

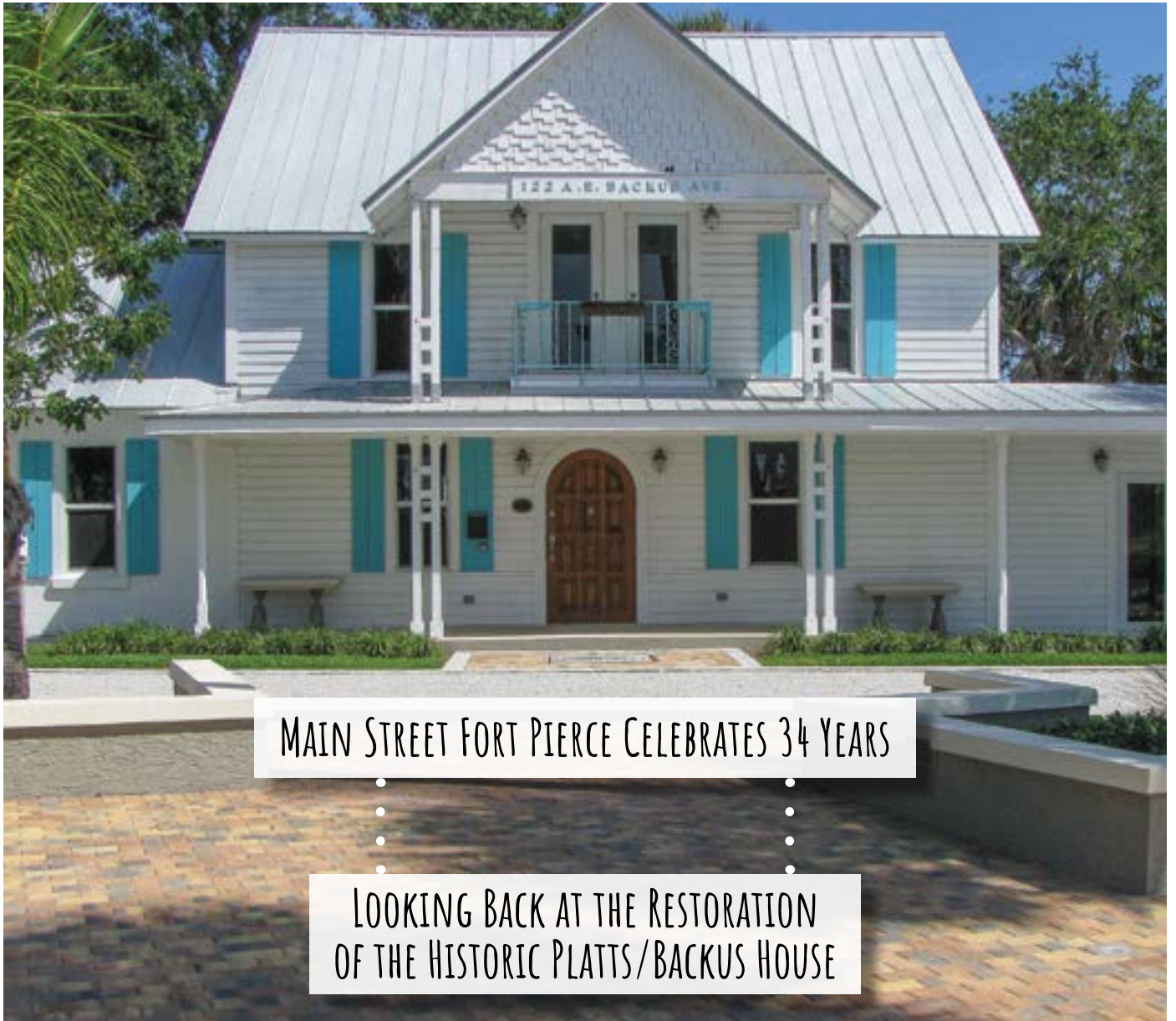


Volume 17, No. 10

May, 2022

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



MAIN STREET FORT PIERCE CELEBRATES 34 YEARS

LOOKING BACK AT THE RESTORATION
OF THE HISTORIC PLATTS/BACKUS HOUSE

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Main Street Focus
122 AE Backus Ave.
Fort Pierce, FL 34950



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Meet Main Street Fort Pierce's New President – Donna Sizemore

by Donna Sizemore




It has been my pleasure to serve on the Board of *Main Street Fort Pierce* over the last eight years as a Director and Secretary. I now have the honor of serving as President of *Main Street Fort Pierce* — one of the top *Main Street* programs in Florida. I was born and raised in Fort Pierce and have never lived anywhere other than St. Lucie County. Although, I have traveled extensively over the years, I always am grateful to return home to 'The Fort'. A hidden gem!

A little about me: I recently retired from Indian River State College where I was employed for 40 years. Over the years I served in several different roles, at IRSC, but the most recent was faculty and Department Chair of Adult Education. I began as a student and employee at IRSC and never left. I have a BS

Degree in Vocational Education from the University of Central Florida and MS Degree in Educational Technology from Florida Atlantic University. I'm married to my soul mate, Jerry, and have two beautiful stepdaughters, Morgan and Allison along with two adorable step grandsons, Nolan and Cooper. Jerry and I also adopted our rescue dog 'Callie'.

I've served on numerous state and local committees throughout the years but my heart and soul lives in Fort Pierce, specifically downtown Fort Pierce. Needless to say, I'm thrilled to be serving on the *Main Street* Board. I'm looking forward to this year and all the exciting events that *Main Street* has planned. We are here to make downtown a better place through collaborations with the community. We have several new Board Members, and we invite you and your family to join us at *Main Street Fort Pierce's* Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 4th, 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the Platts/Backus House, 122 AE Backus Avenue. You will have the opportunity to meet the Board members, the Executive Director, *Main Street* staff, volunteers and Mayor Hudson all while enjoying music and refreshments outside under the trees. Take a walk inside of the 126-year-old house and see where "Beanie" Backus painted some of his vivid Florida landscapes.

We hope that you can join us on May 4th. *I look forward to meeting you.* ❖



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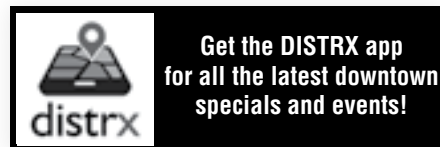
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Calendar

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



MONTHLY EVENTS

May 4, Wednesday: MAIN STREET FORT PIERCE'S ANNUAL MEETING — 5 to 7:00 p.m.; Public welcome and encouraged. Refreshments and short meeting. Courtyard of Platts/Backus House; 122 AE Backus Ave.

May 6, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by *The Broke Duo*; FPUA displays; sponsored by Cobbs Landing and Little Jims restaurants; **Please remove all vehicles from the permitted Friday Fest road closure area (Marina Way & Melody Lane) by 2:00 p.m.**; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

May 14, Saturday: MAIN STREET FORT PIERCE GOLF TOURNAMENT — Shotgun Start 8:30 a.m. at **Gator Trace Golf Club**; Four Person Teams \$100.00 per Player ~ \$350.00 per Team (Fees include: Continental Breakfast, 18 holes of Golf, Buffet Lunch); Call 466-3880 to reserve a team and/or for sponsorship information.

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

May 20, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN

Wine Down Wednesday
Fort Social in the Galleria on the 2nd and 4th

Wednesday of each month, featuring a different artist each week, 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

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

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

First Church; 464-0440, firstchurchfp.org.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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

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

Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
772-462-1795

2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building
Downtown Fort Pierce Library
772-462-2787 • st-lucie.lib.fl.us

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

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

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

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

Heathcote Botanical Gardens
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

MAY: MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

MAY 1: MAY DAY

MAY 4: STAR WARS DAY

MAY 4: NATIONAL ORANGE JUICE DAY

MAY 5: NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

➔ MAY 5: CINCO DE MAYO

MAY 8: MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 9: NATIONAL LOST SOCK MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 13: NATIONAL FROG JUMPING DAY

MAY 16: NATIONAL BARBECUE DAY

MAY 26: NATIONAL PAPER AIRPLANE DAY

MAY 28: NATIONAL HAMBURGER DAY

MAY 30: MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 31: NATIONAL SMILE DAY

Main Street Fort Pierce Annual Golf Tournament

It's that time of year again! *Main Street Fort Pierce's Annual Golf Tournament* is coming up on May 14th at **Gator Trace Golf & Country Club**.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast and a build-your-own Bloody Mary bar. The golfing begins at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start. Prizes are awarded for the longest drive and as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. For a small donation, you can enter our putting competition where you will get three chances to putt your ball through a special layout for a great prize.

The cost is \$100 per player or \$350 per team. Your entry fee includes a continental breakfast, a round of golf, lunch, and a goody bag.

Sponsorship opportunities are available including tee sign sponsors that are set up around the course. Advertise your business by becoming a tee sponsor! Sign up your team through our website <https://mainstreetfortpierce.org/golf-tournament-registration/p/2022>. Call the *Main Street Fort Pierce* office at 772-466-3880 for any questions.

Hope to see you there! ❖



SAVE THE DATE

MAIN STREET FORT PIERCE GOLF TOURNAMENT

May 14, 2022
at Gator Trace Golf & Country Club

GATOR TRACE

- Four Person Team Shotgun Start: 8:30 a.m.
- \$100.00 per Player | \$350.00 per Team
- Fees include: Continental Breakfast, 18 holes of Golf, Buffet Lunch, & Door Prizes Putting Contest, Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, 50/50 Raffle, Raffle Prizes

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Mayor's Message "One Fort Pierce" Launched in 2021

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



2021 is in the rearview mirror, but is it? In February, it was an honor to join my fellow commissioners to join me in our *State of the City Address*. Formerly, this was presented by me at the **Sunrise Theatre** in February. But, since the pandemic, the city has presented this annual address virtually. Our communications staff produced the State of the City, on video, and posted it on the Fort Pierce YouTube Channel. Access it here and as well as other City of Fort Pierce informational YouTube videos: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofFortPierceYoutube>.

The City of Fort Pierce has just produced its *2021 Annual Report*. You will find a wealth of information of 2021 accomplishments, events, celebrations and milestones of progress. 2021 was the year that the city commission agreed to a renewed emphasis on "One Fort Pierce." We all wear our "One Fort Pierce" pin proudly to signify that we are on board with shedding the old "District 1 vs. District 2" mentality of the past, in favor of what is best for all of Fort Pierce and every citizen.

Fort Pierce had many achievements in 2021 that make us "Fort Pierce Proud." Crime is down 41% since 2016; Fort

Pierce Fire Hawks won the 14U Pop Warner National Championship; **King's Landing**, the **Wave Garden** and **Fisherman's Wharf** were approved as major developments; The **R.I.C.H. House** and **Means Court Center** opened in Lincoln Park; the **Highwayman License Plate** was introduced and on sale; the **Highwayman Museum** applied for and was awarded a major grant; **Derecktor** introduced the world's largest 1,500-ton, mobile boat hoist; and, the community joined the City of Fort Pierce in designing an accessible-to-all-children playground at Jaycee Park. These are just a few achievements of our city.

So much more was accomplished by the City of Fort Pierce. Access the Annual Report here: <https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/955/Annual-Report>. ❖





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City of Fort Pierce Honored with Two *Home Rule Hero Awards* in 2022

The *Florida League of Cities* (FLC), celebrating its 100th anniversary as the united voice for Florida's municipal governments, recently honored the City of Fort Pierce with two *Home Rule Hero Awards* in 2022. Mayor Linda Hudson and Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr. were both recognized for their hard work and advocacy efforts during the 2022 Legislative Session. Mayor Hudson and Commissioner Johnson worked tirelessly throughout the session to promote local voices making local choices, protect the *Home Rule* powers of Florida's municipalities, and advance the League's legislative agenda.

"On behalf of the League and its legislative team, we're very proud to present this year's *Home Rule Hero Awards* to a deserving group of municipal leaders," said FLC Director of Legislative Affairs Casey Cook. "We had a record number of *Home Rule Heroes* this year, which shows the dedication and impact of local officials on behalf of their residents and businesses in protecting local decision-making. These local officials were constantly engaged and actively advocating for their communities throughout the 2022 Legislative Session. They're heroes for *Home Rule* and we thank them for their efforts."

Home Rule is the ability for a city to address local problems with local solutions with minimal state interference. *Home Rule Hero Awards* recipients are local government officials, both elected and nonelected, who consistently responded to the League's request to reach out to members of the legislature and help give a local perspective on an issue.



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Commissioner Johnson shared, "It is an honor to receive this award and recognition for the service that I love doing. As a native Floridian, that was born and raised in Fort Pierce, I will always advocate for local ruling authority because local communities must be able to govern and respond to their respective community standards. I am honored to be elected to represent my community with the God-fearing knowledge that, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

"It is important to the City of Fort Pierce and the 400 plus Florida municipalities that the legislature recognizes *Home Rule*, a concept found in Florida's constitution that allows local governments to serve residents in unique and effective ways. I appreciate the Florida League of Cities recognizing me as a Home Rule Hero, an honor I accept for my personal efforts and those of our commission and staff. We work as a team during each legislative session to tell our story to our state legislators," said Mayor Linda Hudson.

The *Florida League of Cities* will formally recognize Mayor Hudson and Commissioner Johnson at a future event hosted by the *Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities*.

Founded in 1922, the *Florida League of Cities* is the united voice for Florida's municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida's cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in "Local Voices Making Local Choices," which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida's communities. For more information, visit flcities.com. ❖

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It's Been 16 Years Since the Restoration of the Platts/Backus House

The two-story wooden vernacular home sat for years on the corner at the edge of the Edgartown neighborhood. It was in view of all that passed by; however, it had long faded into the background despite its interesting and productive past. It was in need of many repairs, yet this house had plenty of character and its story was long from over. It had served the public in many ways in its past and it was about to become the next historic renovation project and future home of *Main Street Fort Pierce*.



The Platts family came to Fort Pierce shortly after the railroad tracks were laid in 1894. Clyde Platts became the first full time doctor of the area and took his job very seriously. The young doctor rode his bicycle in town for house calls; jumped in his horse drawn buggy for those needing his services out west; or sailed his boat, *The Alligator*, to visit patients along the coast. The family grew along with the fledgling town of Fort Pierce. Dr. Platts partnered with Peter Cobb to start the

first pharmacy of the area. Then he became the 1st Superintendent of Schools in St. Lucie County.

Tragedy befell the Platts family and local citizens when Dr. Platts passed away in 1907 at the age of 37 from health complications. They had at that point moved to White City but Clara Platts kept the original house in Edgartown until 1946.

The house was maintained by the welfare association and then was a church up until 1960. It was after this that its most colorful owner took residence in its walls. Albert E. Backus, or "Beanie" as he was known around town, purchased the house on April 20, 1960. Backus had lost his wife and the love of his life, Patty, in 1955. He made repairs on house and took up residence upstairs. The downstairs became his studio which was often filled with lively discussion, with jazz music playing in the background. Many art students developed their talents and began their careers watching and

Continued on page 10 ...

Michael R. Repoli, CPA, EA

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RESTORATION ... continued from page 9



listening to Backus. In the era of segregation, the Backus studio was a refuge and all that walked through the door — welcomed and treated as equals.

Toward the end of his life, Backus transferred the ownership of his house/studio to one of his proteges and remained in residence there until his death in 1990. The house was sold several more times until *Main Street Fort Pierce* purchased the property on June 23, 2005.

The renovation of the Platts/Backus House 16 years ago preserved this piece of the past for future generations. Its restoration encouraged other projects in the Edgartown district, one of the oldest residential neighborhoods in the area. Today many of the homes have been restored and the location, one block from the Indian River and downtown Fort Pierce, has become a desirable place to live once again.

From the productive years of the Platts Family to the creative and friendly vibe during the Backus years, this property has



always served as a community gathering area and continues to do so today. Please join the celebration during *Main Street Fort Pierce's 34th Annual Meeting* at the 126-year-old Platts/Backus house on Wednesday, May 4th from 5 to 7 p.m. ❖



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Main Street Fort Pierce Celebrates 34 Years

Main Street Fort Pierce would like to cordially invite our volunteers and the public to join us at the 2022–2023 *Annual Board Meeting & Celebration*. The celebration will start at 5:00 pm at the Platts/Backus House on May 4, 2022. At around 6:00 p.m. we will introduce our new and existing Board members and quick speeches from Mayor Linda Hudson and our new Board President.

Our *Annual Celebration* will have live entertainment from the *Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society*, beverage tasting from *Pierced Ciderworks* and *Sailfish Brewing Company*, along with appetizers and treats from local restaurants and volunteers.

As a non-profit, *Main Street Fort Pierce* relies on the support we receive through grants, sponsorships, events, and our dedicated members. It's only with this support that we've helped restore, rejuvenate, and rebuild our beautiful historic

downtown. The *Annual Board Meeting & Celebration* is a time to recognize and thank our community as well as share our plans for the coming year. ❖



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Protein Harbor – Your Newest Healthy Meal Concept

by Dale van der Lugt

For a refreshing, tasty, and healthy concept to your meal or snack time, check out the newest edition to *The Galleria at Downtown Fort Pierce*, **Protein Harbor**. It's run by husband-and-wife team Oswal Ortiz and Heidi Pabon. Their ultimate focus for the community is to promote a healthy, active lifestyle for everyone. Their menu choice caters to all ages with smoothies, loaded teas, iced protein coffees, bubble waffles and mini donuts. And these are not your typical donuts either! Packed with 24 grams of protein, 21 vitamins and minerals and under 300 calories they offer a great source of fiber and an excellent source of antioxidants.

From the moment you walk into **Protein Harbor** you feel the positive energy promoted by the owners and staff. Their audience is absolutely anyone as they offer no-caffeine, kid-friendly drinks among the many (+130 flavors) choices available. This is definitely the quick stop in Downtown Fort Pierce to get an energy boost and to reduce mental fatigue during a busy work schedule.

Protein Harbor co-owner Oswal offered, “**Protein Harbor** is a healthy concept spot where the community has the opportunity to enjoy delicious meals with a wide variety of benefits without sacrificing taste and flavor. We serve from Loaded Tea Drinks, Smoothies, Bubble Waffles, Mini Donuts and more, all under 300 calories and packed with vitamins and minerals and the right amount of protein to boost the metabolism, support the immune system and produce energy at cellular levels for a better body performance and mental awareness.”

Oswal and Heidi are true delights to be around and have so many ideas to expand this healthy alternative. Be on the lookout for future coaching on nutrition and weight loss as this is truly a passion project for these two dynamic individuals.

Follow **Protein Harbor** at <https://www.facebook.com/proteinharbor>, [Instagram.com/proteinharbor](https://www.instagram.com/proteinharbor), www.proteinharbor.com. ❖



Chaney's House O'Flowers Has a Long History in Downtown Fort Pierce

The Spanish gave Florida its name after viewing the abundance of flowers that covered the land after they arrived. Here in Fort Pierce, the local garden club was one of the first civic organizations in the area. In 1935, an annual flower show was hosted by the Fort Pierce Garden Show and was held in the **P.P. Cobb** building according to newspaper articles from the time.

Chaney's House O' Flowers has had a long history in downtown Fort Pierce. Its origins trace back to the 1930s. It has maintained its presence and popularity throughout the years in downtown Fort Pierce due to the care and diligence of its present and past owners.

Jane and Marcus Chaney bought the florist shop in the late 1940s and ran it for 24 years. Each of the handful of owners since the Chaney's, have instilled and left their mark on this

downtown staple. Some past owners include, Cal Foist who ran the business after the Chaney's retired in 1972 and sold it to Ivan and Betty Parriott, who ran the shop from 1980 until 2006. Jill Powers was the next owner of Chaney's and she celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2007 with a street party and doo-wop band. Karen DeVries is the current owner as of April 2021. All of these small business owners prepared beautiful arrangements for both happy celebrations and sad farewells.

Today, **Chaney's House O' Flowers** is located in the corner storefront of the historic **Raulerson Building** (1924) at 139 N. 2nd Street. They offer arrangements for all occasions (reminder — Mother's Day is this month). Owner, Karen DeVries, has added small gifts, cards, paintings and other unique treasures in order to make **Chaney's** the one-stop shop for flowers and gifts.

Chaney's is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, please visit www.chaneysfiorist.com or find them on Facebook at **Chaney's House O' Flowers**. ❖



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Wild Mom Stories

by Wren Underwood, Volunteer Program Coordinator

Parental care among wildlife species varies greatly. Many reptiles and amphibians provide little to no parental care to their young. In these cases, offspring are provided instincts through their DNA which help them survive. Species that use this strategy (sea turtles, for example) typically produce many offspring to make up for a high mortality rate. One Florida reptile that does provide parental care is the American Alligator. Alligator moms fiercely guard their nests and even assist hatchlings in their journey from nest to water. She then watches over her young for the first few years of their lives.

On the other hand, avian and mammal species are widely known for their epic parental efforts. They typically expend lots of time and energy rearing young. This strategy results in a higher survival rate of progeny. As a trade-off, however, parents produce fewer offspring. Manatees offer a great example of this reproduc-



tive strategy. Female manatees give birth to one calf (twins are rare) every two to five years. The mother and calf stay together for up to two years, rarely separating. Mother manatees teach their calves where to find food and fresh water sources, and help them learn migratory routes. The two communicate using squeaks and whistles underwater.

Both reproductive strategies result in the continuation of a species, but we humans can most identify with the low-number-high-investment version, like that used by manatees. Parenting is a rewarding, but often exhausting, endeavor. Parents use time, energy, and expenses to provide safe, secure environments to their children, to pay for education, and to keep them physically and emotionally healthy. As we approach both Mother's and Father's Days (May 8 and June 19), this is a good time to reflect on all the hard work our parents put in, and to reach out and say, "thanks!" ❖

Make Mother's Day Special with Treasure from the Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop



Moms. They come in all shapes and sizes, colors and flavors. But truth be told, we all have one. Whether she is Mom, Mama, Mommy, Mummy, Nana or Gigi they are all super-heroes and should be celebrated! If you are really lucky, you will get to honor her on May 8th.

If your super-hero lives on the Treasure Coast chances are the beach and ocean have a special place in her heart. Let her know how much you appreciate her by giving a thoughtful representation of what she loves.

If your mom loves walking on the beach and collecting shells or beach glass she might like a handy guide book to help her identify her finds. Does she like to sip her latte on the back porch? How about a special mermaid barista mug?

If your mom is anything like my mom, a special gift should be sparkly! The **Vanishing Mermaid** specializes in beautiful jewelry for ladies that love the sea. If you want to be on trend sea glass earrings or a sea turtle anklet would be best.

If home decorating is your mom's cup of tea how about accent pieces for the coffee table? Blown glass orbs filled with sand and shells or a beautiful coral replica would be very eye catching.

Show your mom some love by shopping at the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop** where you can help a good cause with your purchase. All proceeds benefit the **Manatee Observation and Education Center.** ❖

Downtown Fort Pierce Summer Camps

Manatee Center Summer Camps

What's hot this summer? Summer Camp at the **Manatee Center**! Each camp week will be filled with fun, outdoor, hands-on activities, games, projects, and art!! All of our projects at **Manatee Camp** will highlight some of the Indian River Lagoon's most amazing inhabitants and are a great way to explore and learn about nature. Camps are designed for ages 6 to 12 years old and run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost of camp is \$100 per camper. Want more information? Please visit www.manateeducationcenter.org for more details.

Week 1: *Eco Adventures*, June 6–10. This week is all about some of the ocean's most iconic creatures! Games and activities will introduce campers to sea urchins, manatees, whales, and dolphin.

Week 2: *Wild Discovery*, June 20–24 (this camp is full).

Week 3: *Wild About Art*, July 11–15. Artistic activities are a



great way to explore and learn about nature. This camp is great for creative kids who also like being outdoors.

Week 4: *Estuary Investigators*, July 25–29. Games, activities, and fun projects will highlight some of nature's most amazing estuary inhabitants.

Spots are filling up quickly! Please be sure to register. We are excited to *dive* into the fun this summer at the **Manatee Center**!

The Cake Lady Cupcake Camp 2022

The **Cake Lady Custom Cakes** is again pleased to be able to offer 1-week, summer camp sessions.

Sessions are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and are offered to children between the ages of 5–15.

Activities include but are not limited to decorating cupcakes each day using various professional techniques. Participants will learn to decorate cupcakes using buttercream, fondant and sugar paste techniques.



Monday through Thursday camp participants will make cupcakes and on Friday each student designs and decorates a small cake of their own. All cupcakes and cakes are kept by their creators.

All materials are included and space is limited. Cupcakes are baked fresh daily by staff (participants will not be baking). Call 772-242-8128, visit www.thecakeladybakes.com or their Facebook page – The Cake Lady.

Continued on page 18 ...



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CAMPS ... continued from page 17



Summer camp sessions: June 6–10, June 13–17, June 20–24, June 27–July 1, July 4–8, July 11–15, July 18–22, July 25–29, and August 1–5

First United Methodist Arts and Music Week Camp

First United Methodist appreciates the arts and strives to support the creativity of the Fort Pierce community. For many summers prior to the pandemic, **Arts and Music Week** for kids was part of the church program. It was a week of art, craft, music, storytelling, and games, with a Biblical theme celebrating kids' creativity. In Summer 2022 it's back!



First Church Arts and Music Week

Partnering with Pura Vida Missions, **First Church** is hosting **Arts and Music Week** June 27-30. A team of adult leaders and youth will lead the fun. Camp hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch and camp t-shirts are part of the fun! Visit <https://www.firstchurchfp.org/art-music-camp> or call 464-0440 for more information or to register. ❖



The Place to Be on Saturday Morning

Any Saturday morning join the crowds at Marina Square in historic downtown Fort Pierce for the South's favorite farmers market. The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market**, in its 25th year, is the place to be and be seen! From 8 until 12, rain or shine, the Market has become a Saturday morning tradition that is now serving its second generation of patrons and vendors.

Families come together to purvey their wares; whether locally grown produce or hand-made delicacies, they proudly display the best of the best. Award-winning sauces by **Brenda's Mix-a-lotta**, honey from locally apiary **Gruwell's Buzz On In**, enormous zucchini grown by **Aunt Zorada**, or fresh popped kettle corn from **We Be Poppin**, the choices are abundant.

New to the Market, **Waterfront Tacos and Bowls**, **Bush-dogs**, and **Buen Provencho** offer tantalizing new tastes. **Adams Ranch Beef** proudly sells their locally grown beef, while **Gibbons Organics** has an abundance of certified organic and locally-grown produce. **Produce Buddies** and **Broken Plow Farm** have wide selections of produce both local and imported. Seafood is spectacular- both prepared for onsite dining and take home for your own recipes. Check out **Local Seas East** and **Macy's Fish Dip**, along with **Cammelita's** and **5th Generation**. Shopping for your week is complete right at the Market. Snacks, staples, gifts, plants, all are available every Saturday. One stop shopping!

Families come together to shop or meet up with friends for an early morning start. The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers**

Market has something for all ages. Catch a quick breakfast or coffee and sit on the sea wall while the fish swim right up to the rocks and chase each other in delightful displays of natural play. The dolphin often are entertaining while the pelicans and seagulls dance in the air above the lagoon.



If in the mood for beautifying your home, **Chong's Plants** has the most gorgeous orchids and other plants while **Party Flowers** makes the most beautiful bouquets of cut flowers. Try some fragrant, soothing lavender products from **Garden Friends Lavender Lady**. Elderberry elixir from **Native Armor** is just the boost your immune system may need. **Oils Originals** offers several varieties of products for skin care and repellants.

Check out the Manager's tent for local non-profit information. Keeping in touch with our community is one of the Market's goals in its mission statement. The manager has a log of current community events that patrons may have interest in.

Every Saturday, rain or shine, the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** happens at Marina Square in historic downtown Fort Pierce. From 8 to 12 enjoy the live music and the fantastic location. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or our website www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com. It's a Saturday morning tradition! ❖

DORI ARRINGTON PHOTOGRAPHY



The City of Fort Pierce Publishes 2022 Strategic Plan

The City of Fort Pierce is proud to present the *2022 Strategic Plan* which has been published in digital format and is now available online: <https://cityoffortpierce.com/1028/Strategic-Plan-2022>.



This comprehensive report utilizes five key points (Serving, Developing, Engaging, Beautifying, and Enjoying Our Community) to blend innovative thinking, objective analysis, and prioritization of goals to ensure continued success for our community. The *2022 Strategic Plan* clarifies the vision, mission, and values, outlining specific milestones which chart the course for City leaders and staff to produce the best quality of life for all residents, visitors, and businesses in Fort Pierce.

“The City of Fort Pierce has utilized the strategic planning process on an annual basis to provide clarity of our vision, identify actionable items, and determine a distinct path for our operational success” —Nicholas C. Mimms, P.E., ICMA-CM.

Fort Pierce continues to be an exceptional place to live, work, learn and enjoy. We are excited about the future and the collaborative efforts to help keep Fort Pierce shining brighter and brighter. We hope you will take the time to review the *2022 Strategic Plan* to stay informed of your city’s future.

For additional information, please call 772-467-3031. ❖



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Love, JAZZ Community: Summer Fun is for Big Kids, Too

by Don Bestor

This time of year, it seems everyone is looking for a summer camp experience that will be meaningful and enjoyable for kids, grandkids, or neighborhood kids. But wouldn't it be great if those wonderful, fun, and secretly educational summer camp experiences were available to not just the young, but the young at heart, too? That's just how we feel at **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, and it's the very reason why our amazing Summer Jazz Camps are available to musicians ages 13 to 90 — and we'll even blur the lines if you're 91 or 92 and want to come out and spend a week playing with and learning from the pros.

Every year, we gather seasoned professional musicians who have played with and for superstars internationally and offer two fabulous five-day summer day camps designed to help 'campers' learn to improve their style and improvisational skills while also learning jazz standards, experiencing and honing jam session protocol. Participants will also have a chance to dip their toes into jazz theory a little bit, too, and will get one-to-one coaching, mentoring, and assistance from professional musicians willing to share wisdom, tricks of the trade, and enthusiastic encouragement to help you become a better musician.

The first week of camp starts on Monday, June 6th and culminates with an opportunity to perform with the professionals at the Saturday morning **Jazz Market** on June 18th at Melody Lane in historic downtown Fort Pierce. The second week of camp is a teeny bit more advanced and runs from June 13th to June 17th. You don't have to attend both weeks, but many musicians of all ages who want to hone their craft do just that because it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn



from the masters, even if all you want to do is get good enough to play at your cousin's wedding. If you want to learn more about camps for yourself or as a gift for someone you love, visit www.jazzsociety.org, where you'll find bios for the musicians and an application for camp.

And if **Jazz Camp** isn't for you but you're jonesing for some great music this summer, please consider yourself invited to the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** on Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce for some very special evenings of music. Whether you enjoy the music

from inside the intimate setting of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** or outside on the patio by the beautiful Indian River at the base of the Hutchinson Island bridge, you'll be able to hear all of your favorite tunes, dance your way through a gorgeous sunset, and enjoy adult refreshments, good friends, and fabulous entertainment for just a few bucks on Tuesday evenings throughout the summer.

This year's summer yacht club dates are June 14th and 28th, July 12th and 26th, and August 9th and 23rd, and we'll share the September and October dates with you as they get a bit closer. Summer may slow down for us here in Fort Pierce just a bit, but isn't it nice to know that you can still find plenty of opportunities to enjoy live music and even learn more about how to become a better musician even during the 'quiet' months of summer? All that, and we're still giving away loads of \$1,000 scholarships to young local musicians on Tuesday, May 24th at the **Sunrise Black Box Theatre**. **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** has been supporting and encouraging talented, young musicians for 26 years. If you'd like to join us and help, call us today at 772.460.JAZZ, or visit us at www.jazzsociety.org. ❖

TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the Friday, May 19, 1922 edition of the Tampa Tribune

Rapid Expansion of Citrus Industry: About Five Hundred and Fifty Cars Went from Fort Pierce Alone

With a total shipment of 1,300 carloads, St. Lucie County's banner citrus season is at an end, only a few local consignments remaining to go forward.

The output this year was approximately two hundred cars in excess of that of last season, despite the extremely dry weather that prevailed throughout the county a great part of the season this year. The increase is due largely to new groves that came into bearing this year, though old groves had almost a normal crop.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, May 11, 1947 edition of the Miami News

Store Building Brings \$115,000: Fort Pierce Owners Sell to N.Y. Group

The Booster building, located in the heart of the downtown section, has been purchased by a group of New York investors from the Fort Pierce Financing & Construction Co. for \$115,000, according to announcement by Michael R. Sudakow, New York and Coral Gables real estate broker who represented the buyers, and M.A. Ramsey, representing the seller.

Identity of the individuals making up the group was not revealed, but it was stated that they own choice business property "from New York to California."

The building is a one-story hollow tile structure fronting 76

feet on Second St. and 115 on Orange Ave. It houses the Silver Palace pharmacy, Morton's jewelry store, Fort Pierce shoe shop, Silver Palace barbershop, B. & W. clothing store, Harris-Haynes insurance agency and the Reid paint company.

After building costs have leveled off, the structure will be remodeled and possibly enlarged by the addition of one or more stories, it was stated. Present tenants will be allowed to continue occupancy, it was added.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Monday, May 26, 1947 edition of the Miami News

Lions Organize Fort Pierce Club

Fort Pierce is to have a Lions club, organization having been effected by a group of prospective members at a meeting held at the New Fort Pierce hotel.

25 years ago this month as reported by Doris Tillman (director of Main Street Fort Pierce) in the Friday, May 9, 1997 edition of the Fort Pierce News

Projects under way, more coming for downtown Fort Pierce

Downtown Fort Pierce is where it's happening. Three years ago, when the community created the Master Plan for downtown, it generated a lot of excitement. Once the plan was adopted the action started and the effects are beginning to show.

The first thing: County Commissioner Cliff Barnes started the wheels turning to apply for a grant to build a new library. Very active during the charrette for the Master Plan, Barnes realized the need and brought the city and St. Lucie County together. The county was awarded the grant, and with the local government contributions, a \$2.5 million dolloar library will be built.



Once threatened with destruction, historic City Hall has become the showcase of Fort Pierce. Main Street Fort Pierce and St. Lucie Preservation raised funds locally, and with state grants of \$250,000, renovated the second City Hall of Fort Pierce. This 1926 Mediterranean building houses a local accounting firm on the first floor, and the second floor is used for a variety of functions.

The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) put plans on hold to redo a stretch of downtown sidewalks until after the charrette. Once the plan was created, they partnered with Main Street, the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority and the city to create a beautiful model block on Second Street. The CRA has now taken on a major project to redevelop the waterfront by the city marina in hopes of enticing developers.

The Manatee Observation and Education Center, after three years of planning, opened in October 1996. This wonderful public-private partnership has created quite a stir in downtown, drawing crowds of thousands people at times. With the help of many in the community, Main Street was able to fulfill a long term goal in building a quality environmental center for Fort Pierce.

The state Department of Transportation (DOT), in a study of historic buildings, discovered that "Tickle Tummy Hill", officially known as North Second Street Bridge, was one of 208 historically significant bridges. What makes this particularly special is that there are 12,000 bridges in the state of Florida. Currently the city and DOT are working with a grant to restore the bridge. This will be great for downtown by opening up this corridor.

Now for the really great news. In August 1996, a contract was signed on the Sunrise Theatre. Main Street/St. Lucie Preservation has taken the challenge to renovate the 1923 vaudeville house and bring it back to its glory days of live performances. With a 1,000-seat auditorium, the Sunrise could be the star of St. Lucie County for entertainment.

Three grants totaling about \$500,000 have been obtained for the Sunrise for this year. We are in the process of selecting an architect to do the initial study and the applicants are very strong. By June things will be underway to bring back our Sunrise.

Starting in May, a company named Marketek will be doing a study to determine a business retention and recruitment plan for downtown. By doing surveys of businesses, shoppers, and building owners they can determine what types of businesses are wanted for downtown. The study will also provide marketing tools for the recruitment of business. This study was funded by the CRA with Main Street assisting in the work to be done.

These projects mentioned – along with the new federal courthouse, three murals, and all of the private spending – add up to more than \$19 million in improvements for downtown. There are a lot of private projects on the drawing board that will probably add another \$5 million in the future.

The future looks bright with new businesses opening every month and many exciting projects on the way.

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by U.S. Small Business Administration

A lot goes into small business success — hard work, vision, and resourcefulness. But perhaps nothing can help an entrepreneur achieve and maintain success more than a sound understanding of their finances. As the U.S. economy moves beyond recovery, financial literacy has never been more important.

Financial Literacy Month encourages all Americans — and the small business community in particular — to learn about best practices for improving their financial well-being. It’s also a reminder to establish or revisit overall financial projections and goals. Maybe you’re interested in obtaining a loan. Perhaps you simply want to increase your revenue or learn more about business taxes. Whatever your desire, the SBA has a resource for you.

Resource Partners

Want a clearer picture of your finances? A local business advisor can help. *SBA Resource Partners* host workshops, online trainings, and one-on-one sessions to assist business owners with everything from taxes to acquiring capital and buying or selling a business. They are also invaluable for entrepreneurs preparing to apply for a small business loan. A resource partner can run through your business plan, help you compile tax return documents and bank statements, and more — as you get ready to send your loan application to your lender.

Community Navigators

Underrepresented and underserved entrepreneurs often face obstacles in recovering, growing, or starting their own business, and the *Community Navigator Pilot Program* was created to knock down those barriers. Part of The American Rescue Plan, Community Navigators work with hundreds of local community groups to improve access to resources for America’s entrepreneurs. These community groups connect small business owners to critical resources, from financial assistance and access to capital to training in marketing, operations, business development, and exporting.

SBA Learning Platform

The SBA’s *Learning Platform* is your go-to for any small business topic. The *Financing Your Business* course, for example,



is essential for an early-stage business. Information about loans, grants, venture capital, and crowd funding are some of the key topics covered. And it concludes with a downloadable worksheet for assessing your own financing needs.

SBA-Guaranteed Loans and Lender Match

Some small business owners find that, while they’re credit-worthy, they don’t qualify for conventional financing. That’s where *SBA-Guaranteed Loans* come in. The SBA works with participating lenders to reduce their risk, increasing the likelihood your loan will be approved with the terms that work best for you.

If *SBA-Guaranteed Loans* are a good fit for your business, the SBA makes it easy for you to access lenders via our Lender Match tool. *Lender Match* is a free online referral program that connects small businesses with more than 800 participating SBA-approved lenders.

Getting started is as easy as answering a few questions about your business. Afterward, you’ll receive an email with contact information from lenders who have expressed interest in your loan. From there, you’ll be able to compare rates, terms, fees, and more.

The SBA wants to help you boost your financial capabilities this month and beyond. No matter your finance goals, we stand ready with personalized guidance and proven tools and resources. Learn more at sba.gov. ❖

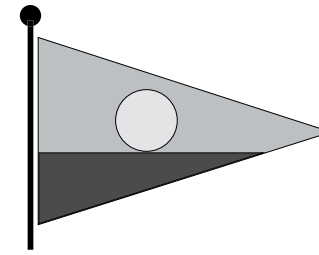
Did You Gas Up Your Boat for the Charity on the Water Poker Run April 9th?

by Diane Korbey, Director of Trustees

Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation hosted its *4th On the Water Poker Run* Saturday, April 9th. The event raised money to fund a summer internship at **FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute** for an IRSC college sophomore majoring in marine sciences. “It is all about giving back to our community and investing in our waterfront and our future,” stated Diane Korbey, Director of Trustee of the Foundation.

While the Club has held member *Poker Runs* in the past, they opened their doors in recent years to include community participants, both in the form of boating participants and sponsorships. “Our response from area sponsors has been so rewarding,” says Diane. This year’s *Poker Run* realized a sizeable increase in community donations to the event over its previous high in 2018. Participation also increased over the past few years, with 132 poker players on boats and in kayaks. “This was the most successful year, capped off with a donation of *Music by Tom Jackson* at our after-run event, thanks to donor **Blew Bayou**, and food and beverage offerings from our host, **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**.”

The Run consisted of 25 boats visiting nine docks where they drew a card to create a poker hand. Docks were staffed by



sponsors **Rotary Club of Fort Pierce, Village Marina, Causeway Cove Marina, Pursuit Boats, FAU Harbor Branch, Freedom Boat Club, Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast, Neese Roofing, and Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, each competing for the

“most spirited” grand prize which was awarded to the **City Marina/Crabby’s** dock. Boats also competed for the “most spirited” prize which this year went to **Freedom Boat Club**. And poker hand players competed for a \$500 Best Hand award, donated by **Pursuit Boats**. And let’s not forget the paddlers who participated on their own course, using equipment donated by **Lisa’s Kayaks**.

While a fun day on the water for all, the real winners are the students that the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation** has sponsored in the summer intern program. The three past scholars have been a life-changing experience because of their scholarship opportunity. Marianna Lopez, Emily Rutkowski and Cody Acker have each gone from the summer internship to careers in marine research, because of an opportunity that otherwise would have been unobtainable. Emily Rutkowski said in a video statement, “You have not only impacted my life, but you have also impacted the world,” — this is how dedicated she is to her research in rejuvenating the coral population.

The second benefit of our participation in this program is that we invest in the viability of our waterways. As a community, our most important asset is our waterways, and those waterways have issues that need to be addressed to preserve their health and viability. We are playing a small part in doing that!

The Foundation is continuing its commitment to our youth and to marine biology by sponsoring a junior counselor program at **Wesley Island Eco Summer Camp** and by offering scholarships to two campers. We are working with **Stella Maris** to bring opportunities for engagement with our waters to younger children, who then might be our next summer interns.

Join Us! ❖

Fishing Season

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

Are you ready for some fishing adventures? Our Treasure Coast has some of the best water you will find anywhere with some pretty amazing species to target so it's always fishing season here! Inshore, offshore, the inlet, the river, and the lagoon all offer a wide variety of species, conditions, and habitats.

May brings milder temperatures which in turn brings more bait in the river. Bigger fish will follow the bait, so this is generally a productive time to fish the grass flats and oyster beds for red drum, snook, and trout. Red drum can be caught with live shrimp and will provide some great action as they are known for their strength and stamina. Snook are still chewing and remain in season until May 31st. You can get in on the snook action by using live bait like mullet, pilchards, and threadfin. Look for these linesiders around bridges, docks, and any structure with moving current. A tight drag will help you handle the impressive fight from these popular but elusive fish and hopefully land a slot.

May also sees the start of grouper season. Bottom fishing on the reef with natural bait can give you a nice grouper or snapper for dinner. Offshore, the bite is strong for kingfish, and mahi mahi, and some very nice cobia, too. These awesome fish can be found along weed lines and floating debris.

The photo is Jeff Logan showing off his nice slot snook. Gettin groceries!



Hope to see you over at **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** where *Pullin Drag* is based. They have the best food, drink, music and servers plus all the bait and tackle for catching the big ones. No need to wait...it's always fishing season and we're always ready to keep *Pullin Drag*! ❖

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Roots and Recipes IV

Recipes from My Roots – Claribel Belmontes



What my home means to me is the people I am with, such as my family and friends. My aunt's home, my brother's home, and the house I live in are all places I would consider my home. Certain scents such as cinnamon or berries at these locations give me a relaxed sense that makes me feel like I'm home.

I feel so connected to my heritage at Christmas when my aunts come to our house and with my mother they all help make different Mexican foods. Usually my cousins and I help make the tamales. Christmas Eve is when all the food is prepared for the next day when we get together before opening our gifts.

The food that I identify with is arroz de boda, which is a rice dish usually served at weddings or parties. The reason I am drawn to it is because even through hardships when money was low, my mother could always afford rice and the ingredients needed for this dish. It was and still is the go-to dish in our house. My brother said it was the first solid food I ever ate. He and I would walk to my grandmother's house after school and stay until my mother would pick us up. I remember her making arroz de boda and how the entire house would smell amazing. ❖

Arroz de Boda

- 2 cups rice
- 2 tbs. lard
- 1 tsp. whole cumin
- 1 pkg. Goya powdered chicken bouillon
- 1 can carrots
- ½ chopped onions
- 1 tsp. salt
- 4½ cups water

Step 1 — Wash rice in warm water to remove starch and drain.

Step 2 — In a hot pan, add the lard over high heat, then add the rice and the onion until it browns.

Step 3 — Add the water, chicken bouillon, salt and carrots. Cook this at a boil for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to medium and allow rice to sit until tender and the water has been absorbed.

Step 4 — Approximate cooking time is 10–15 minutes.

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

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