

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



**THROUGH THE
EYE OF THE
CAMERA**

1st Place, Animals, *Clowns at Home* by Mike Ricciardi
Backus Museum 2023 see page 16

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Great to See You in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce!

by Donna Sizemore




A big thank you to all of you who joined us for *Main Street's Annual Meeting* and *35th Anniversary Celebration*. The celebration is in honor of all our many volunteers, sponsors and local businesses. We couldn't do what we do without them. In addition, we introduced the amazing 2023–2024 *Main Street Board Members*. A shout-out to the *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society* for their beautiful sound and *Pierced Ciderworks* and *Sailfish Brewery* for their cheer! And a big thank you to the three lovely young ladies from the *St. Lucie County Fair Association* who volunteered their time to meet and greet the public.

It's hard to believe that spring is almost over, and summer is around the corner. Here's a fun fact: as spring ends and summer begins, the daily periods of sunlight lengthen to their longest. The longest day and shortest night of the year, the solstice,

will be on Wednesday, June 21, 2023; meaning the longest period of sunlight hours. This day marks the official beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

Main Street has several events planned for the summer. As always, *Friday Fest* is the first Friday of every month (weather permitting) and *fireworks on the 4th!* Please visit our website for more details: mainstreetfortpierce.org/local-events-calendar.

For those of you who join us at *Coffee with the Mayor* please note that we will not meet during the summer months. Our next *Coffee with the Mayor* will be Friday, September 15th. We hope to see you there. ❖



MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

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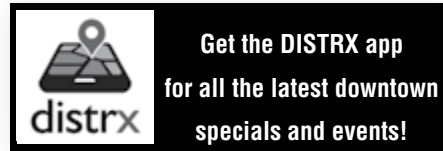
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Phone: 772.466.3880 • mainstreetfortpierce.org

Calendar

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



MONTHLY EVENTS

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

June 8, Thursday: STREET DREAMS ON THE TREASURE COAST CAR SHOW — 6–9 p.m.; visit Facebook page for *Shift Culture*.

June 16, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

June 3, Saturday: FORT PIERCE COMMUNITY CLEANUP — e-mail kballard@cityoffortpierce.com. See page 5 for more information.

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](https://facebook.com/SailfishBrewingCompany)
Pierced Cider
[Facebook @piercedcider](https://facebook.com/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

- JUNE: NATIONAL OCEANS MONTH
- JUNE 1: NATIONAL GO BAREFOOT DAY
- JUNE 2: NATIONAL DONUT DAY
- JUNE 6: D-DAY
- JUNE 6: NATIONAL YO-YO DAY
- JUNE 7: NATIONAL CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM DAY
- JUNE 11: NATIONAL CORN ON THE COB DAY
- JUNE 14: U.S. FLAG DAY
- JUNE 16: WORLD SEA TURTLE DAY
- JUNE 17: INTERNATIONAL SURFING DAY
- JUNE 18: FATHER'S DAY
- JUNE 18: NATIONAL GO FISHING DAY
- JUNE 19: JUNETEENTH
- JUNE 20: NATIONAL AMERICAN EAGLE DAY
- JUNE 21: NATIONAL SEASHELL DAY
- JUNE 23: NATIONAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED BUSINESSES DAY
- JUNE 29: FISHERMAN'S DAY

Fort Pierce Community Cleanup – Saturday, June 3

The City of Fort Pierce Public Works Department is excited to announce its next **Community Cleanup** on Saturday, June 3, 2023. This is a city-wide event and individuals, families, businesses, and organizations are encouraged to participate. Participants get to choose the times and locations they wish to clean up in Fort Pierce and are encouraged to share their city pride by posting photos on social media.

Registered volunteers may be provided with litter collection supplies such as trash bags, gloves, pickers, and buckets while supplies last. These items can be picked up from the Public Works Compound located at 52 Savannah Road in Fort Pierce on Wednesday, May 31, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday, June 2, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; or Saturday, June 3, from 8 a.m. to noon.

There will be no designated meet-up area as you and/or your group choose the location you wish to clean up in the City of



Fort Pierce. All participants are encouraged to share their **Community Cleanup** fun by taking photos and posting them on social media using the hashtags #lovethafort and #cleanthefort!

To take part in this upcoming **Community Cleanup**, please register on the City's website at **Community Cleanup | Fort Pierce**, Official Website (cityoffortpierce.com).

The City of Fort Pierce is the hidden gem among the Treasure Coast, so let's get out there and make our city shine!

For more information, contact Kaitlyn Ballard, Engagement and Outreach Coordinator, Public Works, phone 772.467.3836, or e-mail: kballard@cityoffortpierce.com. ❖

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Exceptional Volunteers Make it All Possible - Sue Dannahower & Pam Gillette

Main Street Fort Pierce is driven by the dedication and support of volunteers, and we are continuously grateful for the individuals whose time and talents are the bedrock of this organization.

It is impossible to imagine the ongoing success of the *Reverse Raffle* event without recognizing two special women who have, for multiple decades, eagerly and enthusiastically volunteered endless hours to the mission and vision of *Main Street Fort Pierce*.

They are often behind the scenes, playing a vital role in the preparation of the event and ensuring all goes according to plan the day of the event. These ladies handle hundreds of details most people wouldn't think of to make the evening feel effortless, a tremendous gift in and of itself.



Sue Dannahower has served on the Board of *Main Street* in the past for many years and Pam Gillette recently retired from her full-time position at *Main Street* as an assistant director. Their hearts have remained dedicated to the betterment of downtown Fort Pierce, and they continue to support, organize, and shape the events they helped build.



Words cannot express our sincere gratitude for Sue and Pam.

Main Street Fort Pierce Board and Staff remain grateful for all our volunteers, but especially these two ladies. We quite simply couldn't do it without you.

Even though the world is large, one person can still make a world of difference. —Frank Sonnenberg

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Mayor's Message Sunrise Theatre to Celebrate 100 Years

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



The **Sunrise Theatre** will celebrate its centennial on July 29 with a Speakeasy-themed event reminiscent of the Roaring Twenties. A hundred years ago, the Roaring Twenties was symbolic of a younger generation challenging the mores of the older generation. American soldiers and sailors returning from World War I, and their families keeping the home fires burning, were disillusioned as well as eager for good times. New media, like commercial radio and moving pictures, brought to Americans the same music, the same news and the same ads for Wheaties and Coca-Cola.

In Fort Pierce, the first theatres appeared around 1906 when moving (but silent) pictures were shown at the Electric Theatre (upstairs above the Buckhorn Saloon, in the Carlton Building, now Rosslow's) and the Keystone, 111 N. Pine (2nd Street). In 1910, the Crystal Theatre opened, located at 109 South Pine (2nd Street), just south of where the Sunrise Black Box is today. Later, the Airdome Theatre, located at 126 North Pine Street (2nd Street), opened.

Construction of our iconic **Sunrise Theatre** began in September of 1922, promising 1,200 leather-upholstered chairs, a rest room for the ladies, and a smoking parlor for the men.

The theatre, built by R.N. Koblegard, Sr., whose real estate office was next door, was the finest on Florida's east coast, and the largest between Miami and Jacksonville. It opened on August 1, 1923. The first talkie to be shown at the **Sunrise** was *The Home Towners* in early December

The Whizateria, next to the **Sunrise**, offered soda fountain and eats to theatre-goers and in its first year of operation, offered curb service.

The *News Tribune* of April 24, 1928 announced that another theatre was to be erected, located where the Airdome had been on N. 2nd Street, and called the Ritz. It closed in 1955 and was demolished in 1965.

Other theatres in Fort Pierce were the Fort Pierce Drive-In,



built in 1948 to accommodate 500 cars, and closed in 1986. The screen still stands. The Angle Road Drive-In opened 1956. The cement screen was torn down in 2005. The **Lincoln Theatre** on Avenue D was built in 1946. Efforts for restoring this historic building are ongoing.

After bringing entertainment to Fort Pierce for 50 years, the **Sunrise** closed its doors on September 8, 1983 and re-opened after restoration in 1997, having been acquired by the City of Fort Pierce.

For more information on the Centennial Celebration, contact the **Sunrise Theatre** at 772-461-4775 or visit www.sunrisetheatre.com. ❖

Boat Tours Are Back at FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

by Gabby Barbarite, Ph.D., Director of Outreach & Engagement

The Indian River Lagoon is an incredible ecosystem, home to over 4,000 plant and animal species. It truly is a national treasure, and we are so lucky to have it right in our backyard. At **FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute**, we've been studying the lagoon for over 50 years, and are excited to invite you to come explore it with us! Our 36-passenger *Discovery* pontoon has been transformed into a floating laboratory equipped with binoculars and interactive digital screens- allowing guests of all ages to spend the day in the life of a scientist. Alongside an expert guide, you'll interpret real-time water quality data from the *Indian River Lagoon Observatory*



FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute's *Discovery* pontoon tour boat.

Network, survey a seagrass meadow with an underwater drone, and identify wildlife of all sizes, from microscopic plankton to sharks, rays, manatees, and dolphins. You'll also learn about fascinating research conducted by our faculty and students, as well as important restoration and conservation initiatives underway. Public boat tours depart from our campus in Fort Pierce and are offered every Friday and Saturday. Private charters and field trip options are also available. For more information and reservations visit www.fau.edu/hboi/bookatour or call the Ocean Discovery Visitors Center at 772-242-2293. We look forward to having you out on the water with us! ❖



"The Indian River Lagoon is home to some iconic marine mammals, like Florida manatees and bottlenose dolphins. I have spent many years studying these animals, and am excited to share my knowledge, passion, and experiences with everyone onboard." —Samantha McGuire, FAU Harbor Branch Tour Guide



"Each row of the *Discovery* is equipped with a digital screen that provides an educational and interactive experience. We can't wait to show tour participants the amazing ecosystem that we are working to research, restore, and protect." —Laura Norton, FAU Harbor Branch Outreach Coordinator



FAU Harbor Branch graduate students, Katie Digirolomo and Garrett Maggio, deploy a Remotely Operated Vehicle and plankton net to give guests a unique look at the plants and animals living beneath the surface.

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Manatee Center Volunteers Receive Awards

by Wren Underwood, MOEC Volunteer Program Coordinator

*“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”
—H. Jackson Brown Jr.*

Our *ManaTeam Volunteers* are passionate about the work they do at the **Manatee Center** and it shows. Since beginning our volunteer program in 1996, volunteers have donated more than 215,000 service hours to our organization! We recently celebrated the 2022–2023 volunteer year with a fun, fabulous party at **Archie’s Seabreeze**. Volunteers were recognized for the annual contributions with certificates and gifts. Top Ten awards were also provided to the ten volunteers who served the most hours this year. In order of ascending contribution, our top ten volunteers this year were: Carol Ladner, Moira Creel, Bob Lynch, John Pinsof, Estelle Roth, Janet Howe, Angelo Ventrillo, Faye Jerome, George Springer and Jayme Bennett.



This year two volunteers, Bob Lynch and Estelle Roth, surpassed 1,000 service hours! Volunteers who manage this feat are honored with a butterfly on the **Manatee Center** butterfly wall. We hope you’ll come see this amazing tribute and

memorial wall the next time you visit us! Amazingly, we also had a volunteer surpass 2,000 hours this year. Janet Howe has been the driving force behind the **Manatee Center’s** butterfly garden since 2018. Her efforts to develop and maintain the garden are an inspiration. By carefully choosing native butterfly host plants, Janet is responsible for the recruitment of no less than 16 butterfly species to our tiny corner of the world!



Thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers for your time and efforts. We appreciate you!

Join our team! There’s a place for everyone at the **Manatee Center**. Teens ages 14 and older may volunteer without a parent present. Younger children are allowed to

work alongside a vetted adult volunteer. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and range in age from 8 to 93! For more information about the **Manatee Center** volunteer program, please contact me at 772-466-1600 x3334 or go to our website and click the link to send in an interest form. www.Manatee-EducationCenter.org. ❖

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THINK BIG!

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

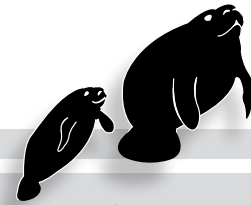
A GOOD WAY TO SUPPORT THESE GENTLE GIANTS? VOLUNTEER AT

MOEC

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

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

480 N. Indian River Dr. Fort Pierce, FL 34950 www.manateeeducationcenter.org



The Manatee Center June Events

Summer Hours Tuesday–Saturday 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Admission \$3.00 • Age 5 and Under Free

Friday, June 2nd at 1:00 p.m.

Creekside Chat: Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

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

Friday, June 9th at 12:00 p.m.

Save The Chimps

Lunch & Learn — Save the chimps is the largest privately-funded chimp sanctuary in the world with over 220 chimps retired from laboratories, entertainment and pet trade. Join guest speaker Dr. Andrew Halloran, Director of Chimpanzee Behavior & Care to learn how Save the Chimps assesses the care and welfare of each chimpanzee to be able to thrive at the sanctuary. Bring a lunch and bring a friend. This event will be hosted by **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** at 700 N. Indian River Drive. *Free Event.*

Wednesday, June 14th

Free Admission Day

We offer Free Admission Day as part of our regular programming on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

Wednesday, June 14th at 11:00 a.m.

ManaTales Storytime

Nurture your child’s natural curiosity about nature through this free 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.

Friday, June 16th at 1:00 p.m.

Creekside Chat: Oysters for Indian River Lagoon

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

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. & Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.

Fin-tastic Fish Feeding

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 the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** and attending one of our education programs.

“You name it, We can prepare it”

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Yes, Fort Pierce, There is a Fishing Club in Town

The **Fort Pierce Sportfishing Club** (FPSC) has been around for over 40 years. It was founded in 1980 by local fishing enthusiasts. The goals were to meet other fishing enthusiasts, share fishing stories, find crew members to share expenses, and to educate the membership on fishing techniques and locations, bait, equipment, boats and basically anything related to fishing. The membership meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** clubhouse located at 200 Indian River Drive.

FPSC typically holds several events each year. I say typically because events were not held during the Covid years. The club is currently rebuilding the membership and working to restart some events. For example, we recently held our first post-Covid youth fishing event. This event was held in conjunction with the **Back the Blue 100th Anniversary** of the Ft. Pierce Police Department celebration. We provided the rods, reels, tackle and bait for each of the 40 youth that participated. They were taught how to cast the bait (without a hook) on shore before being taken to a pier where they were able to try their luck at

catching a fish. At the end of the event, the youth were given the rods, reels and a small tackle box to keep.

We have also restarted the annual fish fry at the August meetings and the annual Christmas party at the December meetings but there are still other events that need to be rekindled. Those include the Saturday and seasonal fishing tournaments, a poker run, and joint fishing trips with members of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**. To get these events going again we need more members to help organize and run them.

Just like Covid shut down the Club's events, it also decimated our membership. We're currently rebuilding and would enjoy having you and your family as new members. Membership is only \$60 a year for the entire family. The club's website can be found at <https://ftpiercesportfishingclub.com/> and the club's application can be found at <https://ftpiercesportfishingclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/FPSC-application-Word-Document-09.2021.pdf>. Fill out the form and come attend a meeting, we'd love to meet you. ❖


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HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE

Dignity Showers Offered at First United Methodist

Under the shade of the beautiful oak trees on the parking lot of **First Church**, a mobile shower unit is ready for the local unhoused community every Saturday morning. Teams of church members, headed by Liz Tracy, set up shop from 9 a.m. to noon to offer a hot shower to the homeless in our Fort Pierce community.

Being a downtown church, **Fort United Methodist** witnesses the daily struggles of our homeless population. Dignity Showers offers an opportunity for folks to feel cared for and seen. Everyone understands how the warmth of a hot shower can offer renewal for our physical body. On Saturday mornings **First Church** offers those living without physical housing a chance to feel comfort and care. While only a few months into this ministry, the team at First

understands that this work helps our community to address the value of offering dignity to those who struggle. The *Show-er Ministry* is "hard work." It takes all hands. Early on Saturday, before showers begin and while the electricity and water source are being setup, the day begins with lots of other tasks. The **First Church** yoga group gathers to make sandwiches for those getting a shower. The church trailer is unloaded and



new underwear, socks and t-shirts are sorted into sizes. Hygiene items like toothpaste, bug spray and first aid supplies are set out. The clippers and scissors are readied for haircuts.

Sign in sheets and prayer request stations are set up. And before you know it, it is 9 a.m. and *Dignity Showers* are ready to offer a bit of respite and hope to our fellow man. This is a new opportunity for this historic church on the corner of the entry of our beautiful downtown. Being located at the corners of Orange Avenue, 7th Street and Avenue A. **First United Methodist** is a thriving and enthusiastic partner in the downtown community. **First Church** loves being a part of the fun stuff in downtown Fort Pierce like the Christmas Parade and the Ghost Walk. *Dignity Showers* offers another way to share in the life of our city and our community.

Check out the church website, Facebook and Instagram for info about all that is going on at **First United Methodist Fort Pierce**. ❖



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FPUA Earns the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for FY 2023

This marks the 28th consecutive fiscal year **FPUA** earned this coveted award for transparency.

The *Government Finance Officers Association* announced that **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** was awarded the GFOA's *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* for Fiscal Year 2023.

The award represents a significant achievement by **FPUA**. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, **FPUA** had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

There are over 1,700 participants in the *Budget Awards Program*. The most recent *Budget Award* recipients, along with

their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

"Each year we develop the Annual Budget document to be more meaningful than the last, providing clarity and communicating the direction of **FPUA** from both a financial and developmental position," said **FPUA** Director of Financial Administration Barbara Mika. "We are appreciative of this honor."

Michele Harris, **FPUA's** Finance Manager, added, "This award was the result of collaboration and creativity enhancing the budget for transparency and planning."

The Department of Finance at **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** provides comprehensive financial services for all departments of **FPUA** and is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing the financial, accounting, and rate matters. The GFOA has awarded **FPUA** with the *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* each year since 1996.

Learn more about **FPUA** financial planning at fpua.com/financial-reports/. ❖





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The Eyes Have It: Announcing the Accepted Art & Artist Awards for the Annual Juried Exhibition “Through The Eye Of The Camera”

The A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery is pleased to again present the visually compelling juried photography competition *Through the Eye of the Camera*. This year’s exhibition features 78 of the year’s best photographs drawn from professional and amateur photographers. *Through the Eye of the Camera* will be on view through June 23, 2023 at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

This year there were 76 artists who submitted 219 entries in one of four categories: (1) Animal subjects; (2) Flora & Landscape subjects; (3) People/Portrait subjects; or (4) Open, for subjects that are not included in the three major categories. The jury panel carefully accepted 35% of these entries for display, with a total of 24 awards for the *Best of Show*, *Best Black & White Photograph*, *Best Film / Traditional RAW Photograph*, and 1st-2nd-3rd Places and *Awards of Merit* in the category awards.

The top eight award winners for 2023 are:

Best of Show – *Lovers’ Quarrel* by Joe Campanellie (Palm Coast);

First Place, Animals – *Clowns at Home* by Mike Ricciardi (Vero Beach); [See Front Cover]

First Place, Flora & Landscape – *Elements* by Hilda Champion (Naples);

First Place, People/Portrait – *Lone Wolf* by Serene Savery (Vero Beach);

First Place, Open – *Marco Hotel (2021)* by Austin Bell (Marco Island);

Best Black & White Photograph – *Trails End Cowpens* by Rick Modine (Fort Pierce);

Best Film/Traditional Raw Photograph – *Adventure Begins Where the Trails End* by Cassidy Balsitis (Port St. Lucie);

Director’s Choice – *In a Fog (2021)* by Austin Bell (Marco Island).

The complete listing of all accepted art entries and all award-winning photographs is available at www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows. During the exhibition, visitors are invited to share their own vote for their favorite work on display. The results will be counted for the annual *People’s Choice Award* given at the close of the exhibition.

As part of its long-standing tradition of encouraging working artists, the Museum awards cash prizes to these most distinct and effective works. Since 2017, for both of its annual juried exhibitions, the Museum has awarded nearly \$25,000 to reward and support the vision of exemplary artists.

“These annual juried exhibitions are in our institutional DNA,” says Museum executive director J. Marshall Adams. “We are into our seventh decade of presenting the works of artists in that spirit of our namesake A.E. ‘Bean’ Backus, to do what he described as advancing ‘the artistic standards in the community.’” Adams continues, “These days, even as we’ve grown into becoming an established museum, we still honor



1st Place, Open Marco Hotel (2021) by Austin Bell



1st Place, Flora-Landscape Elements by Hilda Champion



Best Of Show, Lovers’ Quarrel by Joe Campanellie



Director’s Choice, In a Fog (2021) by Austin Bell

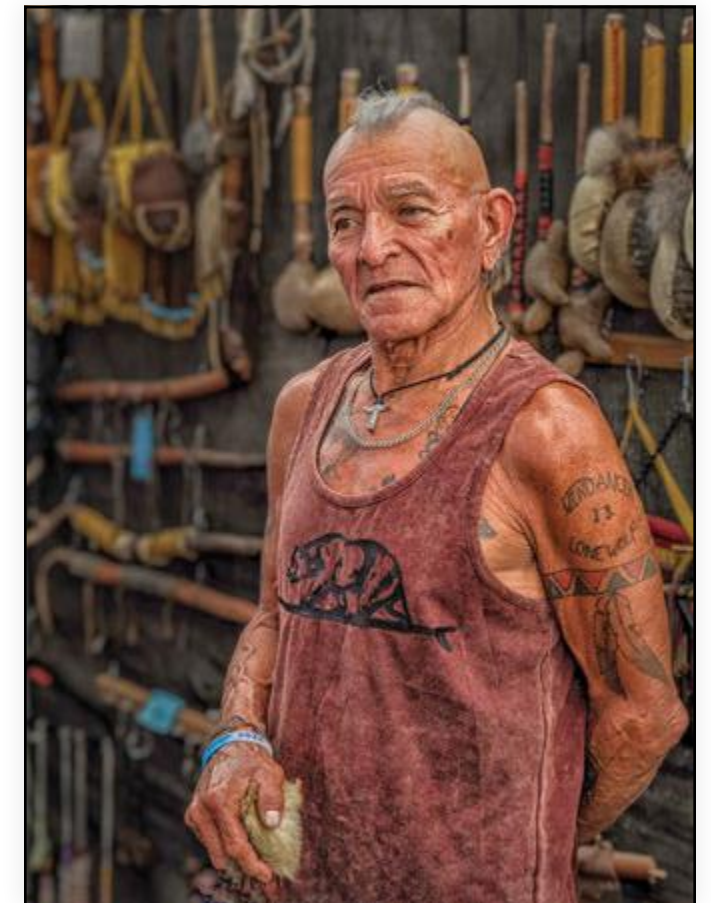
our roots, and look forward each year to providing artists and visitors from the Treasure Coast and beyond a place to discover, experience, and inspire.”

Each year a new jury panel is assembled to provide independent eyes on the competition, and is charged with making the difficult selection decisions. This year’s judges include:

Whitney Broadaway — Director, Southeast Museum of Photography | Daytona State College, Daytona Beach. Whitney Broadaway is the Director of the renowned photography museum on the campus of Daytona State College. The Southeast Museum of Photography showcases the work of incredible photographers from around the world and is a part of the Southeast Center for Photographic Studies. Broadaway has been creating exhibitions and preserving collections since 2007. Previously she was Collections Manager at the Orange County Regional History Center, the Conservator at the University of Central Florida’s Special Collections and University Archives, and member of the Art Faculty at Art & History Museums, Maitland. She received her BFA with a focus in printmaking from the University of Central Florida.

Alison Divan — Art Educator | Fort Pierce. Alison Divan has taught photography and visual arts in a career spanning more than two decades. She has the distinction of maintaining the last operating darkroom in her high school photography program before her retirement, teaching “wet photography” alongside digital in the same challenging coursework to develop well-rounded students. Divan has studied photography under Clyde

Continued on page 18 ...



1st Place, People-Portraits Lone Wolf by Serene Savery

Butcher and Jerry Uelsmann, has exhibited her work at the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, and been awarded numerous grants and teaching honors. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Florida Atlantic University.

Peter Schreyer — CEO/Executive Director & Senior Photography Faculty | Crealdé School of Art, Winter Park. Born

EYES HAVE IT ... *continued from page 17*

and educated in Switzerland, Peter Schreyer immigrated to the United States in 1978. Since 1995, he has served as the CEO/ Executive Director of Crealdé School of Art, and is currently also serving as the school's Acting Manager of Photography. His extensive teaching experience includes award-winning outreach programs in underserved communities. He is the past member of the summer teaching faculty at Penland School for the Arts and Crafts in North Carolina and Arrowmont Schools of Arts and Crafts in Tennessee. Peter Schreyer is committed to the traditional film process, both in his own photography and in teaching all levels of silver-based photographic and dark-room techniques.

All dates and programming subject to change; please check the website for any updates or cancellations. We appreciate your understanding, your patience, and your support as we navigate the continuing pandemic challenges this season. ❖

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Love, JAZZ Community: Give the Gift of Inspiration

by Don Bestor



If you ask any parent or grandparent what they want for their children and grandchildren, you're likely to get the same answer. We all want them to have opportunities to achieve their dreams and live their best lives. And as parents and grandparents, we'll do anything we can to help make that happen. If your talented teen aspires to a career in music, one of the best opportunities you can provide for her is a chance to work with and be mentored by a seasoned professional with thousands of hours performing with the legends of the trade. That's exactly what you'll get when your teen enrolls in the *Advanced Summer Jazz Camp* presented by **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, June 26th through 30th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.



Washington, DC pianist Larry Brown, who has relocated to the central beach neighborhood of Vero Beach, heads up the week-long master class in music, performance, and professionalism, and you couldn't ask for a better teacher and

mentor. Brown's storied career in music has garnered him several industry awards, including multiple coveted *Wammie Awards* for *Best Jazz Recording* and *Best Jazz Group*. Brown leads the *Larry Brown Quintet*, one of the most accomplished straight-ahead jazz groups in the Mid-Atlantic area, having performed at An Die Musik, Blues Alley, the Meyerhoff, the Kennedy Center, the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, East Coast Jazz Festival, Baltimore-Washington Jazz Fest, Alexandria Jazz Festival, Martha's Vineyard Jazz Festival, Twins Jazz, Bohemian Caverns, the King Of France Tavern, Montpelier Arts Center, Chris' Café, the New Haven Lounge, Caton Castle, Strathmore Mansion, and the Black Rock Center for the Arts. As a clinician, Brown has taught piano master classes at several jazz clinics, including the East Coast Jazz Festival, Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, and the Martha's Vineyard Jazz Festival.

This is the kind of talent and professionalism that could help inspire your favorite young musician and make the kinds of connections that will lead to future success in the field. Rounding out the faculty in this year's *Advanced Jazz Camp* at the **Sunrise Black Box Theatre** in historic downtown Fort Pierce will be saxophonist Gene Bruno, bassist Gary Haase, drummer Hosny Franck, and renowned trumpeter James Suggs, with classes scheduled for jazz theory, jazz improvisation, combo rehearsals, as well as master classes on each instrument.

There's still time to register for *Advanced Camp*, and you can do that at www.jazzsociety.org. You'll also find complete instructor bios and pertinent information to help make this summer the most profoundly inspiring and motivational one ever for the aspiring musician in your life. ❖

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Fort Pierce Yacht Club, Around Town and on the Water

by Robynn Holland, Community Liaison

April 22, 2023 Centennial Celebration of FPPD — *Back the Blue*. Commodore Forest Blanton headed up the team who supported the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** “booth” at the *Back the Blue* centennial celebration at the Causeway Marina. The event began with a parade across the bridge and there was music, food, K-9 demonstrations, and activities from 10 to 2. Volunteers for the **FPYC** included Forest Blanton, Ruth Jaroski, Milt Vanderhelst, Tim Winegardner, Tammie Cox, Rich March, Michele March, Robynn Holland, Steve Holland, Barb Gilbert, Dave Damon, Anne Kern and Diane Korbey. The **FPYC** did a knot tying demonstration and **FPYC** affiliate



memberships were given away by Ruth Jaroski, membership chair. The **FPYC** was honored to participate in the *Back the Blue* celebration.

The **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation**, the charitable arm of the **FPYC**, recently presented donations to three community organizations that work with

children through summer camps and school programs to teach about marine science, the joy of water related activities, and the importance of protecting the Indian River Lagoon. The donations were funded through the **FPYC** Foundation’s charitable *Poker Run on the Water* held in April. Checks were presented to the **Manatee Observation and Education Center**, the **Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation**, and **Stella Maris Wesley Island Eco Camp**.

Fort Pierce Yacht Club will be presenting the **13th Annual Community 4th of July Boat Parade**. Please decorate your boats with a *Fourth of July* theme. The parade will be held on Tuesday July 4; meeting time at 11:30 a.m. at the Turning Basin, just north of the South Bridge, near **Director**. The starting time is 12:00 noon. Please monitor Channel 72. There is no registration fee, but please RSVP vcfleetfpyc@gmail.com so we know you are coming. For more information contact Victoria Westphal, Vice Commodore—Fleet at vcfleetfpyc@gmail.com or follow us on facebook.

Herb Bopp, long time member of the **FPYC** attended the **Main Street Fort Pierce Reverse Raffle** and won *Sheriff for a Day* with St. Lucie Sheriff Ken Mascara. Herb graciously gifted the day with Sheriff Mascara to Christopher Cheatham, son of Tammy Cheatham. What a fun day it will be for him. Thank you, Herb!

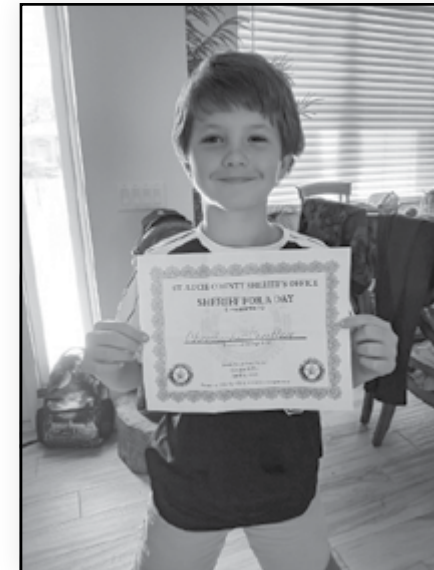


Ashley Miller Chelberg - President and Senior Researcher Stella Maris Environmental Research, Robynn Holland, Chair, FPYC Foundation



Victoria Westphal, co-chair Charitable Poker Run on the Water, Jessica Katie Barclay, Manager of the Manatee Center, Robynn Holland

Kentucky Derby Party: While the **FPYC** is active in the community and on the water, it is also active socially. The most recent event was the Kentucky Derby Party which included a hat contest and an in-house race. Bill Clark won the in-house race by a “nose” and the Derby Hat winners were: 1st place, George Kramer; 2nd place, Nancy Hector; and 3rd place, Sylvia Krchnak. It was a wonderful afternoon Derby party, hosted by Judy and Herb Bobb, Charlie and Kathy Hayek, Jim and Ingrid van Hekken, Ed and Diane Hyer, Bob and Ginny Harbeson, Pat Bercier, Patty Rogers, Leslie Briganti and Mitch Korbey on trumpet announcing the race.



Christopher Cheatham



Herb Bobb

For more information about the **FPYC**: <https://www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com/>, or follow us on facebook. ❖

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TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the Tuesday, June 12, 1923 edition of the Tampa Tribune

To Begin Work on New Causeway Soon

Actual work on construction of the proposed causeway across Indian River at Fort Pierce will be started within ninety days, according to officials of the Fort Pierce Finance and Construction company.

A federal permit is now awaited, and hearing on application for permit is set for June 12 to be held here. It is not anticipated that any delay in issuance of permit will be experienced.

The project not only includes the construction of a causeway and bridge across Indian River, but of a turning basin and deep-water channel across the river as well.

100 years ago this month as reported in the Tuesday, June 12, 1923 edition of the Tampa Tribune

Fort Pierce to get New Business House

Another big business building for Fort Pierce is assured. The Raulerson grocery company and associated interests, of which C.F. Raulerson is the head, is about to complete plans for construction this summer of a two or more-story building on the southwest corner of Pine and Palmetto, covering the site of the present Raulerson grocery. The Pioneer drug store and the vacant lot between.

It is expected that plans for the structure will be completed, and contract awarded within the next few weeks. The Raulerson grocery during the erection of the new building will occupy the lower floor of the Masonic building, across the street from the present store.

100 years ago this month as reported in the Tuesday, June 19, 1923 edition of the Tampa Tribune

White City People to get Electrical Service Shortly

That the people of White City, a prosperous little community several miles south of Fort Pierce, will soon have the benefit of electric service from the local municipal plant is considered almost certain.

At a recent meeting of the residents of that community confidence was expressed that a sufficient number of subscribers would be found to justify extension of the lines to that place. A committee was appointed to canvass the neighborhood with that object in view.

The committee is composed of E.F. Ulrich as chairman. Charles Bemenderfer and G. Ringdahl. It is believed that some twenty-five or thirty subscribers can be obtained.

50 years ago this month as reported in the Tuesday, June 5, 1973 edition of the Palm Beach Post

Reporter, John Bartlett, wrote about the Royal Palm Ice Company which was once located beside the railroad tracks in downtown Fort Pierce. In 1973, the ice company was still providing ice for commercial fishermen, local grocers and picknickers. In its heyday it provided ice for the trains that rumbled beside it with ice before refrigerated cars came along.

The original ice plant burned down in 1913. That plants had supplied the fisherman and farmers with ice in the early days of the city's history.

Download Florida Stories App for audio history tours of dozens of Florida cities including two from Fort Pierce – Downtown & the Lincoln Park districts

25 years ago this month as reported in the Friday, June 5, 1998 edition of the Fort Pierce News

Library construction begins today

Reporter, Tyler Treadway, wrote about the groundbreaking ceremony for the downtown branch of the St. Lucie County Library. Susan Kilmer (St. Lucie County Library Director from 1988 – 2010, and for whom the downtown branch is now named after), was quoted as saying "We're been talking about building a new library since 1985," Kilmer said. "And in 1995 when I saw the city's plans for downtown redevelopment, I thought that this would be our time – our time to make a push. It's great to be a part of the growth that's happening down here. We've been a steady part of downtown since 1954. Businesses have come and gone but the library has remained."

Treadway also wrote about the group that originally started the library in 1905. It was the Fort Pierce Improvement Club which became the Fort Pierce Women's Club, which is still in existence today. The county library began as a reading room in the Fort Pierce Community Building, which was located where the King's Landing development site is today. After that building was destroyed by a hurricane in 1928, it was moved to the P.P. Cobb Building and then to the new Women's Club building on North 2nd Street in 1931. It was again moved in 1950 to a city owned house at Seventh Street Park. The 1st official library building broke ground in 1952 and was located where the vacant lot just north of the current library is today.



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Main Street Fort Pierce Golf Tournament May 20, 2023

Main Street Fort Pierce would like to thank the following businesses for donating items for the annual *Main Street Fort Pierce Golf Tournament* on Saturday, May 20, 2023:

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- Chuck's Seafood • CrazyFish
- Beach Bowls Fort Pierce
- Indian River Lagoon Boat Tours • Inlet Bait and Tackle
- Maier Gourmet Popcorn • Nature's Villa
- Wicked Good Spices



1st Place
Matt Boyd, Wade Courtemanche, Johnathon Sheelar, Ryan Betsinger



2nd Place
Chris Hermely, Hyman Rains, Jared Modine, Jordan Modine



Golf Tournament Volunteers — *Thank you!*

- Richard Ziarkowski & James Taylor
Committee Chairmen
- Kim Collins • Ladeene Dodson
- Stephanie Ellingham • Connie Agler
- Donna Sizemore • Michelle Miller

- Daniela Mendez • Dana McSweeney
- Patti Craft • Joanne Blandford
- Alex Atkinson • Freedia Reals
- Doris Tillman • Kathy and Tom Perona
- Steve Holland • Sue Dannahower



3rd Place
Chris Case, Matt Roy, Jason Cerone, Travis McNamee



Putting Contest
Doc Roberts, Harbour Islers Team



Continued on page 26 ...

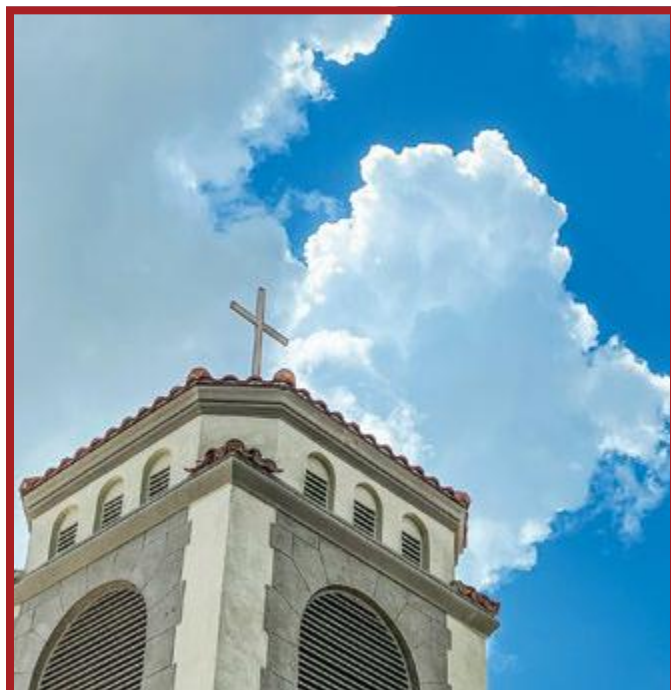
GOLF TOURNAMENT ... continued from page 9



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Stepping into Summer at the Fabulous Farmers Market

Summer is here! Our winter guests have gone home, but now it's time for our summer vacationers to start arriving and locals begin to venture out now that the crowds have thinned. The *Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market* is in full swing. This may be our busiest year yet — we've added so many new vendors that we may not notice our vendors who take the summer to relax.

The weather hasn't been too challenging so far this year. The Market is rain or shine, so every Saturday vendors are prepared for whatever Mother Nature has on display. Beginning with spectacular sunrises along the lagoon, most mornings have been picture perfect. Even when the sky is gray and the wind is kicking, patrons know the *Farmers Market* is going to be their go-to. After all, it's a Saturday morning tradition!

Browsing through the Market, listening to the sounds of live music, people are dancing and singing with the bands. The large dance area is a great place to get your weekly exercise and watch the dancers — traditional moves along with some more unconventional interpretations. People-watching at its best.

The Market has welcomed a new face on Saturdays. Gian Maleki has joined our managerial team and can be found at the Manager's tent or visiting with vendors all over the Market.




He'll be happy to sell you one of our everyday reusable bags. They're canvas, machine washable and printed in downtown Fort Pierce. Check them out for an alternative to disposable plastic bags. Will Goulet remains on the team and handles day-to-day operations, often cruising the Market and visiting with friends.

The *Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market* has become a destination in historic Fort Pierce. Visitors return year after year and locals know it is the one constant in their charming hometown. Open every Saturday, from 8 to noon, rain or shine, it's a Saturday morning tradition!

Make it part of yours.


Follow us on facebook and instagram, and check out our website www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com. The vendor page has a directory of our vendors and their products. The events page shows the band schedule as well as any special events. Stay up to date with the latest Market news. ❖

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Summer Fishing Fun

by Captain Bo Samuel

Summer is o-fish-ally here and as our days get hotter the fishing gets hotter, especially for snapper and mahi-mahi. Mangroves, lanes, and big mutttons can be targeted on the offshore reefs in 50-100 feet. Whether using live bait or some cut-up frozen bait, it's important to keep your bait on the bottom with enough weight to hold. Bottom fishing for snapper also provides a great chance to hook up on some significant grouper. The sharks have been sneaky trying to steal our fish lately so reeling quickly is the key!

June is a stellar time to focus on trolling for mahi, also known as dolphinfish or dorado. There is no closed season for mahi but the best time to catch them is in the summer months when the water has warmed up. Mahi are one of the fastest growing of all fish and can swim up to 50 knots. Weed lines and floating debris are great places to find mahi hiding out and



once you find one, a school should be close by. It's best to do a slow troll with fresh ballyhoo, naked or skirted, at about 80 feet or more. Mahi is one of the most sought after pelagic fish in the sea because of their beautiful color patterns, amazing aerial acrobatics when hooked, and hands-down delicious taste.

The photo this month shows my dad, Matt Samuel, with a recent 11-pound monster mutton snapper. Mutton to it!

Let the summer fun begin, call Pullin Drag for the win! When the kids get tired of the pool and the beach, they will have a blast reeling in salty groceries! If you visit my home base of Little Jim Bait & Tackle, known for great food and great music, we can plan your custom charter trip for fishing, family, and friends. Dinner's in the bag when you fish with Pullin Drag! ❖



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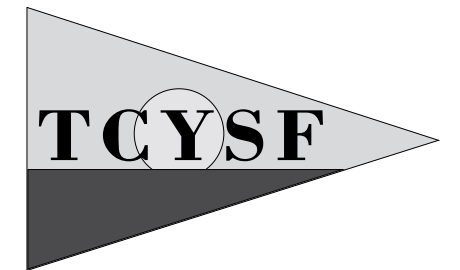
Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation Summer Classes

The Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation had a busy spring and we are almost full for the summer classes. We are so thankful for all our volunteers and especially thankful to the Fort Pierce Yacht Club who gave us four scholarships for the summer. We are very appreciative of all of those who support the TCYSF. We are still looking for four more scholarship donations of \$275.00 each or whatever someone can afford.

The St. Andrew's sailing crew went to Lake Eustis for a regatta and everyone had fun and it was a great learning experience. TCYSF is now home to the St. Andrews Sailing Team

and we are also involved with PAL, Fort Pierce Courageous Kids Program and the St. Lucie Boys and Girls Club. We are excited about having new outboards along with prop guards that will give us not only reliability but safety for our students.

For more information about the Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Program and summer camps to: <https://www.treasurecoast-youthsailingfoundation.com>. "You can't control the wind, but you can adjust the sails." ❖



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