“Hey! Over Here!”
by Ginny Piech Street
See story page 16
Main Street Celebrates 27 Years in May!
by Sue Dannahower

I hope you made time for the Bev Smith Automotive Group’s Taste of the Seafood & Sandy Shoes Festival last month. Everyone I spoke with had a great time! There was something for everyone; from food vendors, to contests, to crafts, and even the Kid Zone. Thanks to Bev Smith Automotive Group, this is the biggest and best seafood festival on the Treasure Coast.

The Trolley Tours and Sunrise Theatre VIP Backstage Tours have been extremely popular this season. We would like to thank all of the people who have attended the Historic Downtown Fort Pierce and Lincoln Park District tours. Thanks to Anthony Westbury of the St. Lucie News Tribune/TCPalm.com, we have received accolades for these tours. Thank you to the City of Fort Pierce & Mayor Linda Hudson for helping to make the tours an overwhelming success. And much thanks to renowned mosaic artist, Anita Prentice, for helping to research and develop the Lincoln Park tours. Monthly tours will resume in November 2015, but private tours of at least 25 people can be arranged by calling the Main Street office.

Next month on May 6, 2015, Main Street Fort Pierce will be starting its 27th year as a Main Street organization. Stay tuned for more information on how we will celebrate our anniversary and save the date to join us at the Platts/Backus House for the festivities.

I encourage YOU to become involved in downtown Fort Pierce by joining Main Street as a member. Your membership dollars can be found hard at work — Main Street puts on more than 30 events yearly and most are free to the public. Call me at (772) 466-3880, I’ll sign you up TODAY! Would you like to volunteer? We have many volunteer opportunities. You can write for the Focus Magazine, pour beer during Friday Fest or volunteer for the August Reverse Raffle, just to name a few. Come by the office and we will get you on the list to be a volunteer.

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The festival, which boasted nearly 8,000 attendees last year, benefits Sea-Life Habitat Improvement Project, Inc. (aka SHIP). The proceeds aid in deploying a large Navy-type vessel as an artificial reef on the Treasure Coast and bolster the Police Athletic League and Fort Pierce Police Explorers programs. According to event coordinators, 700 gallons of oyster shells were donated to the St. Lucie County Oyster Reef Restoration Project last year. "If we shuck and serve all of the oysters that we have on order for this event that will be more than 12,000 oysters, That's a lot of shucking," says Andy Brady, president of SHIP.

"This is just one way we can give back to our marine environment which we have taken so much from. Encouraging and fostering healthy marine habitats is a key component to our mission statement."

The event is a great opportunity for vendors and sponsors to network in the community and enjoy the beautiful Fort Pierce waterfront. Over 200 volunteers are needed for the event. This is a great opportunity for high school students to earn hours toward their graduation requirements.

For more information contact April Price (772) 285-1646 or go to our website at www.FtPierceOysterFest.com. Sea-Life Habitat Improvement Project, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 public charity and is dedicated to sinking a large Navy type ship for an Artificial Reef and the enhancement to our artificial reef systems on the Treasure Coast of Florida.

Treasure A-plenty at the 4th Annual Fort Pierce Oyster Festival
The Treasure of Our Treasure Coast

by Michael R. Howard & Art Mundo Creative Writers Group

Violent winds howled and lashed our coast while thundering waves crashed against our offshore reefs and shoreline with terrifying violence and power. HURRICANE! It struck our coastline with a malevolent force that would forever shape our area’s future. No, this was not Hurricanes Francis and Jeanne of 2004, recent hurricanes that showed us their raw power and destructiveness and left little to our imagination for what ships might experience off shore. No, this was a powerful hurricane that struck our coast on July 31st of 1715. On that fateful day, eleven Spanish ships perished nearby, all scattered from Jupiter to Sebastian and all victims of “Furiosa Tormenta,” a powerful hurricane which blew herself anonymously into history but for the destruction she left behind. In her wake she also left special gifts from the sea which continues to fascinate us today, 300 years after that terrible disaster; great ship wrecks, treasure and mystery. She also granted us our wonderfully spirited name that binds our three counties into The Treasure Coast.

Jeanne of 2004, recent hurricanes were also heavily laden with gold, jewels and rare commodities bound for the Spanish treasury. Some ships were so heavy with treasure that they slowed the entire fleet and put them all in harm’s way as the powerful hurricane bore down on them from the east. It struck with uncompromising fury, separating the ships and rendering them helpless in the high seas and relentless winds. It pushed them ever westward and eventually onto our reefs and shore where they disappeared below the waves.

One can only imagine the horror of encountering such force while offshore in the small ships and galleons of that age. It was terrifying and proved fatal for over 1,000 of the 2,500 crew and passengers aboard those ships. For those who made it to shore, survival on our then deserted barrier islands was another challenge. Huddled together in makeshift shelters, praying for rescue, their survival was not guaranteed. They now faced the relentless August heat, hostile Indians, pirates, lack of food, water and medical attention and swarms of mosquitoes so thick they drove some to near madness. They would experience much misery and hardship before help arrived and returned them to Spain.

Many of these ships’ final graves remain a mystery. But some wrecks are well documented and the site of active salvage by treasure hunters during recent decades. Some wrecks are close to shore, in shallow water, and on calm days their remnants might even be seen from the air or the surface as they rest eternally on our nearby ocean floor.

This is a mesmerizing and intriguing story of tragedy, treasure, mystery and survival. It’s an epic tale that continues to fascinate us three centuries after that fateful day in 1715. It fires our imagination and draws the inquisitive and adventurous to our area like no other.

The commemoration of this historic event will culminate on July 31st of this year. However, leading up to this date and in the coming months, there will be many events held in all three counties and Fort Pierce to help commemorate this unique part of our history. Many organizations and individuals are already hard at work planning these events and it is our intent to inform you of these in coming editions. We will also attempt to shed light on the fascinating tales surrounding the “Flota de la Plata” disaster and the remarkable discovery of its hidden treasure over recent decades. There are countless stories of the many characters and events surrounding this story; tales of colorful treasure hunters who dove in our waters, many still actively searching; tales of valuable treasure discovered on these wrecks and stories of the technical and legal aspects associated with metal detecting and treasure hunting. It’s a unique piece of our history that continues to unfold, excite our imagination, fuel our curiosity and ignite our spirit of adventure. "Su Tesoro Espera."

There are many great resources close by that can help inform, educate and highlight this special piece of history: the St. Lucie History and Heritage Museum on Seaway Drive, South Hutchinson, the McLarty Treasure Museum on Highway A1A just south of the Sebastian Inlet and the Mel Fisher Treasure Museum in Sebastian along US Highway 1. All have outstanding exhibits and artifacts on display. A visit to all three is a must to get the complete picture of the history of the ships and their treasure. They complement each other exceptionally well. Additionally, the Holiday 2014 issue of Indian River Magazine has an excellent and very comprehensive article by Rick Crary about this historical event. Keep reading our Main Street Focus magazine in the coming months as we explore the 1715 Plate Fleet saga leading up to its 300-year anniversary commemoration and the focus of our July issue.

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Backus Discovery Trail Takes Its First Step

by Kathleen Fredrick, Executive Director

For several years the A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery has worked on the concept of taking the museum outside of the Museum; a Without Walls (W.O.W.) directive of sorts. The concept of an A.E. Backus Discovery Trail has been one of the projects planned. Designed to spread the word about A.E. Backus, the Indian River School of Art and Fort Pierce’s history, it wound up on the back burner and was shoved aside by fundraisers, exhibitions and the daily goings-on of a bustling museum.

Happily, the first stop, on the planned thirteen-stop Backus Discovery Trail was unveiled on Saturday, February 21, 2015. Completed just in time for the Florida Cracker Trail Riders parade and the celebrated opening of the Bud Adams-P.P. Cobb History Center, the first kiosk was welcomed by City officials, downtown merchants and the literally thousands of people who came downtown to view the parade. If you have not seen it, take a spin, literally, around the roundabout and look to the right. You cannot miss the ten-foot sign with a gorgeous painting and a roof of its own.

It is no small secret that downtown Ft. Pierce is bustling with activity. We have a vibrant art and culture scene, an excellent farmer’s market, a something-for-everyone arts and crafts market, good food, shopping and we have lots of visitors. The place we seem to fall short is in educating people about the historical significance of our quaint little town. Heaven knows we try, but it simply is not enough. Main Street, the Regional History Center and the Historic Trolley Tours are doing a bang up job, but the majority of visitors will not take the Trolley Tour or visit the History Center. The average visitor and new residents do not begin to scratch the surface of discovering who we are and where we came from.

The Discovery Trail aims to change that. Each Discovery Trail site will feature a large, full-color reproduction of a site specific, original A.E. Backus painting and a complimentary historical photograph from the St. Lucie Regional History Center’s collection of turn-of-the-century images by Harry.
The Old Fort Pierce Hotel — Backus painted numerous paintings for the Jungle Room, the Hotel’s lounge located on the west end of the lobby. Hotel guests were early patrons of Backus’ work. He also painted images used by the hotel for postcards.

103 Avenue C — (Home to the Manatee Observation Center) Goodwin & Backus Boat Works, established in 1913 on this site. A thriving, nationally prominent manufacturer of skiffs launches and cruisers through the late 1950s, booming Naval contracts during WWII necessitated a move to bigger quarters in 1942. Backus held his first job at his father’s boat business.

The Old Studio — The same location that was once the Backus Boat Works became the studio-home of Backus from 1948 to 1959. Commonly referred to as the Old Studio, Backus’ home became a gathering place for a wide variety of artists, writers, musicians and those who sought refuge from the social constraints of the Jim Crowe South. It was to this location that Zanobia Jefferson brought Alfred Hair to take lessons from Backus. The Florida Highwaymen were born at this site. Zora Neale Hurston was a frequent visitor. Intermingling of the races was frowned upon under Jim Crowe.

122 Ave. C. The New Studio — The City took Backus’ home, by eminent domain, to create Veteran’s memorial Park. To be certain that his patrons knew where to find him when they wished to purchase another painting he wisely relocated a mere block away to 122 Ave. C. Backus lived there until his death in 1990.

Lincoln Park Academy — Backus employed students enrolled in the school’s work-study program to make frames. Alfred Hair, the seminal Highwaymen painter, was also involved in the work-study program. His art teacher, Zanobia Jefferson, recognizing his talent took him to Backus’ studio to receive art instruction. The Queen of the Harlem Renaissance, author Zora Neale Hurston, briefly taught English at Lincoln Park Academy. Backus, always well read, knew of Hurston’s writings and thwarting social conventions, welcomed her into his home. She became a regular at the Studio jazz jams.

Baker’s Flamingo Bar & Grill, 900 13th Street — Baker’s Flamingo Bar & Grill was the venue for many African American stars as they toured the south. Black performers were not welcomed into the white performance venues. Backus and his friends often came to the Flamingo to listen to the likes of James Brown, Ray Charles, and Billie Holiday. During those days, the police would sometimes raid the club and round the white patrons. Intermingling of the races was frowned upon under Jim Crowe. Simonsen’s Restaurant Location — No longer a restaurant, Simonsen’s was a Fort Pierce institution. Not only was it the most popular dinner restaurant in town, with a large dining room displaying numerous Backus paintings but it was also the breakfast place of choice for most of the area’s fishermen and for Backus. Backus painted the picturesque docks many times.

The Captain’s Galley Restaurant — Following the closing of Simonsen’s Restaurant, Backus and his fishermen buddies took their morning gathering to the Captain’s Galley. They gathered there daily from 1980 until Backus death in 1990.

A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery — Originally conceived in 1958 and founded by Backus and a group of local arts aficionados in 1960, the Backus Museum currently holds nearly 100 Backus’ originals in its permanent collection. The Discovery Trail is a work in progress. Funds are needed and grants must be written. Agreements with the City for installation on public right of ways must be acquired, text must be written and images selected before the entire project can become a reality. Even with all the work yet to be done, the installation of the first kiosk is a cause for celebration.

The A.E. Backus Museum of Art is located at 500 N. Indian River Drive in historic downtown Fort Pierce. For more information call us at 772-465-0630, e-mail info@backusmuseum.com or visit our website, www.backusmuseum.com. Regular Hours: Wed. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sun. noon – 4 p.m., closed on Monday and Tuesday. Admission is $5 per person (except during special events or for special exhibitions). Museum members, active duty military, children 12 and under, students with a valid school I.D. are free. The Museum offers a $2 discount on admission for senior citizens, AARP, AAA and veterans with proper I.D. The first Sunday of each month is family day and admission is free to all.

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Early Fort Pierce Pioneers Featured at Bud Adams–Cobb Cultural Center Exhibit

A pictorial history exhibit of “Pioneer Life on the Indian River Lagoon” recently opened at the Bud Adams–Cobb Cultural Center in the historic P.P. Cobb building, 100 Avenue A, downtown Fort Pierce. The St. Lucie Historical Society welcomes the public to this free exhibit on the building’s second floor. The Center’s hours are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and by appointment or special program.

Visitors will enjoy exploring the exhibit and how the Lagoon shaped early pioneers’ lives and livelihoods, transportation and trade. The P.P. Cobb building, which has stood for 130 years as a center of community commerce, provides the perfect historic setting for the exhibit’s vintage photographs, maps, ephemera, and artifacts.

“Chronicling the course of our waterways in shaping our past, our present, and our future is the mission of the Center,” Jean Ellen Wilson, the Center’s Administrator notes, adding that “concerns for the well-being of the Indian River Lagoon and its tributaries have spurred the Society’s newest educational and cultural center, its current exhibit, and future programs.”

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Historic Downtown Fort Pierce Goes Blue for Jazz

by Debra Magrann

Let’s JAM!

April is JAM, Jazz Appreciation Month, with a host of initiatives in Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County to celebrate this original American art form beginning with a proclamation from Fort Pierce Mayor, Linda Hudson at the City Commission meeting, Monday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Sue Ellen Sanders, local educator and WPSL 1590 AM radio host will have BlueBird Educational Foundation’s (BBEF) founder, Darryl Bey, as her guest on Monday, April 13 beginning at 6:05 p.m. In 1996, Bey, along with Larry Lee, percussionist Stix Nickson, and other jazz enthusiasts founded the Fort Pierce Jazz Society which is known today as Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society. Their Jazz Jams happen weekly at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre on Tuesday nights.

BBEF is this month’s sponsor of the Main Street Fort Pierce Coffee with the Mayor on Friday, April 17 at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club beginning at 8 a.m. Bey and the BBEF Board of Directors will outline the Foundation’s mission and initiatives that focus on fostering jazz as a uniquely American art form, Recycling in the Key of E program, scholarships and a computer lab at Frontline for Kids.

There will be a drawing for a prize bundle and other giveaways for attendees.

Birthed in America and celebrated worldwide, jazz is one of our finest cultural achievements. It has been a powerful voice as it unites across what divides us. In 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. put it this way:

“Jazz speaks for life. The Blues tell the story of life’s difficulties, and if you think for a moment, you will realize that they take the hardest realities of life and put them into music, only to come out with some new hope or sense of triumph. This is triumphant music.”

To that end, JAM began in 2001 by John Edward Hasse, PhD, curator of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History to increase exposure to this uniquely American art form that swept the music world in the beginning of the 20th century. Paying tribute to the historic value of jazz and the cultural fabric it has woven in the United States, JAM events are planned worldwide. International Jazz Day (IJD) is April 30 and this year the party is in Paris! Events include a live streamed concert featuring jazz luminaries. The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges its members to support local efforts to celebrate both JAM and IJD. Locally, activities range from free concerts to educational programs. At the heart of BBEF’s mission is active participation. Young and old can read books about jazz, study the music, listen to jazz and attend concerts, stimulating the local jazz scene. The public is encouraged to spread the word and support the associations, schools and local jazz organizations that foster awareness to increase the profile of this musical genre. So whether it’s hot or whether it’s cool, jazz is jammin’.
Sue Dannahower is hosting a “Home is Where the Art is” fund raising event for Art Mundo on Saturday, April 18th, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is the third year for these small gatherings, which celebrate the old-fashioned dinner party — with a twist — they all showcase the art collected by area host collectors.

Dannahower, known locally as a gourmet cook, is planning a three-course meal including wine and beer: hors d’oeuvres, an Italian buffet dinner and desserts homemade by Marie Adamick (my Mom). Much of her art collection is by area artists and she has invited three of them, Colleen Becht, Anita Prentice and Ginny Piech Street to host the tour of her collection and tell the backstory behind the pieces, what is on their work tables now, and their idea of the dream commission.

Becht is well known for her watercolors, many of which have graced the covers of local magazines. Her work also appears on the front label of Unwined wine labels. Prentice is the artist responsible for all of the mosaic benches you see throughout St. Lucie County as well as the Royal Poinciana themed mosaic tribute to the area Highwaymen artists on the Avenue D Intermodal Transportation Hub. Piech Street specializes in being versatile — bronze, fiberglass, canvas — just to name a few of her mediums, and is probably best known for her whimsical birds and other characters. Piech Street and Prentice collaborated on the public art piece outside of the old city hall on Avenue A. It is called “A Bird in the Hand.”

Dannahower’s collection includes a Rick Kelly landscape, A.E. Backus sketch, and a wooden bowl turned by Janie Hinkle. She is a huge supporter of the arts and has won two of Art Mundo’s raffle “Calendar Calendars” and has purchased a number of works by Florida artists at Main Street’s annual Plein Air Paint Out event. There is art inside and outside of her lovely riverside home. This home, completed in August of 2014, is the fourth time she and her late husband Dan tweaked this floor plan. As they say, practice makes perfect, and I think you will agree this home is about as close to perfect for Dannahower’s needs as you can get.

Please join Art Mundo in enjoying the hospitality of Sue Dannahower. This promises to be a lovely evening with friends and is limited to 30 people, so please go online to reserve your seats now; this is an event you don’t want to miss!

Participating in Art Mundo’s “Home is Where the Art is” — “Art on the Drive” will allow guests to meet others interested in seeing Sue Dannahower’s art and supporting Art Mundo, while enjoying an evening out. Tickets to the event are $45 per person and include the dinner and a guided tour of Dannahower’s art collection. You can reserve and pay on the website, www.artmundo.org. Space is limited and reservations are required.

Art Mundo is a center for creative expression located at 111 Orange Avenue in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. The Center is open Tuesday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday nights until 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are closed on Sunday and Monday. Please visit our website www.artmundo.org to find out about upcoming shows, calls to artists, classes, special events and opportunities to volunteer. Our phone number is 772-466-1010.

Forty working artists share the refurbished bank headquarters building with us. Come and see the artists at work and visit the Loft third floor galleries.
Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation Celebrates Dedication of Roy Whitehead

The seeds for the Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation, Inc. were sown in 1980, when avid sailboat racer Al Sargent, with the help of John Brennen, organized the Fort Pierce Yacht Club. Al, the first commodore of the club, always envisioned a youth sailing program as being a desirable, if not a necessary, part of the club he wished to create, feeling it would benefit both the club and the community.

While the FPYC clubhouse was under construction and for some time after, membership attention focused on raising money and paying off debt and the impetus for a youth sailing program waned. The FPYC board occasionally discussed youth sailing but nothing was done until 2004. That year officers and directors of the Club concluded it should become more involved in the community and community events. Among ideas generated was the formation of a community youth sailing program. A group of FPYC sailors and past sailors enthusiastically endorsed the idea.

Fort Pierce Yacht Club members Clive Daem, Dale Cawthorne, and Roy Whitehead, scouted to find a suitable location because unfortunately, strong currents in front of the club were unsuitable for teaching children to sail. They determined that Jaycee Park, on South Hutchinson Island, presented the best location for the project.

Roy Whitehead continued to devote countless hours to the Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation. A corporation needed to be formed and a tax-exempt status was acquired. He worked with the city to get space in Jaycee Park and got a grant from the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency to help build the boathouse. He raised funds to purchase the first 12 Optimist type sailing prams. Each year he organizes the distribution of over 15,000 fliers to schools announcing TCYS’s summer camp. He visits and works with city officials to keep them abreast of Youth Sailing activities. He has served as the president of the foundation for most of its life and his values and clear vision provide guidance for all of us to follow.

For all his hard work and dedication the Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation recently recognized Roy Whitehead. Through his guidance, TCYS is a strong, focused organization committed to teach the wonders of sailing to generations of young enthusiasts.
You've probably heard of Cole Porter’s *Begin the Beguine*, so you probably know a beguine is kind of a dance that is slow but spirited, full of passion and just a hint of fun. That’s kind of what happens during the month of April for the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society as we audition student musicians on the stage at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre, each young and talented musician hoping to earn a $1,000 college scholarship.

The students have filled out applications, written essays, and exhibited their interest in being considered for one of the Society’s annual scholarships, but the month of April is all about the bass, and the trombone, and the cornet, and the drums, and the voice, and whatever turns music into magic. During April, students have practiced on their own and with their band teachers, too, and each student will have an opportunity to play with the pros on stage at the Black Box during Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society’s regular Tuesday evening Jazz Jam.

It’s true that most people are less afraid of death than they are of performing in front of an audience. Knowing that you’re on stage with someone who backed up the legendary Harry Belafonte, Tony Bennett, Dean Martin, or Sammy Davis Junior might tend to make you even more nervous, but it’s also a great way to face your fears and learn how to cope with stress and still perform beautifully. And that’s exactly why the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society makes a live performance part of the process for scholarship applicants. It’s a teachable moment that gives student musicians a chance to play with the pros and experience the magic of music.

It’s all part of the mission of the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society, which works tirelessly all year long, sharing music, encouraging culture, educating students, and keeping alive an art form that is even more American than apple pie and baseball. It’s why our volunteers work all year long to raise funds, and it’s why you’ll often see our pros providing music as volunteers to help promote other non-profit organizations throughout the area. It’s a slow, but passionate dance that involves a little give, a little take, and a whole lot of passion. And, while in any dance there are moments when you sometimes get your toes stepped on or miss a beat now and then with a less experienced dance partner, everyone enjoys the magic of the moment and a sense of community is created simply through the act of sharing the music with one another.

On behalf of all of us at Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society, I invite you to join us in encouraging the student musicians who will be taking the stage with the pros at the Sunrise Black Box every Tuesday evening during April to perform. Please cheer their bravery, applaud their efforts, and encourage them to continue working hard to achieve their goals and play their hearts out. Someone did it for all of us, and that’s why we can say we had a chance to back up Andy Williams, Bernadette Peters, Johnny Mathis, Bobby Darin, and so many others, and it’s why we choose to share our talents, time, tips, and treasure with the students of this area who will carry this art form lovingly into the future and share it with another generation.

If you’d like to learn more about our scholarship program or how to support the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society, please visit www.jazzsociety.org, or call 772-460-JAZZ.
New to downtown Fort Pierce is a little shop that will cater to a woman's fantasies and will definitely please the partners in their lives. **Mystique Boutique** is a quaint shop featuring a selection of women's clothing and lingerie, along with scented body lotions, gift items, cards and costumes.

Brenda Kehsam, the owner of **Mystique Boutique**, was born in West Palm Beach, FL, and moved to the small town of Marysville, CA, where she owned and operated **Mystique Boutique** for the last 24 years. Last August, Brenda closed the business and returned to Florida, where she calls home, and in March of 2015 reopened **Mystique Boutique** in downtown Fort Pierce.

Brenda loves the feel of a small downtown area and is happy to open here in Fort Pierce. When I asked Brenda to describe the shop she said “Feminine Mystique,” saying “that all women play many roles in society and they should have fun in these roles,” and the boutique is a fun place for women to shop.

**Mystique Boutique** has many things to offer women. The shop has gowns, dresses and a full line of lingerie from wedding attire to camo and a little bit of everything in between. She offers costumes for special events like Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Halloween, while offering gift items and romantic couple games.

**Mystique Boutique** is the perfect place to sign up a bridal registry for your bridal shower or bachelorette party. The shop has the perfect items for the bride-to-be, bridal showers, birthdays and anniversaries.

**Mystique Boutique** is located at 218 Orange Avenue in downtown Fort Pierce. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Visit them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mystiqueboutique1 or call 772-448-8702.

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**SELF – Solar and Energy Loan Fund**

The Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF) is a non-profit community lending organization established in February of 2011 whose mission is to provide favorable financing to property owners to complete energy efficiency, renewable energy, wind-hazard mitigation, and water conservation improvements.

To date, **SELF** has completed nearly 1,000 energy assessments and closed 337 home energy retrofit loans totaling nearly $3 million. **SELF** also administers St. Lucie County’s new **Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)** program. **PACE** provides business owners, non-profits, industrial, agricultural and multi-family property owners who are current on their taxes and have sufficient equity the ability to finance energy efficiency and clean-energy improvements with no money down. Using money saved on energy bills, building owners can repay **PACE** financing through a property tax assessment typically spanning 20 years making it easier to finance multiple improvements. This long term financing allows for little to no upfront costs, immediate cash-flow, energy savings and increase property value. The ability to spread payments over as many as 20 years allows multiple projects with significant energy improvements which equate to greater benefits. One of the distinct benefits of the program is that the **PACE** obligation transfers to a new property owner if the owner who obtained financing decides to sell the property.

Projects can range from high efficiency boiler replacements, high efficiency lighting, heating ventilation air conditioning improvements and controls, windows, variable speed motors, fans and pumps, furnaces and water-heating systems to comprehensive solar. All energy management systems and improvements that reduce energy costs in a building qualify for **PACE** financing, **PACE** allows for clean energy to be more accessible and affordable than it has ever been and this supports economic development by improving business operations and creating jobs. If several property owners in St. Lucie County's downtown district were to allocate this capital to their businesses, the deep energy upgrades would allow for them to control their energy costs. **PACE** is a sustainable model for financing energy upgrades in the commercial, industrial, agricultural and non-profit sectors. For more information, Please call **SELF** at 772-468-1818 or visit our website at www.solarenergyloanfund.org.
TECH BYTES: Updating Hardware/Device Drivers

by Michael Lewis, Mike’s Downtown Computer Repair

Nearly every component you plug into your computer has a piece of software called a driver that allows it to connect and function properly. Due to Operating System updates it is important to occasionally check your hardware manufacturers websites for these updates. To check, go to the manufacturers website for your hardware/device and click support, you then should see downloads. Once you find the downloads section it will want you to type in the model number. Most hardware/devices have a model number located either on the device or the cable that plugs the device into the computer. The final step is choosing which operating system you have. (You can find your operating system information by right clicking the My Computer icon on your desktop and clicking properties or by opening System in Control Panel.) Once the updated driver is downloaded simply run the driver and it will guide you through the installation. After installing you should restart the computer to finalize the changes. Good luck and safe computing.

Mike’s Downtown Computer Repair is located at 207 Orange Ave. Suite E in Fort Pierce; phone (772) 448-8155, cell (772) 480-3427.

Recipe Corner

Grilled Corn Salad with Avocado, Tomato and Lime

1-2 ears of corn, grilled
1 avocado, cubed
1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
1/4 cup chopped red onion
3/4 cup canned garbanzo beans (chickpeas), drained and rinsed
3-4 Tablespoons cilantro, chopped
3 Tablespoons lime juice
3 Tablespoons olive or grapeseed oil
salt and pepper to taste

Cut the grilled and cooled corn from the cob. Add corn to a medium mixing bowl along with avocado, tomatoes, onion and chickpeas. Toss gently. Add the cilantro and squeeze the lime. Drizzle with oil and toss again, gently. Season with salt and pepper to taste and chill. Serve either chilled or at room temp. Enjoy!

To grill the corn I simply remove the silks and husks, place the cob directly on the grill over medium heat. Turn every few minutes until desired doneness is achieved.

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The Barrows of Pelican Bay

by Rod Smith

Most mornings find the south breakwater of the Fort Pierce Inlet busy with anglers of all ages, size, race, color, creed and sex. Their prey is predominantly bluefish, mackerel and sand perch; although the occasional pompano may be seen flopping around in its death throes beneath the smiles of both lucky angler and jealous onlookers.

Fort Pierce anglers dress casually and to suit the weather: shorts and tees on warm mornings and suits and jackets when Mother Nature is foul of mood. Almost all anglers wear ball caps; again, of all sizes, types, colors and logos. They share the jetty with the inevitable tourists gawking at the fancy boats coming and going from the Fort Pierce and Pelican Bay marinas located mere minutes upstream. As anglers, they also carry the tools of their trade—rods, reels, bait, tackle boxes, coolers, and even the odd lawn chair. Lacking clerks, secretaries, executive assistants or bellhops, anglers carry their own accoutrements for rod storage. This one appears to be an executive model—not the four-wheel-drive! Many anglers carry more than one rod and some drag along as many as six or eight. One must presume that it’s a case of different rods for different fish, or perhaps just in case one or more rods are lost to the ocean bottom. Sometimes, an angler will get a bite and reel in not a fish but rather someone else’s lost rod—yes, it does happen! Snagging something on the bottom also happens and an inexperienced angler can easily lose a rod while trying to jiggle it free. Fishing for small fish with a fifty-pound test line is an excellent way to lose a rod—including hook, line and sinker—as the line (and rod) suddenly snaps back towards the snagged hook.

A step-up from the converted grocery cart is the always-advantage. Note too the knobby tires for negotiating cement, sand and pebbles.

As already recognized, many of these homemade barrows are quite innovative. Take the blue and orange SPREAD-TACULAR for example. Nothing new here with the milk crate, bucket and PVC rod holder; but check out the wheels and frame—that’s right, it’s an old lawn spreader designed for seed, granulated-lime or fertilizer! The giveaway is the central spreader mechanism now hanging below the basket with no real purpose anymore. But let’s move along to some of the superstars of angler-barrows.

The GADZOOK’ILLA might just be a stonemarked item, but it’s still quite impressive. Once again, note the multiple rod holders, coolers and tackle boxes. It seems like there’s a place for everything in this wonder-wagon. One has to wonder if the cooler is for fish or for beverages! This model truly is for the discerning angler.

And finally, the Cadillac of Fort Pierce Angler-Barrows—the one and only PVC-A-THINGY! Wow, just when you thought you’d seen it all, this short, little wiry guy shows up with a modern marvel of innovation and invention. Remember, just one guy, yet storage for almost a dozen rods & reels—not to mention lots of space for the catch-of-the-day. There’s even space for a lawn chair.

Take a stroll some morning down your local breakwater, what or jetty and see some of these wonders for yourself. If you’re an angler, what type of barrow do you have? Maybe this article will tempt you to upgrade to the next generation of super-angler-barrows.

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