be road weary, afraid, and doubtful. Throw in a ray of sunshiny humor and the road doesn't change, the fears still abound and the doubts still surface, yet, for even a brief moment, the road feels less difficult. Attention has been drawn to light and joy, like freshly washed and line dried sheets on a summer evening. Reality and fantasy play briefly side by side, leaving in their wake a trail of happy. Yes, leave it to a child, in camo PJ's, under a weighted blanket, covered in a myriad of stuffed animals to help recalibrate the compass to a truer course; a course that enlivens oneself and those in their presence. ❖

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Let's Go Fishing!

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

When April rolls around, it's time for serious offshore fishing, specifically targeting dolphin. The common dolphinfish, also called mahi mahi, can frequently be found on the Treasure Coast this time of year as waters become warmer. Most anglers, commercial and recreational, really enjoy targeting these aggressive-eating, fast-swimming, acrobatic fish. Not only do they provide an intense fight and some bragging rights, but they make an excellent fish dinner.

Mahi are distinctive for their bright turquoise, green, and yellow colors with spots or blotches of colors on their sides. They will bite artificial lures and jigs, but trolling ballyhoo with skirts will give you the best chance of putting mahi in the boat. They like to feed on food associated with sargassum so look for weed lines as well as floating objects, structures, and buoys. New regulations have decreased the number that can be kept from ten per angler to five per angler per day or thirty per vessel, whichever is less.

Snapper continue to bite on the reefs in 50–100 feet. Kingfish action is heating up offshore as well. Threadfins or blue runners on a slow troll will increase your chances of a hit and some pulling drag fun as kingfish can easily pull 100 to 200 feet of drag. The photo shows my friend, Jean, on a successful kingfish mission.



Come see me at **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** and we can talk fishing! Plus they have all your bait and tackle needs, food, and current regulations. It's always a great idea to get out on the water and spend time *Pullin Drag!* ❖

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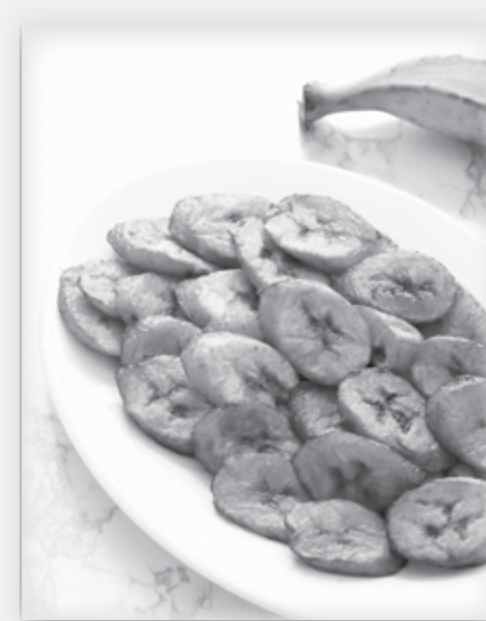


Roots and Recipes IV

Recipes from My Roots – Jeremiah Telusma

The place, feelings, and smells from home are where I feel relaxed and comfortable. It gives me feelings of security; relief and it is welcoming to smell the Haitian food at dinner with my family.

One time on New Year's Eve there was a party at my cousin's house, which included many relatives and some people that I had never met before. Everyone attending was Haitian, dancing and enjoying food. It was very lively and as a young kid I enjoyed



spending time together with the other kids.

My favorite Haitian food is rice and Sos Pwa Nwa (black bean sauce) with beef, chicken, or goat meat. Other dishes I enjoy are Bannan Peze (fried plantain) and Haitian Pikliz, which complements my favorite meal. Bouyan is another dish I like. It is a stew made up of plantains, carrots, beef, spinach, potatoes, dumplings and more. Haitian patties are also tasty treat that are liked by many.

Bannan Peze

- 3 green plantains
- 1 tbs vinegar
- 1 tbs salt
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tostonera plantain press
- 1 cup water

- Step 1 — Heat oil on medium high heat in a deep fryer or frying pan
- Step 2 — Peel plantains and angle cut each one into 5 equal pieces
- Step 3 — In a bowl add the hot water, vinegar, salt and set aside
- Step 4 — Lightly brown the plantains in the oil (approximately 5 mins)
- Step 6 — Soak the flattened plantains in the hot water and carefully put back in the oil for another 5 mins.
- Step 7 — Remove plantains from oil and place them on a paper towel to remove excess oil
- Step 8 — Serve hot

Recipe from My Roots is a collaboration with the St. Lucie County Public School's Career and Technical Education Program. Each month, Recipe from My Roots will feature a recipe from a student in the program and will highlight the significance of the recipe to that student.

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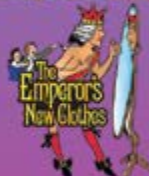
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