



Volume 17, No. 2 September, 2021

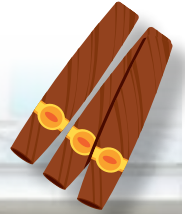
# FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



## HAVANA Nights

27th Annual Reverse Raffle, September 24



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL LEWIS

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122 AE Backus Ave.  
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Mayor Linda Hudson invites you to join her for Community News, Special Announcements, Complimentary Coffee, Orchid Island Juice, Breakfast Treats, and more!

**Friday, September 17, at 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club**  
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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

# Let the Event Season Begin!

by Britt Reynolds



September is a busy month for *Main Street Fort Pierce*. In addition to our monthly *Friday Fest* event we will also resume the monthly *Coffee with the Mayor* event at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** and our annual *Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction* fundraiser this month.


*Coffee with the Mayor* is a long running event that started in the late 1990s. Held at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** every 3rd Friday of the month (September-May), *Coffee with the Mayor* starts promptly at 8:00 a.m. Mayor Linda Hudson welcomes local businesses, non-profits, government officials and the public to this positive networking event. Complimentary breakfast treats, Orchid Island juice and fresh coffee from local producers are offered to guests. Each event is sponsored by a local non-profit or commercial business. After their presentation, attendees are welcome to

“ *Main Street is happy to announce that the Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction will return to downtown Fort Pierce and will be held in the recently restored 500 Orange building.* ”

make a brief announcement about any upcoming events or new/existing business updates. It is a great way to connect with others and learn about community happenings.

The annual *Reverse Raffle* fundraiser began in the early 1990s shortly after *Main Street Fort Pierce* restored the Historic City Hall building. The *Reverse Raffle* event was originally held in downtown at Historic City Hall to both raise money and showcase downtown Fort Pierce along with the restored building. As the event grew, it was moved out of downtown to a larger venue. *Main Street* is happy to announce that the *Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction* will return to downtown Fort Pierce and will be held in the recently restored **500 Orange** building (formerly the downtown Fort Pierce Post Office). This year's *Reverse Raffle* will be held on Friday, September 24th and the theme is *Havana Nights*. Check out the article in this month's edition and/or visit [www.mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://www.mainstreetfortpierce.org) for information about the *Reverse Raffle* and all of our events.

*I hope to see you downtown!*



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# Calendar

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



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

**MONTHLY EVENTS**

**September 3, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE** — 5 to 8:30 p.m.; with music by **E Z Rider**, 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.

**September 17, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR RETURNS** — 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; *Sponsor – Treasure Coast Food Bank*; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

**September 17, Friday: ARTWALK** — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

**September 24, Friday: HAVANA NIGHTS 27TH ANNUAL REVERSE RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION** — Main Street Fort Pierce fundraiser; 6 to 10:00 p.m.; 500 Orange Avenue; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.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

**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

## 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

**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 • fortpiercepall.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

SEPTEMBER 4: NATIONAL WILDLIFE DAY

SEPTEMBER 5: NATIONAL CHEESE PIZZA DAY

SEPTEMBER 6: LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 11: PATRIOT DAY

SEPTEMBER 12: GRANDPARENTS DAY

SEPTEMBER 13: INTERNATIONAL CHOCOLATE DAY

SEPTEMBER 14: NATIONAL COLORING DAY

SEPTEMBER 15: NATIONAL LINGUINE DAY

SEPTEMBER 16: NATIONAL GUACAMOLE DAY

SEPTEMBER 17: INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC DAY

SEPTEMBER 18: NATIONAL CLEANUP DAY

SEPTEMBER 18: OKTOBERFEST

SEPTEMBER 18: INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

SEPTEMBER 19: WIFE APPRECIATION DAY

SEPTEMBER 21: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

SEPTEMBER 25: NATIONAL DAUGHTERS DAY

SEPTEMBER 25: NATIONAL LOBSTER DAY

SEPTEMBER 27: NATIONAL FAMILY DAY

SEPTEMBER 28: NATIONAL SONS DAY

SEPTEMBER 28: ASK A STUPID QUESTION DAY

SEPTEMBER 29: NATIONAL COFFEE DAY

## Wild Gamette Charity Dinner – Bling Bang Boots

Ladies! It is time to become part of history with the inaugural *Wild Gamette Charity Dinner* in Downtown Fort Pierce to benefit the *Busch Family Foundation*.

This exciting event will be held on Friday, October 8th from 7–11 p.m. and includes an evening of food, cocktails, games, door prizes, raffles and auction items with our favorite sponsors along the waterfront in the heart of downtown Fort Pierce. (**Cobb's Landing** along Marina Way).

The *Wild Gamette* is an unprecedented all-female charity event to benefit the *Busch Family Foundation*, while making a difference in our community and supporting local women and girl's charities.

Tiffany B. Ashton, our very own Fort Pierce native and national recording artist has composed a song just for us — “Cowgirl Up” — that will be featured and become part of the *Wild Gamette* brand.

The women-only (21years and older) party will feature *C Lioness* — our female DJ that will help us dance and rock the night away while enjoying the many fun activities that are full of *Bling, Bang and Boots*.

Donna Qvarnstrom, event co-chair says, “I have seen the success of the *Wild Game Dinner for Men* over the years. Last year I put out a random post for all the ladies to come by **Cobb's** for a night of fun, music and drinks while their significant other was at the *Wild Game Dinner*. I was amazed at the turnout and thought about an all-ladies event. This year it becomes a reality with the inaugural *Wild Gamette* dinner being held on October 8th.”

Don't miss this event on Friday, October 8th! Get all your girlfriends together to start a new tradition of female empowerment. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased by visiting [www.wildgamette.com](http://www.wildgamette.com). ❖



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# Mayor's Message

## SLOW Down, Enjoy Scenic Indian River Drive

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Highways Program.

The "Drive" is indeed scenic, with the Indian River Lagoon close to its eastern shoulder, and the interesting and historic homes on the western side, with wide lawns sweeping down to the river's edge. Lately, however, Indian River Drive has become the subject of concern for St. Lucie County and Fort Pierce residents, because of the increasing numbers of traffic accidents resulting in serious injury and death.

Residents along the "Drive" are speaking out against their neighborhood being invaded by speeding drivers, probably using the road as a commute between Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie, Jensen Beach, and further south to Sewall's Point and Stuart. The increased use of the "Drive" has come about because of the increase in population in St. Lucie County, largely in Port St. Lucie, but also because the "Drive" is used as an alternative to U.S. 1, especially when it's under construction.

Indian River Drive residents want drivers to respect posted speeds and to remember that they are driving in a neighborhood, where families with school children live. Both the Fort Pierce Police Department and the St. Lucie County Sheriff's office have renewed emphasis on speeding enforcement on the "Drive." St. Lucie County and the City of Fort Pierce are studying ways to make the "Drive" safer. Three-way stop signs are now located



at Walton and Savannah Roads. Other measures are being contemplated.

I would like to make a strong, personal appeal to those who travel South Indian River Drive. Remember: it is a scenic highway and is meant to be an enjoyable experience. There is much history and beauty along this stretch of the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway, including Old Fort Park, the original military Fort Pierce, built on a high bluff in late 1837 by the U.S. Army during the Second Seminole War. The ancestral home of A.E. Beanie Backus is on the "Drive," as is the **Backus Museum**, the **P.P. Cobb Building** built in the late 1880s, and the **Manatee Observation and Education Center (MOEC)**.

For more information about the *Indian River Lagoon Treasure Coast Scenic Highway*, which also includes the North and South Causeway Bridges, and parts of North and South A1A, visit <https://floridascenichighways.com/our-byways/southern-region/indian-river-lagoon-treasure-coast/>.

Slow down. Enjoy scenic Indian River Drive. Arrive alive. ❖



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## Call to Artists – The 40th Annual Juried Art Exhibition "The Best of the Best" Accepting Entries at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery's annual juried art exhibition, *The Best of the Best*, is accepting artist applications by advance appointments on Wednesdays–Sundays until 3:00 p.m., beginning on Wednesday, September 8 through Friday, October 1, 2021. The application is open to amateur and professional artists with a \$30 entry fee per work. A full prospectus with guidelines and application form is available to download from the

Museum's website at [www.BackusMuseum.org](http://www.BackusMuseum.org) or it can be picked up starting September 8 at the Museum located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, Florida.

Artists may enter their work in *The Best of the Best* by submitting into one of four media categories: Oil and Acrylic paintings; Watercolor (including gouache and tempera); Varied Techniques (which includes mixed media, pastel, pencil, pen and ink, printmaking, graphics, collage and computer-generated works); and Three-Dimensional. Accepted works of art will contend for cash prizes and placement honors (1st, 2nd, 3rd awards) in each category, with an overall Best of Show award. A full description of all categories along with presentation checklist is available in the prospectus.



There are new entry procedures related to the ongoing public health situation. Artists are required to sign up online for an entry appointment in advance. Each 15-minute entry appointment will accommodate one artist entering up to three (3) works of art; artists wishing to enter more than three works may sign up for additional entry appointments. Artists can access the online appointment schedule with all entry information at [www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows](http://www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows).

[www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows](http://www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows).

This year marks the 40th juried exhibition hosted by the **Backus Museum**. First presented as the "Four County Juried Exhibition," today *The Best of the Best* has extended its participation over the years to artists throughout Florida and even beyond.

*The Best of the Best* annual juried exhibition will open the 2021–22 Season of the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**, and will debut with a season open house and free admission October 16–17, continuing on view regular hours through November 12, 2021. The Museum is planning for an opening reception on Friday, October 15, but this is subject to change due to ongoing concerns about the pandemic and public safety. The Museum will announce accepted works and awards on October 14 by 5:00 p.m.

*All dates and programming subject to change; please check the website for any updates or cancellations. Pre-Season Hours September 8 to October 1: Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 p.m. (closed Monday-Tuesday). The Museum will be closed August 9 to September 7, and during judging and installation October 2 to 15, 2021. Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. Visitors are asked to follow the latest public health guidance for the safety and comfort of guests, staff, and volunteers. ❖*



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# The Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop Supports the Turtleman Foundation

by Meredith Bennett, Retailer and Marketer for the Manatee Center's Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop

Some of the most ancient stone carvings known to man were discovered along the coast of Ecuador. Dating as far back as 4000 BC, these small, solid figurines, about three to five inches high, have been found at archaeological sites like Real Alto and Loma Alta, which are both areas in Ecuador.

In modern times (at least since 1939) Ecuadorian artisans still carve figures from marble. Instead of fertility gods like the ones residing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, today's artisans carve decorative marble gifts inspired by the local marine life.

This is the story of how the ancient art of marble carving is linked to conservation and sea turtle rehabilitation efforts today. About 20 years ago, a man named Joseph Conde (better known as Turtle Joe) met a family of marble carvers at a present-day Ecuadorian village. He learned that they handed down their marble-carving skills through the generations, and that they were incredibly skilled craftsmen. Through that original family, Joe met many other local artisans, and ultimately began partnering with them through his business, **SS Handcrafts**. As partners with **SS Handcrafts**, all of the artisans agreed to exercise fair trade standards and the practice of giving back to the region. Today, he imports their marble figurines to gift shops like ours, here in Downtown Fort Pierce.

In 2015, Joseph, inspired by his artisanal partners, founded the *Turtleman Foundation* to support conservation efforts. The Foundation's work has funded projects and research objectives



at various ocean and marine life conservation organizations including the *Georgia Jekyll Island Sea Turtle Center*, the *Leatherback Association*, and the *Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center*.

For example, the *Turtleman Foundation* donated an ATV to the *Leatherback Association*, which helps them survey the beaches to spot turtle nesting sites under their protection. The *Leatherback Association* is located in Florida, and specializes in the research and rescue of leatherback sea turtles, ensuring these turtles hatch safely.

Also, the *Turtleman Foundation* has sponsored the *Georgia Jekyll Island Sea Turtle Center* since 2012. These funds help maintain the sea turtle hospital. The *Turtleman Foundation* also sponsors the *Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center* (NBSTCC), which is located in Navarre Beach, Florida and was founded in 2013. NBSTCC is a working conservation and education center that is 2,010 square feet, run predominately by volunteers, and open to the public year-round. Their mission is to conserve and protect threatened and endangered sea turtles, through community education, and partnered research.

The *Turtleman Foundation* empowers these and other conservation centers to conduct important turtle research and educate the public. And to think, it all started with local Ecuadorian artisans, carrying on a tradition of carving small stone figurines.

The **Manatee Center** is happy to bring these small works of Ecuadorian art to Fort Pierce. You can support sea turtle conservation efforts, the **Manatee Center** and a collection of



## The Manatee Center August Events

\*\*\* SUMMER HOURS IN EFFECT \*\*\*  
MOEC IS OPEN THURSDAY TO SATURDAY  
10 A.M.-5 P.M.

Friday, September 10th at 12:00 p.m.  
*Heathcote Botanical Gardens*

*Lunch & Learn* — Presented by Executive Director Joan Friedman, you'll learn all about Heathcote's rich history with the Treasure Coast. She'll also share about this beautiful local treasure as well as the native and exotic flora and fauna that can be found while strolling the Heathcote grounds. Bring your lunch and bring a friend. *Free Event.*

Saturdays, September 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 9 a.m.  
*Guided Kayak Trip*

Look for wildlife, get up close and personal with mangroves, learn about the *Indian River Lagoon* on an easy ninety-minute paddle led by a MOEC naturalist. Great for beginners and anyone who wants to learn more about the Lagoon. The fee for this program is \$30 per person and includes kayak, paddle and safety gear. *Registration is required.* Call 772-429-6266 option #4 or e-mail [Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org](mailto:Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org) for more information or to register.



artisans by purchasing a marble manatee or sea turtle from the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop** today.

The **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop** exists to support the **Manatee Observation and Education Center**. During September, you can visit us at summer hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Saturday. You can also shop online at [www.VanishingMermaid.org](http://www.VanishingMermaid.org) and select "Pick up in-store" or we'll ship your items to you. We are grateful for your support of the **Manatee Center's** mission, and look forward to sharing our eco-products with you. ❖

### ARE YOU PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON?



These are a few things you can do to help minimize your chances of a power outage during a storm.



**Limit the number of items around your house that can become projectiles.**

Limit items in your yard that could become projectiles during a storm. They could injure others, damage property or power lines.

**TODAY YOU CAN:**



**Trim your trees.**

Trees should be assessed and trimming should be done before or early in the season. For safety reasons, tree trimming should be done by professionals.



**Put together a plan.**

Since there is no guarantee that you won't lose power, decide now what you and your family will do should you lose power during a storm.

[www.fpua.com/storm-center/](http://www.fpua.com/storm-center/)

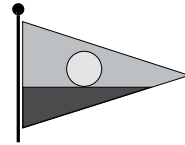
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  - Affirmative/Defensive Political Asylum
  - Naturalization • National Interest Waiver – *self petition*

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# Fort Pierce Yacht Club News



by Diane Korbey, Commodore

One of the best days that I have all year, as Commodore of the Fort Pierce Yacht Club, is when summer interns at FAU Harbor Branch give their final reports — and that happened on August 5th. For you Fort Pierce Yacht Club followers, you might recall that FPYC formed a foundation three years ago specifically chartered to invest in the future of



Diane Korbey, Commodore, Fort Pierce Yacht Club; Cody Acker, 2021 Summer Intern and Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation scholarship awardee; and Forest Blanton, Executive Trustee, Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation. Photo by Brian Cousin of FAU Harbor Branch.

our waterways. They selected to fund a scholarship program for IRSC juniors majoring in marine biology to intern at Harbor Branch. Cody Acker was this year's intern funded by the FPYCF. His talk, *Out Fishing, Not Catching*, summarized his research on the impact of mosquito control areas (near shore mangroves and swamp lands that are "closed" during the spring and summer so they may be flooded for mosquito abatement) on the spawning of river fish who normally reside in this marshy mangrove areas (as a layperson I hope that that was close!). The fish therefore

become trapped, as well as denied oxygenated water, and fail to reproduce, lowering the river count. But to the point — Cody was one of sixteen interns who presented, and each of them are impressive young people with a command of their subject matter and who have the potential to make an impact on the quality of our waterways. I never fail to come away extremely

impressed and hopeful for our future! But we have not done this alone — the sponsors and participants of the FPYCF *Poker Run* are the ones that make this possible and we thank you! A side benefit of the day is to catch up with the scientists at Harbor Branch and with their work in algae blooms and sea grasses, to name a few. We are so lucky to have this facility and to have it as a neighbor. And Fort Pierce Yacht Club and Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation are honored to be their partner. ❖

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# Seagrass Restoration Coming To Downtown Fort Pierce Manatee Foundation, Raising \$10,000 for Seagrass Restoration and Education

The Manatee Observation and Education Center (MOEC) and Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation (TCMF) have launched a fundraising campaign to bring seagrass restoration to Moore's Creek in Spring 2022. The restoration project will be led by Sea & Shoreline, a Florida-based restoration company, and installed in Moore's Creek across from the MOEC manatee mural at 480 N. Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce.

The Florida manatee population is in peril. A record-breaking 866 manatees were found deceased so far in 2021, many sick or starving from lack of natural food sources in the Indian River Lagoon. Manatees eat as much as 120 pounds, or 10% of their body weight, in aquatic vegetation every single day.

The seagrass restoration project will be monitored for three years following installation in Spring 2022. Funds raised will also support sending environmental educators into the community to teach about this important project. If the fundraiser reaches \$3,000 by August 13th, the Foundation will become eligible for select grants through the Gannett

Foundation's *A Community Thrives* program. Donations to support this important project should be directed to <https://mtyc.co/4cdyxf>.

MOEC is a not-for-profit environmental learning center, located in downtown Fort Pierce, at the basin of Moore's Creek and the Indian River Lagoon. Now in its 25th year, the mission of MOEC is to promote understanding and responsible actions for the protection of the Treasure Coast's fragile ecosystem and its inhabitants. Innovative exhibits and displays allow for an up-close look at some of the unique and amazing creatures found along the Treasure Coast, as well as an opportunity to see the threatened Florida

manatee in its native habitat. To volunteer or support the Center's continued work, please visit the Manatee Center at 480 North Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce, or call 772-429-6266 to learn more.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Rachel Tennant, Manatee Center Manager, at [rtennant@fpua.com](mailto:rtennant@fpua.com) or 772-429-8597. ❖



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Joanne McCurdy,  
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# HAVANA *Nights*

## Get your Vibe on at the 27th Annual Reverse Raffle

**M**ain Street Fort Pierce cordially invites you to attend the **27th Annual Reverse Raffle Live & Silent Auction**, to be held on Friday September 24, 2021. The theme this year for dress and attitude is – **Havana Nights**.

**Main Street Fort Pierce** knows how to throw a great party. All who attend this tropical-themed, casual event, will begin their evening vibing in the main room. There, an array of silent auction items donated by local, statewide, and national businesses will be on display as partygoers mingle with friends. There is something for everyone and with the holidays around the corner, this is a great opportunity to get deals on gifts for others or yourself.

At 6:30 p.m., crowd favorite and always a highlight of the evening, the **Reverse Raffle** kicks off. The **Reverse Raffle** starts with 250 numbers on the board. Depending on when a number is pulled determines if it wins money or not. There is a chance to win money 10 times, up until the last 10 numbers. Each of the last 10 numbers drawn will win funds starting at \$100 and ending with the grand prize of \$2,000.

In addition to watching the entertainment and socializing, a variety of appetizers and homemade desserts will be available to munch on while sipping a favorite beverage. And don't forget to get tickets for a chance to win big with the lottery tree drawing!

Starting at 8:30 p.m. another highlight begins — the live auction. There are some exciting new items that will be on the live auction this year including a weekend hotel stay at the **Hilton Garden Inn** in Port Saint Lucie. **Hydro Flight** lessons provided by Britt Reynolds; a private in-home wine sampling experience for 12 people provided by **PRP Wine International** and a Drink Babe cooler filled with three packs of Babe canned wine, Hope Town vodka, Walker's Cay Bourbon Whiskey and Atoll crisp citrus vodka.

Tickets for this annual fundraiser are \$100 per person and offer the bearer a chance to win the grand prize of \$2,000 along with all the food and entertainment mentioned above. This

event sells out every year due to the limited number of tickets sold. They must be purchased in advance and will not be available at the door. Call 772-466-3880 to reserve.

The **Reverse Raffle** has been a major fundraiser for the projects and mission of **Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.** since 1994. **Main Street** is extremely grateful to the local business sponsors that contribute to this event. When the need arises, please consider supporting these local businesses that support our local community:

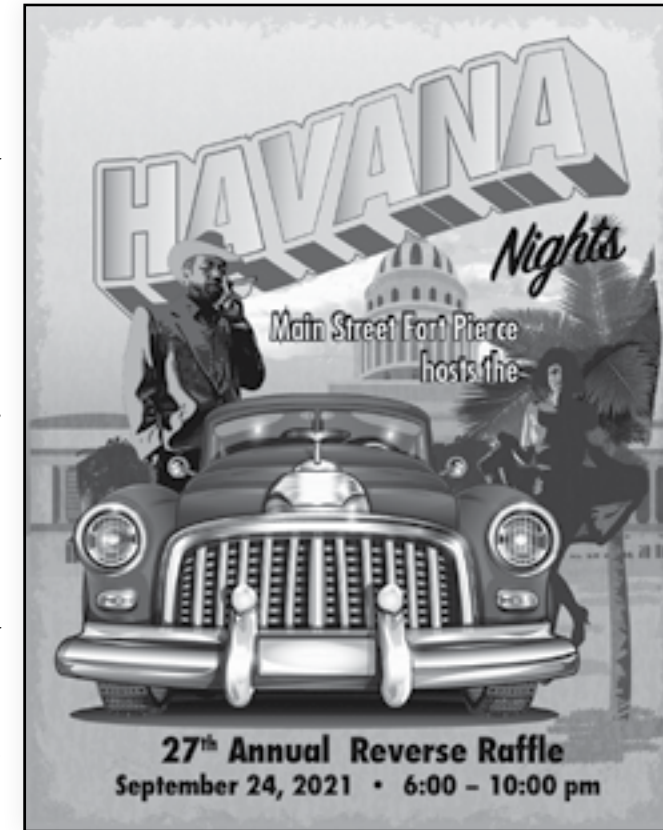
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 Brooke Harris Realtor®  
 Larry Neese Roofing  
 McAlpin, Cavalcanti & Lewis CPA  
 Neese Roofing  
 Seacoast Bank  
 Sunrise Ford  
 Title Service of Florida  
 Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank CPAs PL  
 Custom Air Systems, Inc.  
 Drs. Berghash & Lanza  
 East Coast Lumber & Supply  
 Johnny Stamm Mfg  
 Kings Landing  
 Richard K. Davis Construction Corp.  
 Southstate Bank  
 Waste Management  
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 Epic Events  
 Fee, Yates & Fee  
 Fort Pierce Chambers Office  
 Hoyt Murphy Team – Coldwell Banker Paradise  
 Law Firm of Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd  
 Loudon Bonded Pools  
 2nd Street Bistro

All proceeds benefit the projects of **Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. The **Main Street Program** was created by the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** in the late 1970s to revive downtown commerce and save historic properties nationwide. **Main Street Fort Pierce** restored the **Historic City Hall** building, the **Sunrise Theatre**, and managed the grant to build the **Manatee Observation & Education Center**. **Main Street Fort Pierce's** most recent and current restoration project is the **Platts/Backus House**. Along with major restoration projects, **Main Street Fort Pierce** organiz-

es over 30 community events each year to draw people to eat, shop and play in the beautiful, historic downtown Fort Pierce.

**AUTO LABE** — **Auto Labe** has been providing quality and cost-effective labeling equipment since 1967. The company was acquired by Bernard Egan in the 80s and then moved to Fort Pierce. **Auto Labe** was later sold to the Birchall Family and outside investors in 1998. **Auto Labe** designs, manufactures, and sells high quality pressure-sensitive label application equipment that is proudly made in the USA. They specialize in both standard and customized equipment to meet the unique labeling requirements for their customers.

With the help of the company's highly skilled sales professionals and talented mechanical and electrical engineers, they carefully analyze their customers' needs and recommend the proper system to meet their label application requirements. **Auto Labe's** cost-effective labelers are reliable, easy to use, and built to last for many years. They have customers still using equipment that was purchased over 20 years ago.



Over the years, **Auto Labe** has helped thousands of different companies both small and large with their label application needs. They work with large companies like; Amgen, Snyder's, Shutterfly and DHL while also supporting locally based businesses such as Freshco, United Juice, Lambeth Groves, Sailfish Brewery, and Islamorada Brewery. They also build labeling equipment for companies all over the world.

In recent years, **Auto Labe** has made significant investment in capital equipment providing the company with the ability to manufacture most, if not all, the parts used to assemble their

equipment. The acquisition of two CNC mills, one CNC lathe and recently a laser cutter allows the company to be independent and provide a faster turnaround receiving finished parts.

**Auto Labe's** mission is to exceed the customers' expectations in label application knowledge. The friendly staff is more than happy to educate and guide customers to the correct labeling system. They pledge to provide quality labeling equipment, built to last, at a competitive price and with timely delivery.

**BRITT REYNOLDS** — St. Lucie Sheriff's Deputy Britt Reynolds has been a **Main Street Fort Pierce** board member for over 25 years.

**BROOKE HARRIS REALTOR** — Brooke Harris is a licensed realtor at **Keller Williams Realty** Port Saint Lucie. She is the **Top Producer & Honor Society Award** winner of 2019. As your real estate advisor, Brooke believes it is her duty to provide her intense work ethic and knowledge of the marketplace to benefit all of her clients. She takes a highly comprehensive business approach when

*Continued on page 14 ...*

**HAVANA NIGHTS ... continued from page 13**

representing properties, providing homeowners with a strategic pricing analysis and a personalized marketing plan designed to maximize their home's attractiveness and exposure to buyers. Brooke will provide white glove service through professional photography and top-quality marketing materials coupled with an unending energy to perform the marketing events that drive attention to her listings. "You belong with the best in real estate."

**EAST COAST LUMBER & SUPPLY COMPANY** — For over 117 years, **East Coast Lumber & Supply Company** has been serving the east and central portion of Florida. They are one of the oldest independent lumber and building material dealers in Florida. With five different locations, they supply lumber and building materials. **East Coast Lumber & Supply Company** prides themselves on their traditional values which shows through both their quality of service and product.

They carry a wide array of lumber, building products, hardware and tools in their five retail locations. They have recently merged with full line **Ace Hardware** centers to help create a "one-stop shopping" experience for both lumber and hardware supplies.

**MCALPIN, CAVALCANTI & LEWIS CPA** — With over 30 years of experience working with both small and medium sized businesses, **McAlpin Cavalcanti & Lewis** have been providing both traditional and innovative CPA services throughout the Treasure Coast and beyond. They are very experienced in accounting, tax preparation, financial planning and business management.

When coming to **East Coast Lumber & Supply Company CPA**, you know that you are in the best hands because their tax accountants complete at least 40 hours a year of formal training and spend countless hours reading professional journals to stay on top of the latest tax software and accounting changes. They are dedicated to providing first class service with an emphasis on personal attention to detail.

**LARRY NEESE ROOFING** — At **Larry Neese Roofing** they offer a wide array of proven roofing and construction services that are appropriate for not only your property but your budget. Their team has over 30 years' experience in Florida construction technology while also going through extensive training in-house. They are leak repair and building envelope specialists.

**Larry Neese Roofing** is state-certified to build or provide services to any building in any town and jurisdiction in the state.

**Larry Neese Roofing** says their biggest difference from other roofing companies is that they commit to making sure that they meet the warranty requirements.

**SUNRISE FORD** — **Sunrise Ford** is one of the largest dealerships on Florida's Treasure Coast, with more than 80 employees and an inventory worth more than \$18 million. The dealership, conveniently located on 16 acres between Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, includes a spacious main facility with high tech service and body shop departments. A separate building houses their used truck department, the largest used pickup sales destination in the area.

But some things have not changed during **Sunrise Ford's** 85-plus years. **Sunrise Ford** is consistently ranked one of the highest volume and highest customer satisfaction dealerships in Florida.

**TITLE SERVICES OF FLORIDA, LLC** — **Title Services of Florida** is licensed to service the entire state of Florida and recently has been experiencing a tremendous amount of technological growth. They are a Title Company designed by Real Estate Brokers for Real Estate Professionals and for all of their clients' needs. Their customers all receive their personal attention by providing everyone involved in the transaction with their amazing service.

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# 2021 Proposed Property Taxes/Trim Notices Mailed

The *Saint Lucie County Property Appraiser's Office* has mailed the **2021 Proposed Property Tax (TRIM) Notices**. The TRIM Notice includes a list of any applicable exemptions applied to your property and the value of your property as of January 1, 2021. Pursuant to Florida law, the value reflected on the TRIM Notice is based on a January 1, 2021, assessment.

The TRIM Notice also contains a property tax estimate based upon the proposed millage rate of each taxing authority. Scheduled budget hearings for each taxing authority are listed on the TRIM Notice. The deadline to file a formal appeal with the Value Adjustment Board is September 10, 2021.

"All property owners are encouraged to open and review their TRIM Notice. It would be our pleasure to assist with any questions property owners have on the value or exemptions applied to their property," remarked Saint Lucie County Property Appraiser, Michelle Franklin.

The *Property Appraiser's Office* will be offering extended hours for your convenience at our Saint Lucie West location on Wednesday, August 18, August 25, September 1, and September 8 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We welcome you to make an appointment at [www.pasc.gov](http://www.pasc.gov).

The *Saint Lucie County Property Appraiser's Office* is open 8-5, Monday to Friday with two convenient locations: 2300 Virginia Avenue in Fort Pierce; and 250 NW Country Club Drive in Port Saint Lucie. For more information, visit [www.pasc.gov](http://www.pasc.gov) or call 7772.462.1000 to speak to a professional. ❖

**Buy a Brick**  
for the Preservation of the Historic Platts/Backus House!

Proceeds from the "Pave the Way" Bricks will go toward the preservation of the Historic Platts/Backus House. Visit [www.mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://www.mainstreetfortpierce.org) for details.

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# Kings Landing is Definitely Worth the Wait

by Holly Theuns

**A**udubon Development, the developer of the **Kings Landing** project, anticipates everything being completed for a November 2021 ground breaking. Audubon was awarded the development agreement in November of 2019, however this project actually started long before then. After the demolition of the HD King Power Plant in 2008, the site underwent years of extensive soil remediation to prepare the site for redevelopment. In 2016, a community meeting was held to get input on the redevelopment. In 2017 the first Request for Proposal (RFP) went out but did not secure an appropriate bid, with a second RFP receiving the same result. The City was determined to wait for the right development proposal for this unique downtown waterfront parcel, and the third RFP in 2019 was successful, bringing **Audubon Development's Kings Landing** to Fort Pierce.

was officially designated a global pandemic in March 2020 and the entire world slowed to a crawl as we all just tried to stay alive. The Hotel grew from 114 rooms to 140, necessitating a new site plan. A landscape plan was requested and provided. The City's project review process hummed along but there have been bumps in the road.

During **Audubon's** due diligence they found that the property had been cleaned to a depth of six feet, enough to satisfy the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) but not enough to remove deeper debris which stood in the path of installing the 25-foot footers necessary to support the planned 140 room **Marriott** hotel. The debris has to be removed before the hotel project can begin, and the City and the developer have come to an agreement on the removal but it will take time and the process has not begun.

Part of doing any exterior project in a Fort Pierce historic



Artist's Rendering; dimensions subject to change.



Artist's Rendering; dimensions subject to change.

district is having your Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) approved by the City's Historic Preservation Board (HBP). (Full disclosure, I sit on that board.) Usually not a big deal but one third of the board had to recuse themselves from **Audubon's** COA because they had deposits on condos in the development. (More disclosure, one was me.) Then the historic review turned into a parking meeting; a matter not typically part of the review, so that was a surprise. The board ended up voting to request that the developer reduce the height of the

project. He complied, at a cost of thousands in architect's fees and potentially \$20,000,000.00 in lost project revenue. The developer presented his revision to the City only to find they didn't want to reduce the project's height. Back to the original design — regaining \$20,000,000.00.

The HPB conversations about parking were beneficial because they prompted the developer to be invited to attend a Parking Committee Meeting resulting in his offering the City an opportunity to add two decks of parking to his project's

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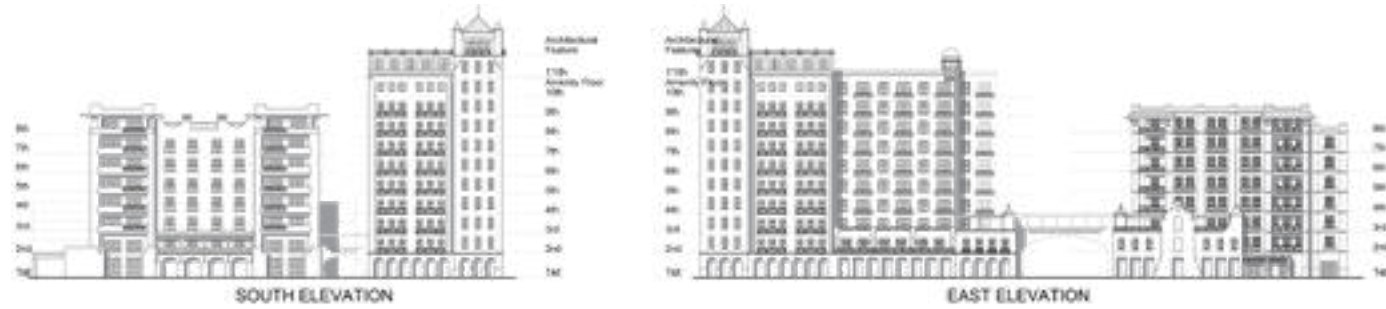


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parking garage at their expense. Each deck holds 70 spaces so that would be an additional 140 City-controlled parking spaces in the heart of downtown. Did you know that each parking space in a parking garage costs an average of \$30,000 to construct? I didn't. Adding two decks to the **Kings Landing** garage would be a cost effective way for the City to add those downtown parking spaces for less than the average cost of building a new garage.

The challenge lies in the timing — this decision needs to happen quickly and cities aren't known for their decision speed. The reason for the need for speed is that **Audubon** plans to add residential amenities on top of the parking garage. Once that is done there won't be an option to add any City decks. It's a good thing the City has convened a parking committee to address Fort Pierce's current and future parking needs. They have been working on this problem for about a year and decided at the last commission meeting to hire a consultant to evaluate their options and make recommendations. With any luck, if adding those 140 spaces downtown at **Kings Landing** is the right move, the City will have the information in time to make the decision.

The developer negotiated a deal between the City and the **Marriott** hotel for the hotel's valet and overnight parking needs to be accommodated on the top level of the City's parking garage with a 50/50 revenue share. A win-win deal — no valuable downtown waterfront property is being used to store cars overnight and the City's underutilized parking garage is bringing in some revenue.



As part of **Kings Landing**, the developer has acquired the undeveloped property across from the project on 2nd Street. This property is not part of the current development plan. **Audubon** is waiting for Bright Line to make a decision on their Treasure Coast stop. If it's Fort Pierce, this property is sized and located ideally for that station. Either way, it's also an ideal location to include some future additional downtown parking.

The project plans includes many restaurants and retail establishments. **Audubon** has announced that one of the restaurants is going to be a partnership with the IRSC Culinary department. That restaurant, to be called "The Kids are Cooking" will be 100% operated by IRSC Culinary students. The plan is for the menu to change daily and local suppliers to be used as much as possible. All revenues from the project will go back to IRSC. This partnership has the potential to draw local, national and international recognition for Fort Pierce. It is also going to give the community another great place to dine out downtown.

Once **Audubon** breaks ground in November 2021, fingers crossed, the process will begin with the removal of the buried debris, followed by the installation of the infrastructure. If things go as planned, the project will start to go vertical in the late spring or early summer of 2022. What was originally planned as an eight-phase construction project is now one phase with everything going up at once, taking 24 to 36 months to complete, taking us to 2024/2025. **Kings Landing** will definitely have been worth the wait. ❖



## The City of Fort Pierce Recipient of *Florida Animal Friend* Grant

The City of Fort Pierce was recently awarded a grant from **Florida Animal Friend**, a not-for-profit spay and neuter program that helps control stray animal populations across Florida communities, safely.

The grant provided up to \$15,000 to the City of Fort Pierce which will assist the Animal Control Department, and our community partners in addressing the growing feral cat issue in the city. The grant will help cover the cost of spaying and neutering feral cats, a continuous burden due to their high breeding rate.

The grant was made possible through the continued support of the *Florida Animal Friend Spay & Neuter* specialty license plate. The purchase and annual renewal of each license plate helps fund the **Florida Animal Friend** and allows the program to save the lives of countless unwanted cats and dogs by providing grants to organizations that offer free or low-cost spay and neuter services across the state of Florida.

*How To Help:* If you see or know of a feral cat issue in the community or wish to volunteer to help trap or transport the cats, please contact Animal Control by calling: 772-467-3720. Animal Control will notify our community partners who will safely ensure the cats are trapped, brought to a participating veterinarian, spayed or neutered, vaccinated against rabies, and returned without harm.

*About Feral Cats:* Feral cats are wild cats and differ from stray cats which are homeless pets. Feral cats were born in the wild, live outdoors, and were never socialized to humans. You will often find them in a group, called a colony.

It is because of this group living, where uncontrolled breeding takes place, that TNVR (*Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return*) programs, like the one operated by the city, is so important to controlling the feral cat population. TNVR is considered the only humane way of controlling the feral cat population. Learn more at: <https://bit.ly/3xuGX4y>. ❖

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## Reach Customers Overseas Through eCommerce

by Michele Schimpp, originally published on [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)



More than 4.5 billion people are now online, and that number is growing fast. Every day an average of 640,000 people gain access to the internet for the first time, that's 27,000 people every hour! If you have a website, you are already connected to this growing global marketplace, but do you have an e-commerce strategy?

SBA's goal is to help you go global and succeed internationally. Here are five considerations to help your business excel through e-commerce.

### SBA'S STEP PROGRAM CAN HELP YOU SELL ON THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

SBA's State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) provides grants to eligible small businesses to launch or expand their export activities. A STEP grant can aid in translating or optimizing your website to ensure you:

- Appear in international searches
- Are mobile-friendly
- Can provide options for delivery
- Can calculate total delivery costs, tariffs and any value-added taxes
- Can provide digital payment options

### USE SBA'S RESOURCE PARTNERS TO GET YOU UP TO SPEED

Tap into the e-commerce expertise of the SBA's resource network of District Offices, Small Business Development Centers, SCORE chapters, and Women's Business Centers for advice on your use of platforms, websites, and social media tools. These local resources provide e-commerce training and can discuss financing options to support global intellectual property protections costs.

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

Knowing your market can make all the difference in your success. If you are interested in selling in new global markets, or maybe expanding in existing markets, get up to speed. Don't

expect a cookie-cutter strategy to work across the globe. Take the time to learn the basics of the most popular social media and e-commerce platforms in your target market.

### TAP INTO GOVERNMENT EXPERTISE

The Federal Government has a wealth of resources for exporters. As you examine new online markets, the U.S Department of Commerce's Market Diversification Tool, Census Market Finder, Country Commercial Guides, Market Intelligence, and USDA GAIN Reports can help check for demand, industry, and county information.

Additionally, the U.S Department of Commerce can help ensure your digital strategy follows international trade laws through its Local Trade Experts and Digital Attachés. In fact, a Digital Attaché can act as a business advocate ensuring your access to the digital economy and new markets.

Another great tool is the eCommerce Innovation Lab which can provide an in-depth analysis and report of your website's international strengths and weakness for a small fee. The Innovation Lab can then recommend companies to assist you in internationalizing your website and in some cases, this can be done with SBA STEP support. To request services, visit the Website Globalization Review Gap Analysis page.

### FIND PARTNERS

Along with market information and "how to" guidance, the U.S. Department of Commerce also provides Gold Key Services. SBA STEP supports Gold Key services which for a fee will identify, vet, and arrange meetings with interested partners for you when traveling to an overseas market.

As more and more of daily life moves online, it is critical for businesses of all sizes to adapt. Using SBA's resources can lay the foundation of your business being able to thrive in the e-commerce arena.

U.S. small businesses with questions about SBA and inter-agency support for going global or overcoming challenges can reach out to the SBA International Trade Ombudsman Hotline at (855) 722-4877 and [international@sba.gov](mailto:international@sba.gov) for additional information on support exporting or overcoming challenges. ❖

## Love, JAZZ Community: So You Want to Be a Star?

by Don Bestor

Admit it. For years you've dreamed of what it would be like to grab a microphone and blow the skeptical crowds away with your voice. Maybe you picture it happening like it did for that Scottish lady, Susan Boyle, in 2009 on *Britain's Got Talent* when she plodded onto the stage and nobody expected anything at all — until she opened her mouth and started singing, "I Dreamed a Dream" from *Les Miserables*. Maybe your fifth-grade music teacher told you that you had a nice voice, but you've always been too afraid to open your mouth and sing in public. You've spent years as a rock star in your shower or your car on your morning commute, but you've never dared do anything more than drunken karaoke when on a cruise with total strangers, right? Well, grab your hairbrush and start practicing because your big chance is just down the street at the *Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens*, courtesy of the professional musicians and dream-makers at **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**.

While the pros at **Jazz Society** usually entertain you at their regular jazz jams and professional concerts and events throughout the year, twice a month they turn over the microphone to the amateur vocalists and musicians who want to cross an item off their bucket list, face a lifelong fear, or simply enjoy a few minutes of musical expression in a live, public performance setting. Starting at 6:30 p.m. every other Wednesday, you can sign up and take a turn at the microphone, or dust off your old clarinet and show us all your best Benny Goodman as you join the pros on stage and show the crowd what you've got. It's a fun, low-pressure, and high-engagement evening that gives everyone a chance to feel five minutes of fame, and all it costs you is the cover charge of \$7 (for non-members) or \$6 for members of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**.

Not only do you get to enjoy the music and camaraderie it brings, but you'll also have a chance to enjoy the *Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens*, too. The jams run every other Wednesday at *Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens* at 2410 Westmoreland Boulevard in Port St. Lucie, beginning at 6:30 sharp and ending by 9 p.m. The house-band is comprised of seasoned professional musicians who are members of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, and everyone is supportive, friendly, and ready to encourage you to try your hand at being a star. So if you're tired of your only audience being your mirror and your hairbrush, why not face that fear head on and give performing with the pros a try. You'll never know if you're the next Susan Boyle until you do, right?

September 8th and 22nd are the **September Jams** at the *Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens*, and you can find the rest of the dates, plus all of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society's** other offerings and lots of other cool info at [www.jazzsociety.org](http://www.jazzsociety.org). If you'd like to learn more or support the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** by becoming a member or providing a gift membership for someone else, you can reach us by phone at 772.460.JAZZ (5299) or via email at [info@jazzsociety.org](mailto:info@jazzsociety.org). ❖



# TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the Friday, September 2, 1921 edition of the Miami Herald

## Fort Pierce Plans for Big Labor Day Varied Program for Celebration is Being Arranged by those in charge

Ft. Pierce will observe Labor Day with the biggest celebration ever presented in the county, according to plans and indications. The celebration, which will include the participation of practically the entire country, will be under the auspices of Stephen N. Gladwin Post No. 40, American Legion.

Parades, athletic events, horse races, beach attractions, bathing-suit dance, street dance, band concerts and a league baseball game between the Ft. Pierce Commercials and the Ft. Lauderdale Tarpons are some of the events scheduled for the day.

50 years ago this month as reported by Anne Wilder in the Saturday, September 11, 1971 edition of the Miami Herald

## Community Center Served a Useful, Varied Purpose

There will be a lot of ghosts – young ghosts – walking when the Fort Pierce Community Center is torn down.

There will be the ghosts of the young servicemen who entered the building back in the early '40s – the brand new

building built for the USO.

Some of them come back now and then, drive over to the island where the amphibious training and underwater demolition programs were set up in preparation for the beachhead assaults of World War II, and some of them stop by the Community Center.

The building which will be torn down has served the community in a multitude of areas.

It housed the Red Cross and the Chamber of Commerce. Driver's license examinations were given in one of the front rooms. It was the command center for the Red Cross back in the days when it handled community emergencies and when we had several hurricanes a year. After bad hurricanes, Red Cross relief workers were headquartered there.

And for one brief period there was a restaurant service provided for businessmen.

Now and from the time the building came into city ownership it has been used for recreation – and the use chronicles the changing aspect of community recreation programs.

At the first, it was largely for the young, with dances and games and a soda fountain. Community responsibility for groups outside of teenagers was not given much of any recognition.

As the recreation program expanded, so did the use of the center, with activities for adults and classes as well as entertainment.

25 years ago this month as reported by Jim Reeder in the Wednesday, September 18, 1996 edition of the Palm Beach Post

## Grant May Aid Sunrise Restoration

A drive to raise \$3 million to restore the Sunrise Theatre downtown will start soon and there's an excellent chance a \$450,400 state grant will be approved, officials said Tuesday.

Florida Secretary of State Sandra Mortham, whose office administers historic preservation grants, toured the building with Main Street Manager Doris Tillman and state Rep. Ken Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie.

"These projects are vital to local communities for economic development," Mortham said. "Every \$1 spent on projects such as this generates \$4 in the business community."

Tillman and Pruitt said restoring the Sunrise Theatre can revitalize downtown Fort Pierce in the same way the Lyric Theater helped revitalize downtown Stuart.

The Sunrise Theatre has been closed since 1983. Water damage that occurred before the leaky roof was repaired has taken a toll on the 1,000 seat auditorium.

"For a small community, it's a large theatre," Pruitt said. "This is a big piece of the puzzle to hold downtown together."

Tattered curtains and fallen ceiling tiles mar the interior, which was once the scene of performances by fan dancer Sally Rand, cowboy Tom Mix and his horse, and actor E.G. Marshall.

"It's one of the most acoustically perfect facilities anywhere," Tillman said. "If I were on stage you could hear me clear as a bell in the back row."

The \$450,400 grant request is No.2 on the state's priority list, but must be approved by the legislature.

Employees of Columbia Lawnwood Regional Medical Center will start removing old paneling and do other cleanup work at the theatre on Sept. 28, Tillman said.



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## When Time Stands Still

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



It was Sunday — “Sunday Fun Day” as we often call it. Sunday is typically a day with some kind of outside play. A jaunt to the beach often finds its way into the plans: boogie boards and sunblock with light tunes in the background; perhaps followed by an unabashed bathing-suited and towel-wrapped bite beachside; all with a detour to the jetty as the sun slips away for slumber till tomorrow; these might be the memories created on a Sunday.

A stroll through our little downtown ... ice cream cone in hand being devoured by the sun faster than we can eat it ... a dash of window shopping and reminiscing of library story hours enjoyed decades ago ... sharing opinions on *Friday Fest* favorite bands and people watching in the waterfront park that draws young and old, local and tourist, new loves and couples that have now been lifelong companions ... all enjoying a now light evening breeze and the hint of twinkling stars getting ready for their evening debut.

Sundays may also include cleaning, straightening and shifting within the home after the week's flurry of activity. It is a re-nesting done with intention and loving care, appreciation for the home and all of its contents, old and new, trinket to treasure is at the core of this Sunday ritual. It is done leisurely, with pleasure and with a silent prayer of gratitude. The fridge is organized, and the contents examined and used to the full. A stew may be created with the mismatched goodies anxious to be included in the culinary delight and a meal or two is prepared and tucked in the freezer for anticipated busy nights in the coming week.

This past Sunday was, however, a bit more sacred. It was “visit mom” Sunday. Mom is 91 and for the first time in her very long life, she is in bed long term. Mom has had numerous surgeries throughout her life. Many can relate to the hip replacement, the knee replacement and various other “getting on in years” surgeries. Weeks before anticipated, and quite frankly most likely against doctor's orders, she was up and “running” after these ordeals. She has had 5 children and cared for my dad at home for over 10 years after his stroke. As you can imagine, bed is not a place my mom is used to. Bed is also a place I am not used to seeing my mom. It was sorrowful and sobering.

The very drive up to see mom was an interesting mix. The three-hour drive heading north brought a great variety in visuals. From small towns to nothing but open space for miles brought up thoughts of early settlers to the area, reminding me of how luxurious our life in Florida now is. Air conditioning, bug repellent and less clothes compared to relentless heat with no escape, clouds of mosquitos and rank heavy clothing. Yes, these are the ramblings of my mind as I travel. There were cars full of families engaged in the day to day, jeeps jammed with surf boards and sun-splashed happy faces, truckers making the pay, motor homes seeing the country and me, going to see mom.

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I will admit I thought of the undone at home. I felt the tug of the sun and sand and I was acutely aware of the pinch in my neck intensified by driving after a not-so-long-ago car accident. I thought of a noon nap and I thought of my upcoming busy week. All of this was to become inconsequential.

Upon arrival at my mom's, I was quietly greeted by her home aide. Mom's house was dim and still, drapes drawn against the outside world, creating a soft cocoon within. Mom's recently adopted rescue dog, Little Rutley, was curled up on her red velvet cushion beside mom's bed, now a hospital bed in the family room. Even as Mom is waiting to be rescued into the arms of her Father above, she takes in a little run-down rescue of her own, to wrap in love and receive comfort in return.

As I come into the room, Mom's smile is not quite as ready and there is more uncertainty in her eyes, but her hand reaches out as eagerly as ever and I pull up a chair and hold onto her hand. The next hours are spent fussing with pillows and bedding to make as cozy a nest as possible. Roles are reversed as I comb Mom's long silver hair, trim fingernails and make lunch, finishing off with our customary treat of cherry vanilla ice cream. Small traditions are often the roots of comfort.

I am reminded of small childhood Sunday traditions, and I feel the web of family love. I sense the safety and comfort we weave into our lives in the tiny details of life's rich fabric. I literally feel each thread and stitch and emerging mosaic quilt we call life; this raw, untidy, magnificent, delightful, scary, unfathomable cascade of experiences. As I see Mom being carried through this phase of her life, I feel profound gratitude that she has a place to cocoon. I know at the conclusion of this stage of her life she will emerge, who exactly knows how, into the next stage of her life, as a beautiful being that has undergone this metamorphosis with grace, dignity and courage.

Isn't this something we can carry into our life day to day? We are all transforming and in various stages of growth and development. Some are newbies, some old and some very old timers. We are all tooling along the road with the same destination at the finale. There are Sunday Fundays full of beaches and shopping and home nesting and there are Sacred Sundays full of extra loving, extra giving, extra appreciation. Both have their place. Both are treasures. Let's play nicely together through all of the various days, as we help each other laugh, grow, love, shine and transform. So, here's to next Sunday — may it be the best! ❖

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# Snook Season Greetings

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters


For anglers of all ages, the first of September means the start of snook season. September 1 through December 14th is the second open season of the year to catch these highly sought after but elusive fish. They are easily recognizable by the distinctive black lateral line that extends on to the tail, earning them the nickname of linesiders. Anglers with a saltwater fishing license and a snook stamp are allowed to keep one snook per day. Snook must be “in-the-slot” to be considered a keeper which is between 28 inches and 32 inches total length.

Target these linesiders around bridges, docks, jetties, and mangroves with fast moving currents. The best bait choice is live mullet, pilchards, threadfins, or mojarra but they are aggressive enough to hit artificials and shrimp, too. I use a spinning reel combo with 40-pound fluorocarbon leader and a tight drag. Linesiders are smart and will run to break the line on nearby structure.

Golden tilefish are being caught offshore in deep water where bottom temperatures are in the 50s. Tilefish feed on the bottom on crustaceans, anemones, snails, and clams. There is no minimum size limit and anglers can keep one per day within the three grouper/tilefish aggregate. This photo shows a stud golden tile caught by Greg Vest. Awesome catch!

Come by **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** to say hi and enjoy some great music and food. They also have all your tackle needs plus fishing rules and regulations. If my boat isn't there, you know I'm out catching linesiders! *Snook Season Greetings* to all and keep *Pullin Drag!* ❖





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# Roots and Recipes IV

## Mexican Torta

“Home is an enjoyable, happy place where I can live and be happy”, says Letxy Jimenez. To her, family is most important which includes friends and pets. Her best memories are sharing meals together where each dish is made by a different family member.

Letxy’s Spanish heritage gave her the most connection to her roots when she went to Mexico. Being around people who spoke the same language as her family made her feel at home. Seeing family members, places that were part of her mother’s childhood, and walking the roads she had only been told about, gave her a huge feeling of connection to Mexico.

The food and recipes she identifies with the most are tortas, rice, beans, tortillas, etc. She first tried a torta at a plaza in Mexico with her aunts. They had a particular vendor they liked and when she tried the torta she understood why they chose him. She couldn’t get enough of it. Now back in the states she is always looking for a food truck or restaurant that makes tortas the way she likes them.



## Recipe for Mexican Torta

*One of the following meats:* Carne Asada, shredded carnitas, beef barbarcoa, pollo assada and chorizo

- 2 telera rolls
- 1 cup of shredded iceberg lettuce
- 1 small avocado, mashed
- 1 vine-ripe tomato, thinly sliced
- 1/8 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup crumbled cotija
- 12 slices pickled jalapenos
- 1/4 cup refried beans (optional)
- 4 dashes of hot sauce (optional)

Make 1 recipe for whatever meat desired. Cut meat into sandwich sized portions.

To assemble: spread avocado across the tops and bottoms of the telera rolls. Top bottom buns with meat followed by tomatoes, red onions, iceberg lettuce, cotija, pickled jalapenos and hot sauce. Gently press the top buns over the sandwich and serve. ❖

*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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