Coming Soon … the launch of the Florida Stories: Fort Pierce Walking Tour is April 21st. This is a fun and engaging walking tour produced by the Florida Humanities Council and managed by Main Street Fort Pierce. Discover the stories of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce — on your phone!

See page 5

Plus, businesses are blooming and booming in Downtown Fort Pierce. See more inside…
The Bev Smith Automotive Group Taste of the Sea & Sandy Shoes Seafood Festival was a huge success. There was something for everyone; from food vendors, to contests, to crafts, and even the KidZone. Thanks to Bev Smith Automotive Group, this is the biggest and best festival on the Treasure Coast.

Next month we begin our 29th year as a Main Street organization and this year we have a special place to hold our celebration — the Sailfish Brewery. Stop by the Sailfish Brewery from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 10, to help us celebrate Main Street during our Annual Celebration & Meeting. Save the date and look for more details in the May issue of the Main Street Focus.

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 25 free public events a year, promotes and supports small businesses, has restored historic properties that encouraged further reinvestment, and works with government, businesses, and organizations to strengthen the local economy. Call me at (772) 466-3880, I’ll sign you up today!

Would you like to volunteer? We have many positions available both in the office and during our events. You can write for the Focus Magazine, pour beer during Friday Fest or volunteer for the August Reverse Raffle. Whatever it is you enjoy doing, we can always use your help.

Shop and dine locally, in historic downtown Fort Pierce.
Florida Stories Walking Tour App to Launch its Fort Pierce Audible Walking Tour on April 21st

by Joanne Blandford

This spring, Fort Pierce is one of five cities to be added to the Florida Humanities Council’s Florida Stories Walking Tours. The launch of the Fort Pierce audible walking tour will take place at the Coffee with the Mayor event on Friday, April 21st at 8:00 a.m.

The Fort Pierce Florida Stories App tour is an exciting addition to the historic trolley tours and the Ghosts of Fort Pierce. This free walking tour will allow you to walk in the footsteps of the individuals who played a role in developing the city into what it is today.

The Florida Stories App is a program sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council, an independent nonprofit that “develops and funds programs that explore the stories of Florida, its history and cultural heritage, literary and artistic life, environment and development, issues and ideas, communities and traditions.” Main Street Fort Pierce applied for a grant last year from the Florida Humanities Council to become one of the five Florida Stories cities for the program’s spring launch.

The Fort Pierce, Key West, Tarpon Springs, Fernandina Beach and Gilded Age St. Augustine audible tours will join the existing Florida Stories cities of Bartow, Lake Wales, Pensacola, DeLand, Historic St. Augustine, and Tampas’ Ybor City. This is a great way to explore Florida destinations at your own time and at your own pace.

The Fort Pierce tour will include the following stops:
- Seven Gables Visitor Information Center
- Platt’s Backus House
- Harry Hill House
- Raulerson Building
- Railroad at the Night Train Mural
- East Coast Lumber
- Peacock/Butterfield Building
- Historic City Hall
- Arcade Building
- Sunrise Theatre
- New Fort Pierce Hotel
- P.P. Cobb Building

The Fort Pierce tour will begin at the Chamber of Commerce’s Seven Gables House Visitor Center located at 482 N. Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce. Rack cards for the tour will contain instructions for downloading the app and a map of the tour stops.

Once the Fort Pierce tour is downloaded, participants can follow the rack card map and choose the numbered audio selection that correlates to the particular stop. Photos, which relate to the material being presented, will appear on the screen of the phone during the tour narration. Each site will contain specific information about that particular location as well as additional stories about individuals, industries, and/or events that may be related to the site.

For more information about the Florida Stories Walking Tours App, call 772-461-9152 or visit www.fortpiercemuseum.org. For more information about the Florida Humanities Council Florida Stories App and the participating cities please visit https://floridahumanities.org/programs/florida-stories-walking-tours.
You Want to Open a Small Business. Now What?

Do you have a dream of opening your own business? Is there a unique good or service that you can offer customers? Do you want to offer the community something you feel it needs? If you’ve answered “yes” to any of these questions maybe it is time you put your dreams and ideas on paper and create a business plan.

What is the first step to starting a business? Well, first comes the dream or idea and next comes the strategic planning to bring it to reality. A business plan defines your objective. It outlines who you are, what you do, how you do it, where you will operate, how you will generate profits, who your customer base is, and what will make your business stand out and succeed. This is where national and local small business development organizations can help. There are a number of FREE online workshops that cater to small business newcomers at the Small Business Administration’s website: www.sba.gov. Local consulting services and small business training can be found through the Florida Small Business Development Center at Indian River State College. Potential entrepreneurs or existing business owners, wishing to expand their businesses, can seek information by visiting www.irsbiz.com or by calling (772) 462-7296.

While working on your business plan be sure to tour downtown Fort Pierce’s available retail spaces. Depending on your business plan, downtown Fort Pierce may already draw the potential customers you seek.

Small businesses are and have traditionally been the heart of every community. They leave less of an environmental footprint than most big-box stores yet contribute a significant amount more tax dollars back to the local community they serve. Not only that, each employee or resident that works or lives in downtown districts add between $2,500 to $14,000 back to the downtown economy each year.*

Our local economy grows stronger with each successful business that opens its doors. Main Street Fort Pierce wants you!

*Donovan Rypkema, Place Economics

U.S. Coast Guard Station Hosts Open House on Saturday, April 8th

by Jean Ellen Wilson

The United States Coast Guard Station, located at 900 Seaway Drive, will host an open house on Saturday, April 8th from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. in conjunction with the 60th Anniversary of the Sandy Shoes celebration.

Members of the Historical Society will welcome visitors inside the gates of the Coast Guard Station on Seaway Drive. This will be a rare opportunity to observe the many ways that the Coast Guard contributes to the well-being of the public and provides a critical margin of safety to commercial and recreational boaters.

The open house will include viewing and inspecting the 33’ and 43’ Coast Guard vessels. Coast Guard personnel will be on hand to answer questions about the Fort Pierce Coast Guard Station and the role of the Coast Guard here in Fort Pierce.

The Historical Society was organized at a meeting of the St. Lucie County Library Association on Nov. 18, 1952. Membership was open to “anyone interested in the objectives of preserving and compiling historical data and objects of this area.” O.C. Peterson, still active in the society, was among the charter members, as were ancestors of current members from the Ankeny, Fee, and Putnam families.

Historical Society volunteers operate the St. Lucie County Regional History Center on Seaway Drive, open Wednesday through Sunday. Here, visitors will find an impressive array of exhibits and artifacts that tell the story of the people of the Indian River area. Members also serve as docents at the Bud Adams Cultural Center in the P. P. Cobb Building where vintage photographs introduce visitors to local history. That facility is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Contacts for additional open house information are Nancy Bennett, president, St. Lucie Historical Society at 462-1795.
A Scavenger Hunt for All Ages

by Kathleen Fredrick

On November 19, 2016 the A.E. Backus Museum opened its brand new facility with a gala bash. By many accounts, it was the best party Fort Pierce has ever seen. Over 200 guests attended the “Evening in Old Havana” celebration and enjoyed an incredible evening featuring a 14-piece Latin Jazz orchestra, lavish Cuban food, cocktails, classic cars of the 1950s and even a cigar bar. What none of the guests realized was that they were dancing and dining on top of the Museum’s Art and History Scavenger Hunt. That’s right, it was right below them and they didn’t have a clue. Imbedded into the Museum’s Mural Plaza walkway is a winding, coral pathway filled with all sorts of intriguing tidbits of local art and cultural history.

The Art and History Scavenger Hunt is the brainchild of the Museum’s talented and vivacious landscape architect, Lisa R. Nelson, CLA, who also created the plan for the Museum’s gorgeous landscaping. Working with Museum staff, Lisa created a permanent outdoor educational experience that is fun for all ages, from toddlers to seniors. The Museum was committed to enhancing its public art and educational offerings in the new design as well as creating an inviting space that people want to come and spend time in. Lisa’s innovative idea did just that. By creating an interactive activity that is open 24 hours a day and free to all who want to explore it, she brought some of the information found inside the Museum to the outdoor environment. Visitors can sit and enjoy the newly installed murals by nine artists from across the state and follow the coral pathway to enjoy the hunt.

Guides to the Art and History Scavenger Hunt, sponsored by Patrons of the Arts, Pat and Laura Murphy, can be found at the Museum’s east entry walkway as well as on the wall, under the architectural tents. The Museum encourages explorers of all ages to come to discover a little bit more about local history and to have fun while you are doing it.

Another brand new addition to the Museum’s exterior is the nine large mural panels that have been installed on the walls. Ranging between 4’ x 6’ and 4’ x 8’ in size, the images depict different interpretations of living outdoors in Florida. A Museum committee reviewed over 50 artist’s design proposals and selected these nine for exhibition. The works are not reproductions, but are actual paintings created especially for the Mural Plaza.

Artists who have work featured on the Mural Plaza walls are: Tiffany Beasi of Boca Raton, Michael G. Enns of Coral Gables, Mary Fragapane of Bradenton, Carlos Innocente Gonzalez of Miami, Russell Gulick of Jupiter, Tony Rosa of Sebring, Pedro Rubio of Palmetto Bay, Ivan Roga of Mum, and Jackie Schindehette of Ocala. Each artist brought a completely different concept, design and technique to the project.

The Museum plans to keep the murals installed for a period of three years at which time a new Call to Artist will be sent out. Patrons of the Arts may sponsor a mural panel in honor of a loved one or to mark a special occasion or event. Current Mural Patrons include: Carolyn Huggins and Dan Gushman, Lisa R. Nelson, Hoy and Dottie Murphy Family Trust, Jack and Sally Chapman, and George and Susan Pantuso. Mural sponsorships will remain in place permanently, even though...
SCAVENGER … continued from page 9

the artwork may change in the future. Additional naming opportunities are available for the gorgeous, one-of-a-kind, mosaic benches created by artist Anita Prentice as well as some key interior gallery spaces.

The all-new A.E. Backus Museum is bursting with beauty and creativity. If you haven’t taken the time to come and discover what’s in store, what are you waiting for?

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery is located at 500 N. Indian River Drive, along the waterfront in historic downtown Fort Pierce. For more information, call 772-465-0630 or email info@BackusMuseum.com. Visit our website, www.BackusMuseum.com and please like our Facebook Page – A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery. Regular hours: Wed. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun., noon to 4:00 p.m., closed on Monday and Tuesday. Admission is $5 per person. Museum members are free. Children under 18 and active duty military are always free. AARP, AAA and Veterans with proper I.D. receive a $2 discount on admission. The first Sunday of each month is family day and admission is free to all.

MISSION STATEMENT: To serve the community by preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting the arts and historical artifacts in order to enhance the quality of life for all people.

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery is located at 500 N. Indian River Drive, along the waterfront in historic downtown Fort Pierce. For more information, call 772-465-0630 or email info@BackusMuseum.com. Visit our website, www.BackusMuseum.com and please like our Facebook Page – A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery. Regular hours: Wed. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun., noon to 4:00 p.m., closed on Monday and Tuesday. Admission is $5 per person. Museum members are free. Children under 18 and active duty military are always free. AARP, AAA and Veterans with proper I.D. receive a $2 discount on admission. The first Sunday of each month is family day and admission is free to all.

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 aHandlesetting.
- 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.

Main Street Membership Levels

Benefactor Levels
- Headline Sponsor ($1,000)
- Patron Sponsor ($500)

Community Levels
- Main Street Student Membership ($15)
- Main Street Friend Membership ($25)
- Main Street Family Membership ($50)

Corporate Levels
- Main Street Small Business Membership (less than 10 employees) ($300)
- Main Street Medium Business Membership ($10-50 employees) ($500)
- Main Street Large Business Membership ($51 or more employees) ($500)

Please Take a Minute to Join Today!
Complete the form below and join our growing group of committed members. By joining Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., you are supporting the economic well-being of the entire community.

Name: ____________________________ Membership Level: ____________________________
Company/Organization: ____________________________
Street Address: ____________________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

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 years, we have worked to repair streets and sidewalks, upgrade storefronts, renovate the Sunrise Theatre, Old City Hall and the Flatts 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 of 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.

Russell Gulick, Jupiter, FL
Jacqueline Schindehette, Ocala, FL
Tony Rosa, Sebring, FL
Tiffany Beasi, Boca Raton, FL
The Dynamic Culinary Duo of 121 Tapas on the Water

by Betsi Hill

Hallie and Jason Alfonso of 121 Tapas are taking the Fort Pierce food scene by storm. This dynamic culinary couple purchased 121 Tapas in mid-2015 and opened the doors on the new 121 Tapas on the Water in September of 2015.

With a desire to open their own restaurant, they jumped at the opportunity to purchase 121 when the owner decided to sell. With a combined 37 years experience in the food industry, they are certainly raising the bar on the food scene by storm.

Combining delicious flavors, with a touch of spice and using locally sourced seafood, meats and produce, Jason is an artist in the kitchen.

Growing up in the food business, working with her mother’s Virginia Beach, Virginia restaurants, and catering business, Hallie brings her love of wine to 121. As a certified Sommelier, Hallie is most at home creating wine pairings to Jason’s cuisine. As a lover of good wine, I can honestly say that 121 Tapas offers a good, solid wine list, and the list continues to grow as Hallie adds to it.

This couple sees the Fort Pierce foodie scene beginning to grow. As a certified Sommelier, Hallie is most at home creating wine pairings to Jason’s cuisine. As a lover of good wine, I can honestly say that 121 Tapas offers a good, solid wine list, and the list continues to grow as Hallie adds to it.

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Don’t go away empty-handed; there are plenty of take-out options like homemade fudge, brownies, ice cream sodas, shakes, sundae and banana splits.

Theatre patrons can stop by the shop on nights prior to shows at the Sunrise Theatre. King has been tapped to sell her goods at the Black Box refreshment bar for the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society Jazz Jam on Tuesday evenings.

The Brooklyn Sweets gals are attentive to customers and can prepare confectionery delights for special events, parties and weddings, too. Shop hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. to Sat., Sundays, Noon to 6 p.m. Contact Ethel King at 772.528.8080 or e-mail: brooklynsweets102@aol.com.

Suite 206 — Rivero Designs / The Art of Jewelry welcomes purveyors of unique artistry found in their custom designed fine art jewelry. Colorful and vibrant, the selection of bracelets, rings, earrings, brooches and necklaces are inspired by art deco designs and influenced by Cuban and Caribbean cultures. Oscar Rivero’s bold use of semiprecious gemstones — amethyst, lemon citrines and fresh water pearls in settings of sterling silver echo his nearly 30-year career in the industry. Each piece is signed by the artist. For more information, contact him at 772-801-5729.

Suite 209 — Sports Lane Footwear & Sporting Goods offers sports-wear selections from limited edition sneakers to high-performance workout and active wear for men and women. Brothers David and Christopher Hnoa have built an online customer base and now offer their inventory to the retail public at their second floor location in the Galleria. Brands include Adidas Originals, Fila, PUMA®, Sperry Top-Sider® and NFL licensed products. New arrivals include Nike Air collectible sneakers and Croc Protect is on hand to keep your investment clean and stain-free.

If you’re in the market for the latest threads to fit your athletic lifestyle, check out Sports Lane. They also carry flex-fit hats, laces, sunglasses, socks, bags and street wear — it’s all here. Find them on Facebook at Sportslane Florida.

The Galleria of Pierce Harbor is developed by Gustavo “Gus” Gutierrez. For leasing information, contact him at 772-801-5729.

The Key of Speed is located at 307 Orange Avenue, is opening its doors in April and will appeal to musicians, music enthusiasts, and those that crave vinyl LPs. Its owner, Robert Speed, is originally from Columbus, Ohio and started his music career there. He has had 5 years of musical training in each, classical and jazz improvisation. Speed’s musical career has led to many opportunities and associations. These connections help him promote other talent through his production business, Robert Speed Productions. The Key of Speed will physically promote local, national and worldwide talent through music, art, and merchandise sales. It will also sell vinyl LPs, new retro turntables, audio equipment, and music-inspired clothing and accessories.

Robert Speed’s performing career started with funk and rock music. He was a member of the wildly popular Ohio-based band, Greyship Daviz. In the late 1970s and into the early 1980s, he and his band mates were known for their face paint, magic, pyrotechnics, and exciting stage performances.

Speed left Ohio for California and joined New Horizons, a band that signed with Columbia Records. Later he joined the band Sun with Capital Records. As a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, performer and producer, Speed has made many connections in the music world throughout his career.

After living in San Diego for 23 years, Speed came to Sarasota, Florida where his son, Julian Douglas (also a talented musician, songwriter, performer and producer, Speed has made many connections in the music world throughout his career.

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The Key of Speed is located at 307 Orange Avenue and will open in April. For more information, please call (772) 301-9302 or email keyofspeed@gmail.com.
Mariola Borkowski has been interested in transforming faces through makeup since her childhood. Her interest began when her mother, a model in Poland, brought Mariola along to her photo shoots. Being around the photographers and makeup artists sparked a lifelong appreciation of the art behind applying makeup. Mariola herself is an extremely talented artist as evidenced by her work in this field.

Mariola first settled in Chicago after she and her family moved to the United States from Poland in 2004. She bought a winter house in Jensen in 2006 and gradually fell in love with Fort Pierce after visiting the area over the years. "I was overwhelmed by what was going on in Fort Pierce," she says. After her son, Krystian Karwecki, graduated from college and started his career in New York City she decided to open a makeup application and skincare business in Florida. In 2016, she married her longtime friend, Tomasz, sold her house in Jensen and decided to make Fort Pierce her permanent home.

In January 2017, Mariola opened her business, Makeup Art by Mariola, in the historic Arcade Building on US 1 and Orange Avenue. She offers a vast range of services including makeup consultations, practical everyday makeup application, bridal makeup, photo-shoot makeup, permanent makeup, dermaplanning, microneedling, microblading, eyelash extensions and more. She expertly customizes the needs of each client based on the needs of their skin and/or makeup preferences. She only offers services and skin care products that she would use on her own skin.

Mariola’s passion is applying special occasion makeup. This is where she, as an artist, can create a work of art on the face of a client. She has done this type of makeup application for photo shoots, Halloween events, special occasions, and as a fund-raiser for a Chicago nonprofit. She is especially excited to do this for clients next Halloween, as she can transform a face using special effects. She is also skilled in applying airbrush makeup, which is popular for weddings, proms and other events. Airbrush makeup is water resistant, needs no touchups, and adheres longer than traditional makeup.

For everyday makeup wear, Mariola offers consultations on makeup application and products. She carries the Image Line of makeup, which is created in Florida and specializes in southern exposure skincare. She recommends thoroughly reviewing the ingredients in any makeup and skincare products before use, as some contain materials that do not benefit the skin. For groups (i.e. birthday, bachelorette, bridal parties, girls-night-out, etc.), she hosts makeup parties and, for an additional fee, will provide food and beverages. Regular or special event eyelash extensions are an option for highlighting the eyes. For those wishing permanent makeup solutions, Mariola is trained in eyebrow micropigmentation using either a digital pen or a manual pen. Permanent eyeliner and lip liner are also available options.

To keep the skin healthy and vibrant beneath the makeup, Mariola recommends reoccurring facials. She herself is a living example of the results of healthy skin care. After examining her client’s skin, she can offer a customized skin care regime to maintain its vitality. Since consistency is the key

Continued on page 18 …
Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market, Continuing the Tradition

by Brenda Gibbons

If it’s Saturday, it must be market day! The Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market is jamming this time of year. The chamber of commerce weather just caps off the perfect location at Marina Square in historic downtown Fort Pierce and all the winter visitors have found this fabulous place to be on Saturday mornings.

Local residents are used to this delightful scene but just think about the newbies stumbling upon it — almost any kind of food to eat or go, fresh vegetables and fruits, organic and conventional, luxurious hand-made body products and soaps, healthy fruit or vegetable drinks, plants of all kinds, fresh cut flowers, coffee and teas, spices and herbs both fresh and dried, baked goods, fish, meat, eggs, cheese, etc.

Trying to decide what to eat for breakfast is a huge task. There are omelets, crepes, hash browns, Jamaican, Mexican, Greek, healthy or not so, but oh so delicious! Breads fresh baked locally include French, Italian, specialty, then compound that with scrumptious pastries like croissants and strudels, both conventional and vegan.

The fresh-squeezed orange juice and juice fusions, smoothies, coffee or tea are perfect to complement any dish chosen. And don’t forget lunch or dinner — almost everything to eat can be taken home for later! More decisions!

Walking along the paths between the vendors is a sensory delight for taste and smell, but added with the beautiful presentations prepared to order, it’s almost too much! How to decide! The air is also filled with vibrant tunes and Market patrons dance along to the beat of live music. It’s a party every week.

Whether shopping for the day or the week, it’s a one-stop event. Enjoy the weather along the sea wall and watch the marine life as folks delight in feeding or just watching. Greet old friends or make new ones — you’ll see them time and time again at the best place to be on Saturday morning.

Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market is open every Saturday, rain or shine, from 8:00 a.m. until noon at Marina Square. Come see what all the talk is about. It’s a Saturday morning tradition!

Mariola ... continued from page 17

for proper skincare, she offers a commitment membership program that offers savings to her regular clients.

Mariola feels that those who wish to go into the skincare business proceed with thorough training. Even though her students may one day compete with her business, she prefers to help train others in the proper way to apply makeup. She offers certification training at a lower cost than most institutions and recommends that her students only use the best products to ensure high quality results.

Makeup Art by Mariola is located in the historic Arcade Building at 101 US 1, #110 in Fort Pierce. Hours are by appointment by calling 773-386-4200. For more information please visit the Facebook page of Makeup Art by Mariola. Specials are available including half-price gift certificates, Groupon discounts, and loyalty program discounts.
Fort Pierce Mayor Awards Gold Hammer Winners

City of Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson announced the winners of the Mayor’s Gold Hammer Award on Friday, March 17, at the monthly Coffee with the Mayor. The Mayor’s Gold Hammer Awards are presented in March and September in an ongoing effort to recognize improvement projects within the City of Fort Pierce. Recipients have added value to their neighborhoods by restoring, constructing or enhancing their properties in a way that contributes to the character of their surroundings.

A well kept home, neighborhood and business means that residents take pride in their community. With pride comes value, beauty and a great image for our city.

The Mayor’s Gold Hammer Awards are sponsored by East Coast Lumber and Supply Company. Each category winner receives a $100 gift certificate from the sponsor and a sign displayed in front of their home or business.

Nominations are now open for September 2017 Gold Hammer Awards. Nomination forms are available in the Mayor’s Office at City Hall or on the City’s website at: www.cityoffortpierce.com/141/Applications.

About Coffee with the Mayor: Coffee with the Mayor is held on every third Friday of the month at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club at 700 N. Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce. The event begins at 8:00 a.m. and is a positive networking experience for those that attend. Businesses, community organizations, and newcomers to the area are welcome to share information about upcoming events or activities occurring in the Treasure Coast region. For more information about Coffee with the Mayor call the Main Street Fort Pierce office at 772-466-3880 or e-mail pamgillette@mainstreetfortpierce.org.
Healthy Lifestyle Tips: Shop Fresh

Foods in their most natural state are what your body was designed to eat. Obtaining most of your caloric requirements from vegetables, fruits, dairy products, meats, seafood, and poultry in appropriate protein, carbohydrate and fat portions is an important step to maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

One of the best options to getting locally produced, fresh food is to shop at local farmer’s markets and/or specialty shops. Downtown Fort Pierce is home to one of the best Farmer’s Markets in the state of Florida. For more information please visit www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com or view their Facebook page. There are several fresh meat and seafood markets in Fort Pierce as well as many produce, citrus and organic farmers that are represented each Saturday at the downtown Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market.

There are also several shops in the downtown area that specialize in foods that are made from fresh ingredients that were not designed to sit on shelves for long periods of time. Importico’s Bakery located in downtown Fort Pierce is an Italian bakery and café that offers a variety of items made with the finest of ingredients. Visit their website at: www.importicosbakerycafe.com.

When shopping at grocery stores, try to buy most of your food from the perimeter of the store. That is normally where the fresh, whole foods are located.

Zora Neale Hurston

Zora was an author and scholar of folklore and anthropology. She was born in Eatonville, Florida, the first all-black community in the United States. She traveled to the Caribbean and Jamaica to gain insight for her more than 140 short stories, articles, poems, songs and plays. Zora also created numerous works of fiction, including “Their Eyes Were Watching God.” In 1957, she arrived in Fort Pierce to write for a black newspaper called the “Chronicle.” There she wrote articles on community concerns and race relations. She passed away in 1960 and is buried in the Heavenly Rest Cemetery in Fort Pierce. Years later Alice Walker, the producer of “The Color Purple” came to Fort Pierce to locate Zora’s unmarked grave. Alice paid to place a marker engraved with “Genius of the South.”

Learn more about Zora by following the Zora Neale Hurston Dust Track Heritage Trail which starts at the Zora Neale Hurston Library located 3008 Avenue D. Visit www.cityoffortpierce.com/386/Zora-Neale-Hurston-Dust-Tracks-Heritage for more information on this self-guided tour.
“Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight, or any experience that reveals the human spirit”—e. e. cummings

Register now for the 12th Annual IRSC writer’s day scheduled for April 8 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Brown Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Room Y-102, on the IRSC Ft. Pierce Main Campus, 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34981. Phone: (772) 462-7040. Participants may register for a fee of $40.00 per person (payable to the IRSC Foundation) by contacting klaffont@irsc.edu. Participation is limited to the first fifty-five registrants.

With the support of the English, Communication, and Modern Languages Department, the day will kick off with a panel of student writers who will explore this year’s theme “Cultivating Wonder” by sharing their creative work. Come support our student writers, get inspired, nurture your muse, and spark your own creative spirit.

Led by Indian River State College English and writing professors, each 45-minute session will engage participants in writing techniques including cultivating characters that connect, overcoming writer’s block, analyzing ideas through texts and authors, and reading your work live for radio and presentations. For further information, contact Kim Laffont (772) 462-7040 or klaffont@irsc.edu.

Cultivating Wonder: A Writer’s Day at Indian River State College

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Eating Your Vegetables
How many vegetables did you eat today? The daily recommended is 5–9 servings of vegetables and fruit. Vegetables are among the healthiest foods. They’re full of vitamins, minerals, and other substances our bodies need for ideal performance and strong immunity. The more vegetables we eat on a regular basis the lower the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. As for cooking vegetables, any technique is great, except for deep frying. Here are a few easy ideas to kick up your cooking techniques.

Caramelize Roasted Vegetables — Preheat your oven to 500 degrees, then put an empty roasting pan inside for 10 to 15 minutes. Toss the vegetables with olive oil, salt and pepper, and put them on the hot pan and turn oven down to 400 degrees. This method will give you the high heat you need to caramelize the sugars in the vegetables quickly.

Saute Vegetables in Broth: It’s healthier than butter or oil, and you’ll have crispy, seasoned vegetables. Pour in just enough broth to cover the bottom of the pan, and cook, lid on, until tender.

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TECH BYTES:
Solid State Drives
by Michael Lewis, Mike’s Downtown Computer Repair

Solid State Drives: If you want to get the most out of your existing or new computer you should invest in a Solid State Drive. The latest versions of Windows and Apple OS recommend having a Solid State Hard drive as your main drive. Solid state drives have no moving parts and last much longer than their mechanical counterparts. You can typically find a respected brand 240 GB Solid state drive on Amazon for $82 (This should be big enough for most users). If you need help to install your hard drive we are always here to help. Good luck and safe computing!

Mike’s Downtown Computer Repair is located at 209 Orange Ave. Suite E in Fort Pierce; phone (772) 448-8153, cell (772) 480-3427.

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### April Fishing

**by Captain Bo Samuel**

From the first of the year and into April, fishing for sheepshead is your best option on the Treasure Coast. Limits of sheepshead are caught during this time on the reefs near shore. Nothing beats the excitement of reeling in a fish with every drop of bait.

Fifteen to thirty feet of water along the beach produces the most fish. The best bite will be early in the morning as the sun is rising. The ideal set-up to get these fish on your boat is light tackle with 25-pound braid, 30-pound fluorocarbon leader and a quarter ounce jig head baited with live shrimp. This year the fish are running between 13 and 16 inches with an occasional 19-inch. Targeting sheepshead will also catch you some pompano, snapper, Spanish mackerel, triggerfish, and croakers.

The only question left is how to cook them up! One great method to enjoy these tasty white fillets is lightly fried in an Everglades batter after first soaking a few minutes in milk. Serve on a toasted bun with cocktail sauce and sliced onions and you will savor an extraordinary Fort Pierce-style fish sandwich.

I’m Captain Bo Samuel of “Pullin Drag Charters.” I have been living and fishing in Fort Pierce all my life. My 24’ Sea Pro bay boat allows for year-round fishing inshore as well as throughout the Indian River and the inlet. For information on regulations, limits, and seasons visit any local bait and tackle shop. Keep pullin’ drag!

### Easy Mini Desserts

#### Key Lime Tartlets

Pam Gillette made this recipe from a dinner party we catered in January.

2-3 packages frozen mini phyllo tarts
1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
½ cup fresh lime juice, plus zest from two limes
2 tablespoons powdered sugar
4 egg yolks
2 cups whipped cream
Zest of 4 key limes

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large bowl, whisk egg yolks until blended. Add in sweetened condensed milk, lime juice, sugar, and lime zest. Whisk together until smooth and blended. Spoon batter into mini tarts so that they are nearly overflowing. Bake for about 12 minutes, or until custard has set. Remove and let cool to room temperature. Then top with whipped cream and key lime zest.

#### Cherry Cream Cheese Tarts

2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
2 eggs
12 vanilla wafers
1 (21-ounce) can cherry pie filling or other pie filling

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place a paper cupcake liner in each cup of muffin pan. Beat cream cheese with a hand-held electric mixer until fluffy. Add sugar and vanilla, beating well. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Lay a vanilla wafer, flat side down, in each muffin cup. Spoon cream cheese mixture over wafers. Bake for 20 minutes. Allow tarts to cool completely. Serve with cherry filling on top, or pie filling of your choice.

Makes 12.

### Recipe Corner

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