



Volume 19, No. 7 February, 2023

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



Artist's Rendering

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority breaks ground on the new Mainland Water Reclamation Facility

See Story p14

Learn more at www.SustainableSewer.net

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Downtowns Matter

by Donna Sizemore



Downtown Fort Pierce is the heart of our community with a heart that is beating strong and healthy. Our downtown is full of everything that can assist you in becoming a healthier you, as well. For example, just being out and about walking along the river or sitting on a bench and absorbing all that Vitamin D is healthy. Attending any of the many events in downtown Fort Pierce and smiling and laughing is good for the heart. Having fun and dining with family and friends in one of the many downtown restaurants and/or cafes in Downtown Fort Pierce is good for the heart. Maybe dancing to one of the talented bands that play in Downtown Fort Pierce makes you happy. Exercise is definitely good for the

“Downtown is important because it’s the heart and soul of any community. If you don’t have a healthy downtown, you simply don’t have a healthy town.”


—Ed McMahon Chair Emeritus, National Main Street Center

heart. Let’s not forget what’s good for my heart and others (you know who you are) — shopping!

The heart of our community is beating strong thanks to the dedication and hard work of all our *Main Street Fort Pierce* volunteers. Our work would not be successful without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

If you are interested in volunteering and assisting *Main Street Fort Pierce* in keeping our heartbeat beating strong and healthy, please visit our website and complete the volunteer form. <https://mainstreetfortpierce.org/>

Downtown Fort Pierce is good for the heart and soul. Come visit! *Happy Valentine’s Day.*

MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

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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, February 17, at 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club
700 N. Indian River Drive

Sponsored by



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




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Join Us at *Friday Fest* on February 3 with Live Music by *Riverdaws*



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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

February 3, 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.

February 9, Saturday: STREET DREAMS ON THE TREASURE COAST CAR SHOW — visit Facebook page for *Shift Culture*.



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

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN

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

Sailfish Brewing Company
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Pierced Cider
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Cobbs Landing
cobbs-landing.com

Bottom's Up Public House
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121 Tapas on the Water
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Tuesdays: Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre — 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.; 460-5299; *jazzsociety.org*.

MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • *ManateeEducationCenter.org*

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

462-2787 • *www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/*

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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

Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
772-462-1795
2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building

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

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

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

Heathcote Botanical Gardens
772-464-4672
heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

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

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

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

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

FEBRUARY: FABULOUS FLORIDA STRAWBERRY MONTH

FEBRUARY 1: NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

FEBRUARY 3: THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED

FEBRUARY 7: NATIONAL PERIODIC TABLE DAY

FEBRUARY 9: NATIONAL PIZZA DAY

FEBRUARY 10: ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT DAY

FEBRUARY 12: AUTISM SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 12: SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 12: SUPER CHICKEN WING DAY

FEBRUARY 14: VALENTINE'S DAY

FEBRUARY 16: FAT THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 17: NATIONAL RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS DAY

FEBRUARY 21: MARDI GRAS

FEBRUARY 28: LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY

Mayor's Message Florida's Affordable Housing Committees

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Recognizing that the lack of affordable housing needs to be addressed at the local level, the Florida legislature is requiring local governments to form affordable housing advisory committees. The *City of Fort Pierce* formed its statutorily-required *Affordable Housing Advisory Committee* by ordinance 22-034 in November and appointed committee members for three-year terms by resolution 23-R11 on January 3.

The Committee includes one elected official. Commissioner Arnold Gaines volunteered to serve on this committee. He is also the city's representative on *St. Lucie County Homeless Committee*. Others appointed include: residential home builder: Phil Thomson; banking or mortgage industry, William Talley; advocate for low-income persons, Caleta Scott and Chad Ingram; real estate professional, Vernea Jones; essential services professional, Rafael Sanchez; and city residents, KeAndrea Davis and Leslie Olson.

The Florida Legislature passed FL Statute 420.9076, which requires any municipality receiving *State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program* funds. The purpose of this committee is to review policies, procedures, ordinances, land development regulations, and the adopted local government comprehensive plan, and to recommend specific actions or initiatives to encourage or facilitate affordable housing. The committee is required to submit an annual report to the *Board of County Commissioners* that includes recommendations on, and evaluates the implementation of, affordable housing incentives.

The *City of Fort Pierce* has already taken steps to ease the affordable housing need by approval of the **Oaks at Moore's Creek, Phase II** subdivision, where homes will be sold to property owners who meet Florida affordable housing requirements. The earlier **Oaks at Moore's Creek, Phase I** was a city initiative to provide affordable housing for essential workers, such as police, firefighters and educators. Additionally, the *City of*



Fort Pierce, in partnership with *St. Lucie County*, has approved two **Blue Sky Communities** affordable housing developments at Jenkins and Okeechobee Roads, and at 3000 Okeechobee Road. The city also used *American Rescue Plan* funds to augment its *SHIP* home buyer assistance program, one that requires eligibility and mandatory education in home ownership.

The *Fort Pierce Housing Authority* is a separate entity, with its own appointed board members. This is a federally administered HUD funded and regulated provider of low-income housing for eligible citizens. ❖



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“Dashboard Dreams: The Florida Highwaymen and the American Road” Exhibition at the A.E. Backus Museum

The next presentation of the 2022-23 season at the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** continues the annual series of special exhibitions celebrating the unique art movement that traces its beginnings to our community. *Dashboard Dreams: The Florida Highwaymen and the American Road* considers the iconic imagery and inspirational story of the celebrated artists in the context of the American auto industry of the era. *Dashboard Dreams* is on view January 6 through February 26, at 500 N. Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

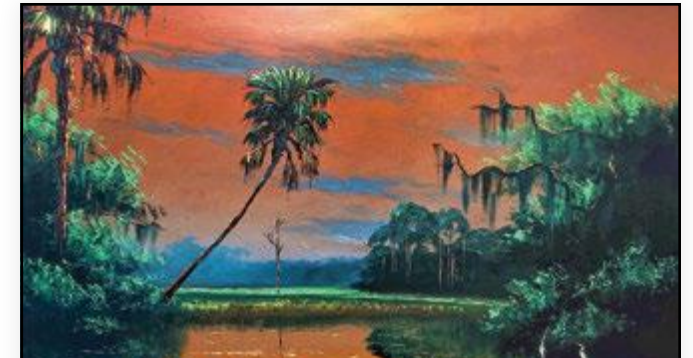
The *Florida Highwaymen* are a loose collective of artists who learned landscape painting techniques but in the 1950s and 60s needed to develop a plan to reach the people that would buy their art. This movement started in Fort Pierce at a time in the racially segregated South when opportunities were limited for African Americans, yet the artists who later became known as *The Highwaymen* persevered and succeeded.

It was a practical solution for these artists to use cars to cross the color lines of the day. The automobile was the key to finding the audiences who would look beyond the artists’ race and become enthralled by their luminous paintings of the Florida landscape. Meanwhile, the American auto industry was kindling aspirations for car ownership through alluring advertisements, depicting the promise of a fashionable lifestyle — and for the first time including African Americans as part of that visual narrative of the American dream.

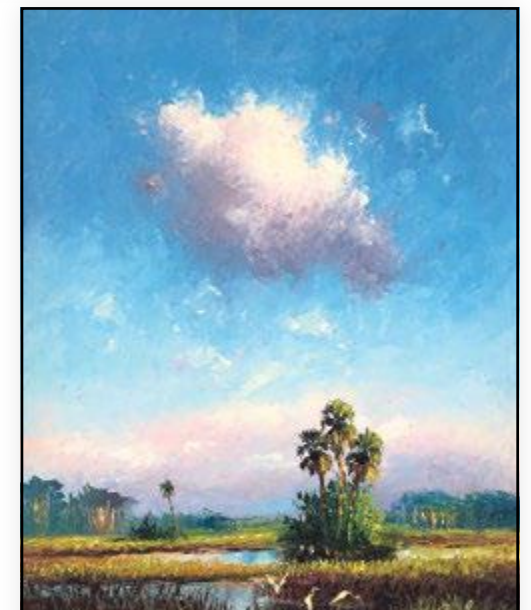
“Cars and driving are obviously a central part of these artists’ amazing story,” says J. Marshall Adams, Executive Director of the **Backus Museum**. “It’s been a clear understanding that automobiles gave African Americans in the South a degree of freedom from the race-based social practices of Jim Crow — you can see that here in the remarkable success for the *Highwaymen* artists at the time. And this was happening in the same moment that Detroit was making car ownership appealing to new audiences, advertising in *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines, building it into the status symbol for an expanding middle class. It all enabled and accelerated their artistic triumphs, one trunk-full of paintings at a time.”

This exhibition presents these dreams realized, the freedom achieved, and the success the *Florida Highwaymen* negotiated on the road. Featuring more than 50 paintings by Harold Newton (1934-1994), Alfred Hair (1941-1970), R.A. “Roy” McLendon (b.1932), Willie Daniels (1950-2021) Mary Ann Carroll (1940-2019), Livingston Roberts (1942-2004), and more, this collection of sig-

Continued on page 11 ...



Livingston Roberts (1942-2004). *Fire Sky*, n.d. Oil on Upson board, 24 x 36 in. Collection of Roger Lightle.



Harold Newton (1934-1994). *Morning Wade*, n.d. Oil on canvas board, 18 x 24 in. Collection of Roger Lightle.



Willie Daniels (1950-2021). *Backwater Dreams*, n.d. Oil on Upson board, 30 x 48 in. Collection of Roger Lightle.

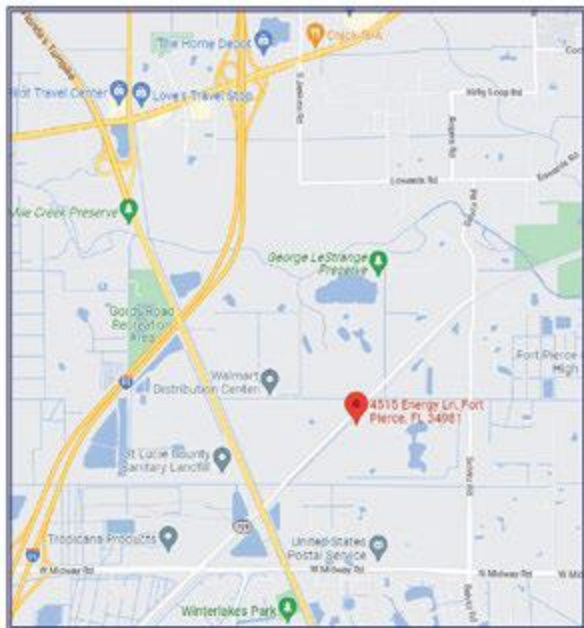


You're Invited!

Please join us as **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority** breaks ground on the new **Mainland Water Reclamation Facility** – a critical project that will replace aging infrastructure with new technology; increasing resiliency, limiting potential environmental impacts, and better serving the community. Learn more at www.SustainableSewer.net

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 3, 2023 | 2PM
4515 ENERGY LANE
FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34981

RSVP to Rachel Tennant - rtennant@fpu.com



DASHBOARD ... continued from page 9

nificant and rarely or never-before-seen works of art first traveled the highways and byways on their way to history.

The January 13 *Members Opening Reception* for **Dashboard Dreams: The Florida Highwaymen and the American Road** is 6:00-8:00 p.m., free of charge to Museum members; not-yet members \$20 (or join at the door and enjoy free access to all exhibitions and receptions for the year).

The **Backus Museum** is planning to present its annual favorite **Highwaymen Celebration Weekend** February 17–19, featuring free admission during regular hours. Visitors to the Museum can enjoy a range of special offerings outside and inside. The highlight of the weekend takes place on the Museum’s *Outdoor Mural Plaza*, where people seeking to start or build their personal collections of *Highwaymen* paintings will be able to browse an impressive selection offered for purchase by professional dealers, specializing in the vintage works of these artists. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the current state-of-



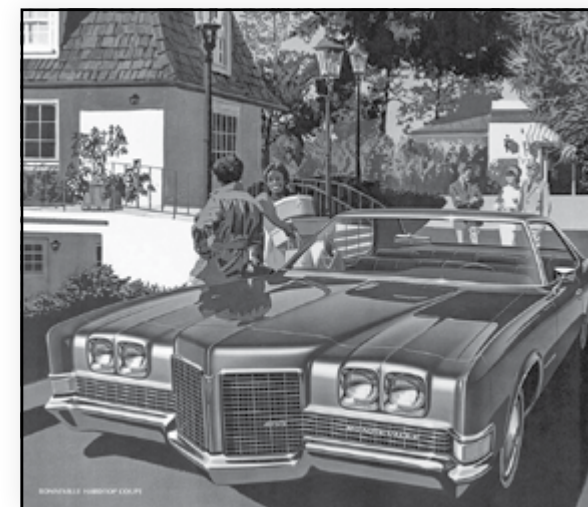
1960 Lark by Studebaker Automobile Advertisement featuring African American models, Ebony Magazine, December 1959

the-art market and to explore owning an original work of art for your home or office. **Dashboard Dreams** will be on display inside, with free gallery talks for the public each day. The special exhibition expands upon the year-round display of *Highwaymen* paintings on view, a display which includes video excerpts from the award-winning documentary film “The Highwaymen: Legends of the Road.” For more information please visit www.BackusMuseum.org/celebration.

(Please Note: at this time, the City of Fort Pierce is not planning for the return of their annual *Highwaymen Heritage Trail Art Show and Festival* in 2023.)

Information on the 2022–2023 Season’s exhibitions and growing list of supporting Season Sponsors can be found at <https://backus-museum.org/view>.

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



Car advertisement featuring African American customers, 1971 Pontiac Bonneville Hardtop Coupe prestige brochure illustration

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Don't Miss the 27th Annual NatureFest at the Manatee Center

by Jessica Kadie Barclay, Manatee Center Manager

Nature lovers are in luck this month! The **27th Annual NatureFest** will be held at the Manatee Observation and Education Center on Saturday, February 25th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

NatureFest boasts more than 30 booths hosted by Treasure Coast environmentally focused groups. This *free* event is an excellent way for families to spend time together and experience nature up close with hands-on activities and animals on display. Festivities will be held both inside the Exhibit Hall and outside on the surrounding grounds of the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** located in beautiful Downtown Fort Pierce.

NatureFest is a fun way to meet people from environmental agencies and learn about all the current conservation projects happening in our area. It also gives people the opportunity to explore all that the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** has to offer. Our indoor exhibit hall offers free admission for the day and is home to five aquariums displaying many different habitats found on the Treasure Coast. Our animals are very fun to spot—especially our moray eel “Noodle.” Additionally, don't miss our Touch Tank—where you can make friends with a starfish while you're here.

NatureFest offers a host of different activities for kids of all ages. The wildlife exhibits, touch tank demonstrations, crafts and conservation games are some of the favorite **NatureFest** activities that can be enjoyed during the event. The *Passport to Discovery* is your ticket to unlock all the fun to be had at NatureFest—and earn a prize. This free scavenger hunt is fun for the entire family. The **Manatee Observation and Education Center's** mascot, Moe the Manatee, is a crowd favorite and is also scheduled to make appearances throughout the day.

End your **NatureFest** experience with a trip to the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop**. There you will find hundreds of nature related items including books, jewelry, t-shirts, toys, accessories, home décor, and so much more. All proceeds support the **Manatee Observation and Education Center's** effort to promote understanding and responsible actions for the protection of the Treasure Coast's fragile ecosystem and its inhabitants.

I invite all to stop by and visit the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** and see how you can get involved. By working together, we can make a real difference! ❖

The Manatee Center February Events

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.
Fin-tastic Fish Feeding

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

February 3 & 17 at 2:00 p.m.
Creekside Chat

Join us at the **Manatee Center's** back walk, right along Moore's Creek for an informal educational talk led by a ManaTeam volunteer. Learn something new each month—and maybe even spot a manatee or two. *Creekside Chats* are hosted outside in our outdoor classroom and are free to attend. No registration required. The *Creekside Chats* series is a part of our regular programming offered every 1st and 3rd Friday at 2:00 pm.

Wednesday, February 8 at 11:00 a.m.

ManaTales Storytime, a Nature and Nurture Series

Nurture your child's natural curiosity about nature through this Mommy-and-Me-style program. Each session will focus on a new nature theme and includes a story, craft, and more. Some classes feature live animals! *Fun* for preschoolers. This series is part of our regular programming. It is offered the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Wednesday, February 8
Free Admission Day

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

Friday, February 10 at 12:00 p.m.
Zora Neale Hurston

Lunch & Learn—Zora Neale Hurston was a groundbreaking author, anthropologist, folklorist, filmmaker, and a part of Fort Pierce history. Marvin Hobson, IRSC Associate Professor and Hurston scholar, will discuss Zora's important contributions to history, literature, and culture. Admission is free, so bring a lunch and bring a friend. This event will be hosted by **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** at 700 N. Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce. *Free Event.*

Saturday, February 25, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
NatureFest

You are invited to attend this fun, free celebration of nature, conservation and the great outdoors. During the day, we will have Moe the Manatee, wildlife displays, children's activities, scheduled demonstrations, and more. We will also have food and beverage booths. This event, which helps promote both the **Manatee Center** and neighboring organizations, is held to support environmental awareness and conservation of our natural resources. *We hope that you will join the celebration!*

Arbor Day Foundation Names Fort Pierce 2022 Tree City USA

Fort Pierce was named a **2022 Tree City USA** by the **Arbor Day Foundation** to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Fort Pierce achieved *Tree City USA* recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: maintaining a tree board or department, having a tree care ordinance, dedicating an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and hosting an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The *Tree City USA* program is sponsored by the **Arbor Day Foundation**, in partnership with the *U.S. Forest Service* and the *National Association of State Foresters*.

“*Tree City USA* communities see the positive effects of an urban forest firsthand,” said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the **Arbor Day Foundation**. “The trees being planted and cared for by Fort Pierce are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program brings residents together and creates a sense of civic pride,

whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education.”

If ever there was a time for trees, now is that time. Communities worldwide are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, energy use, and extreme heat and flooding. Fort Pierce is doing its part to address these challenges for residents both now and in the future. More information on the program is available at www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA

About the Arbor Day Foundation: Founded in 1972, the **Arbor Day Foundation** has grown to become the largest non-profit membership organization dedicated to planting trees, with more than one million members, supporters, and valued partners. Since 1972, almost 500 million **Arbor Day Foundation** trees have been planted in neighborhoods, communities, cities, and forests throughout the world.

Our vision is to lead toward a world where trees are used to solve issues critical to survival. As one of the world's largest operating conservation foundations, the **Arbor Day Foundation**, through its members, partners, and programs, educates and engages stakeholders and communities across the globe to involve themselves in its mission of planting, nurturing, and celebrating trees. More information is available at arborday.org. ❖



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FPUA Breaks Ground on the Long-Awaited Sewer Treatment Plant

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority is excited to announce the long-awaited groundbreaking of the new **Mainland Sewer Treatment Plant**, set to take place on Friday, February 3, 2023 at 2 p.m. at 4515 Energy Lane in Fort Pierce.

The groundbreaking and relocation represent a long-term, shared community commitment to growth and change in Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County. "After nearly 20 years, and multiple attempts to relocate the plant, local leaders, policymakers, and community members have come together to make this shared dream a possibility," said Bo Hutchinson, **FPUA's** Director of Water/Wastewater Systems.

The groundbreaking will double as an informative and educational experience, where community members can get a feel for their new and long-awaited sewer treatment plant. Attendees are invited to take a virtual, immersive walk through the future facility and get a clear picture of what the end design will be. Attendees can also tour the physical site, learning all about the different buildings and functional components of the sewer treatment plant.

Speakers at the groundbreaking event include: Congressman Brian Mast, Ft. Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson, Representative Dana Trubusy, Senator Erin Grall, Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Board Member and St. Lucie County Commissioner for District 2 Chris Dzadovsky, and members of the **FPUA** board and leadership.

FPUA has contracted joint venture **GlobalTech-Haskell** to carry out the design, which is nearly complete, and construction, which will begin this month and end in approximately December 2024. The sewer system's conveyance system will be redirected from eastward to westward flowing at the same time, with plans to operate both plants while the new plant is turned on in phases. The island plant is expected to be fully decommissioned in 2027.



This critical project removes the existing island sewer treatment plant from the shores of the Indian River Lagoon, and places the new treatment plant five miles west, far away from the lagoon and in an industrial area away from neighborhoods. The project will replace aging infrastructure with new technology, increase resilience, limit potential environmental impacts, and better serve the community.

The move will ensure that the vulnerable Indian River Lagoon is shielded from any potential catastrophe. The upgraded plant will be more energy-efficient and cost less to operate, saving our customers money. It will also reduce an average two million gallons per day of draw from Florida's aquifers by instead utilizing reuse water from the sewer plant for the cooling towers.

The **Mainland Sewer Treatment Plant** is a testament to **FPUA's** commitment to providing the highest quality services to our community. We are proud to be able to break ground on this project and look forward to its completion. We invite and encourage lawmakers, media, and members of the community to join us in celebrating this important milestone.

To learn more about this important relocation project, visit www.sustainablesewer.net. ❖

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5th Annual "Celebrating Florida" Show

by Holly Theuns

The artists Anita Prentice and Doretha Hair Trusdell are excited to be showing together again at their 5th annual *Celebrating Florida* show and sale at *Main Street Fort Pierce* on Thursday, February 9th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you can't make the show on Thursday night, there will be a second chance to see and add to your local artists' collection



on Friday, February, 10th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Prentice and Hair Trusdell are pleased to have master wood artist Jack Shelton exhibiting with them again this year. Shelton has been creating award-winning wood art for over 30 years. He began making utilitarian pieces and then fell deeply in love with the grain, color and feel of



wood. In Jack's hands, wood is not an inanimate object — it comes alive. Shelton sees the beauty captured in the wood and releases it for all to see. His one-of-a-kind works of art have been shown all over the United States and are coveted by collectors worldwide.

You have probably seen and maybe even sat on Prentice's work. She is the mosaic artist responsible for the over 200 mosaic benches placed throughout St. Lucie County including at the *Fort Pierce Jetty* and *Veterans Park*. She is the resident artist for **Heathcote Botanical Gardens** and has created "Cobalt," a blue and white mosaic panda bear, a pair of mosaic lions and an old-fashioned hopscotch game in the *Children's Garden*. Brand new in 2022, "Gloria" the magnificent mosaic Gorilla in the

Rain Forest joined the collection. It is not a coincidence that one of the founders of the Garden was named Gloria Moore as Prentice chose to honor her memory and legacy with this installation. Prentice also works on a smaller scale and her mosaic landscapes, hibiscus and palm trees can be found hanging in most area homes. A couple of her lady bugs reside in France and one of her "Zora" portraits was exhibited in a show in Kent, England in 2022. Prentice was commissioned to create mosaic grave tributes to a number of the late *Florida Highwaymen*. In fact, that is how she first met Doretha Hair Trusdell, when she added a mosaic of his artwork to the grave marker for Hair Trusdell's late first husband, the *Highwayman* Alfred Hair.

Continued on page 19 ...

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CELEBRATING FLORIDA ... continued from page 9

Doretha Hair Trusdell was married to a *Highwayman* and is the mother of a 2nd generation *Highwaymen* artist and most importantly, a Florida landscape painter in her own right. Hair Trusdell paints the Florida many of us have seen kayaking, on a hike or driving the back roads. The native landscape before it has been paved or gated. She is an articulate speaker and a driving force behind the effort to have a *Florida Highwaymen* license plate added to Florida's specialty plate choices to honor these grassroots legends. Proceeds from plate sales will go towards funding and operating the *Florida Highwaymen Museum* in Fort Pierce.

Hair Trusdell's landscape paintings are sought after and held in many local collections. Her nocturnes, or paintings of

nighttime scenes, are especially magical. If you don't have a Doretha Hair Trusdell in your Florida art collection, here is your opportunity to buy one, or add to your collection.

Celebrating Florida is an excellent opportunity to see and purchase original artwork by three very talented Florida artists. Their work will be on exhibit and available for sale Thursday, February 9th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at *Main Street Fort Pierce*, 122 AE Backus Ave. in Fort Pierce. Meet all three artists and enjoy light refreshments. There will be a second opportunity to catch the show and sale on Friday, February 10th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have any questions about the show and sale contact *Main Street* at 772-466-3880. ❖



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This year marks the 26th Anniversary of the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market**. Each year brings more and better products in keeping with the Market's Mission Statement—to provide a venue for the sale of locally grown and produced food and horticultural products directly from those who participated in their production and to encourage commerce, entertainment and trade in downtown Fort Pierce.

Our Anniversary Celebration will be held on February 25 and will feature our famous limited edition Anniversary Bag with art by local artist Susie Cassens. Come meet the artist while she hand-signs each bag. Remember, they're limited edition and available only on Anniversary Day! In conjunction with the Market's 26th Anniversary, the historic **Sunrise Theater** is celebrating 100 years and the Market is honored to share this fabulous part of Fort Pierce history.

Continuing the festivities, *Uproot Hootenanny* will provide the background music all morning, and Cookie Monster is baking her delicious cookies for our valued and cherished patrons. There will be dancing in the aisles for sure!

The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** is adding to the roster each week with new vendors in every category.

B More Crabcakes has returned with their authentic Maryland Crabcakes. **Pineda Produce** has joined the ranks with a fabulous selection of fruits and vegetables. Check with the market manager for new vendors or vendor location.

Shopping, meeting, greeting, eating- all activities at the Market. Whether shopping for weekly staples or stocking the pantry, everything needed for delicious meals can be found. Catching up with friends, old and new, has become a favorite pastime at the Market. Strolling along the seawall, watching the sea life delights young and old. Something for everyone.

This time of year the weather is perfect! Chamber of commerce weather- clear skies, cool temperatures, low humidity, slight breeze- absolutely gorgeous! It's exactly what is needed after the doldrums and hurricanes of summer and before the heat sets in again. The vendors at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market take advantage of this fantastic weather to bring their best products for their favorite customers.

No wonder the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** is the best in Florida! Be a part of the excitement. *It's a Saturday morning tradition.*

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or check out our webpage at fortpiercefarmersmarket.com. ❖



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Love, JAZZ Community: Be Our Volunteer Valentine?

by Don Bestor

You probably remember the song that was playing when you first saw the love of your life or enjoyed your first dance. And so do we. You see, as musicians, it's not just our job to fill your life with music but to help cement the moments that simply can't be defined as anything other than magic. Whether it's your go-to road trip song, the tune you danced to with your mom or dad at your wedding, or that one song that always brings tears to your eyes every time you hear it, we understand. Not only do we understand — we make it our mission to master those tunes and recreate the magic just to enhance your life experience. And we've been doing it for a long time, so we've gotten pretty good at it. You could say that we're professional magicians because we find a way to recreate those moments for you and help you make new magical moments and memories every time we play. I guess you could say it's our gift of love, our Valentine to you, and all of us hope you will accept our gifts of love and pass that love along to others, too.

But even if you don't play an instrument or sing, you can still be a part of that passion and help enrich the lives of others through music. All you have to do is volunteer. We have lots of volunteer opportunities that do not involve one speck of musical talent, and each one of them is as important and valuable as every instrument in the biggest of bands. Our volunteer opportunities range from something as simple as making coffee or welcoming guests to our weekly jams to running sound and loading speakers and equipment. Basically, whatever you like to do is something we have a volunteer gig for, so why not share your gift and help make magic? Audrey Hepburn once said, "As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." Why not discover how helpful your two hands can be by volunteering today?

You don't have to be a rock star or a professional bass player to join our group; in fact, we'd like it even better if you join because you have other talents to share. Give us a call today at 772.460.JAZZ, or stop by one of our live events and introduce yourself. We've been waiting for you, and we're hoping that if music is one of your passions...even if that passion is just as a listener, we can be your Valentine and make magic and memories together. And if you want to know about all of our upcoming gigs in advance so you can plan your week, become a member, and we'll send you an invite to every one of them. Be a volunteer, become a member, and be our valentine today with just a click at www.jazzsociety.org. ❖



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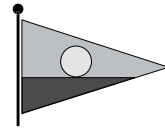
by Robynn Holland, Community Liaison FPYC

February seems to be the month most recognized as the month of love, so this month the FPYC would like to thank the many civic, faith, and charitable organizations in Fort Pierce for the love and dedication they share in the way they serve others. There are so many groups and people within the city that it is not possible to mention them all, but they work tirelessly to build community by serving others.

Each month at *Coffee with the Mayor*, hosted by the FPYC, an outstanding volunteer in the community is recognized. Nancy Arledge, with **South State Bank**, the December sponsor of *Coffee with the Mayor*, helped recognize Deb Pizzimenti as the December recipient. Then Ms. Arledge made a statement about volunteers: "Volunteers do not necessarily have more time; they have more heart." What an interesting observation. A wonderful example of what the *City of Fort Pierce* and the *Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis* accomplished in 2022 with their hundreds of volunteers was the rebuilding of the *Kids Park at Jaycee Park*. This park will be enjoyed by children for decades, and without volunteers it would not be a reality.

Volunteers are the key to success for any community/charitable activity and volunteer opportunities generally fall into the broad categories of animals, education, environment, faith, arts and culture, gardening, community, sports, children and youth. Recently, in the *12 Days of Christmas*, Ed Killer in articles for the *TC Palm*, highlighted 12 environmental groups along the Indian River Lagoon that advocate for the protection of the *water* that we are so privileged to enjoy for both recreation and business. If you love the water and are looking for a place to volunteer, check out these articles.

And something people may not know about the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, is that it is an all-volunteer club. The members of the FPYC not only volunteer all year to work in various club roles to help run social events, boating events and fund raising, they also volunteer in the community, not only to support the FPYC, but to support many other charitable organizations such as *Main Street Fort Pierce (Stars Over St. Lucie, Historic Ghost Tour, Friday Fest, Christmas Parade) Heathcote, ENDIT, The Garden Club, the FPPD, Treasure*



Coast Youth Sailing, Water Clean Ups, The 4th of July Boat Parade, and the Christmas Boat Parade, to mention a few. The FPYC Foundation, the charitable arm of the FPYC, provides a scholarship to a student at Indian River State College to serve as a summer intern at FAU Harbor Branch and this past year provided a scholarship to Wesley Island Eco Camp to sponsor a newly created junior camp counselor position. Currently, Diane Korbey, Director of the Trustees of the FPYC Foundation is collaborating with the Maritime and Marine Industry and the St. Lucie County schools to provide a career expo, entitled Chart Your Course for students to learn about careers on and near the water. And the FPYC will be providing volunteers to support this wonderful effort.

If you love the water, have the heart of a volunteer, and are interested in knowing more about the FPYC, we invite you to attend the FPYC Open House, Sunday, February 19, 2023 from 3–6 p.m. The event is called *Rock the Dock!* There will be live music provide by *Chobee Steelers Steel Drum Band*, a group of students under the direction of Shirlean Graham, along with other local musicians.

So, in February, while "love is in the air," if you are looking for a way to be involved in the community, contact one of the many civic, charitable, or faith organizations in the city and share your talents and love with others, or say thank you to those who are volunteering their time, expertise, and service to others. It is a great month to show appreciation for all those that serve. ❖

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The SBA Is Excited to Help New Businesses in the New Year

by U.S. Small Business Administration, www.sba.gov

If you've got a new business in mind for the new year, the SBA can help you get started.

If your New Year's resolution for 2023 is to start your own business, the SBA can help. We are committed to being there with you as you start your business journey, from the minute you have your idea to the moment you're turning your sign from "coming soon" to "open." Below are some tips to help you along the way.

Conducting market research and writing a business plan. Even the best business concepts need to be fleshed out. Ask yourself: Is there a market for my product or service? Who are my customers? Who are my competitors? Once you've answered these baseline questions, it's time to move on to the blueprint — the business plan. A good business plan will prove that your ideas are viable. While there's no right or wrong way to write one, an SBA resource partner can help you.

Researching funding opportunities. You've calculated your startup costs, and now you know roughly how much money you'll need to start your business. What you may not know is how to acquire that money. The SBA offers a variety of funding programs, from loans and investment capital to grants. If



you're having trouble getting a traditional business loan, there's no need to worry. The SBA's Lender Match tool can connect you with an SBA-guaranteed lender.

Choosing your business location, structure, and name. Your business location has big implications on everything from taxes and regulations to revenue. Maybe you envision a brick-and-mortar

store, or perhaps you plan to operate everything online. Either way, you'll want to be very mindful of where you set up shop. Picking the appropriate business structure impacts operations, finances, and more. Also, naming your business establishes your brand and is required to register your business.

Registering your business and acquiring state and federal tax IDs. Remember to register your business name with state and local governments once you've chosen it. For most small businesses, that's enough. Some, however, don't need to register at all. Use the SBA's tool to look up your state-specific requirements. You'll also want to apply for a federal tax ID number, also known as an Employer Identification Number (EIN). Doing so will allow you to open a bank account and pay taxes.



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easy to do, and it provides a wealth of benefits to both your customers and employees.

The SBA is excited to be along for the ride as you embark on your exciting new business adventure. If you have any questions about the above steps, reach out to one of our many resource partners today. ❖

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February Fishing Fun!

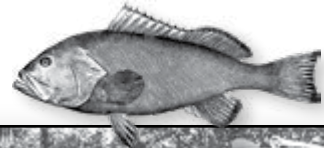
by Captain Bo Samuel

Winter fishing brings plenty of opportunity to target several species and have some great fishing adventures. Local anglers are catching snapper, pompano, trout, snook, triggerfish, red-fish, and sheepshead. While sheepshead can be caught year-round, now is the best time to try the shallow reefs near shore when they are in for feeding and breeding. Nothing beats the excitement of catching a fish with almost every drop of bait. These fish are easily recognized by their distinctive vertical black bars on their sides and sharp spines on their dorsal and anal fins. They provide a fun fight for anglers of all ages plus the promise of a very tasty fish dinner.

I recommend using live shrimp on light tackle with 30-pound fluorocarbon leader and a quarter-ounce jig. Find the shallow reefs along the beach in about 15 to 30 feet of water and plan to fish first thing in the morning as the sun comes up to be most productive. Some larger sheeps can get as big as 10–12 pounds but they generally run about 2–4 pounds. The minimum length for sheepshead is 12 inches although they can get double that size.

Snook season opens February 1st and there will be lots of anglers ready to catch that first keeper snook! Keepers are those snook that fall in the slot regulations of no less than 28 inches and no more than 32 inches which only makes targeting these elusive fish even more challenging.

Complete rules and regulations can be found at your local bait and tackle shops like **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** and **Debrooks Fishing Corner**.



The photo this month highlights the Anliker Family on another successful fishing mission. They are pros at keeping the reels on fire!

So, get fishing in February! Call or come by **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** and we can make a plan to get you out on the water catching some salty groceries of your own. The fishing is great so don't wait to start *Pullin Drag!* ❖



Favorite Recipes from Main Street Board Members



Rich Ziarkowski's Stuffed Jalapeno Appetizer



Ingredients

- 1 pound Hot Italian Pork Sausage in skin (I like the Publix brand)
- 1/2 cup pepper jack cheese shredded (use any cheese you like and honestly as much as you like)
- 1/2 cup fresh slightly cooked bacon cut up (never can have too much bacon)
- Fresh green scallions
- 1 pound jalapenos sliced in half and remove seeds (approximately 15 peppers)

Instructions

1. Clean jalapenos and cut in half.
2. Wash off and remove seeds (may leave some seeds in if you want extra spice).
3. Remove hot Italian pork sausage from skin, use one sausage at a time in order not to waste because remaining sausage you can throw them on grill to eat.
4. Fill each pepper with hot Italian pork sausage.
5. Top each stuffed jalapeno with shredded pepperjack cheese.
6. Top each with slightly cooked cut-up bacon (you can also just wrap the bacon around jalapeno).
7. Top each with chopped green scallops (optional).
8. Bake at 350° for 20 to 30 minutes (may take longer depending on oven).
8. These can be made in advance and placed in freezer to use in future.

Enjoy!

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