



Volume 19, No. 5 December, 2023

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

**Joy and Blessings, from Our Family to Yours,
this Christmas and Every Day.**



PRSRRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
WEST PALM BCH FL
PERMIT NO 4595

Notre Dame Roman Catholic Church

217 US Highway 1, Fort Pierce, Florida 34950
www.notredamecc.com

Looking for a Catholic Mass in Downtown Fort Pierce?

We are a year-round multicultural parish who welcomes seasonal worshippers and provides the community with outreach services. Extra Masses are added for the winter season. Our Masses are in English and Creole.

2023-2024 Mass Schedule

Saturday, 5 p.m. (English), November 18th, 2023 thru May 4th, 2024

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

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

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

Come join us in worship, outreach, and celebration!



Notre Dame Catholic Church

Fort Pierce, Florida



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

l...,[B3...}“{U[]N

by Donna Sizemore



Main Street Fort Pierce is the heart of our community, and a community is only as strong as its core. Our work is focused around Transformation Strategies that are organized around the *Four Points*: Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization. Reflecting on this past year and the accomplishments, under all four points, I'd like to focus specifically on *Organization*.

Organization involves creating a strong foundation for a sustainable revitalization effort, including cultivating partnerships, community involvement, and resources for the district (mainstreet.org/ourwork/theapproach).

Our community involvement and partnerships play a vital role in the success of *Main Street Fort Pierce Transformation Strategies*. As we are approaching the end of the year and reflect on all the work that *Main Street Fort Pierce* has accomplished in 2023, On behalf of *Main Street Fort Pierce*, I'd like to thank

the numerous volunteers for their assistance this year. *Main Street Fort Pierce* could not do what we do without you. I'd list all your names but there just isn't enough space in this letter, but we know who you are, and we certainly appreciate you. I'd also like to thank the spouses and partners of our Board members who willingly (I think 😊) gave up their evenings and weekends and assisted with the numerous activities and events this past year.

Also, we'd like to thank all our sponsors and generous donors. We certainly couldn't do what we do without your support. And of course, we appreciate our collaborative partnerships with the numerous clubs and organizations. As I mentioned, a community is only as strong as its core. In order to be effective and have lasting change meaningful partnerships and intentional collaboration are vital.

Please remember to support the Downtown Fort Pierce businesses, shops and restaurants. If you're in need of that special holiday gift, or gift card, remember to check them out. There is something for everyone.

We have several events for the month of December: *Friday Fest*; *Sights and Sounds on Second Street*; *Colleen Nash Becht with Guest Artist Sheila Hostetler*; *Coffee with the Mayor* and *New Year's Eve Fireworks*. Please visit *Main Street Fort Pierce* website for dates and times (mainstreetfortpierce.org/local-events-calendar).

We look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Have a healthy, happy and safe holiday season! ❖



MAIN STREET FOCUS

FORT PIERCE

Volume 19, No. 5 December, 2023

Publisher Main Street Fort Pierce Inc.
Editor Joanne Blandford
Advertising Director Main Street Fort Pierce Inc.
Graphic Design Susan M. Roberts
Contributing Writers Joanne Blandford, Michael Howard, Mayor Linda Hudson, Anne Satterlee, Holly Theuns, Doris Tillman, Laura Louise Tingo
Photography MaryAnn Ketcham, Valerie Krupa

Copyright © 2023 Main Street Focus Inc. All rights reserved. Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Main Street Fort Pierce. Contents may not be reproduced without prior written permission of Main Street Fort Pierce Inc., 122 AE Backus Ave., Fort Pierce, FL 34950. PHONE 772-466-3880 • FAX 772-466-3917 • tillman.dd@gmail.com.



2023 – 2024 Officers, Board of Directors & Staff

Donna Sizemore President	Patti Craft Vice President	Brooke Harris Secretary	Dave Miller Treasurer
------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------

Board of Directors

Joanne Blandford Brooke Harris Charlie Hayek Steve Holland	Jeremiah Johnson Wendy Lounds Dana McSweeney Daniela Mendoza	Michelle Miller-Morris Kathy Perona James Taylor Richard Ziarkowski
---	---	--

Doris Tillman Manager	Mimi Ewan Finance	Joanne Blandford Focus Editor
--------------------------	----------------------	----------------------------------

Phone: 772.466.3880 • mainstreetfortpierce.org



Coffee WITH THE MAYOR

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

Friday, December 15, at 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club
700 N. Indian River Drive

Sponsored by



HOSTED BY Fort Pierce Yacht Club, Main Street Fort Pierce, Orchid Island Juice Company, Steamworks Coffeebar and Eatery and The City of Fort Pierce. Call Main Street Fort Pierce for more information at 772-466-3880.



St. Lucie BATTERY & TIRE
TRUCK & CAR SERVICE CENTERS
Home of Honest, Reliable Service

CALM-SEAS
STAY CHARGED UP

- ☑ RV, Golf, Car, Marine Batteries
- ☑ Truck, RV & Trailer Tires
- ☑ Truck RV & Trailer Brake Service
- ☑ Complete Truck, RV & Vehicle Service

Call or go on-line TODAY to make your appointment:

BEST PRICE OUT THE DOOR
Guaranteed Everyday

SLBT.com
800-432-1064

Convenient locations serving Fort Pierce • Port St. Lucie • Hobe Sound • Jensen • Oklawaha • Palm City • Sebastian • Vero Beach • West Palm



FRIDAY FEST
Food • fun • friends

Food Family Friends Fun

1st Friday of each month, Historic Downtown Fort Pierce
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Marina Square



Join Us at **Friday Fest** on December 1st with Live Music by **Jessie and the Thieves**

What's Your Art Worth?

FINE ART APPRAISALS
Insurance | Resale | Estate
Charitable Gifts

Specializing in A.E. Backus, Highwaymen & Florida Artists

—Offering Online and In-Person Appraisals—
E-mail or call to schedule an appointment.

"When the value is known, decisions become easier."


Kathleen Piowaty Fredrick, Appraiser
Associate Member: Appraisers Association of America



www.FloridaArtAppraisals.com
772-519-9019
E-mail: Kathleen@FloridaArtAppraisals.com

Calendar

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



Get the **DISTRX** app for all the latest downtown specials and events!

MONTHLY EVENTS

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

December 3, Sunday: SIGHTS & SOUNDS ON 2ND STREET FESTIVAL, PARADE & TREE LIGHTING — 2023 Theme "Under the Sea"; Festival 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; dance performances, food, crafts, children's activities; **Santa arrives by firetruck at 1:30 p.m.**; Parade starts at 4:00 p.m.; Tree Lighting Ceremony immediately following the Parade; in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

December 15, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; *Sponsor* — **City of Fort Pierce Animal Adoption Center**; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN

Wine Down Wednesday
Fort Social in the Galleria on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6 to 8 p.m.
TheFortSteakhouse.com

Sailfish Brewing Company
facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company

Pierced Cider
Facebook @piercedcider

Cobbs Landing
cobbs-landing.com

Bottom's Up Public House
facebook.com/bottomsuppublichouse

121 Tapas on the Water
facebook.com/121tapasonthewater

SUNRISE THEATRE & SUNRISE BLACK BOX

772-461-4775 • *sunrisetheatre.com*

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

MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • *ManateeEducationCenter.org*

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

462-2787 • *www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/*

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

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

First Church; 464-0440, *firstchurchfp.org*.

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

Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church; 466-9617, *notredamecc.com*.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (founded 1893); 461-5009 *mystandrews.org*.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

A.E. Backus Museum
772-465-0630 • *backusmuseum.com*
Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
772-462-1795
2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building

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

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

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

Heathcote Botanical Gardens
772-464-4672
heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

Manatee Observation & Education Center
772-429-6266 • *ManateeEducationCenter.org*

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

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

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

DECEMBER: NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

DECEMBER 3: LET'S HUG DAY

DECEMBER 4: NATIONAL COOKIE DAY

DECEMBER 4: SANTA'S LIST DAY

DECEMBER 7: HANUKKAH

DECEMBER 8: NATIONAL BROWNIE DAY

DECEMBER 12: GINGERBREAD HOUSE DAY

DECEMBER 15: UGLY SWEATER DAY

DECEMBER 22: NATIONAL COOKIE EXCHANGE DAY

DECEMBER 23: FESTIVUS

DECEMBER 23: NATIONAL PFEFFERNUSSE DAY

DECEMBER 24: NATIONAL EGGNOG DAY

DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26: KWANZAA

DECEMBER 30: NATIONAL BACON DAY

Merry Christmas

Mayor's Message

Fort Pierce Strong For Brightline Treasure Coast Stop

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



The *City of Fort Pierce*, working with interested community partners, is responding to a Brightline Trains request for proposal, (RFP) to identify a location for a Treasure Coast station in Fort Pierce. The RFP opened November 15; deadline for submission is December 22.

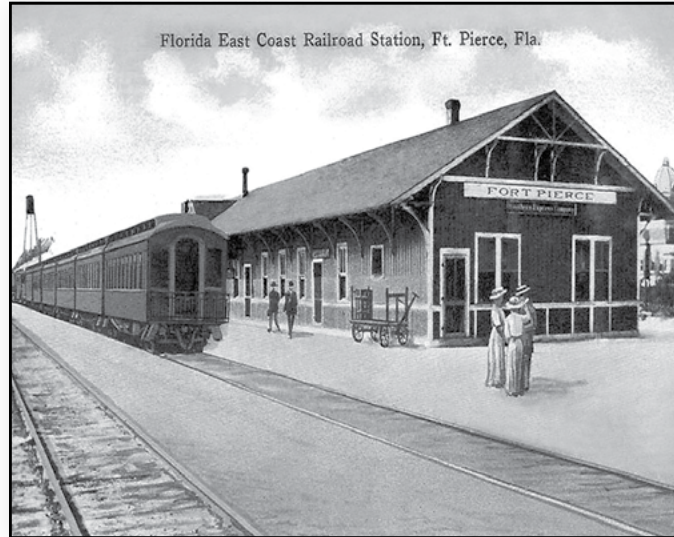
Our city has strong backing from St. Lucie County leaders and residents for a Treasure Coast stop in the future. Incorporated in 1901, Fort Pierce was a major Florida East Coast (FEC) rail stop because it is situated about halfway between Jacksonville and St. Augustine to the north and Miami to the south. Fort Pierce is the geographic center of the Treasure Coast.

Brightline commenced service from Miami to Orlando, with stops at Aventura, Fort Lauderdale, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach and Orlando September 22.

Brightline anticipates short-listing several proposals and advancing discussions/negotiations with each of those proposers with the goal of entering into contract with one proposer in early 2024. Brightline is committed to this Treasure Coast station and anticipates the Treasure Coast station opening in early 2028.

To demonstrate serious intent, St. Lucie County's Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) approved \$356,000 for a conceptual design of a Fort Pierce station earlier in 2023. Zyscovich Architects, a vendor that provides services to Brightline, was chosen to provide designs and renderings for at least two Fort Pierce locations.

Fort Pierce has not been idle since the high-speed rail project was announced in 2012. In the past, our city leaders have actively sought railroad stops in Fort Pierce, including AMTRAK, Tri-Rail and now Brightline. Fort Pierce includes the Port of Fort Pierce, and the nearby **Treasure Coast International Airport**, both assets bringing commerce and jobs to our area. Fort Pierce is where the Florida Turnpike meets the



Atlantic Coast and Interstate 95; St. Lucie County alone has eight I-95 exits.

A train stop in Fort Pierce makes good business sense for Brightline, would be a critical game-changer for the region, and slow the train down in our urban core. Our commission and staff have consistently worked with Brightline officials to show our enthusiastic support for a brighter future for Fort Pierce with a Treasure Coast Brightline station. ❖



FEE, YATES & FEE
P L L C
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Frank H. Fee, III & Frank H. Fee, IV

Concentrating in Real Estate Transactions, Probate Proceedings,
Mortgage Foreclosures, Collateral Litigation, Loan Workouts

E. Clayton Yates

Concentrating in Civil Litigation and Criminal Law

Serving the Treasure Coast Since 1905

772.461.5020

Historic Poppell House • 426 Avenue A, Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

www.FeeYatesLaw.com

Art Show & Sale Featuring Colleen Nash Becht & Sheila Hostetler

Join us on Thursday, December 7, 2023, for a one-night-only, highly-anticipated art show featuring the renowned watercolorist, Colleen Nash Becht. This *Holiday Shopping Event* will showcase original artwork, unique holiday gifts, and a raffle for a chance to win an original framed Colleen Nash Becht artwork! The art reception will take place at *Main Street*

Fort Pierce, located at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

This year's raffle prize, an original art piece generously donated by the artist herself, Colleen Nash Becht, is titled "Southern Magnolia" and holds a value of \$2,000. Raffle tickets are available for \$15 each or three tickets for \$40 and can be

purchased on the *Main Street Fort Pierce* website at www.mainstreetfortpierce.org. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase until the drawing, which will occur on the evening of the event, December 7th, at 7:30 p.m.

Every year, Colleen selects a guest artist who has not previously exhibited their work. This year, Sheila Hostetler will present her unique *Santa Ornaments* crafted from oyster shells sourced from local restaurants. Hostetler, a Fort Pierce native, is a wife to a Law Enforcement

Officer, a mother of two successful sons, and a proud "Grammie" to two adorable granddaughters. After retiring as a real estate paralegal, she embarked on an artistic journey that began with hand-engraving gentleman's folding knives and eventually led to her establishing her own clientele of knife makers throughout the United States.

Living in Florida, surrounded by the bounties of the ocean, Hostetler was inspired to create hand-carved clay and oyster shell Santas, each with a twinkle in their eye and priceless expressions. Self-taught in her craft, Hostetler is thrilled to present her special oyster shell creations for you and your family to

cherish for years to come.

Colleen's watercolor artwork is nothing short of awe-inspiring. They possess a rare quality that transcends the ordinary and enters the realm of the extraordinary. Her skillful use of watercolors allows her to create realistic renditions that breathe life into her subjects with a level of precision that is nothing short of remarkable. With each brushstroke, she manages to capture the essence of the scenes she paints, infusing them with a sense of reality that leaves observers captivated. ❖



The FORT STEAKHOUSE
Gift Cards

ALWAYS THE PERFECT GIFT
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE
772-882-9131 www.thefortsteakhouse.com

GIFT CARD

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE
Casa Pasta
CUCINA

SAVOR DECEMBER WITH CASA PASTA GIFT CARDS

THE TASTEFUL GIFT OF ITALIAN DELIGHTS!

+1 (772) 882-4984
100 S 2nd St, Fort Pierce, FL
WWW.FORTCASAPASTA.COM

Smooth Sailing Dental

W. ROGER LONG, DDS, PA
ADRIANA ALBITE, DMD
BETHANY WIERZBICKI, DMD, MBA

772.464.2943
longdds@bellsouth.net
www.smoothsailingdental.com

Dr. W. Roger Long, DDS, has been proudly serving the Treasure Coast since 1983. We welcome new patients to our practice located in beautiful and historic Fort Pierce.

A Smooth Sail to a Brighter Smile

1511 South 25th St., Fort Pierce

Nancy Arledge
Vice President
Branch Manager
NMLS #572813

Office 772.462.8820
Fax 772.464.4374
NArledge@SouthStateBank.com
200 South Indian River Drive
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
SouthStateBank.com

SouthState

McCURDY & CO. REALTY

Buy or list with
McCurdy & Co. Realty
Residential | Commercial
Waterfront | Land | Rentals

Stop in or call!
772-216-2821 cell | 772-242-8436
joannemccurdy1@aol.com
171 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce
www.mccurdyrealty.com

Joanne McCurdy, Broker/Owner

Michael R. Repoli, CPA, EA

In trouble with the IRS?
Owe money or need to file past taxes?
Tax Resolution

INCOME TAXES. ROOT CANAL.
Fortunately, we can help with the more painful of the two.

Call: 772-878-3703 Fax: 772-343-7287
www.repolicpa.com

Christmas Eve First Church Fort Pierce

A Christmas Eve Service on the Waterfront

Come enjoy a beautiful evening of modern worship celebrating the birth of Jesus

1 Avenue A - Marina Square

Dec. 24 at 4:00pm
Bring a chair, come early, and enjoy!

firstchurchfp.org 772.464.0440

Annual & Seasonal Membership Offerings
November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024

Golf • Tennis • Pickleball
Social • Pool • Fitness Center

Visit our website at www.MeadowoodGolfAndTennis.com
Click on Membership Offerings tab to access Membership Categories

Contact Travis Stoelting, Head Golf Professional
772-466-4000 Ext 215
9425 Meadowood Drive, Fort Pierce

Dec. 24 at 6:00pm

TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT
Hymns and the traditions you love!

515 Avenue A
Orange Ave and 7th St.

A United Methodist Congregation

Flooding the Treasure Coast With the Transformational Love of Jesus
FIRST CHURCH FORT PIERCE
Loving God and Loving People

Mayor's Gold Hammer Award Winners

Mayor Linda Hudson unveiled the *City of Fort Pierce Gold Hammer Awards* during the "Coffee with the Mayor" event on Friday, October 20, 2023, at 8:00 a.m., held at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**. The award recipients are as follows:

• **1711 Avalon Avenue** •

Awardees: *Lorae Simpson & Zach Foltz*

Category: Residential Rehabilitation

• **2301 Okeechobee Road** •

Awardee: *Jackson Drugs*

Category: Commercial Renovation



Chic and Shore things

In addition to our regular weekly hours, the store will be open every Thursday evening from 5–8 for the Downtown 'Sip & Shop.' So stop in through December 24th for an amazing selection of Christmas/Hanukkah home decor, ornaments, gifts, jewelry and much more!

Facebook.com/ChicAndShoreThings | 205 North Second St., Fort Pierce

Open: Mon-Thu 10-5, Fri 10-7, Sat 10-5 ★ Call: 772-342-7505

• **2400 S. Ocean Drive** •

Awardee: *Ocean Village Property Owners Association*

Categories: New Construction & Renovation

We express our gratitude for your dedication to the Fort Pierce Community, as your contributions have resulted in significant enhancements to the area. ❖



ENHANCE YOURSELF...
BY WILLIAM FRANCIS
aesthetically
WELLNESS REDEFINED

COMPLETELY. NATURALLY. AESTHETICALLY.

Services

- Hormone Replacement Therapy
- Botox
- Facial Filler
- Stem Cell Therapy
- Microneedling
- Weight Loss Injections
- Hair Restoration
- And More!

772.448.3525

100 South 2nd Street Suite 211 • Ft. Pierce

Located On The 2nd Floor Of The Galleria Of Pierce Harbor

"Sip & Shop" – A Festive Downtown Experience to December 21

As the holiday season approaches, one of the most cherished traditions for many is the joy of holiday shopping. This year, Downtown Fort Pierce is taking the shopping experience to a whole new level with its *Sip & Shop* event. *Sip & Shop* will be held every Thursday from November 30 to December 21 and will take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. It's an excellent opportunity for you to enjoy a relaxed evening of shopping, refreshments, and live Christmas music while soaking in the festive atmosphere of Downtown Fort Pierce.

One of the highlights of the *Sip & Shop* event is the chance to win the "Basket of Cheer," valued at over \$300. This fabulous prize is sure to make your holiday season

even more special. To enter the drawing for the "Basket of Cheer," all you need to do is show a receipt from *any* business in Downtown Fort Pierce during the *Sip & Shop* event and bring it to **Notions & Potions**. For every receipt you present, you'll earn one ticket for the drawing. The more you shop, the better your chances of winning this fantastic prize! The drawing for the "Basket of Cheer" will be held on December 23rd at 8 p.m. and will be broadcast live on Facebook, so be sure to tune in to see if you're the lucky winner.

Don't forget to support our local businesses and take a chance at winning that amazing "Basket of Cheer!" ❖

SteamWorks Coffeebar Now at Coffee With the Mayor

Main Street Fort Pierce proudly introduces **SteamWorks Coffeebar** as the new coffee sponsor for *Coffee with the Mayor*. Nestled in the heart of Port St. Lucie, **SteamWorks Coffeebar and Eatery** has been brewing up unique flavors for two years. Owner Michael Baumgardner, an Indian River State College graduate in Information Technology, is venturing into his first coffee-based entrepreneurial endeavor.

Michael's passion for crafting coffee has led him to create a very unique menu full of signature drinks like the must-try "Funky Monkie." In addition to his love for coffee, Michael

and his father teamed up to develop a breakfast and lunch menu special to the steampunk-themes. Menu items include "The Scarlett O'hara," "The Isaac Newton," and "The Bandolier," and for the breakfast enthusiasts, breakfast is served all day from 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

What sets **SteamWorks Coffeebar** apart is its commitment to using the freshest ingredients. Michael sources his beans from Treasure Coast microroasters, ensuring that each brew is a celebration of local flavor. And each meal is housemade so whether you're in the mood for handcrafted coffee or a delectable menu item, **SteamWorks** is ready to delight your taste buds.

SteamWorks Coffeebar is more than just a place to grab a cup of coffee; it's a community hub, an embodiment of creativity, and a testament to the power of entrepreneurship. Baumgardner's vision has given rise to a unique establishment that blends the wonders of steampunk with the comfort of a neighborhood eatery. Rumor has it, **SteamWorks Coffeebar** has its eyes set on downtown Fort Pierce location in the future.

Join us in experiencing the excellence of **SteamWorks Coffeebar's** coffee at *Coffee with the Mayor*, every third Friday of the month at 8 a.m. ❖



C&C
COACH & CARLSON

"772 ... It's Not Just an Area Code ... It's a Lifestyle"

Machelle Joseph 404-428-3653
Machelle@CoachAndCarlson.com

Carlson Collier 878-362-8471
Carlson@CoachAndCarlson.com
www.CoachAndCarlson.com

KW PORT ST. LUCIE
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

FPUA Wishes Fort Pierce Season's Greetings and Happy New Year

As **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA)** reflects on 2023, we are thankful to our community, partners and stakeholders for their support in helping us build a sustainable infrastructure well into the future. Our combined efforts brought the year to a close with a recent grant award of \$5,828,993 by the U.S. Department of Energy to further modernize the Fort Pierce electric grid. Modernization is just one example of our initiatives to storm-harden our infrastructure ensuring grid reliability and quality of service for customers.

Major **FPUA** projects in the New Year include our continued infrastructure initiatives mitigating environmental risks and protecting the *Indian River Lagoon (IRL)* by: relocating the sewer treatment plant off the *Indian River Lagoon*; lining sewer pipes with PVC to protect against inflow and outflow from cracks in aging clay pipes; septic-to-sewers conversions, and installing several more acres of seagrass grant funding from the *Florida Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida* program.

WRF Relocation: **FPUA** is relocating its WRF to an industrial area far away from residences and the IRL, which is recognized as the most biodiverse estuary in North America. The new facility will be next door to the **Treasure Coast Energy Center (TCEC)** natural gas power plant. Once

operational, the new facility will provide TCEC with reuse water for its cooling towers — an important conservation effort reducing the draw from the natural aquifers by nearly two million gallons per day.

This community-funded effort is supported by ratepayers and grants obtained by a newly-established grants department at the utility. Grant support includes funds from the *Florida Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida* grant program, which includes restoration of 2.23 acres of seagrass in the IRL, and *State Appropriations*.

Sewer Lining to Mitigate Storm Overflows: **FPUA** is storm-hardening aging clay sewer pipes through a Cured-in-Place piping sewer lining process to prevent storm water from entering the sewer system and untreated sewage leaking into the groundwater. Over 100 miles of old clay pipes will be rehabilitated through this process, which costs about one-tenth of conventional pipe replacement.



RAINS INSURANCE



Nick Rains
Owner

Office: (772) 464-4740
Fax: (772) 774-8369
Cell: (772) 201-6893

www.RainsInsurance.com nick@rainsinsurance.com

VERO BEACH - FORT PIERCE

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL



"Peace of Mind"

QUALITY DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM
CERTIFIED • ACCREDITED • CHRISTIAN STAFF

VPK 8:30-11:30, Free Speech Therapy Available Onsite
Ages 12 mos. – 5 yrs., 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
3114 Okeechobee Road, Ft. Pierce

465-3414

"GOLD SEAL" ACCREDITED • MEMBERS of UMAPS



COVE HARBOUR TITLE SERVICES Family Owned and Operated

25 Years of Real Estate Experience

We are here for all of your real estate closing needs

Real Estate Closings | 1031 Exchange | Refinance | Title Search
Bankruptcy Experience | Foreclosure | Short Sale | Notary Service



www.CoveHarbourTitle.com
Phone: 772-448-8889 Fax: 772-448-8831
311 S. 2nd Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34950

Septic-to-Sewer Conversions to Eliminate Nutrient Leaching: Septic systems pose a risk to the IRL by leaching nutrient rich effluent which causes algal blooms. Customers can convert from septic to **FPUA's** sewer system at a heavily discounted rate through grant funding provided to **FPUA** through the *Florida Department of Commerce* and the *Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP)*. Currently, an estimated 3,000 households within the **FPUA** wastewater service territory utilize septic tanks.


Four Acres of Seagrass and Counting: Seagrass is vital to the IRL because it improves water quality by cycling out excess nutrients, oxygenates the water column for plant and animal life, stabilizes the sediment, and sequesters carbon to help offset climate change. In addition to restoration, **FPUA** is bringing research funded by the IRLNEP to help restoration experts identify the best species and blends of seagrass for effective restoration in the area.

As we close out 2023, we look forward to continuing these sustainability projects as well as bringing modernization and Smart City technology to Fort Pierce with **FPUA-net** fiber internet.

Happy Holidays, Happy New Year, and thank you as always for allowing **FPUA** to provide your hometown utility service.

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

Jewelry and Watch Repair



Sweet's Jewelers Since 1926

Family-Owned
Phone (772) 461-4686
209 Avenue A ~ Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

Rosslow's Since 1950
Ladies' Fashion, Shoes & Gifts

Family owned and operated since its opening in 1950, Rosslow's is Fort Pierce's one-stop shop, offering specialty items and excellent customer service.

772.461.1222 • 772.466.2021 fax
RosslowsFL.com • crosslow@comcast.net
105 South 2nd Street • Fort Pierce, Florida

"You name it, We can prepare it"



TAPS
MULTI SERVICES



Patricia A. Patterson
Degreed Paralegal / Notary Public
P 772-461-9524 F 772-461-9527
Tapparalegalserv@bellsouth.net

101 N US 1, Suite 112, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950
(Historical Arcade Building, Corner US1 Orange Ave.)

kw REALTOR® patriciapatterson.re@gmail.com
PATRICIA PATTERSON 772.236.3482

- Divorce
- Custody
- Child Support
- Court Motions & Responses
- Real Estate Forms & Contracts
- Wills
- Trusts & HC
- Surrogates
- POA
- Quit Claim Deeds
- Immigration
- Bankruptcy and more



THE CLOCK SHOP of Fort Pierce

Now Located in the Arcade Building

101 N. US 1, Suite #123
Historic Downtown Fort Pierce
772-465-2768

Antique Restoration and Clock Repair

December – the Month of Giving

by Meredith Bennett, Manatee Center

December is often considered as a month of “giving” because of the various holidays and traditions that celebrate generosity, kindness, and gratitude. Some examples of these are:

Christmas: A Christian holiday that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. The tradition of gift-giving is inspired by the biblical story of the Magi who brought gifts to the newborn Jesus.

Hanukkah: A Jewish holiday that celebrates the miracle of the oil that lasted for eight days in the Temple of Jerusalem. Jews celebrate Hanukkah by lighting candles on a menorah, playing games with a dreidel, and giving gifts or money to children and charity.

Kwanzaa: A cultural and social holiday that honors the African heritage and values of African Americans. Kwanzaa is based on seven principles, one of which is Ujamaa, meaning cooperative economics.

Boxing Day: A secular holiday that originated in the United Kingdom and is observed in many Commonwealth countries. Boxing Day is traditionally a day when employers would give boxes of money or goods to their workers, and when people would donate to the poor and the church.

These are just some of the examples of how December is a month of “giving” in different cultures and religions. No matter how you choose to celebrate, remember that giving is not only about material things, but also about sharing your love, joy, and compassion with others. One of the most valuable gifts you can give is your time. By volunteering, you are showing that you care about others and that you are willing to share your talents and abilities. You are also setting an example for others to follow.

Volunteering can also be a gift you give yourself because of the numerous benefits you experience. It can make you feel happier, more fulfilled, and more connected to others. There are a number of wonderful organizations in our area where you could make a difference.

At the **Manatee Center**, we rely on the generous time our volunteers choose to give us. Since we’ve opened our doors, **Manatee Center** volunteers have gifted over 235,000 hours to



educate our local residents, students, and out-of-state visitors with a variety of programs and exhibits. We are a non-profit organization that promotes awareness and responsible stewardship of the *Indian River Lagoon* and its inhabitants, specifically the Florida Manatee. If you feel a special tug in your heart when you think about manatees, please consider volunteering with us. However, there are so many wonderful organizations where you can make a difference. Please check out Volunteer-Match.org if you’d like suggestions.

This December be the best gift giver you can be by giving of yourself.

We wish you joy, love, and light as we close out 2023. ❖

The Manatee Center December Events

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

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

Friday, December 1st at 1:00 p.m.
Creekside Chat

Join us at the **Manatee Center’s** back walk, right along *Moore’s Creek* for an informal educational talk led by a Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute.

Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00 p.m.
Sights & Sounds on Second Christmas Festival and Parade

Moe-the-Manatee will be the Master of Ceremonies.

Friday, December 8 at 12:00 p.m.
Diane Morgan Topic: Gopher Tortoise

Lunch & Learn — Bring a lunch and bring a friend! This event will be hosted by **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** at 700 N. Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce. *Free Event.*

Wednesday, December 20th at 11 a.m.
ManaTales Storytime, a Nature and Nurture Series

Nurture your child’s natural curiosity about nature through this Mommy and Me style program. Fun for preschoolers.

Tuesday, December 26th
Closed for the Holiday




CREATE A LASTING MEMORY WITH A GIFT OF ENTERTAINMENT THIS SEASON WITH A SUNRISE THEATRE GIFT CERTIFICATE OR TICKETS TO A SHOW!

 CINDERELLA	 REZA EDGE OF ILLUSION	 JAY LENO	 ULTIMATE DONNA SUMMER TRIBUTE	 THE FOUR PHANTOMS	 LOU GRAMM THE ORIGINAL VOICE OF FOREVER
DEC 27	JAN 11	JAN 12	JAN 13	JAN 20	JAN 24
 THE TEMPTATIONS	 TERRY FATOR	 KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD	 PIFF THE MAGIC DRAGON	 CHRIS BOTTI	 JOHNNY CASH EXPERIENCE
JAN 26	FEB 3	FEB 9	FEB 10	FEB 22	FEB 28
 ILUMINATE	 MIKE DELGUIDICE & HIS BAND	 RANDY RAINBOW	 DAVID BRIGHTON'S SPACE ODDITY	 POSTMODERN JUKEBOX	 DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE
FEB 29	MAR 2	MAR 15	MAR 30	APR 6	APR 7

THE TREASURE COAST'S #1 DESTINATION FOR LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

PRESENTING SPONSORS













SCAN THE CODE FOR FULL 2023/24 SEASON!

FOLLOW US




WWW.SUNRISETHEATRE.COM
117 SOUTH 2ND STREET
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE
BOX OFFICE: 772.461.4775
MON-FRI: 10AM - 2PM

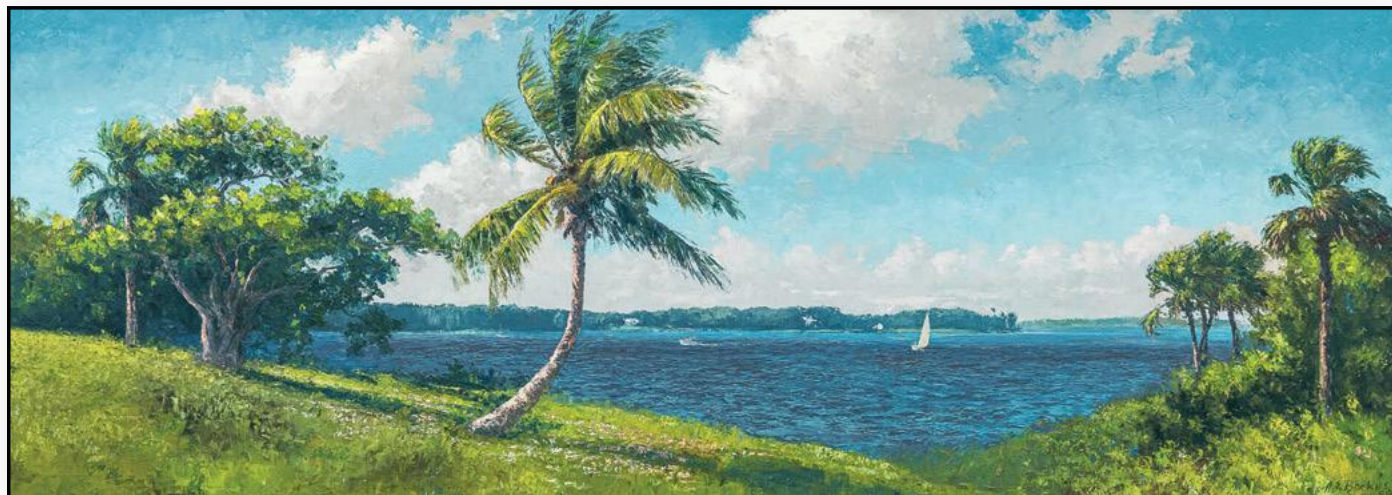
Remarkable Paintings and Extraordinary Conversations: *Kindred Spirits*

The **A.E. Backus Museum** is pleased to present an important exhibition that explores the close friendship between artist “Bean” Backus and publishing magnate “Kip” Kiplinger. The exhibition, *Kindred Spirits: Paintings & Letters from the Kiplinger Family Collection*, will be on view November 17, 2023 through January 7, 2024 at the museum located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce, Florida.

W. M. Kiplinger (1891–1967), a famed Washington journalist with a home on Sewall’s Point, discovered the art of A. E. Backus and the two became friends in the 1950s. Despite great differences in their lifestyles, the two shared a charitable mindset when it came to support for the community. Kiplinger found Backus to be a close counterpart in many ways. He also



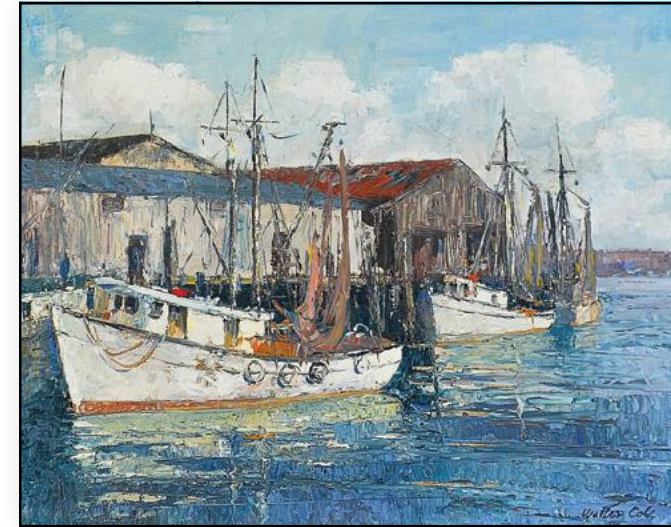
A.E. Backus (American, 1906-1990). Tornado of April 15 1958, Fort Pierce, Florida, 1958. Oil on canvas, 24 x 36 in. Kiplinger Family Collection.



A.E. Backus (American, 1906-1990). Panoramic View from Sewall's Point, Florida, 1958. Oil on canvas, 38 x 106.5 in. Martin County Library System / Martin County Board of County Commissioners.

admired Backus’ work and commissioned a number of significant paintings by the artist included in the exhibition. One of the important works he commissioned is a nearly 9-foot long, mural-sized painting of the St. Lucie River from his Sewall’s Point estate. The view from the estate, Bay Tree Lodge, was perfect for and certainly destined to become a Backus painting. When Martin County built its first library on land that Kiplinger donated to the community, he also donated the Backus mural-sized painting to the library. The painting, which is kept at its permanent home at the Blake Library in Stuart, will be part of the *Kindred Spirits* exhibition. This will give **Backus Museum** visitors the opportunity to appreciate the painting up-close for the first time since 1999, as it will be installed at eye-level for ideal viewing.

Kiplinger, who was also a tireless letter writer, corresponded with his friend “Bean” as well as with other artists he met at the Backus Studio, including a surprisingly candid exchange with Alfred Hair (1941–1970). Kiplinger provided encouragement to Hair, a talented young artist who would go on to become famous in his own right as one of the original *Florida Highwaymen*. *Kindred Spirits* is the first public showing of selected works from the *Kiplinger Family Collection* including rare letters like the one to Hair. Paintings on view from the collection include works by Al Black, Walter Cole, Willie Daniels, James F. Hutchinson, Kevin Hutchinson, Therese Knowles, Roy McLendon, Harold Newton, and Sam Newton.



Walter Cole (American, 1881-1965). Florida Fishing Boats, n.d. Oil on canvas board, 19 x 23 in. Kiplinger Family Collection.

To continue the legacy of both Kiplinger and Backus, the Kiplinger family has endowed a space in the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** to be known henceforth as *The Kiplinger Gallery*.

Like Backus, Kiplinger was well-known for being a humanitarian, particularly for his generous donations to the community. Kiplinger’s grandson, Knight Kiplinger, who cherishes the Treasure Coast region as much as his grandfather did, came up with an idea of how best to continue the legacy of his grandfather’s friendship with Backus and other gifted artists from the area. Through a generous gift, the Kiplinger family has endowed part of the museum which will now be known as the *Kiplinger Gallery*. The *Kiplinger Gallery* is the larger space hosting all of the **Backus Museum’s** changing exhibitions every season; consequently, it is the most highly-



Therese Knowles (American, born France, 1918-2008). View from North Bridge, Fort Pierce, 1963. Oil on canvas, 12 x 34 in. Kiplinger Family Collection.



Harold Newton (American, 1934-1994). Early Evening Hammock, n.d. Oil on Upson board, 24 x 36 in. Kiplinger Family Collection.

trafficked gallery on a daily basis. For generations to come, the new *Kiplinger Gallery* will be a fitting testament to the interest and appreciation that both Kiplinger and Backus had for the arts in the community.

Kindred Spirits: Paintings & Letters from the Kiplinger Family Collection’s opening reception will be held on Friday, December 1 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., with remarks at 6:30 p.m. Current members are always free; not-yet members are \$20.

Kindred Spirits is accompanied by a newly-published catalogue (available December 1), and is the debut exhibition presented in *The Kiplinger Gallery*. The catalogue and exhibition are made possible by the generous cooperation of the Kiplinger Family in support of the **A.E. Backus Museum**.

All dates and programming subject to change; please check the website for any updates or cancellations. ❖



Mr. North Beach



*

Featured in the Indian River Magazine as **Mr. North Beach**, it's a title worn proudly by Robert Lowe, the owner of Lowe's International Realty Plus. His company is just as synonymous with outstanding Real Estate sales and rentals on North Hutchinson Island as Lowe himself is known for handing out flashlights by the thousands to island residents and visitors to help keep them safe.

Helping people is what Lowe's International Realty is all about. Whether handing out free penlight sized flashlights or shining a light on the best real estate deals for island, waterfront or even North Carolina mountain property in Bear Creek, in Linville, North Carolina, Bob Lowe and his team of professionals are ready to list, market, and close on residential and commercial real estate.

Contact the professionals at Lowe's International Realty Plus today to make your residential and commercial dreams come true.

Contact Debra Madden, office and rental manager as well as a Broker Sales Associate for Lowe's International Realty Plus, Sharon Lowe, Broker Sales Associate.

Or reach out to Mr. North Beach himself!

Contact Us Today
 Lowe's International Realty Plus, Inc. is your single source for Buying, Selling, and Rentals!

- Condos
- Homes
- Property
- Rentals

[www. lowesinternationalrealtyplus.com](http://www.lowesinternationalrealtyplus.com)

Lowe's International Realty Plus Inc.
Robert J. Lowe Sr., Broker/President
 2901 N. Highway A1A
 Hutchinson Island, FL 34949
 Office Phone: 772.467.6500
 Cell Phone: 772.559.1676
 Email: c21lowe@aol.com

Bear Creek at Linville, North Carolina
Robert J. Lowe Sr., Broker
 Office phone: 828.742.0000
 Cell Phone: 772.559.1676
www.bearcreekinlinville.com



"He's known as the 'Flashlight Guy' all over Vero and Fort Pierce" *Indian River Magazine*

*

FPUA Receives Statewide Recognition for Community Programs Statewide Award for Efforts Enhancing the Quality of Life in Fort Pierce

The *Florida Municipal Electric Association* (FMEA) recently recognized **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** with a "Building Strong Communities" award for making valuable investments that enhance the quality of life in its community, beyond efficient delivery of affordable, reliable and clean energy.

FMEA recognized public power utilities for programs and projects that provide community education, collect charitable donations, improve the environment, focus on crime prevention and other special programs that strengthen the communities in which they serve, such as lighting ball fields, playgrounds and bus stops, taking part in festivals, parades and holiday celebrations, hosting blood drives, and recognizing veterans and members of the military.

Year-round the **FPUA** team is dedicated to giving back to the Fort Pierce community by:

- Engaging 67,194 community members at festivals and events;
- Volunteering 1,000 hours in the Fort Pierce Community;
- Restoring 1.5 acres of native seagrass in our local waterways;
- Collecting 1,400 pounds of litter and trash during clean-up events;
- Donating 1,552 pounds of non-perishable food through department giving;

- Donating 11.25 gallons of blood through bi-monthly employee blood drives;
- And so much more.

"For the people who work for Florida's public power utilities, it is more than just a job. It is a way for them to give back to their communities and an opportunity to strengthen the communities that they also live in," said Amy Zubaly, FMEA Executive Director. "Congratulations to each of the utilities honored today, including **FPUA**, and many thanks to the employees who have made this recognition possible."

FPUA was announced as an award recipient on November 7 at the FMEA *Energy Connections Conference and Trade Show* in Orlando. **FPUA** joins 19 other community-owned Florida public power communities in receiving this award.

Florida's 33 public power utilities, combined, are the third largest electric provider in the state, serving 14 percent of Florida's customers. Florida's public power utilities serve more than three million Floridians and are a statewide employment leader with more than 5,700 employees.

Here in Fort Pierce, **FPUA** has 261 employees and serves nearly 71,000 business and residential customers with utility services consisting of direct natural gas, electric, water/wastewater and fiber internet through FPUAnet. For over 51 years, **FPUA** has made it possible for residents of Fort Pierce to own and control its energy future while receiving affordable, reliable and economical utility services. ❖

Serving the Tri-County Area Since 1973

NISAIR
 Air Conditioning & Heating

- Indoor Air Quality Specialist • Residential/Commercial
- Mobile Homes • Servicing All Brands • Installations
- Replacements • High Efficiency Filtration

3700 S. US 1, Fort Pierce
 1-877-7NISAIR | www.nisair.com

Lic.#CACO-4199

St. Lucie County
REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER
 414 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce

Museum Hours:
 Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Closed Sunday and Monday

Phone (772) 462-1795 Pineapple Patch Gift Shop
 Fax (772) 462-1877 Featuring a Variety of
www.stlucieco.org/history Gifts & Books



Observations and Confessions from a Very Amateur South Florida Gardener

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

'Tis the Season to Grow Your Own Lettuce!

by Joanne Blandford

Now that the sun intensity has decreased it is the perfect time to plant lettuce. A majority of lettuces prefer to germinate when the temperature highs are around 75–80 degrees. This means there are not many months we can grow lettuce outdoors here in south Florida.

I attempted to grow lettuce for the first time this year. Salads are frequently consumed in our household so if we can grow our own, it could potentially save us \$120–\$150 of our lettuce cost while it is in season. There are also many varieties of spinach that can now be grown as well. I have mentioned some types of spinach in previous columns that can be grown here year-round. We have already been benefiting from the cost savings of those and no longer need to buy spinach from the store.

Lettuce seeds were planted in late October and I am thrilled to say that so far, they seem to be thriving. I stopped buying lettuce last month and will hopefully be able to pick from the selection of several types of lettuce almost daily for the next few months. We have a five-tier planter that has six containers per tier. These are the varieties of lettuce we planted so far:



- Deer Tongue Looseleaf Lettuce
- Red Salad Bowl Looseleaf Lettuce
- Emerald Oak Lettuce
- Buttercrunch Bibb Lettuce
- Sierra Lettuce
- Bronze Arrow Lettuce
- Simpson Black Seeded Lettuce

In addition to these lettuces, we also planted several types of cabbage, Fordhook Swiss Chard, Red Giant Mustard, Florida Broadleaf Mustard, and will soon be planting carrots, broccoli and cauliflower.

Sadly, my attempts to grow spaghetti squash appeared to have suffered a major setback this week. The little growing blub that I was so excited about appears to have been pierced by a squash loving insect. Grrrr! Oh well, the one thing I am learning about gardening is there are many things outside of your control.

Have a wonderful holiday season and get outside!
Happy gardening! 🍷



TREASURE COAST
TITLE & ESCROW, LLC
- Serving the Treasure Coast since 1921 -

**Frank H. Fee, III, and
Frank H. Fee, IV, Principals**

Stacy Consalvo, Manager, Paralegal
SConsalvo@TreasureCoastTitle.net

Jenny Fee, Business Development Manager
JFee@TreasureCoastTitle.net

Phone (772) 461-7190 • Telefax (772) 461-0487
Historic Poppell House
426 Avenue A • Fort Pierce, Florida 34950
www.tctitleandescrow.com

Love, JAZZ Community: And Bright, Jazzy Horns Started Boppity Boppin'



'Twas the month before Christmas, and all through the Fort,
Time for holiday shopping was sure running short.
The shoppers were hoping to find perfect buys,
that would fit their loved ones and be just the right size.

The children were happy and gathered around
Enjoying that seasonal fave 'Sights and Sounds.'
Mamma had a latté, Dad swigged a craft beer
While everyone basked in the holiday cheer.

When suddenly Melody Lane started hopping,
And bright, jazzy horns started boppity boppin'
Everyone came a 'runnin' as the horns they did blow,
'Cause everyone wanted to see the jazz show.

The streets, they were filled with a big, happy crowd,
'Cause music is part of what makes Fort Pierce proud,
When what to our wondering ears did appear,
But a piano, some drums, and a sound engineer.

And a dude on a horn who looked cool and serene,
There was no doubt at all that it must be Mark Green.
His fingers were flying, his toes were a tappin'
The music was great, and the crowd started clapping.

"Oh, Don, get us started," Mark said, "If you please,
Let's hear you make magic with 88 keys.
And Claudio, please, could you help keep the beat?
So we can play music as hot as it's sweet.

Gene Bruno then started to play on his sax,
While at the sound board switching dials was Max.
"Let's play some great music, like we do through the year,
For all of these great folks to our hearts we hold dear."

And when someone requested a tune from the past,
Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues' guys came up with one fast.
For playing great music is just what they do,
To bring smiles and memories to me and to you.

With its Jazz Jams, free concerts, and Waterside Blues,
We're all dancing so much that we wear out our shoes.
These cool cats donate talent, their time, and a song,
And raise funds for scholarships all the year long.

They offer young students a great chance to learn,
How to play with the pros, and a living to earn.
They play on their trumpets, their drums, and guitars,
And help young musicians who long to be stars,

And the audience smiles as they're tapping their toes,
To this music whose fan base continues to grow.
On Tuesdays and Wednesdays they meet and they play,
And Saturday mornings to help start the day.

They do it for love, and often for free,
And they'll do it for you as they do it for me.
They love to make music and help you recall
Those days that you think were the best of them all.

If you like them a lot, then why not join the band?
Your annual membership helps lend a hand,
You don't have to play sax, and you don't have to sing,
But supporting this group is a laudable thing.

So become a member, or sign up a crony,
Less expensive and way less a mess than a pony,
Your dues help create music's next generation,
And may even fund the next singing sensation,

So before we say 'cut' and pinch finger to thumb,
To signal that our little poem is done,
We wanted to send you all love and good cheer,
From Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues to the town we hold dear.

We hope that you'll join us in 2023
To see what a fabulous year it will be.
Full of music and laughter and good times galore,
May your New Year be filled with great blessings in store.

City of Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency Wins 2023 Roy F. Kenzie Award for Downtown Master Plan

Fort Pierce, FL – The *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency* (FPRA) is proud to announce that it has been awarded the prestigious 2023 Roy F. Kenzie Award for Planning Studies by the Florida Redevelopment Association (FRA). This recognition is in acknowledgment of the outstanding Downtown Master Plan, which charts the path for revitalization and enhancement of Fort Pierce’s downtown area.



The *FRA Annual Conference and Awards Reception*, an event celebrating the remarkable achievements of city and county organizations throughout Florida’s redevelopment and community enhancement sectors, served as the venue for this outstanding accolade. As a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Florida professionals and volunteers engaged in community revitalization initiatives, the *FRA’s Roy F. Kenzie Awards* commend excellence across various categories, including planning studies, cultural enrichment, housing, and more.

Fort Pierce’s Downtown Master Plan represents a transformative moment for the city. After years of visioning sessions and discussions, the area has attracted significant capital investment that will shape the city’s future. With a strategic vision spanning three phases over the next 20 years, the plan focuses on maintaining a vibrant waterfront accessible to all, ensuring consistent activity, balancing parking with city character, connecting cultural assets, and elevating expectations.

The *Downtown Master Plan’s* success can be attributed to its community-driven approach and strategic evaluation of existing assets. The plan actively engaged the community through interactive events and an online platform, fostering a sense of excitement and creating a shared vision for the future. The involvement of various community groups

and homeowner associations has ignited a renewed interest in Downtown Fort Pierce, reinforcing a commitment to its growth and vibrancy.

The *Roy F. Kenzie Award* places the FPRA in the esteemed company of other organizations and projects that have excelled in community redevelopment. This year’s honorees include notable projects from the Delay Beach CRA, City of Groveland, Pompano Beach CRA, St. Cloud GRA, Boynton Beach CRA, City of Deerfield Beach, Hoy Architects, City of Ocala, City of Palmetto CRA, and Inspire Placemaking Collective.

Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) and development organizations play a vital role as catalysts for urban enhancement and growth. These organizations focus on stimulating economic development, fostering community engagement, and contributing to the overall prosperity of cities and urban areas.

All submissions for the *FRA Awards* undergo a rigorous assessment process based on factors such as effectiveness, completeness, narrative quality, creativity, supplemental materials, and adherence to submission guidelines. ❖

Affordable Luxury Limousine
Ride in style every mile

BRAD SCHWERER
Owner/Operator
772-577-0334
lic/insured

RBSchwerer@aol.com
www.affordableluxurypsl.com

Do you want to live and work in the U.S.?

- Millionaire Visa \$900,000+ to \$1 Million EB5
- Treaty Investors E-2
- Corporate Transferee L-1 / EB1
- Employment Based:
 - H-1B1 / EB2 / EB3
 - Labor Certification

E-mail: gglobo@aol.com
Website: www.gloriaroabodin.com

Gloria Roa Bodin, P.A.

215 N. 2nd Street & 736 Delaware Avenue (Court Team) Ft. Pierce, FL 34950 P: 772-429-2888

Miami Office 90 Almeria Ave., Suite 200 Coral Gables, FL 33134 P: 305-442-1471

MICHELLE R. MILLER
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROPERTY FRAUD ALERT

DONT LET A GRINCH LEAVE YOU HOMELESS AND IN DEBT

For additional services visit stlucieclerk.gov 772.462.6500
SIGN UP FOR FREE TEXT AND EMAIL ALERTS

SCAN ME

DMHB
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes, PA
Established 1985

Accounting & Tax Services

Please visit our website at DMHBCPA.net

Two Locations to Serve You on the Treasure Coast

Fort Pierce
461-8833
Fax 461-8872
2222 Colonial Road Suite 200

Port St. Lucie
878-1952
Fax 878-1709
591 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd.

Ron Fanaro, Esq. Taylor Hoskins, Esq. Josh Heller, Esq. Justin Lefko, Esq. Kiernan P. Maylan, Esq.

Hoskins Turco Lloyd & Lloyd

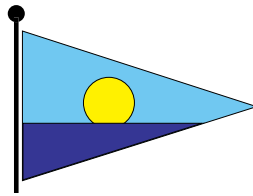
Your Fort Pierce Law Firm

Auto Accidents • Social Security Disability
Bankruptcy • Veterans’ Disability • Workers’ Compensation
Located on 2nd Street (nextdoor to the courthouse)

464-4600
HTLLfirm.com

December Fort Pierce Yacht Club News

by Robynn Holland, FPYC Community Liaison



TRIM A TREE — For over *twenty* years the *Trim a Tree* benefit at the *Fort Pierce Yacht Club* has kicked off the holiday season at the club. While the decorations always transform the *Fort Pierce Yacht Club* into a beautiful holiday venue, the primary purpose for the event is to raise money for non-profit organizations in Fort Pierce. This year's chairperson, Ginny Harbison, and her committee chose a *Victorian Christmas* for the theme, and announced, for the second year in a row, *E.N.D. It!* will be the recipient of the proceeds of *Trim a Tree*. The mission of *E.N.D. It!* is to help prevent "at-risk behaviors in pre-teen and teenaged youth" and encourage participants to become positive, productive citizens. This is done through academic tutoring, an after-school program, a summer camp and involving students in all facets of the performing arts. *E.N.D. It!* welcomes students in grades 6–12 to come and visit at 804 S. 6th Street in Fort Pierce. You can also contact *E.N.D. It!* at 772-302-3731, or at www.everybodyisnotdoingit.com or on their Facebook page *E.N.D. IT!* Corporation. Last year the FPYC *Trim a Tree* benefit raised over \$3,000 for *E.N.D. It!*

35TH ANNUAL SIGHTS AND SOUNDS ON SECOND FESTIVAL — Every year members of the FPYC gear up to participate in this fun event and put an entry into the float division of the parade. This year's theme, *Under the Sea*, has chairperson Kathy Blanton and her committee (Fran Livesey, Ginny Harbison, Susan Sohni, Nancy

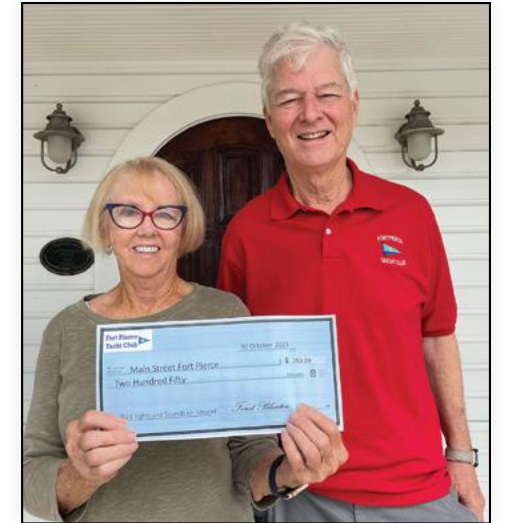
Hector, and Karen Murphy) planning to better the FPYC 2nd place award in the float parade last year! *Sights and Sounds on Second* (December 3rd) begins at 10:30 with an Outdoor Sunday Service followed by the arrival of Santa at 1:30, the parade at 4:00 and the lighting of the Christmas Tree after the parade. The *Holiday Lights Spectacular* is presented by the *City of Fort Pierce* and runs from 6:00–9:00 p.m. daily until the first weekend in January. For more information: www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

ST. LUCIE CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE — Many members of the FPYC are involved in other seasonal activities in the community including the *St. Lucie Christmas Boat Parade*. FPYC members, Diane Korbey, Victoria Westphal, and Michele March serve on the steering committee for the *St. Lucie Christmas Boat Parade* and have been busy planning and coordinating this popular event. Sponsored by MIATC and co-hosted by the *Fort Pierce Yacht Club* and Paella King, the *St. Lucie Christmas Boat Parade* is a family-friendly event. The Parade will be held on Saturday, December 9th beginning at 6:00 pm. All Treasure Coast and visiting boaters are welcome to 'light 'em up' for this greatly anticipated annual holiday tradition! Registration is still open and is free for all participants. Go to www.miatc.com/Christmas-Boat-Parades/slc to register today.

This year, the Parade will be following a revised route offering the waterfront from the *Fort Pierce City Marina* to the *Fort Pierce Yacht Club* to see the parade of boats line up and begin the parade, led by TowBoatUS. The parade can also be viewed from the public beaches and public walkways along Seaway Drive and the restaurants facing the Inlet along Seaway Drive. We hope you enjoy the 2023 *St. Lucie County Christmas Boat Parade!*

HEATHCOTE BOTANICAL GARDENS — The *Heathcote Botanical Gardens* presents *The Garden of Lights* each holiday season. It is a family favorite and many FPYC members who are also members of the *Fort Pierce Garden Club* spend hours and hours decorating and preparing for this delightful event. The *Garden of Lights* begins on Friday, November 24 and runs through Saturday, December 30. The *Gardens of Lights* is a community favorite so mark your calendar and come see this spectacular holiday light event and have your picture taken with the eight-foot Heathcoat Bear! For tickets and more information: heathcotebotanicalgardens.org/garden-of-lights-2023/.

The membership of the Fort Pierce Yacht Club wishes you and yours a joyful December filled with special memories of the holiday season. ❖



Forest Blanton, Commodore of the FPYC, presented a check to Main Street Fort Pierce Executive Director, Doris Tillman, to help support Children's Activities of Sights and Sounds.



FPYC Commodore, Forest Blanton, presents a check to Heathcote Executive Director, Vicki Hoyos. Members of the FPYC who are also members of the Fort Pierce Garden Club, were busy helping to decorate for Heathcote's Garden of Lights. Pictured are Anne and Fred Kern, Executive Director Vicki Hoyos, Commodore Forest Blanton, Kim Baumgardner Heathcote Community Engagement, Stacey Johnson Beecham, and Francine McGuire-Popeck.

Faitella Enterprises INC.
The PAINT HOUSE

READY FOR PICKUP! **ROLAIR AIR COMPRESSORS**

BEST PRICES IN TOWN!
STARTING AT **\$425.00**

We Also Sell
PRESSURE WASHERS
PAINT SPRAYERS
GENERATORS
INVERTERS
SOFT WASH SYSTEMS
...AND MORE!

RICHARD'S PAINT 706 S US Hwy 1, Fort Pierce
772.465.5862 - FaitellaEnterprises.com

MORE OF WHAT YOU WANT.
hot water

LESS OF WHAT YOU WANT TO SPEND.
money

TANK OR TANKLESS! A natural gas water heater simply heats water faster and for less money than an electric water heater. And tankless water heaters never run out of hot water!

Take Advantage of FPUA's Natural Gas Rebate Program and receive a rebate of up to \$675 when you switch out your old water heater.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!
772.466.1600 | FPUAGAS@FPUA.COM | FPUA.COM

FPUA COMMUNITY PROUD

FGUPF19-001

TREASURES OF THE PAST



75 years ago this month as reported in the December 8, 1948 edition of the Miami Herald, by Stephen Trumbull

Home Town Artist Honored At Ft. Pierce – ‘Beanie’ Backus’ Works in Demand

This Indian River town has hauled off and delivered a kick in the pants to the old belief that artists never are appreciated until they are a few hundred years dead.

This town has a very-much alive artist whom it loves dearly. He’s a good artist, too. His name is A.E. Backus, far better known as Beanie Backus, and any sighting remark about him will get you a poke in the nose from fellows mending nets along the waterfront, or from members of the Garden club.

Far better than praising the fellow, Fort Pierce buys his pictures – not just the tourists but the year arounders, too...

...Beanie isn’t just some tramp artist who dropped off the train here figuring this town as a soft touch. He’s a born and bred local product.

His Dad, George T. Backus, came here in 1899 to grow pineapples. A master woodworker, he turned his hand to boat building when the pineapple deal started petering out. At the age of 80 he’s still active in the Backus boatyard on Terminal island here, although active management has passed to another son, Todd.

Backus boats are like Backus pictures. They have more than a local reputation. They’ve built ‘em for Millionaire Tommy Gifford, and for just plain fishermen.

Father Backus took a very dim view of it when Beanie started putting paint on canvas instead of on boats. He wasn’t even enthusiastic when Beanie, still in knee pants, started putting on Christmas holiday shows in downtown store windows. Beanie would paint “quickies” while the crowd watched, and sell them for one dollar a copy.

Beanie says today that some of those were pretty terrible, but a buck was hard for a kid to come by in those days.

It was an uncle by marriage, R.L. Goodman, who encouraged Beanie. A long-time superintendent of parks here and in charge of the city botanical garden, he believed there were lots of things almost as beautiful as boats, and that Nephew Beanie showed signs of being the fellow who could create some of them...

...In 1936, at his first serious exhibition in Palm Beach, he won the Bemis Prize. In 1938 he won the Florida Federation of Art award.

Don Blanding, the poet and author of “Floridays,” moved in here and promptly started boosting the Backus stock – and Beanie was able to drop the poster painting sideline.

Came the war and he joined the Navy and spent three and a half years at sea as quartermaster, second class, on a troop transport. The last leg of this was in the South Pacific, and with a skipper with some leaning toward the arts. When Beanie was through with his routine task of keeping the charts corrected – which didn’t take too long – the skipper turned him loose with his sketch pad.

Scores of these sketches were finished after he got home – and sold. Beanie now operates from a little studio built of odds and ends down in the waterfront area known as Moore’s creek. He can look out the back window and see the fishing nets drying. The front-door view includes and old storm-battered house with a tin roof, which has appeared in many Backus pictures.

There’s nothing of the posing artist about the fellow, now 42 years old. His working costume is a pair of dungarees and a Navy T-shirt. That may also be his costume when he entertains.

Kids of the town who aspire to painting make his studio their hangout. Beanie has infinite patience with them. He coaches them through their initial effort and then – if the result isn’t downright horrible – he helps them make an attractive frame and convert it into a Christmas gift for mother or dad.

Many winter visitors – the real Indian River country enthusiasts – take his pictures home. They say it’s a chunk of Florida that keeps up their spirits until time for their return.

One of these, a Green Bay, Wis., banker, took Beanie up there last summer to do the murals in his new bank.

This correspondent is a far better judge of hushpuppies and fried mullet than he is of art, but these Backus pictures do something to you.

When the fellow paints a wind-beaten cabbage palm you don’t just see it, you hear the wind. Before one of his storm scenes seamen will start talking about shortening sail and landsmen will start being sorry they forgot to bring their umbrellas.

So if Fort Pierce has gone plumb hog wild over their local product we’re all for ‘em.

Time was when some of these smaller towns – and the bigger ones too – looked upon Dr. Elliott’s Five Foot shelf of books as the mark of the home of culture. And so few of them ever read them darn things.

They do look at Beanie’s pictures, long and often.

John Heaning, REALTOR®
 772-834-4677
 heaninggroup@gmail.com
 www.HeaningGroup.com

26 yr Navy Veteran, 18 yr Home Inspector here on the Treasure Coast, makes me a better Realtor for my clients!!!



Applebee Electric

Serving the Treasure Coast Since 1951
 John & Ken Applebee – Owners

3305 Industrial 25th St. Ft. Pierce (772) 466-7930
 Fort Pierce Vero Beach (772) 231-7931
 Lic & Ins #EC0002956 Port St. Lucie (772) 878-7938

Daniel D. Fuller, MAI, SRA
 STATE-CERTIFIED GENERAL REAL ESTATE APPRAISER RZ567

FULLER~ARMPFIELD~WAGNER
 APPRAISAL & RESEARCH, INC.

772-468-0787
 FAW_APP@BELLSOUTH.NET

Become A Member

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

<p>Benefactor Levels</p> <p>Headline Sponsor (\$1,000) Patron Sponsor (\$500)</p>	<p>Community Levels</p> <p>Friend Membership (\$25) Family Membership (\$50)</p>	<p>Corporate Levels</p> <p>Small Business Membership (less than 10 employees) (\$100) Medium Business Membership (11-50 employees) (\$250) Large Business Membership (51 or more employees) (\$500)</p>
---	--	--

Have the power of knowledge on your side;

Call... **Berger, Toombs, Elam Gaines & Frank**
 Certified Public Accountants PL

(772) 461-6120 (772) 219-0220

THINK BIG!

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not. - DR. SEUSS

A GOOD WAY TO SUPPORT THESE GENTLE GIANTS? VOLUNTEER AT **MOEC**

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER
 480 N. Indian River Dr.
 Fort Pierce, FL 34950
 www.manateeeducationcenter.org

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. - Sherry Anderson

Please Take a Minute to Join Today!

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

Name: _____ Membership Level: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Christmas Wishes for Big Fishes!

by Captain Bo Samuel

I hope all of you had a bountiful and happy Thanksgiving. Now it's time to make that Christmas wish list with fishing right at the top! This time of year, we look for migratory fish like *pompano*, *tripletail*, and *mackerel*. Cold fronts moving through usually bring a lot of windy conditions and rough seas, so keep an eye out for good weather windows and make each opportunity count.

The *Atlantic tripletail* is an aggressive feeding and fighting pelagic fish that is an all-time favorite to catch. They get their name from the closeness of the dorsal, caudal, and anal fins which appear to look like three tails. *Tripletail* are known for their runs, jumps, and pulling drag, as well as being one of the best tasting fish in our state. I use light tackle with 30-pound fluorocarbon and a small weight with shrimp or crab but they will also hit small baitfish and artificial lures.

Another fish highly valued for a great fight and a delicious dinner, is the powerful pelagic *cobia*. These aggressive feeders will take almost any bait from mullet, shrimp, and blue crabs to artificials. Look for them skimming the surface around



buoys, wrecks, and floating debris. I recommend medium to heavy tackle to land a *cobia* and have a gaff ready too, since these awesome fish can get up to 100 pounds.

We are still targeting the wily and highly-prized *snook* into December but the season closes December 15th through January 31st. *Snook* are tough, except when it comes to cold, so this closure helps conserve the species during vulnerable times like cold snaps that cause water temps to drop. Be sure to follow safe catch-and-release practices for those caught out of season.

The *Fishy Photo* for this month shows great anglers Eric and Brett with a nice haul of jumbo *Spanish mackerel*!

Shop Small! Local businesses greatly appreciate your support especially during the holiday season. Your local bait and tackle shops like **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** and **DeBrooks Fishing Corner** are ready to supply stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts for all your favorite anglers. Word on the water is that gift certificates for salty charters is at the top of the wish list! Have a happy and safe holiday and if you see Santa, tell him all I want this year is to keep *Pullin Drag!* ❖

BRANCA REALTY PROFESSIONALS

311 S. 2nd Street, Suite 102A, Fort Pierce
 Waterfront Properties | Luxury Homes
 Commercial Properties
 Acreage | Rentals | Property Management

Call 772.882.9583 or visit us at www.brancrealty.com

WHITE'S TACKLE
 SINCE 1925

FT. PIERCE, FL
 1106 South US 1
 Fort Pierce, Florida 34950
 (Telephone) 772.461.6909
 (Email) info@whitestackle.com
 (Website) www.whitestackle.com



Favorite Recipes from Main Street Board Members



Spinach Balls by Donna Sizemore

My spinach ball recipe is a go-to throughout the year. A delicious appetizer and there are never leftovers.

- Spinach Balls**
- 2 - 10 oz packages frozen chopped spinach
 - 3 cups herb-seasoned stuffing mix
 - 1 large onion, finely chopped
 - 6 eggs, well beaten
 - ¾ cup melted butter OR margarine
 - ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
 - 1 tablespoon pepper
 - 1 ½ teaspoons garlic salt
 - ½ teaspoon thyme

Instructions

Cook spinach according to package directions. Drain well and squeeze to remove excess moisture. Combine spinach and remaining ingredients. Mix well. Shape spinach mixture into ¾ inch balls and place on lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 325 degrees for 15 – 20 minutes.

For a refreshing and festive holiday cocktail try the recipe below. You will need only three main ingredients for these cocktails. Complete them with some yummy (and cute) garnishes, and they're ready to enjoy!

- Cranberry Cocktail**
- Cranberry juice: Start with 4 oz of your favorite cranberry juice.
- Triple sec: 1.5 oz of triple sec will add a tangy orange flavor to the cranberry juice.
- Champagne: 4–6 oz. of champagne will add flavor and fizz!
- Garnish: Finish up the beverages by garnishing with fresh cranberries and rosemary.



Providing Dental Services Since 1959

Rowe Family Dental

Samuel V. Rowe, D.M.D., P.A.

605 Citrus Avenue • 772-461-2648 • Fort Pierce
RoweFamilyDental.com

Thinking of Selling or Buying?

Real Estate Services | VA & FHA Homes
 New Construction | Income Properties
 Residential | Commercial | Land

Oceansidehomestc.com
RickCranmerRealtor@gmail.com

Rick Cranmer | Realtor & Notary | 772-359-4042
 Oceanside Realty Partners, 220 Orange Ave., Downtown, Fort Pierce

Main Street DINING



SAILFISH
BREWING COMPANY

FRESH CRAFT BEER
18 BEERS ON TAP

SEASONAL MENU
PIZZA, APPETIZERS, SALADS & MORE

TO-GO BEER

FORT PIERCE
130 N. 2nd Street
Fort Pierce, Florida

VERO BEACH
2855 Ocean Drive
Vero Beach, Florida

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR TAP LIST, MENUS & MORE
SAILFISHBREWINGCO.COM




GATOR TRACE
Golf & Country Club

Lunch: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Monday to Saturday
Sunday Breakfast: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

464-7442 Clubhouse
Open to the Public

Great Golf Rates!
464-0407
Golf Shop

4302 Gator Trace Dr., Ft. Pierce
www.GatorTraceCountryClub.com




2nd Street BISTRO
DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE
TAP HOUSE & EATERY

Open Mon-Thurs 11 a.m.-10 p.m.,
Fri 11 a.m.-12 a.m., Sat 10 a.m.-12 a.m., Sun 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Home of the Everyday Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm!

Order online at www.2ndstreetbistro.com
or call 772.293.9191 ext 4

1222 North 2nd Street • Historic Downtown Fort Pierce
293-9191 • 2ndStreetBistro.com



Overlooking the beautiful Fort Pierce City Marina

COBB'S LANDING
200 N. INDIAN RIVER DR.
OPEN DAILY @ 11AM
COBBS-LANDING.COM
772-460-9014

Ask about our banquet facilities for your next event

27 Craft Beers on Tap & Specialty Mojitos

Veterans & First Responders receive 20% off with ID






LITTLE JIM
BAIT & TACKLE
FORT PIERCE, FL

LittleJimBaitandTackle.com
601 North Causeway
772-468-2503
7am-7pm • 7 days a week

Come by Land or Sea
Covered Outdoor Dining & Bar
Live Music Every Weekend

Try our
Tacos, Burgers,
Po'Boys and Cubans

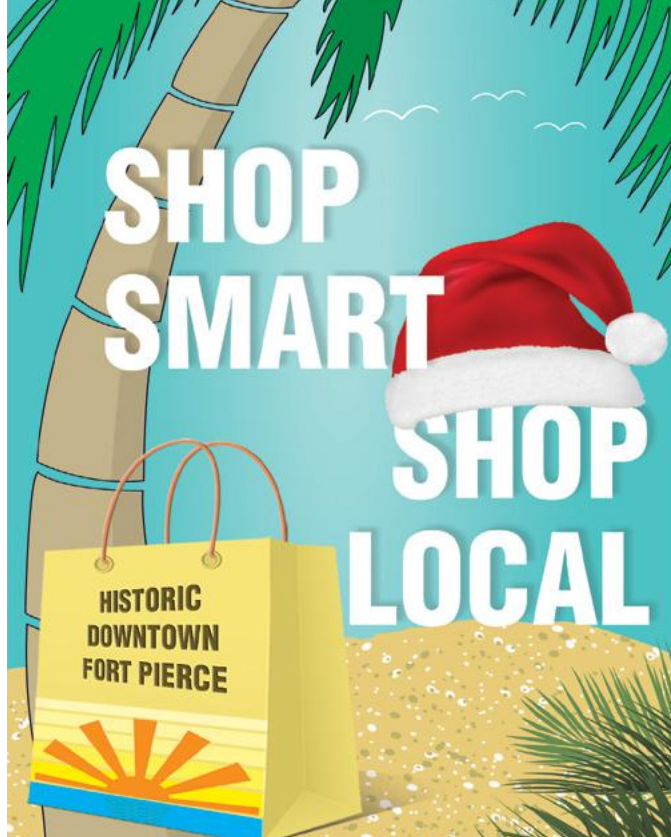
To-go
Live & Frozen Bait, Ice,
Beer and Food

SHOP SMART

SHOP LOCAL

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE





Salty Air. Sunny Skies. Smart City.

Fort Pierce is getting an upgrade!

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority is bringing fiber internet to an area near you. With fiber internet, you can stream, work, and play with unlimited data at gig speeds, and never worry about interruptions due to inclement weather.

Do you want fiber in your neighborhood? Let us know! Scan the QR code or visit www.FPUAnet.com

Criminal Defense



Creative. Aggressive. Results.

Brian Mallonee

Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer

stluciecriminallaw.com

Fort Pierce • (772) 464-1991