



FOCUS

Volume 19, No. 2

September, 2023

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

Main Street Fort Pierce and Lincoln Park Main Street will be hosting approximately 50 Main Street directors from all over the state during the Quarterly Fall Florida Main Street Meeting from September 17th–19th

See story on page 5



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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!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is on Its Way!

by Donna Sizemore



It's been a long and hotter than normal summer, but Fall is just around the corner. The official first day of Fall is Saturday, September 23, 2023. The lower temperatures will certainly be a nice change. Fort Pierce Main Street has several events planned for the Fall:

- Friday Fest on the River*
- Monthly Coffee with the Mayor*
- The Historical Ghost Walk*
- The Plein Air Art Show*
- Sights and Sounds on Second*
- The Christmas Parade*
- Colleen Nash Becht Art Show*
- New Years' Eve Fireworks*

All these events are possible due to the support of our wonderful volunteers and Board Members and of course Doris


Tillman, Director of *Main Street*. We are in desperate need of additional volunteers to help with any of these events. If you have time and would like to support the Mission and Vision of downtown Fort Pierce, please go to the website and submit the form for volunteering.

The Board of Directors are currently focusing on the preservation of the beautiful **Backus House** which was built in 1895. As you know these historical homes need a lot of TLC. We have several projects going on that include outdoor painting, fence repair, pressure washing, tree trimming, gate repair and painting. We are a non-profit and appreciate any support from the community whether it be in donations of supplies or of your time.

We are planning to make the **Backus House** available as a venue for small gatherings. More to come on that in the very near future. *Main Street* also has an opening for a Special Events Coordinator. This position is part-time (up to 32 hours per week) and pays \$20 – \$25 per hour depending on experience. The full job description and contact information is included in the September *Focus*.

Please visit our website for additional information <https://mainstreetfortpierce.org/>.

Happy Fall! ❖



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Calendar

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MONTHLY EVENTS

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

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

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

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429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

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462-2787 • www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

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

First Church; 464-0440, firstchurchfp.org.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

A.E. Backus Museum

772-465-0630 • backusmuseum.com

Adams Gallery

of Historical Photographs

772-462-1795

2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building

Fort Pierce Police Athletic League

772-370-6162 • fortpiercepal.com

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772-460-5299 • jazzsociety.org

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center

600 North Indian River Drive

772-489-6473 • cityoffortpierce.com

Heathcote Botanical Gardens

772-464-4672

heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

Manatee Observation & Education Center

772-429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum

772-595-5845 • navysealmuseum.org

St. Lucie County Marine Center

772-462-3474

stlucieco.gov/marine_center

St. Lucie County Regional History Center

772-462-1795 • stlucieco.gov/history

SEPTEMBER: NATIONAL CHICKEN MONTH

SEPTEMBER 1: BRING YOUR MANNERS TO WORK DAY

SEPTEMBER 2: INTERNATIONAL BACON DAY

SEPTEMBER 4: LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 6: GREAT EGG TOSS DAY

SEPTEMBER 7: NATIONAL BEER LOVERS DAY

SEPTEMBER 8: STAR TREK DAY

SEPTEMBER 9: NATIONAL WHEN PIGS FLY DAY

SEPTEMBER 11: PATRIOT DAY

SEPTEMBER 14: NATIONAL COLORING DAY

SEPTEMBER 15: NATIONAL D.A.R.E. DAY

SEPTEMBER 15: ROSH HASHANAH

SEPTEMBER 16: NATIONAL PLAY-DOH DAY

SEPTEMBER 26: NATIONAL KEY LIME PIE DAY

Main Street Fort Pierce and Lincoln Park Main Street to Host Quarterly Florida Main Street Meeting

One of the greatest strengths of the *Main Street Program* are the connections, both statewide and national, with other *Main Street* programs that all have similar goals. Every program follows the *Main Street Approach* of using the four guidelines of: Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization to revitalize their communities. This strategy has worked in hundreds of historic downtowns and commercial districts across the country since it was established in 1980.

Along with the annual national *Main Street America* conference, state *Main Street* programs offer training meetings and conferences throughout the year for directors and board members to keep up with consumer trends, economic opportunities, partnership success stories, promotion ideas, etc. These meetings become incubators for new projects and goals to bring back to *Main Street* cities/districts across the state/country.

The *Main Street Fort Pierce* and *Lincoln Park Main Street* programs are pleased to welcome approximately 50 *Main*

Street directors from all over the state during the *Quarterly Fall Florida Main Street Meeting* from September 17th–19th.

Main Street Fort Pierce and the *Lincoln Park Main Street* are working together to make this event a huge success. Visiting directors and stakeholders will listen to speakers on topics that will be of interest to their unique organizations. During the meeting, attendees will also tour the local *Main Street* districts and view the successful ventures of private investors, small businesses, cultural tourism, public partnerships, and more. Even neighboring program, *Main Street Vero Beach*, will present on the *Florida Citrus Trail* and its importance.

There are constantly new ideas popping up all over in *Main Street* communities. By sharing these ideas with other programs, the historic commercial districts they represent can continue to evolve and thrive to meet their community's needs.

Sponsors of the *Quarterly Fall Florida Main Street Meeting* are: **500 Orange Event Center, Florida Citrus Hall of Fame/Natalie's Orchid Island Juice, Nelson's Family Farms, Sailfish Brewing Company, Southern Eagle Distributing/Budweiser, St. Lucie County/Area Regional Transit** and the **Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.** ❖



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FPUA Participates in Large-Scale Solar Project Expansion

Solar Project Led by Florida Municipal Power Agency

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) announces its participation in a major expansion of the **Florida Municipal Solar Project**, one of the largest municipal-backed solar projects in the nation. FPUA joins *Florida Municipal Power Agency* (FMPA), 19 other Florida municipal electric utilities and **Origis Energy** on the project.

The project currently consists of two solar farms, *Taylor Creek Solar* in Orange County and *Harmony Solar* in Osceola County, that generate nearly 150 megawatts (MW) of solar power — enough to power approximately 30,000 Florida homes. Upon completion, the expansion will quadruple the amount of solar power the project currently generates. A total of 20 Florida municipal electric utilities will purchase power from the project, and FPUA will purchase approximately 23.9 MW of power from the project.

“Participating in this large-scale project allows us to provide solar energy to our customers in the most cost-effective way,” said Javier Cisneros, FPUA utility director. “The cost of solar power from the project is approximately one-third the cost of the typical private, rooftop solar system. We are proud to offer our customers alternative energy options at a lower rate.”

This solar project represents one of many environmental and infrastructure improvement projects led by FPUA including: Relocating the sewer treatment plant off the Indian River Lagoon; lining sewer pipes with PVC to protect against inflow and outflow from cracks in aging clay pipes; installing several more acres of seagrass with grant funding from the *Florida Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida Program* and the *Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program* in partnership with the **Manatee Education and Observation Center** and the **Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation**.

The FMPA expansion includes two phases. Phase 2 includes the addition of two more solar farms, *Rice Creek Solar* in Putnam County and *Whistling Duck Solar* in Levy County. Project

developers anticipate *Rice Creek Solar* will be complete by the end of this year and project *Whistling Duck Solar* will be complete in 2024. When both new sites are online, they will generate nearly 150 MW of solar energy.

Phase 3 of the project will bring another four solar farms online, doubling the size of the project from four to eight sites that will generate nearly 600 MW of solar power, which is four times what the project currently generates. Construction and operation of these four additional sites, which will be located in Columbia, Levy and Bradford Counties, will be staggered throughout 2025 and 2026.

By the end of 2026, the **Florida Municipal Solar Project** will consist of more than 1.8 million solar panels installed on eight farms.

“By partnering with our municipal electric utilities members and **Origis Energy**, we are able to take advantage of a great opportunity to increase the volume of our low-cost, reliable solar generation at a time when solar costs have been escalating,” said Jacob Williams, general manager and CEO of FMPA. “Expanding the *Florida Municipal Solar Project* will also enable us to serve several new communities that haven’t had access to solar before.”

Origis Energy, FMPA’s partner in the project, aims to bring clean, cost-effective solar energy for commercial, industrial, public sector and utility clients. The organization has completed more than 170 projects worldwide with more than five gigawatts of developed solar, energy storage and clean hydrogen capacity.

“**Origis** is very proud to contribute to this historic municipal solar program led by FMPA,” said Tanya Sessions, vice president, business development of **Origis Energy**. “What is unique about working with FMPA is the opportunity to work with a large group of cities across Florida that all have a passion to bring clean energy solutions to their communities, to their homes, while not sacrificing reliability or cost.” ❖

Mayor’s Message Coffee With The Mayor: Know Before you Go

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Coffee With The Mayor (CWTM) is hosted by *Main Street Fort Pierce*, whose mission is “to preserve, promote and build on historic and natural treasures of our downtown waterfront community.” Monthly sponsors, representing businesses, non-profits, faith and service organizations, have the opportunity to inform, educate and promote their products and services with brief announcements.

Starting promptly at 8 a.m., lasting one hour, on the third Friday of the month, September through May, CWTM allows everyone to attend and still go to work. Overflow parking is available at the **River Walk Center**.

The **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** never disappoints in showcasing the waterfront and providing a welcoming venue for all who attend CWTM. *Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice*, along



with coffee and donuts, help start the day off right.

The **Gold Hammer Awards** are presented at CWTM. Sponsored by **East Coast Lumber**, these awards help feature new and rehabilitated construction. CWTM is the place where **Neighborhood Gems** are awarded to recognize residents who have done an outstanding job in keeping their yards and homes beautiful. Both **Gold Hammer** and **Neighborhood Gems** are awarded twice a year. Winners receive gifts from **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** (FPUA) and the *City of Fort Pierce*.

Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County are known for community collaboration and action. Volunteers are recognized every month at CWTM, most chosen by the sponsoring organization.

City of Fort Pierce staff from public works, public safety and other departments, often attend and are available to respond to individual resident concerns.

Candidates for office are welcome to attend but no campaign announcements are allowed.

CWTM was the brainchild of former Mayor Eddie Enns, who envisioned the event to be one that would uplift the community and make us all proud to live here. It’s an opportunity for our community to come together to share the positive news about Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County. All are welcome. *We’re One Fort Pierce*.

The **Treasure Coast Food Bank** starts this CWTM season off on September 15. ❖

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Game & Exotic Meat Chef's Tasting Presented by The Fort Steakhouse

by Dale van der Lugt

On September 20th, **The Fort Steakhouse** has something extraordinary planned for its patrons. On this special evening, they will advance, for the first time ever, a *Game & Exotic Meat Chef's Tasting Menu*.

Masterfully crafted and well-planned selections will be presented to offer the best possible experience where the entire table participates. Selections such as an elk strip loin with local berries, wild mushrooms and crispy sage will be offered to intoxicate the palates of their guests and moreover be paired with earthy flavors of velvety mouthfuls in a selection of wines to complement.

Choosing the *Chef's Tasting* gives diners the opportunity to sample special cuisine offered up in smaller portions yet with more dishes than a conventional meal. This tasting offered by **The Fort Steakhouse** will focus on wild game and exotic meat selections such as venison, bison, elk, and wagyu beef. There are live courses to the tasting, all inspired dishes of local and regional faire, and paired with specially chosen wines. A Dessert Menu is featured at the end of the presentation to top off an incredible evening that will surely invigorate your culinary senses.

Traditionally, September is the month when Florida starts rolling out great food events. And while there are some amazing events that can be traveled to in our great state, why not stay right at home, and partake in this scrumptious memorable staycation by attending this all-new and exciting *Game & Exotic Meat Chef's Tasting* at **The Fort Steakhouse**. The



Fort Steakhouse is well known in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce for their *Big City Experience in a Small Town Setting*. Locals expound on their excellent steaks, top-shelf spirits, and exceptional service.

Get your reservations early for this one-of-a-kind unique menu at **The Fort Steakhouse** and allow their team of chefs to tantalize your taste buds and take you on an unforgettable culinary journey right here in beautiful downtown Fort Pierce. You don't have to travel far to proceed on this delightful tour with them, loosen up, and take the opportunity to have some fun right here in your charming hometown.

The Fort Steakhouse is located at 106 S 2nd Street in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Their website is

<https://www.thefortsteakhouse.com>. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook@thefortsteakhouse. For reservations, they can be found on OpenTable or call 772-882-9131. ❖



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VERO BEACH - FORT PIERCE

Call to Artists – 42nd Annual Juried Art Exhibition *The Best of the Best* is Accepting Entries Beginning September 6

The **A.E. Backus Museum** is happy to announce the *Call to Artists* for the annual juried art exhibition, *The Best of the Best*.

Now in its fifth decade, this fine art competition continues to spotlight the best artistic works in different media by amateurs and professionals from the Treasure Coast and beyond. Each year the independent jury panel finds and rewards excellence, technique, and presentation with cash prizes.

The Museum is accepting artist submissions by advance appointments beginning September 6 on Wednesdays–Sundays until 3:00 p.m., through September 29, 2023.

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 & ink, printmaking, graphics, collage, and digital art); and

Three-Dimensional. There is a \$30 entry fee per work. Entries that are juried into the exhibition will contend for cash prizes and 1st–2nd–3rd place awards, with an overall “Best of Show” award. Additionally, at the end of the exhibition, visitor votes are counted for a special “People’s Choice” award.

A full prospectus with guidelines, details, dates, appointment reservation link, and application form is available at <http://www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows>.

The *Best of the Best* annual juried exhibition will open the 2023–24 Season of the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**, and will debut with the *Season Grand Opening Members Reception* on October 7, followed by the season open house

on October 8. The *Best of the Best* continues on view during regular hours through November 10, 2023.

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

BEST OF THE BEST 2023



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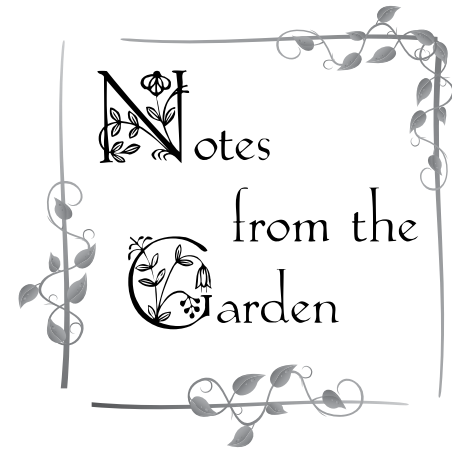
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Observations and Confessions
from a Very Amateur South Florida Gardener

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

Fall Planting Season is Here!

by Joanne Blandford

"What to plant? What to plant? What to plant?" These are the thoughts that have been obsessively occupying my brain for the last month. The start of fall planting season upon us! Here in south Florida, our summer temperatures will continue into September; however, by the end of the month those hints of fall (as we know it in Florida) will start to appear. This is the prime time for the warm weather crops that are traditionally grown in summer months north of here where the sun is less intense. The pest pressure will also calm down as the temperatures slowly drop.

I spent most of the month of August preparing the garden for the fall planting. This includes adding two new raised

garden beds, obtaining seeds, erecting a few trellises for vining plants, cutting down summer cover crops that protected the soil and adding compost and mulch to the beds. Then it was time to figure out what to grow to meet the tastes and needs of our family.


Here are a few of the plants that we will be growing this fall:



- Beans, Peas, Peppers,
- Tomatoes, Sweet Potatoes,
- Seminole Pumpkins (winter squash),
- Summer Squash, Carrots,
- Radishes, Collards,
- Green Onions, Zucchini

Along with these veggies we have okra that I planted in May that is finally started producing in August. The bed I planted them in ended up being saturated for most of the summer so I was not sure if I would get anything from them. I also planted a few eggplants in those beds in late spring but then planted cover crops to protect the soil over the summer. One of the eggplants survived the summer and damp bed. I'm going to let it hang out there and see what it does.

It is still a little too warm and humid for the traditional cool weather plants like lettuce, broccoli, and cabbage. These will be started in October after the rainy season subsides. ❖



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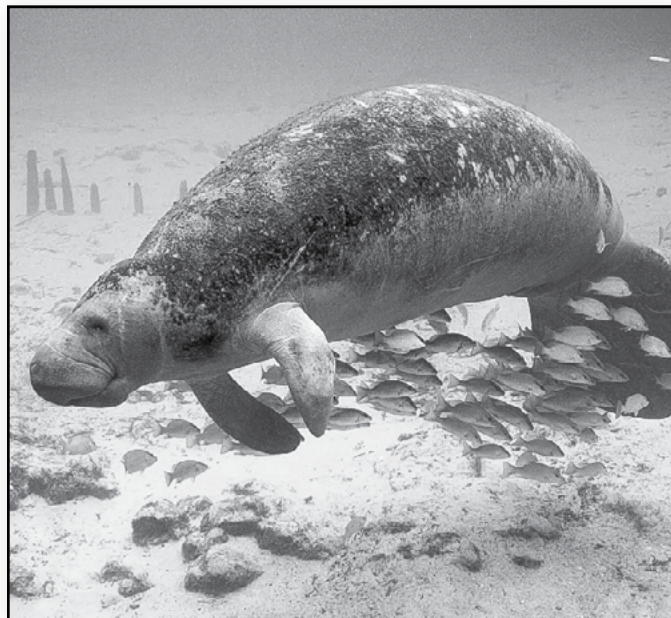
Ecology 101: Population Ecology

by John D. Pinsof, Ph.D.

A population is a group of individuals of the same species that live in the same location at the same time. Members of a population rely on the same food resources present in the environment, are subject to the same environmental conditions, and are most likely to interbreed with one another. It is estimated that there are upwards of 4,300 populations of plants and animals living in the *Indian River Lagoon* (IRL). This may seem like a very large number but consider that the lagoon encompasses over 150 miles of Florida's eastern coast.

Individuals from different populations show great variation in the number of offspring per reproductive cycle and the probability that they will live up to their expected life span. In this installment of Ecology 101, we explore how three populations living in the IRL differ in survivorship, a count of how many individuals of the same age (for example, born in the same year) survive until one year-old, survive until two years-old, and so on, until all individuals have died. When these numbers are graphed, three general survivorship curves emerge.

Manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) — are large, slow-swimming marine mammals that feed exclusively on marine plants, such



as seagrass. Manatees have a reproductive strategy similar to that of other large mammals: they breed relatively slowly and usually have one offspring per reproductive cycle that receives a great deal of maternal care. Thus, newborn manatee calves have a high probability of surviving until they reach sexual maturity and reproducing themselves. Manatees do die from a variety of causes, but usually during their middle or older stages of life. When the ages of surviving manatees over time are graphed, it produces a type I survivorship curve.

Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) — are large marine reptiles with powerful jaw muscles, allowing them to crush sea urchins and shelled prey like clams. When reproducing, female turtles crawl up onto the beach, dig a nest, and lay dozens of eggs. The female then buries the nest and returns to the water,



leaving the eggs without parental care. As it turns out, well over 90% of all hatchlings die in their first few years, most of them taken by opportunistic predators. However, the small number that survive long enough to attain a large size have a good chance of reaching sexual maturity and repeating the reproductive cycle. Thus, loggerhead turtles have very low survivorship numbers when very young. When the ages of surviving

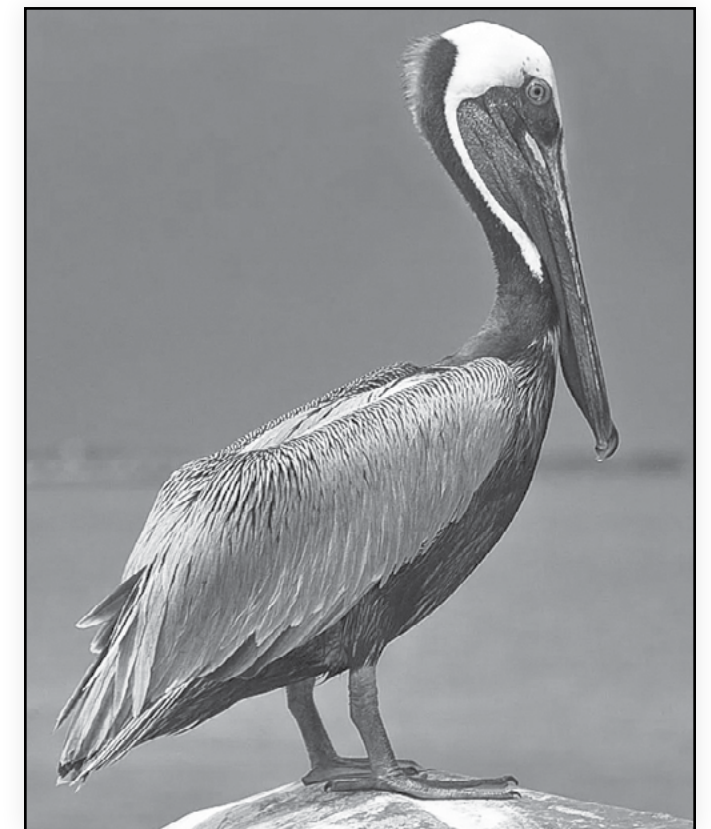
loggerhead turtles over time are graphed, it produces a type III survivorship curve.

Not all populations fall neatly into a Type I or III curve. The third plot on the diagram shows survivorship that splits the differences between the two. **Brown Pelicans** (*Pelicanus occidentalis*) generally survive following hatching, with some dying every year due to a variety of causes. In other words, any given member of this population has a random chance of surviving (or dying) at any point during their lifespan. When the ages of surviving brown pelicans over time are graphed, it produces a type II survivorship curve.

All three of the example populations from the IRL have one thing in common: their population size (and thus survivorship) has been negatively impacted by human activities. Water pollution, nutrient enrichment, ingestion of plastics, and habitat loss are the usual culprits known to be fatal to many

IRL populations. Nevertheless, there is much optimism about local programs dedicated to preserving the great diversity of populations living along our coastline.

Learn more about the ecology of the *Indian River Lagoon* and its inhabitants at the **Manatee Center** located at 480 Indian River Drive in downtown Fort Pierce or find us online at www.ManateeEducationCenter.org. ❖



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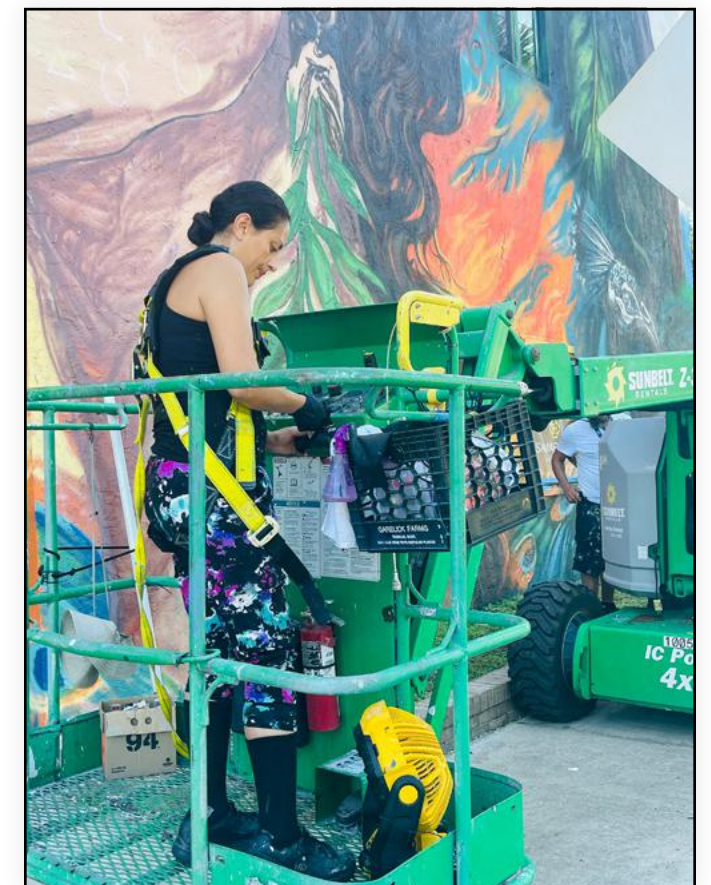
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Murals Are Going Up in the Fort Pierce Peacocks Arts District

They say, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," and in Fort Pierce, so much beauty is being created for you to behold through the *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA) Peacock Arts District Mural Program*. The FPRA hired three female artists: Zoey Bridges of Zoey Alyssa Art, Nicole "Nico" Holderbaum, and Samara Ash to complete a total of four murals along Orange Avenue. These artists have extensive experience creating life-like images that stand out to any peeping eye. The artists began their murals in July and are expected to complete their mural designs by early September.

The mural program's purpose is to beautify the FPRA Redevelopment area and encourage arts and culture within the community. Each of the murals highlights the significance, vibrance, and historical storylines associated with the City of Fort Pierce. The murals are located at 500 Orange Avenue, 605 Orange Avenue, 616 Atlantic Avenue, and 710 Orange Avenue. Once completed, these murals will be revealed in a ceremony for the public to attend so be on the lookout for additional updates and a completion announcement!

For more information and updates on the program, visit the city's social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram or go to <https://cityoffortpierce.com/1056/Peacock-Arts-District-Mural-Program>. ❖



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Love, JAZZ Community: Play, Don, Play!



In the days before television, laptop computers, and video games, families gathered around the radio to listen for the news of the day, entertainment, and music. In 1932, the biggest star on the radio was none other

than the legendary Jack Benny. The show often started with a jingle that is probably still recognizable today. It was simple, elegant, and a piece of marketing (or perhaps Jingle Genius) that stays with us today because of its simplicity. J-E-L-L-O was five little notes that told us there was always more room for something light and sweet, whether it was music, a little joke or two from Benny and the crew, or a small bowl of jiggly goodness.

So why are we talking about JELLO today? You might be surprised to learn that the famed JELLO jingle was penned by Jack Benny's bandleader, Don Bestor — often his sidekick, straight man, and foil on the famed radio program. If the name Don Bestor rings familiar to you, that might be because the bandleader's son, Don Bestor, Jr., is often the man behind the soundtrack of many of your favorite events and activities here on the Treasure Coast. Don Bestor, Jr., is the president of the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the importance of music and music education and providing opportunities for live, professional music throughout the region.

Like his father, Bestor, Jr., is an accomplished professional musician, and whether you've dined at local favorites like **2nd Street Bistro**, upscale eateries like **Stuart's Café Martier**, or enjoyed Tuesday or Wednesday evening **Jazz Jams** at the **Sunrise Black Box**, the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, **Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens**, or any number of private parties, special

events, and fundraising events between Jupiter and Sebastian, you've likely been entertained by the magic Bestor creates on the keyboard. Like so many members of the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, Bestor enjoyed a successful career as a professional musician and had the opportunity to play with and for some of the legends of show business. But you'd have to spend a lot of time with him before you were able to tease that information out of him because he's typically more likely to toot someone else's horn instead of his own. That tendency to help encourage up-and-coming musicians, particularly those who have a passion for performance music and potential, is one of the reasons why **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, a very small nonprofit organization, has been so successful for the past 25 years.

Under Bestor's leadership, members of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** have provided master classes and performances in local schools, mentored some of the area's newest talent, and helped ensure that the art of live performance and the soundtrack of our lives will continue for generations to come. Since its inception, **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** has provided more than \$100,000 in scholarships for area students pursuing a career in performance music or music education. Accomplishing all this with a small group of dedicated volunteers is nothing short of miraculous, but members of Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society are nothing less than believers in the magic of music and the miracles it makes.

And since we're on the subject of miracles and we've already mentioned his name here, all of us who make up **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** would like to humbly request that you include Don Bestor, Jr., in your prayers. After undergoing some pretty serious health challenges, Bestor is not only back home, but back at the keyboard and back out in the community, performing at some of his favorite venues and working constantly to help promote live music and the



future of music for generations to come through education, mentoring, and opportunities for aspiring musicians. During Don's recent health issues, there were two things that never wavered — his desire to play and his sense of humor. The only request he had in the hospital was not for pain medication or even extra pillows, but for a keyboard so he could play through the pain and entertain the hardworking medical staff at the hospital where he found himself. And within a week of being 'sprung' from his medical incarceration, Bestor was back at the keys again, entertaining the public and helping to create memories for others to enjoy for decades to come.

Usually, we ask you to consider joining or supporting **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** by coming out to our events and gigs, and of course we'd still like you to do that, too. But this month, we'd like to ask you to take a moment to say a prayer, send positive vibes, good wishes, or share a moment



of gratitude with all of us for our organization's long-time president, Don Bestor, Jr. When Jack Benny wanted to go to a commercial break or wanted to hear some music, he'd simply say, "Play, Don, Play." This month, we encourage you to come out to hear some great music, and if you happen to see our fearless leader at the keyboard, do us a favor and, in your best Jack Benny impression, urge him to, "Play, Don, Play." ❖

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TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the Tuesday, Sept. 4, 1923 edition of the Tampa Times

East Coast Town Eliminates the Mosquito

The Fort Pierce News-Tribune is boasting of a practically mosquitoless summer. And that is a situation justifying boasting.

The News-Tribune admits that its town has a reputation as a city where mosquitos are worse than in other sections of the state, and it claims that “with the exception of a few days in June there have been no mosquitoes in the city during the summer.”

There were numerous breeding places for the pests in the city and the vicinity – pools, creeks, and an estuary. No effort had previously been made to destroy the larvae and prevent the mosquitoes from maturing. But, says the Fort Pierce paper –

Last winter and spring a determined campaign was inaugurated to eliminate the mosquito. Creeks were cleaned, people generally did that necessary to minimize the number of hiding and breeding places, a sanitation officer was employed by the city whose duty it was to carefully look after this character of work and at great expense citizens diked many miles along the shore line of the peninsula.

The result is a mosquitoless summer in Fort Pierce and so well has the eradication work been done that it is not believed that the city will in the near

future be troubled with the pests.

Is there a lesson in this for Tampa and for other communities? It has been argued and urged by the state health authorities that the mosquito can be practically eliminated, and this east coast town furnishes the proof that it can be done. In the early spring the Times plead earnestly with the city authorities to adopt the precautions recommended by the state board of health to prevent the breeding of mosquitos, but the answer was that it was not worth while to start this work until after the rainy season. The one man connected with the government who was equipped to do the work property was told to stand aside. The result is that mosquitos have been unusually numerous here this summer.

What was done in Fort Pierce could have been done in Tampa, and at much smaller expense. The conditions here are not difficult, and the small expense which would have been involved would have been justified many times over by the comfort the people would have enjoyed – to say nothing of the menace to health involved.

100 years ago this month as reported in the Saturday, Sept. 12, 1923 edition of the Tampa Tribune

New Subdivision At Fort Pierce To Be Developed

Establishment of a subdivision a short distance south of the city limits of Fort Pierce is contemplated by Paul G.

Enns and associates, who have applied to the city commission for electric current to be supplied to the proposed development. The commission agreed to supply the “juice” under the usual conditions.

The location of the proposed subdivision is on the Fort Pierce White City back road about a mile south of town. The plans of the developers, it is understood, contemplate the construction and sale of quite a number of residences.

With a most serious housing shortage confronting the city, the addition of the residences will be highly welcomed.

100 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, Sept. 23, 1923 edition of the Tampa Tribune

Okeechobee Lumber Concern Bought By East Coast Company

The East Coast Lumber & Supply company, one of the largest building material concerns in the state and having yards all up and down the east coast, with general headquarters at Fort Pierce, has added the eleventh yard to its list, having purchased the E.W. Bond company’s yard and equipment at Okeechobee.

The Okeechobee yard went under the new control Monday morning H.C. Adams, who was the manager under the former ownership, will continue in that capacity for the present.

100 years ago this month as reported in the Monday, Sept. 24, 1923 edition of the Tampa Tribune

Nearly \$2,000,000 Is On Deposit In Fort Pierce Banks

Although this is supposed to be the dullest season of the whole year in Florida, bank deposits in Fort Pierce total nearly \$2,000,000, representing a considerable increase over the corresponding date of last year.

The condition is reflective of the healthy financial condition of the city and community, and is considered very creditable at this season of the year.

Business of all kinds has been good here all summer long and shows no indication of subsiding in volume before the opening of the busy winter season. With much building and development work going on and the time approaching for shipment of the heaviest citrus crop that the county has ever produced, the outlook for the city and county is most encouraging from every standpoint.

50 years ago this month as reported in the Monday, Sept. 6, 1948 edition of the Miami Herald

Ft. Pierce Plans Labor Day Fete

A Labor Day celebration is to be held here today under sponsorship of the Lion’s Club.

The celebration program will center about the city park property on the South Beach, development of which is a major project of the Lions.

Program for the day included such events as fishing contest, turtle auction and races, cracker and pie-eating contests, bathing beauty contests and so on, with a free fish fry scheduled for 5 p.m. The day’s program ends with a dance at 9 p.m. in the Fort Pierce hotel.

Business is to be suspended in Fort Pierce for the day. Many residents plan to spend the day in the woods on fishing and picnicking expeditions or other outdoor activity.

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50 years ago this month as reported in the Thursday, Sept. 23, 1948 edition of the Miami Herald

Fort Pierce Misses Heavy Wind Damage

The Fort Pierce area came through the hurricane with a minimum of damage, but with the fate of the record tomato acreage in doubt due to heavy rainfall.

A preliminary survey indicated a grapefruit fall of probably 10 percent, but a negligible orange loss. Rainfall during the hurricane totaled between five and six inches.

There was practically no property damage and shrubbery came through in good shape. Maximum wind velocity was around 75 miles an hour in gusts.

Several hundred persons were accommodated in emergency shelters manned by Red Cross volunteers.

Bridges across Indian River to the beach were closed early Wednesday as a safety precaution.

Public utilities continued normal operation and electric service was uninterrupted.

Become A Member

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



Main Street Fort Pierce wants to invite you to become a part of the renaissance of our Historic Downtown area. Over the past twenty-nine years, we have worked to repair streets and sidewalks, upgrade storefronts, renovated the Sunrise Theatre, Old City Hall and the Platts Backus House, sponsor charrettes to design a downtown "Master Plan," built the Manatee Observation and Education Center and so much more! Annually, Main Street Fort Pierce sponsors over 30 events — most which are free of charge.

Yet there is still so much more to be done! We need you to be involved in our continued planning for the area. Become a member and support *Main Street* financially. We rely on the participation and the voluntary annual dues from our members to accomplish our goals and complete our projects.

Whether you own a downtown business or you just love Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, we need your energy and support to continue to rejuvenate our community's heart and soul.



Why Main Street Fort Pierce?

- Downtown Fort Pierce is an important employment center.
- The area is a reflection of the community image.
- Locally owned businesses keep profits in town and support other local businesses and community projects.
 - A vibrant downtown creates a feeling of "hometown pride" and sense of place.
- The downtown district is a public gathering area, where parades, special events, and celebrations are held in a unique setting.
 - Community character and historic integrity cannot be recreated.

What are Membership Benefits?

- Your membership dues are an investment in the future of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, helping us to sponsor improvements and events throughout the year.
- Members receive advanced notice and invitations to special events.
 - You will receive the monthly subscription to *Main Street Focus* magazine and links to *Focus On-Line*.

As a member of *Main Street* you are automatically aligned with others who want to preserve the past and influence the future of Fort Pierce. You can belong to Fort Pierce *Main Street* at one of eight different membership levels, starting at just \$15.

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Main Street America Introduces: Main Street Business Insights Podcast

Last month *Main Street America* released the first episode of the *Main Street Business Insights* podcast hosted by Chief Program Officer Matt Wagner. Every Wednesday, tune into Matt's conversations with *Main Street* and neighborhood entrepreneurs from around the country. Every episode will explore a different business owner's journey into entrepreneurship, offering their personal perspectives, lessons learned, and wisdom on operating and succeeding along *Main Street*.

Main Street Business Insights will dive into the intersections between small business owners and their communities and explore the sizable impact small businesses have on the national economy.

"Given my background in both downtown revitalization and entrepreneurship, I've always felt that the peer-to-peer learning that occurs through our own *Main Street* network could be replicated by given small businesses the opportunity to hear from one another, sharing challenges, solutions, and their lived experiences and expertise." said Wagner. "In my field work over the recent years, I've seen first-hand the astounding level of innovation occurring among small business owners, even in the face of economic, social, and environmental turbulence. *Main Street Business Insights* will weave these stories from the perspective of *Main Street* businesses demonstrating their impact on our communities and broader economy."

Episode 1: Blending Mission and Economic Impact with Maine Grains Owner Amber Lambke

In the inaugural episode of *Main Street Business Insights*, Matt

sat down with the co-founder and CEO of Maine Grains, Amber Lambke. Located in downtown Skowhegan, Maine, Maine Grains is a grist mill that processes locally grown and organic heritage grains for bakers, brewers, and chefs throughout the



Northeast. What's more, Maine Grains has created a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem around it that creates jobs, improves land use, and provides healthy food all while serving as a successful model for thriving local entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Amber began her path towards entrepreneurship when she was a new mother, soon after relocating to Skowhegan. With a little time on her hands and a desire to more deeply engage with her new community, Amber began volunteering at the farmer's market. There, she learned that grain farmers and producers were missing components in the local food shed. Maine Grains grew out of a desire to bring locally grown and manufactured grain products back to central Maine.

Her story highlights the importance of how combining a business with a higher purpose, along with a successful formula for growing and scaling, can build community and spur growth.

"Over the last year, I've met with entrepreneurs like Amber across *America's Main Streets*," said Wagner. "In all my conversations, I've found continued proof of what I have long believed, that small businesses and the people behind them are the engine that drive our communities forward. My hope is that these conversations will inspire entrepreneurs with innovative ways to grow and offer lessons to *Main Street* leaders to creatively engage with and support their local businesses." ❖

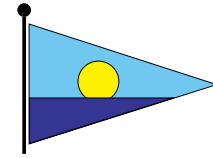
Fort Pierce Yacht Club – It’s Been a Busy Summer!

by Robynn Holland, Community Liaison

16TH ANNUAL TREASURE COAST WATERWAY CLEANUP: The Fort Pierce Yacht Club was, once again, a collection point for the Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast annual waterway cleanup. Both the FPYC and the FPYC Foundation were sponsors of the event. FPYC members Meg and Bruce Parce manned the collection site as members of the FPYC and members of the community arrived to help clean up.

Our Commodore, Forest Blanton, came in with 165 pounds of trash! Other volunteers were combing the beaches, islands, and shorelines as they collected trash as part of the **16th Annual Great Waterway Cleanup** to help keep the Treasure Coast beautiful. Congratulations to all that participated!

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY: The Fort Pierce Police Department held their annual Unity in the Community event



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on Wednesday, July 19th from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Members of the FPYC and had a fun time visiting, meeting, and taking pictures. The event coordinator was Angela Brathwaite who wears many hats at the FPPD. Congratulations to the FPPD for another successful community event!

ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM: Congratulations to Marine Cleanup Initiative and the St. Lucie Reef Program on the successful deployment of one-time yacht M/Y Time to become the A.A. Hendry Artificial Reef. A special thank you to Christa Stone at MCI and Victoria Westphal, FPYC VC Fleet, for their

Continued on page 26 ...

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FPYC ... continued from page 25



invitation to come visit the yacht prior to deployment. Many in the community ventured out to sea to witness the beginning of this historic artificial reef. To see more, go to the FPYC Facebook page.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUNRISE THEATER: Congratulations to the **Sunrise Theater 100th Anniversary Committee** and all the volunteers and sponsors who made the evening a *roaring* success. The attendance was wonderful with hundreds of supporters including many FPYC members attending this historic event. It was indeed a very special night!

THE THIRD ANNUAL GREAT AMERICAN FORT PIERCE WACKY RAFT RACE: The wacky raft race was held at **Causeway Cove Marina** and although the day was very hot, the participants and spectators had a great time. The FPYC participated by building a "raft" which various participants got to use during their races, and then in the 18 and above age group, FPYC Commodore, Forest Blanton, came in first place. Thank you to all that organized and supported this fun event.

The **FPYC Foundation**, the charitable arm of the FPYC had a busy summer supporting various summer programs. In addition to monetary support for the **Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation**, **Stella Maris Wesley Island Eco Camp**, the **Manatee Observation and Education Center**, and the **FAU – Harbor Branch** summer intern program, the FPYC was also able to support the **FPPD Courageous Kids Program**.

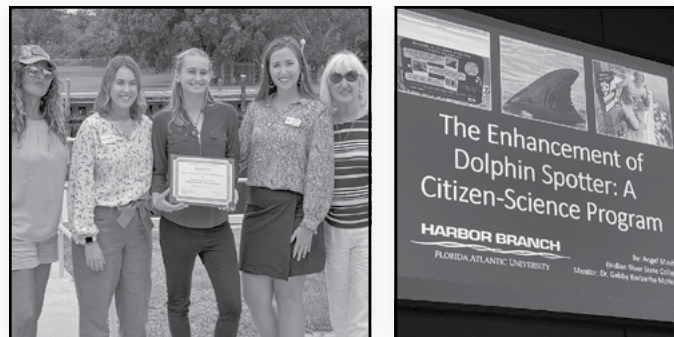
DONATION TO FPPD COURAGEOUS KIDS PROGRAM: The **FPYC Foundation** has worked closely with **FPPD Courageous Kids** representative, Angela Brathwaite, for ways the **FPYC Foundation**, the charitable arm of the FPYC could support the program. This summer the **FPYC Foundation** provided games and activities that the **FPPD** could use as they interact with children through the **Courageous Kids** program.



Steve Holland, Robynn Holland, Major Mike Santiago, Chief Diane Hopley-Burney, Victoria Westphal, Jasmine Robinson, and Officer Jose Maldonado. A special thank you to Larry Croom, Public Affairs Manager, for the very nice post he did on **FPPD** Facebook page featuring the **FPYC Foundation** donation.

FAU–HARBOR BRANCH: The **FPYC Foundation** was pleased to support a summer intern through the **FAU–Harbor Branch** program. The Foundation, using funds from both the 2022 and the 2023 *Charitable Poker Run* provided funds to Indian River State College student, Angel Mosher, for her internship. Angel said this was the third time she has applied! This was the fourth year that the Foundation has donated to the program. Angel's research centered around the *Enhancement of Dolphin Spotter: A Citizen-Science Program*.

Thank you to all the members of the **FPYC**, who, along with the community, support the **FPYC Foundation** fund-raising efforts. This support allows the Foundation to provide support for programs that enrich the lives of the youth of the Fort Pierce area. The total donated this summer was just a little over \$11,000!



Main Street Fort Pierce Seeking Special Events Coordinator

Special Events Coordinator – Main Street Fort Pierce

Part-time – Up to 32 hours per week

\$20–\$25 per hour (negotiable depending on experience)

Qualifications: Associates Degree preferred but not required; minimum of 3 years' experience with special event planning preferred.

- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office including mail merge;
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation;
- Excellent customer service & community outreach skills;
- Social Media & Marketing skills.

Responsibilities: Under the supervision of the Director of *Main Street Fort Pierce* the coordinator is responsible for assistance, coordination and oversight of organization-wide fundraising events. Position will include some weekend and evening hours.

• Manage the planning and execution of special events and administrative duties included, but not limited to, the following:

- Prepare all correspondence, including sponsor requests, auction solicitation and thank you letters
- Solicit monetary donations, underwriting and sponsorships
- Solicit In-Kind donations and sponsorships
- Work with committees and other volunteers before, during and after events
- Coordination of meetings as necessary
- Attend committee meetings
- Create press releases for all special events.
- Assist with negotiations for event space, food, beverage and supplies, if needed
- Serve as Liaison with vendors on event related matters
- Manage on-site set up and clean-up for events
- Manage and track revenue and expenses for events
- Help organize and coordinate auctions for events
- Run errands as needed (locally)
- Prepare all correspondence, including sponsor requests, auction solicitation and thank you letters
- Coordinate membership, establish new member events
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Please apply via e-mail only: jobs@mainstreetfortpierce.org



THE FORT PIERCE JAZZ AND BLUES SOCIETY: The *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society* is a very special jewel found on the Treasure Coast. The musicians and their music enrich the community in a very special way and all are invited to join them at the **FPYC** during the summer. Their remaining dates at the **FPYC** are: 7:00–9:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday nights in September and the 1st and 5th Tuesday nights in October (Halloween). Come support this great group; cost is \$10 unless you are a member of the **Jazz Society** or the **FPYC**, then it is \$8.00. Certainly, well worth the money! For more information on the Jazz Society: <https://www.jazzsociety.org/>.

Vocalists Will Vaughn and Joann (Jo) Seiler join the Jazz Society for a few songs in August.

REMINDERS: *Coffee with the Mayor* returns on the 3rd Friday of each month from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. at the **FPYC**. Mayor Linda Hudson graciously welcomes new business in the community and nonprofits to share their news. This is a great time to learn what is going on in the community. Come early, seats go quickly.

Lunch and Learn – The **Manatee Observation and Education Center** provides a program the second Friday of the month at the **FPYC** starting at noon. Always an interesting program, come and join us. Lunch is not provided but you are welcome to bring a lunch. ❖

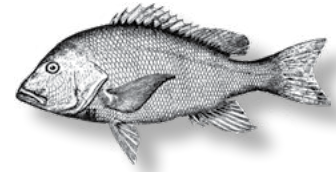


Snook Season Greetings!

by Captain Bo Samuel

It's September and that means just one thing to anglers up and down the Treasure Coast ... the start of snook season! These elusive, aggressive fish are local celebrities, highly prized and highly targeted for their great fight and great taste. A distinctive black lateral line that extends on to the tail makes snook easily recognizable and has earned them the nickname of linesiders. September 1 through December 14th is the second open season of the year to catch these very popular trophy fish.

Target these fish around bridges, docks, jetties, and mangroves with fast moving currents. My favorite live bait for snook is mullet, pilchards, threadfins, or mojarra but they are aggressive enough to hit artificials as well. I use a spinning reel combo with 40-pound fluorocarbon leader and a tight drag since snook are smart enough to run and try to break the line on any nearby structure. The slot limit is be-



tween 28 inches and 32 inches from the chin to the tip of the tail, total length. Be sure to practice good catch-and-release techniques for those outside the slot.



Offshore we are catching great kingfish and some mahi and the reefs are still very good for bottom fishing. Mangroves (gray snapper) and muttoms are being reported almost daily. The key is to use just enough weight to keep your bait on bottom depending on the current.

"Happy Birthday" shout-out to my mom, Crystal Samuel! She's showing off a personal best mangrove caught on her favorite ZF Custom rod by Zach Foltz.

Come visit me at **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** to set up your personal snook charter and kick off the season with a great catch. If the boat is gone,

we're on the water putting fish on deck! Are you ready to join the "Linesider Life"? Get on board and start *Pullin Drag!* ❖

City of Fort Pierce Small Business Pathway Program

The *City of Fort Pierce Small Business Pathway Program* is aimed at growing the local economy by providing resources to small businesses within the *City of Fort Pierce*.

The *City of Fort Pierce* and the *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency* are partnering together to provide a *free* series of educational sessions to local area small business owners, entrepreneurs, and aspiring small business owners with information covering topics of high interest that were conveyed in the 2022 *Small Business Development Survey*.

These sessions are made possible through partnerships with the Small Business Development Center and *CareerSource*.

Attendees must register at: <https://cityoffortpierce.com/.../Small-Business-Pathway>.

Free Educational Sessions: All sessions will be held virtually, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

- *No Money? No Problem: Find the Funding you Need* — Thursday, September 28.
- *It's All at Your Fingertips: Small Biz Opportunities in Your Community* — Tuesday, October 3.

- *Show and Tell: Market and Promote with Ease* — Tuesday, October 10.
- *Build and Keep Your Dream Team* — Tuesday, October 17.

Program requirements: Applicants must be small business owners/entrepreneurs who operate a business within the City of Fort Pierce or aspiring business owners whose home address is located within the City of Fort Pierce.

Attendees must attend all sessions to earn a certificate of completion and recognition on the City's and the Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) communication platforms.

Recognition: Participants will be given a certificate of completion, and a spotlight on the *City of Fort Pierce* and the SBDC's communication platforms, such as websites, social media, and newsletter, and be presented at an FPRA or City Commission Meeting.

Contact Information: Marsha Commond, Redevelopment Specialist. 772-742-9834, mcommond@cityoffortpierce.com. ❖

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Proceeds from the "Pave the Way" Bricks will go towards maintaining the courtyard landscaping in the Historic Platts/Backus House. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling Toll-Free (800-435-7352) within the State. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State." CH26923



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