Bev Smith Automotive Group's "Taste of the Sea" and "Sandy Shoes" Seafood Festival

Get "Sand in Your Shoes" on March 18th!
The Bev Smith Automotive Group’s Taste of the Sea Food & Sandy Shoes Festival is on Saturday, March 18. This is one of my favorite festivals, with lots of great food, competitions, cooking demonstrations, and lots of seafood vendors.

Start your morning off with the Iron Chef Competition and cheer on your favorites. Then stop by the Chowder Cup Competition where the best seafood chowder on the Treasure Coast will be selected. The Citrus Squeeze Off is very popular. Fort Pierce Utilities Authority has dominated this event for many years. There will be non-stop entertainment throughout the event. The kids will delight in the Kids Zone. Last year we had over 10,000 in attendance. Mark your calendar! You won’t want to miss out!

Shop small. Shop and dine local in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.
Calendar

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

MONTHLY EVENTS
March 2, Thursday: Main Street Fort Pierce Historic Trolley Tours — 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.; Call 772-466-3880 for reservations; $10 per person; Main Street Fort Pierce, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.
March 3, Friday: Friday Fest — 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.; Live music by the Daniel Keith Band; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.
March 9, Thursday: Everything Old is New Again Art Show & Reception — 5 to 8:00 p.m. at the Platts/Baucks House; Bill Bennett, Handmade Wheel-Thrown Pottery; Sean Johnstone, Legendary Photography; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.
March 11, Saturday: Main Street Fort Pierce Historic Trolley Tours — 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.; Call 772-466-3880 for reservations; $10 per person; Main Street Fort Pierce, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.
March 15, Wednesday: Art Walk — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; ArtMundo Open Studio; 772-768-0211, www.artmundo.org.
March 17, Friday: Coffee With the Mayor — 8:00 a.m.; Sponsor: Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society; held at Fort Pierce Yacht Club; 772-466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.
March 18, Saturday: Bev Smith Automotive Group Taste of the Sea & Sandy Shoes Seafood Festival — 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; See schedule of events in this month’s Focus; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.
March 18, Saturday: Manatee Center 5K Run — Registration at 6:30 a.m. Race begins at 8:00 a.m. $35 per person; info@tomcfm.org.
March 18, Saturday: Waterside Blues — 1 to 5:00 p.m. at Marina Square; Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society; www.jazzsociety.org, 772-460-5299.
March 22 to March 25: Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society Jazz Week — at Marina Square; Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society; www.jazzsociety.org, 772-460-5299.
March 25, Saturday: Saturday Jazz Market — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north of the downtown Fort Pierce Trolley Library; Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299; www.jazzsociety.org.
March 29, Tuesday: The Jazz Market — 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; Call 772-466-3880 for reservations; $10 per person; Main Street Fort Pierce, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.
WEEEKLY EVENTS
Tuesdays: Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre — 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.; 460-5299.
Wednesdays: Wednesday Green Market — Rain or Shine 12:00 – 6:00 p.m., Downtown Marina Square; 971-3486.
Saturdays: The Jazz Market — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north of the downtown Fort Pierce Trolley Library; Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299; www.jazzsociety.org.
Saturdays: Ft. Pierce Farmer’s Market — 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.
Saturdays: Pier Harbor Flea Market — 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Depot Drive parking lot behind City parking garage.
COMMUNITY INFORMATION
A.E. Backus Museum 772-466-9840 www.backusmuseum.org
Art Mundo 772-466-1515 * www.artmundo.org
Fort Pierce Trolley Library 772-460-2787 www.stlucie.lib.fl.us
Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society 772-460-5299 www.jazzsociety.org
Fort Pierce Police Athletic League 772-370-6182 www.fortpiercepal.com
Manatee Observation & Education Center 772-429-6266 www.manateecenter.com
St. Lucie County Aquarium 772-462-3471 www.sluceco.gov/marine_center
St. Lucie County Regional History Center 772-460-1785 www.floridahistory.org
Sunrise Theatre 772-461-4775 www.sunrisetheatre.com
Healthcote Botanical Gardens 772-464-4672
OYSTER RESTORATION
Guest Speaker: Jim Oppenborn St. Lucie County Coastal Resource Supervisor March 23rd | 7:00 PM
700 N Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce
FREE ADMISSION - PUBLIC WELCOME
EATING YOUR WAY TO ENVIRONMENTAL BLISS

EZ Ride Now Available in Downtown Fort Pierce
by Pam Gillette

Do you need a ride to downtown Fort Pierce or do you just want to escape the worries of trying to find a parking space? If so, EZ Ride might be your answer.

EZ Ride is a 10-seat-plus shuttle that is running here in Fort Pierce. For a small fee, the shuttle will take anyone, anywhere in the downtown Fort Pierce area. The shuttle is for both locals and tourists and is only a phone call away.

Andy Watters and Lydia White, brother and sister, saw a need to help assist with the parking in downtown Fort Pierce and EZ Ride was created. The company wants to make everyone’s life easier by offering rides and freeing up parking to give more people the opportunity to enjoy what downtown Fort Pierce has to offer.

EZ Ride services include: beach to downtown services, transporting employees from the parking garage to their business to free up parking spaces in front of their stores, delivering jurors to the courthouse for jury duty, taking people to the farmer’s market, local festivals & events, transport marina visitors, helping to get patrons to the Sunrise Theatre on time for their show, or transportation to the Arcade Building and Courthouses.

Lydia says, “We want to work with tourists and locals to give rides to people in the community who don’t have a vehicle or need a ride downtown or to the store.” EZ Ride coverage area is downtown Fort Pierce to A1A south to Ocean Village. “They will pick up and drop off at local businesses and beaches. Transportation is easy — just call EZ Ride Shuttle Service at 772-985-2830. For $7, riders can get a roundtrip fare that includes pickup and delivery to downtown and back home again when they are ready. EZ Ride is on call seven days a week ready to get their customers where they need to be. Follow them on FaceBook!”

Fort Pierce History Trolley Tours
by Joanne Blandford

The March tours are as scheduled:
Thursday, March 2nd
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 29th
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The stops and topics include: Native American history, early local military history, life in a Florida coastal pioneer town, the pineapple industry, the Florida cattlemen and their contributions to the area, Fort Pierce and Henry Hagnel’s Florida East Coast Railroad, the buildings and people of the Florida Land Boom period, Fort Pierce’s significance during World War II, the citrus and fishing industries, and the stories of individuals that left their mark on this area.

To reserve a seat on one of these trolley tours, please call 772-466-3880.
Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc and Treasure Coast Management are excited to bring you Bev Smith Automotive Group’s “Taste of the Sea” & “Sandy Shoes” Seafood Festival! If you love fresh seafood and enjoy having a day of fun with your family, join us on Saturday, March 18, from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park, 600 N. Indian River Drive in beautiful Downtown Fort Pierce. Admission is free.

The Sandy Shoes Festival is celebrating its 60th anniversary. The festival started in 1957 when the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to create a celebration that would entice tourists to stay a while in Fort Pierce. The festival was named Sandy Shoes and the tagline was created “If you get sand in your shoes, you’ll have to come back.”

Sixty years later we are bringing back a day of great food, music and competitions; along with the history of this great festival.

This year’s Festival has a lot to offer the community. From great seafood, including: lobster rolls, shrimp, crab cakes, clams, oysters, fish & chips and more; to our great music lineup on the Budweiser stage, the FED EX Race Car, competitions, community entertainment, Kids Zone, and over 100 vendors.

Bev Smith Automotive Group is once again the Title Sponsor for the Taste of the Sea & Sandy Shoes Seafood Festival.

The traditional, historic event, now celebrating its 60th Anniversary of the Sandy Shoes Festival, will be held in beautiful downtown Fort Pierce. Frank Gonzalez and Bev Smith Automotive Group are excited to rejoin forces with Main Street Fort Pierce and Treasure Coast Management to bring you this memorable event and encourage everyone to come out and have a great day. Frank says “Great food, fun and entertainment will be on the agenda, so make certain that you mark your calendars for this exciting event!”

The Bev Smith Automotive Group, which includes Bev Smith Toyota in Fort Pierce, Bev Smith Kia in Fort Pierce and Bev Smith Kia of Stuart have long enjoyed a good reputation of quality vehicles and excellent service on the Treasure Coast. With three award-winning locations and a staff of over 235 employees, customers can expect red-carpet treatment from the moment they enter.

As an added bonus, our Bev Smith Kia locations, which include catered dinners, are offered monthly for new owners to give them a chance to learn more about their vehicle and ask questions.

Bev Smith Toyota is located at 3350 South US Highway 1 and Bev Smith Kia is at 5655 South US Highway 1 in Fort Pierce, Florida, and the newest location is Bev Smith Kia of Stuart at 3131 SE Federal Highway in Stuart. With over 60 years of serving the community, Bev Smith Automotive Group looks forward to the future and being part of the 7th Annual Bev Smith Automotive Group’s Taste of the Sea and Sandy Shoes Festival!

The Bev Smith Automotive Group’s Festival Schedule of Events:

10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. — Festival Hours & Music
10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. — Arts & Crafts Show
10:00 a.m. to dark — KidZone Activities
11:00 a.m. — Chowder Cap Competition
11:00 a.m. — Iron Chef Competition & Food Demonstrations
1:00 p.m. — Moxie’s Dance Studio
2:00 p.m. — Citrus Squeeze-Off
12:15, 2:30 & 4:30 p.m. — Wild Rose Country Line Dance Demonstrations

BEV SMITH AUTOMOTIVE GROUP’S COMPETITIONS:

Iron Chef Competition: Bev Smith Automotive Group is once again the Title Sponsor for the Iron Chef Competition, the Chowder Cup Competition, and the Citrus Squeeze-Off. Contributing sponsors include Nelsen’s Family Farms and Pelican Seafood. Originated by the popular Food Network show, four local chefs will compete for the right to be called the top chef in St. Lucie County for a year. Invited local chefs will be given the same ingredients and time to prepare memorable dishes for the judges. The Iron Chef Competition will begin at 11:00 a.m.

About our Iron Chef Sponsor, Bev Smith Automotive Group has a strong, stable presence with deep roots in the communities we serve, and a secure place in the hearts of our clients. We’ve been here right — living, working and growing alongside the communities we serve. On account of everything you work hard for … from preparing for your kid’s future to living in the moment. On account of investing in your community … and keeping it one-of-a-kind. On account of all this and more, it’s time for Bev Smith Automotive Group.

Immediately following the Iron Chef Competition there will be several food demonstrations from some of our local foodies. Our home chefs will be demonstrating their special techniques and recipes with local seafood items. (Some lucky spectators will be able to sample these delicious dishes!)

THE CHOWDER CUP COMPETITION: Bev Smith Automotive Group is once again the Title Sponsor for the Iron Chef Competition, the Chowder Cup Competition, and the Citrus Squeeze-Off.

Chowder Cup Competition: The Chowder Cup Competition is sponsored by The Original Tiki Bar. Cobb’s Landing and Bluewater Beach Grill. This competition is open to restaurants, private and home chefs — all competing for the title of Chowder Cup Champion. Join in the fun and excitement as talented chefs compete for the glory of the Best Seafood Chowder! The competition features First and Second place for Best Chowder and a People’s Choice Award. All awards and trophies are sponsored by Varsity Sport Shop located on Orange Avenue in Downtown Fort Pierce. Professionals and visitors may donate $1 – $3 to sample the seafood concoctions. Get here early for your taste and vote for your favorite! For more information please contact Main Street Fort Pierce at 772-466-3880.

Back by popular demand to the festival are the Iron Chef Competition, the Chowder Cup Competition, and the Citrus Squeeze-Off.
The Unique Chic Boutique
That Everyone Can Afford!

Spring fashions have arrived!

Become a Member Today for as Little as $75!
Members get advance notice of shows, discounts on tickets, Meet & Great opportunities and more!
Members also receive exclusive discounts from local businesses!

8 MAIN STREET FOCUS MARCH 2017

SUNRISE THEATRE
The Best Entertainment on the Treasure Coast • 2016/17 Season

BECOME A MEMBER AND GET THE BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE!

Whimsy Fort Pierce

521 North Second Street
Located 2 blocks South of Seaway Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce • Open 10 am to 4 pm Mon – Sat
772-882-4397

Main Street Fort Pierce

Located 2 blocks South of Seaway Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce • Open 10 am to 4 pm Mon – Sat
772-882-4397

Present this ad for 20% OFF any one clothing item
(Excludes sale items — cannot be combined with other discounts)

Proud supporter of Main Street Fort Pierce

Whimsy Fort Pierce

2017 Home Buyer Loyalty Incentive
Receive a $500 loyalty rebate on the day of closing your new home!
Apply it toward your closing costs or 1 yr. American Home Shield Warranty

Loretta Amaruso goes one step further to help you find your dream home!

Proud supporter of Main Street Fort Pierce

SHOP SMART SHOP LOCAL
Meet the Bands at the Bev Smith Automotive Group’s “Taste of the Sea” and “Sandy Shoes” Seafood Festival

A festival is not complete without great music and the Bev Smith Automotive Group’s “Taste of the Sea” & “Sandy Shoes” Seafood Festival has a variety of great music and entertainment scheduled for you this year.

At 10:00 a.m., kick off the day at the “Budweiser Stage” with the soothing sounds of the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society. Saturday’s performance is directed by president, Don Bestor and the crowd is sure to enjoy the moody tempo of our favorite local jazz and blues group. The Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society presents jazz and blues music to the public in a variety of ways, including, festivals, performances, free jam sessions, hands-on workshops, clinics, community education, and outreach initiatives. Their objectives are to foster greater awareness and enjoyment in the community for jazz and blues through education and performances, and to provide scholarships to deserving college-bound students who wish to further their education and performances, and to provide scholarships to deserving college-bound students who wish to further their knowledge and skill in the music field.

At 12:00 p.m. the crowd will be transported back in time with the sounds of The Doo Wop Guys. The Doo Wop Guys are keeping the music of the 50s and 60s alive and will be on stage to entertain you with blasts from the past.

At 2:30 p.m., Quick Fix is more than just your typical six-piece band from South Florida. Fronted by two phenomenal female lead singers, and a highly talented female drummer, they quite possibly could be the best female artist cover band in all of America. Quick Fix plays a wide variety – pop, rock, soul, R&B, and most of their songs are covers of the greatest female artist songs throughout history and today that you love.

At 5:30 p.m., Felix Muss & the Easy People Band will take the stage. For the last 40 years, the Easy People Band has been Fort Pierce’s go-to band for country music.

At 8:00 p.m. immerse yourself in the new wave, rock, and surf music of The Humdingers. This local band has performed many venues and is a popular band on the Treasure Coast.
treatment for auto accidents, slip and falls, and worker’s compensation accidents. In addition, Ocean Chiropractic and Health Center offers school, sport, employment and DOT physicals, weight loss, and weight management. Ask us how you can lose weight and stay healthy through our natural weight loss and fat burning system. Did you know that most health insurance covers chiropractic, massage therapy and physical rehabilitation? Dr. Bradley Deiner, DC, Dr. Jennifer Carter, DC, and the staff at Ocean Chiropractic and Health Center has a genuine concern for your well-being and health! Call them today to schedule a free consultation for your chiropractic needs.

Dr. Bradley Deiner, DC, is serving Ocean Chiropractic and Health Center at 805 Virginia Avenue, Suite #10 in Fort Pierce, 772-460-9010 and Dr. Jennifer Carter, DC, is serving their new office located at 1800 43rd Avenue in Vero Beach, 772-569-3000.

MEDIA SPONSORS

iHeart Media – WAVE 92.7 and OLDIES 103.7 is our radio sponsor for the Taste of the Sea Seafood Festival and the Sandy Shoes Festival. WAVE 92.7 is the Treasure Coast’s #1 for New Country, bringing the area all of the best in country music with the Bobby Bones Show in the morning. OLDIES 103.7 is the Treasure Coast’s only oldies station! Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram or just head to WAVE927.com and Oldies1037fm.com.

We are proud of the sponsors and community groups for coming together to make this a great event for our community. Stop by their booths at the festival and say “thank you” for making this possible. Bev Smith Automotive Group’s The Taste of the Sea and the Sandy Shoes Seafood Festival – the Ultimate Seafood Celebration! Title Sponsor: Bev Smith Automotive Group Stage Sponsor: Southern Eagle Distributing


Supporting Sponsors: Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, Gotta Go Green, Macaroni Kid, Nelson Family Farms, Pelican Seafood, Physicians Immediate Care, Varsity Sport Shop.

Sponsored in part by the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association and VISIT FLORIDA. For more information, sponsorship or volunteer opportunities on the Seafood Festival call the Main Street Fort Pierce office at 772-466-3880 or e-mail Pam at pamgillette@mainstreetfortpierce.org, or e-mail Kevin at tastefortpierce2012@yahoo.com.

Free parking is available along AE Backus Avenue, Second Street, at the City Parking Garage between Avenue A and Orange Avenue off US Highway 1, and St. Lucie County Parking Garage south of the Sunrise Theatre. Handicap drop off and limited Handicap parking will be at the Manatee Center parking entrance. Trolley will be available for pick-up at parking areas until 7:00 pm. EZ Ride will be available throughout the day by calling 772-985-2830. •

Mayor’s Message Keeping Up Appearances Awards

by Linda Hudson, Mayor City of Fort Pierce

Mayor’s Gold Hammer and Neighborhood Gem awards recognize those businesses and residents whose building and/or landscaping efforts make Fort Pierce shine.

The Gold Hammer Award is a collaboration between the Mayor and East Coast Lumber and started when Edward Enns was Mayor. The Gold Hammer recognizes new construction or rehabilitated construction in homes or businesses. Awarded in March and September at Coffee With the Mayor, the recipients have added value to their neighborhood by restoring, constructing or enhancing their properties. Anyone can nominate a residence or business in Fort Pierce for commercial or residential new or improved construction projects. Nomination forms can be found online here: http://cityoffortpierce.com/DocumentsCenter/Home/View/989.

Neighborhood Gems began in 2013 and are awarded at Coffee With the Mayor. Neighborhood Gems are homes in neighborhoods that show pride of ownership with improved landscaping, new paint job and modest enhancements. Code enforcement officers help identify potential recipients because they see first-hand when a property shows improvement. The Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Committee helps pick the winners. Four winners are identified in October and April. The award is intended to build neighborhood and community pride by recognizing a gem in a neighborhood. A gem can be yard and outdoor improvements that show pride of place. Recognizing Neighborhood Gems is meant to encourage others to improve the attractiveness of their homes, lead to safer, cleaner neighborhoods, and build a stronger sense of community.

Coffee With the Mayor is held every third Friday of the month, September through May at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club, 700 N Indian River Drive. The event begins at 8 a.m. and is a positive networking experience for businesses and residents. Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice, and coffee, of course, are always on hand. Everyone is welcome and there’s lots of sharing of information about what is happening in Fort Pierce and the Treasure Coast.

Coffee With the Mayor is organized by Main Street Fort Pierce. Each month, there’s a sponsor; to arrange sponsorship contact Main Street Fort Pierce at 772-466-3880. •

Gold Hammer Winner Palm Health & Wellness

Gold Hammer Winner Paradise Furniture

Gold Hammer Winner Marvi’s Cafe

Neighborhood Gem awarded at Coffee With the Mayor in collaboration with the Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Committee.

Neighborhood Gem 1108 South 8th Street

Neighborhood Gem 814 Palm Avenue

Neighborhood Gem 108 Palm Avenue

Neighborhood Gem awarded at Coffee With the Mayor

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The City of Fort Pierce is pleased to host the 2nd Annual Highwaymen Art Exhibit, featuring the paintings of the "Original" Highwaymen artists, through the end of March. The exhibit is located in City Hall on the 1st floor in glass display cases outside the Commission Chambers and on the 2nd Floor in the Planning Department. The exhibit includes paintings by "Original" Highwaymen Artists Curtis Arnett, Henrie Baker, Al Black, George Buckner, Robert Butler, Mary Ann Carroll, Johnny Daniels, Willie Daniels, Rodney Dempas, James Gibson, Alfred Hair, Isaac Knight, Robert Lewis, Roy McDowell, John Maynor, Harold Newton, Lemuil Newton, Samuel Newton, Willie Reagan, Livingston Roberts, Carnell Smith, Charles Walker, Sylvester Wells, and Charles Wheeler. The exhibit also features a group of seven paintings by Livingston Roberts, on display in the Planning Department conference room.

The Highwaymen artists began painting Florida landscapes in the early 1950s, emerging against the backdrop of Jim Crow-era South, in the small east coast town of Fort Pierce. Some of the young painters were mentored by world-renowned Fort Pierce artist A.E. 'Bean' Backus, but most received guidance from each other.

In 2004, the State of Florida inducted all 26 Highwaymen painters into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame, along with the likes of Ernest Hemingway, Ray Charles and Tennessee Williams. Estimates are that they created 250,000 to 400,000 paintings. Many of the surviving artists are still painting for a living in and around Fort Pierce. Two generations of Highwaymen offspring and countless others now paint as 2nd Generation Highwaymen artists. It has been said that the Florida Highwaymen are the most significant American Art Movement of the 20th Century.

The Highwaymen Art Exhibit is free and open to the public at Fort Pierce City Hall, 100 North U.S. Hwy. 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday through the end of March. All of the paintings in the exhibit were freshly painted and still wet.

The artists developed ingenious "fast" painting techniques to increase productivity. Improvising to save costs, they used construction materials, Upson wallboard for their "canvases" and window casing for frames. Because most art galleries refused to represent African American artists, they improvised to make their sales by visiting businesses, offices and homes, selling their art door-to-door and out of the trunks of their vehicles. Oftentimes, these paintings were freshly painted and still wet.

The exhibit includes paintings by "Original" Highwaymen Artists Curtis Arnett, Henrie Baker, Al Black, George Buckner, Robert Butler, Mary Ann Carroll, Johnny Daniels, Willie Daniels, Rodney Dempas, James Gibson, Alfred Hair, Isaac Knight, Robert Lewis, Roy McDowell, John Maynor, Harold Newton, Lemuil Newton, Samuel Newton, Willie Reagan, Livingston Roberts, Carnell Smith, Charles Walker, Sylvester Wells, and Charles Wheeler. The exhibit also features a group of seven paintings by Livingston Roberts, on display in the Planning Department conference room.

The annual All You Should Eat Backus Brunch and Raffle is on the calendar for Sunday, March 5th from 9:30 a.m. to noon. If you haven’t seen the newly renovated Backus Museum, here’s the opportunity to fill up on food and art.

The signature menu items for the Backus Brunch are fresh fried mahi-mahi, creamy scrambled eggs laced with cream cheese and other secret ingredients, southern style biscuits and cheese grits. Naturally, there are all manner of other brunch delights like sausage, pancakes, biscuits and sausage gravy (made from a secret Summerlin family recipe), fresh squeezed Nelson Family Farms orange juice, Plant City strawberries and wonderful seasonal fruit.

Enjoy an authentic Florida Cracker breakfast while mingling with friends on the beautiful grounds now surrounding the Museum. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door, children under 12 are $10. While you are enjoying your brunch, hopefully with a mimosa or Bloody Mary alongside, (not authentic but quite tasty – and Backus would have definitely approved) be sure to purchase a raffle ticket or perhaps six to win this year’s original Backus oil painting “View From Beatris’ Jamaican Studio” painted by A.E. Backus in 1972. The painting is valued at $25,000 and the winning tickets will be drawn at 12:30 p.m., immediately following the Backus Brunch.

Tickets for the raffle painting are $20 each or three tickets for $50 or six tickets for $100. Why not just buy six tickets? It supports a very worthy cause and if you win, you will be the envy of the entire town! In addition to the beautiful Backus original painting, we will give away over $1,000 in additional prizes. You need not be present to win. However, you must buy a ticket to win.

The Museum is located at 500 N. Indian River Drive, along the waterfront in historic downtown Fort Pierce. Brunch and raffle tickets may be purchased at the Museum during regular hours: Wednesday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday Noon – 4 p.m. Raffle tickets may be purchased over the phone at 772-465-0630 or on line at www.backusmuseum.com.

While you are enjoying the Brunch, take time to look at the current Exhibit "Wet Paint: An In-Depth Look At The Works By The Highwaymen.” This comprehensive exhibit offers patrons an opportunity to see a vast array of Highwaymen paintings and learn more about their unique history. This exhibit will continue till March 16th.

The next exhibit will be "The Best Of The Best" Juried Art Competition. Each year, hundreds of artists working in a vast array of mediums put their best foot – and art – forward and hope to be included in this show. The hundreds of entries are whirled down by the three jurors and you are sure to see "the best" when you visit the exhibit which opens on March 23 and runs till May 19th. Are you an artist? Find the prospectus and entry information on the Backus website.

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The Backus Museum is a gem of the Treasure Coast. The expansion of the Museum added over 2,000 square feet of exhibit space in which visitors can admire the permanent collection, attend lectures and special events. New lighting and a fresh look for the entire Museum bring it to a new level. The outdoor areas are just as exciting and feature a Scavenger Hunt and relaxing open-air areas under the following tents. The Magical Plaza will soon have beautiful new art panels on display. These works were selected from over 50 submissions from talented artists and will grace the Plaza for three years.

The Museum is closed on Monday and Tuesday. For additional information, please contact the Museum at 772-465-0630 or online at www.backusmuseum.com.

There’s Good Taste At the Backus – For Both the Palate And The Eyes

by Kathleen Fredrick, Executive Director A.E. Backus Museum of Art

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by Kathleen Fredrick, Executive Director A.E. Backus Museum of Art

The Museum is closed on Monday and Tuesday. For additional information, please contact the Museum at 772-465-0630 or online at www.backusmuseum.com.
Florida has always been a haven for northerners to escape the ruts of winter weather, retreat to our sunny climate, lie on the beach to capture a bronze glow and enjoy the leisure of it all. Believing that getting sand between your toes is much better than shoveling snow, an idea was germinated 60 years ago to celebrate local heritage while luring vacationers to the shores of Fort Pierce.

Cattle ranching, farming and fish canning were driving factors of the local economy in the post-WWII decade. Fields produced abundant Indian River citrus, pineapples, tomatoes and other vegetables for shipment north in the winter. Proud of an abundant, seasonal crop, agriculture dignitaries, business leaders and politicians gathered annually at the State Farmers Market to expound on their bounty.

Booming seasonal business was just that — seasonal. At its peak, the town was bustling with activity, followed by the summer doldrums. City leaders had reason to be proud since Fort Pierce was a national leader, ranking in the top 10 for acreage production. As a way to celebrate and enjoy the fruits of their labor, a parade was in order.

A Cattlemen’s Parade Leads the Way — 1956-57

Spurred by the Chamber of Commerce, a committee was appointed and tasked with planning a celebration to market the town to tourists and highlight area history and local legends. With a past that included sheriffs and shoot-outs, grave robbers and ghosts, there would be plenty to talk about.

The City of Fort Pierce hosted the inaugural Cattlemen’s Parade in 1956 to honor a handful of ranchers who had 50 years or more in business under their belts. Honorees were B.E. Alderman Sr., Wright Carlton, Alfred Cleveland, Nathan Holmes and L.A. Raulerson. Like many of the early Fort Pierce settlers, the cattlemen’s code of honor meant deals were sealed with a handshake.

Sandy Shoes Theme Girls — Fort Pierce’s Ambassadors of Goodwill

by Debra Magann

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If good guys wore white hats, one gentleman in particular, Nate Holmes, always rode a white horse. One of 12 children, the Holmes family settled in Fort Pierce in 1908 and built an octa- 
gon-shaped house in 1912 at 309 S. 7th Street near Easter Avenue with a dance hall, casino and a 100-foot pool. Parties hosted by the 
American Legion, dances and boxing matches were some of the activities there.

The first Cattlemen’s Parade had 400 riders on their horses com- 
pared to the 130 or so that ride into 
town during the Cracker Trail Rid- 
ers procession every February, yet hundreds of fans line the streets to welcome them home. 

Darlene Hamscher Perdue’s grandfather was a centerpiece of the Cattlemen’s Parade. Grandpa Bill Ross was a founding member of 
the St. Lucie County Cowboy’s Club and was instrumental in 
starting the LR Becker ranch in Palm City. “He was a race horse 
trainer,” Perdue says. “He still was training up until the time of his 
passing two years ago. He was one hell of a cowboy.”

Ross also owned a trick pony and trained quarter horses and thoroughbreds. “What’s funny is that people remember him from the 
photo and they tell me stories about him — for example the rodeo he held for children visiting events and posing for photo- 
graphs. They were icons used in many advertisements.

Carmen became the first Sandal Shoes Theme girl in 1957.

Not a Beauty Pageant
Next, the committee envisioned a Theme Girl contest. As goodwill 
ambassadors representing Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County, young 
women ages 17 to college age of 24 were eligible to compete. It was 
a time when pageant ladies were the brass idol. Being the beauty of 
beauty pageants, several were landing on the beaches of Miami: Miss 
USA and Universe, sponsored by Catalina swimwear, moved to 
Miami Beach from California in 1960 where CBS televised them.

“I can tell you, it was not risky,” Bush says. “We were in two-piece bathing suits that came all the way up to the waist.” 
In day attire, the gals were decked out from head to toe in hats, boots and smart cowgirl outfits that showed plenty of tanned legs and midriff. Their duties were attending events and posing for photo-

graphs. They were icons used in many advertisements.

Carmen were: founded 1961’s Theme Girl, Lanita Kent, who 
attended the University of Miami, headed to the Jackie Gleason show as a Glee Girl. 
She eventually entered beauty contests, win-
ingen the 1963 title of Miss Florida World, a “prelude to the Miss USA and Miss World 
规格大赛。“THE rules for judging needed to be flex-
ible. It was very fluid,” Bush recalls, “every-
one was chosen by different rules from year to year. Mine was a Beaux Arts Ball at the 
Army that was like a real beauty pageant 
with hand-picked Indian River fruit. Today, the Citrus Square-OFF 
contest and Chef Challenge competition are held in place of 
crowning “Miss Delicious Dish” who always concocted a most 
unusual citrus edible.

1958: King Orange Gives a Lift In 1958, tourism officials got a big boost when balloons bor-
rowed from the New Year’s Orange Bowl Parade were used. Mea-
suring 14 feet in height and 110 feet in length, they were supplied 
courtesy of the Fort Pierce New Car and Truck Dealers Association.

Word of the uniqueness of the hometown festival traveled far 
and wide. Acclaiming Fort Pierce for its ingenuity, a piece in the 
New York Times read, “Almost every tourist spot in Florida has an 
annual festival, but this one in Fort Pierce has two distinctions:

The community commitment was overwhelming: Bean Backus 
set up a “Band-a-rama” showcasing local school band talent. 

The fourth annual event was held on consecutive weekends 
in February and March. A pancake breakfast, science show and 
Grand Ole Opry “Ft. Pierce-style” was added to the list of festi-
val events. Queen, a 100-passenger paddle-wheel steamer offered 
show boat entertainment and refreshments. Admission was $1.00 
for the entire family. The Dan McCarthy High School Band staged a “Band-a-rama” showcasing local school band talent.

On the business front, the St. Lucie County Courthouse and the City Utility Building were dedicated. “What I remember the most is the jail and bail,” Tom Childs says. “We would send our 
teacher to jail every year because she loved giving out our water. 
We’d even pay to make her stay in.” It was all in good fun. 
The year he locked up his boss, the ‘jail’ was the American Legion hall where coffee and donuts were served.

1962: Then the Sizzle Died Out

There was a lull in 1962 when the event was halted. The festival 
committee decided to pull back due to a slow economy. The com-
mittee stated, “If we can’t give St. Lucie County citizens and guests 
the best, then we shouldn’t compromise by giving them less.”

Continued on page 20 …
invited to visit the A.E. “Beanie” Backus studio on Avenue C to see what spectacular featuring music, dancing and comedy — topping it off queen and her royal court, a turkey shoot, feasts to get all the Indian River oranges you could get your hands on entertainment.” He added that there would be fishing contests, citrus ary 17, 1963, Stephen J. Flynn stated that parts of the festivities were a yacht cruise on the waters of Biscayne Bay for $10. Hotel and Country Club. T ourists could rent a car for $7 a week or catch bune’s exchange for a percentage to support the IRJC Scholarship Fund. Sandy Shoes program in 2001. Following the traditions of the past, again aided by the success of the Fort Pierce Centennial Celebration no longer interested in offering financial support, so the time came to A treasure hunt for $320 in cash lasted the entire week. 1964: A treasure hunt for $320 in cash lasted the entire week. 1965: Prosperity was on the rise. The treasure hunt continued with chests of booty, two carnivals were in town and the Sandy Shoes com- mittee raffled a 1965 Volkswagen for only $1.00 per ticket. A sailing event rounded out the 10-day festival. 1966: Working with the Sandy Shoes Committee and the Carle- ment’s Parade, the first St. Lucie County Fair came on the scene in Feb- ruary of 1966 as Theme Girl, Corky Mullins, brought liquid sunshine — crates of oranges — to New York City and was televised handing them out. Her side benefit was being an audience member of the Night Show starring Johnny Carson. Mullins later became a local news- paper reporter while working concurrently as a TV weather girl. It seemed that half the town was involved in some way or another — a branch of the Pilot Club of Fort Pierce whose mission is to raise money to buy presents for people with Down’s Syndrome. Tourism Club, sponsored by the Fort Pierce Rotary Club, to give presents to very young special needs children. It’s fun being in the public eye,” Arnold says. “I attended the Lion’s Club, won the theme contest in 2002. Since then, it has partnered with the Ben Smith Automotive Group’s “Taste of the Sea” Seafood Festival, drawing larger crowds. For the fearless, one could watch alligator wrestling, stock car and outboard motor long-distance races. When guests got hungry ev- eryone headed to the Fireman’s “Cracker” fish fry. The finale was a Florida folk minstrel booneynan with audience participation. There were three designated times, 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m., with比r a 6:30 p.m. free show right smack dab in the middle of Second Street — in front of Second Street Bistro. There will be a dance contest, so bring your swing, Latin and polka moves, and who knows — you might take home the bragging rights for the next year. On Thursday, another free concert by the water at 11 a.m. at the University of North Florida Jazz Ensemble and the DeCastro Brothers Trio take the stage and blow you away with their sound. Under the direction of the renowned JB Scott, the University of North Florida Jazz Ensemble show is one that is worth calling out of work to see and hear. You will be amazed! On Friday night, the Black Box will be buzzing again as eight-time Downabay Magazine award-winning vocalist Lisa Kelly takes the stage with the incredible JB Scott for an 8 p.m. show that will have you snap- ping your fingers, tapping your toes, and wishing every week was Jazz Week. So mark your calendars, visit us at www.jazzsociety.org, and like us on Facebook as we get ready to start Jazz Week 2017 with one really big duck and enough music to help you “quack” a serious smile.
Church Marks 125 Years, Looking Forward to the Future
by Debra Magrann

Stability is a precious commodity these days and a community of faithful people has weathered through thick and thin over more than a century of change and relocation. While the First United Methodist Church of Fort Pierce is not the area’s oldest church, it has stood the tests of time and grown along the way.

“We consider our beginnings to be when the first minister was hired in 1892, but the church was started in 1888 when two women held Sunday school in the local school house,” said historian, Joan McClenny. When asked if they were the first to establish a church here, McClenny answered that was First Baptist of Fort Pierce’s distinction. “They were here first,” she said. In the early 1800s, two missionary preachers, Reverends Michaels and Savage came in hopes to start a church. However, the church partnered with a local Church of the Brethren and later moved to Orange Ave. In 1888, a new church was erected on what is today known as Avenue A.

In 1900, a new church was built on Pine Street (2nd Street) — on the west side, south of ‘Tickle Tummy’ bridge — on the site of what is today used as overflow parking for the Farmer’s Market. According to the local reporter of the day, Charles S. Miley, the church was later moved to North 7th Street next to the cemetery.

The present sanctuary at Orange Avenue and 7th Street was erected from 1924 to 1925 and dedicated as Hendry Memorial Methodist Church in memory of Rev. John A. Hendry, who died before its completion. The congregation attended the first worship service on Easter Sunday, April 4, 1926.

Featuring design appointments of the Mediterranean Revival period by William Wesley Hatcher, architect for Old City Hall and the Raulerson Building, the structure is a picture postcard of the city’s historic past. Although elements of the chancel have changed, the main building is in its original 1925 style.

In 1944, the church was renamed First Methodist Church. The war years saw an opportunity for more growth and outreach with a Navy installation added as tens of thousands of young men prepared for combat on the protected barrier island.

A decade later, an expansion added more seating, a larger chancel and two pipe rooms large enough to accommodate the 2,201 pipes of an acquired 1923 Aeolian Opus #1523 organ. This particular organ — although the church purchased only 100 pipes — holds significance for its unique pedigree: it was a feature of the Dodge winter estate in Palm Beach, Dodge being Horace and his brother, John Francis Dodge, who together founded Dodge Brothers Company (known today as the Dodge brand of cars).

The name was changed to First United Methodist Church in 1968 following a merger with a local Church of the Brethren and now is simply called First UMC.

With a solid commitment to the community, the church is home to a nonprofit after-school program. The Abaco Cultural Resource Center aligns with the mission of First UMC to strengthen families by providing a safe environment for youth to experience enrichment activities. Church members participate by teaching middle school students life skills like cooking and sewing.

The church hosts a community dinner on the last Wednesday of each month where anyone in need is fed. As partnerships build, community life strengthens. One aspect of celebrating the rich history of First UMC was evidenced last October as the church partnered with Multi-Cultural Resource Center to strengthen First UMC as the years come.”

The church marks 125 years of service to the local people. “We plan on being there for quite a while,” she said. “There is a future to look forward to as the years come.”

The celebration will take place on Sunday, March 6, with a communion service. The district superintendent of the United Methodist Church, former pastors, County Commissioners Linda Bartz and Cathy Townsend and Mayor Linda Hudson will be in attendance.

The church is located at 616 Orange Ave., (corner of Orange and 7th Street, west of US 1) in historic downtown Fort Pierce. If you would like more information on the ministry of First United Methodist Church, contact the office at 772.464.0440. Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or you may reach Pastor Tim May by e-mail: PastorTim@Umatter2GodandUs.com. The website is Umatter2GodandUs.com.
March at the Farmers’ Market is a Sensory Delight

by Eric Seibenick

Pamper your palate with fresh greens, oranges, ruby reds, blueberries, peaches and other seasonal fruits and vegetables selling each Saturday morning in March at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market. And, if you’re a nut for fresh coconuts, visit the “Coco Loco” booth for in-season tasty coconuts from the Treasure Coast.

Delight your taste buds with bakery treats and confections, or snack on ready-to-eat treats including breakfast burritos, Caribbean cuisine, homemade barbeque, smoked fish dips, salsas, cheeses, and other assorted culinary specialties. Be on the lookout for additional fresh and frozen seafood offerings from “Placeres and Sons Seafood.”

Fill your senses with local honeys, lush herbs and spices, tropical plants, fresh-cut flowers, and stunning orchids sold each Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Farmers’ Market on the beautiful waterfront of Marina Square in downtown Fort Pierce.

There is something to please everyone as the Market, now in its 20th season, attracts thousands of visitors each Saturday with upbeat live music, entertainment, demonstrations, and special events which enhance the festivities.

Among special events for March at the Market is the 10th annual Empty Bowls fundraising event March 18th, featuring the sale of ceramic and glass bowls made by local public and private school students to raise money to help feed the hungry.

Plenty of free, nearby parking is available on downtown Fort Pierce streets, parking lots, and in the City Hall Parking Garage, so join in the Saturday Morning Tradition and enjoy the sensory delights of the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market. For further information on the Market, please visit our website at www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com, go to the Facebook Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market page, or contact the Market Manager, Eric Seibenick, at 940-1145.

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The Fort Pierce Lions Club

by Joanne Blandford

“The greatest good is what we do for one another.” —Mother Teresa

The motto of the Lions Clubs International is “We serve.” The organization began in 1917 when a Chicago businessman, Melvin Jones, asked the question, “What if these men who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition were to put their talent to work improving their communities?” Today, the Lions Club is the largest service organization in the world. In 1925, a speech by Helen Keller directed the Lions to help the blind and visually impaired when she challenged them to be “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.” Their focus on helping the visually impaired is vital to the communities each Lions club serves; however, they also provide a variety of additional services.

The Fort Pierce Lions Club was formed over 70 years ago. Since their founding locally, they have helped thousands of individuals with all types of eye conservation issues. They have partnered with St. Lucie Eye Associates, Hands of St. Lucie Country, the Florida Foundation of the Blind and the Hands of St. Lucie County. The club has a variety of projects that members can choose to be involved with. Those that prefer to help with the health care programs can do so by becoming a Lions Club member. Becoming a Lions Club member is rewarding to both the volunteer and the community. The Fort Pierce Lions Club has a project such as beach cleanups at Jetty Park; scholarship programs for IRSC and Central High School; History Fair at Fort Pierce Central High School; collecting donations for eyeglasses, clothing, & books for families in need; and the National Peace Poster contest.

The group has several fundraisers throughout the year and donates to the following 501©3 organizations: Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind, Lions Diabetics Foundation of MD-35, Southeastern Guide Dogs, Florida Lions Cook林 Center (teaching the blind to live independently in a home-like setting), Florida Lions Eye Bank, Treasure Coast Food Bank, Mustard Seed Ministries, Salvation Army, Lions International and Treasure Coast Food Bank. They also sponsor a Fort Pierce little league team each year, two $1,000 scholarships to IRSC and two $500 high school scholarships.

Recently, the Fort Pierce Lions Club funded a much-needed refurbishment to the location of the original military fort that is responsible for the city’s namesake. Old Fort Pierce is located approximately a half mile south of downtown Fort Pierce on Indian River Drive. In a partnership with the City of Fort Pierce, informational kiosks were installed, the Indian burial mound on the site was restored with trees and landscaping, improvements were made to the parking area, and benches designed by local artist, Anila Quayyum Agha, were added.

This past January, the Fort Pierce Lions Club teamed up with the St. Lucie West Lions Club to organize a very successful joint half marathon and 5K run here in Fort Pierce. Their inaugural event drew 317 runners, including several from other states and countries! Talented local teenage runner, Caleb Pottorff, won the half marathon with a time of 1:14. The Lions Fort Pierce Half Marathon & 5K will become an annual event held every January.

Matt Samuel is the President of the Lions Club here in Fort Pierce. He and his wife, Crystal, work as a team to help the local community. At last month’s Coffee with the Mayor, they were given the Volunteer of the Month Award by Fort Pierce Mayor, Linda Hudson. With Matt and Crystal’s motivating leadership and the energetic vibe of its members, it is no surprise how much this club has accomplished.

Since its start in Fort Pierce over 70 years ago, this local club has embraced its community while accomplishing its motto of serving others. To become a part of this organization, check out their Fort Pierce Lions Club Facebook page or attend a meeting on the first Thursday of each month held at 6:30 p.m. at the 2nd Street Bistro restaurant in downtown Fort Pierce.

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facebook.com/hookedonmusicfestival hookedonmusic.org

$2.00 of each Tito’s “Off the Dock” sold is donated to the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis. During the event a check will be presented to The Kiwanis. At last year’s Hooked on Music we presented a check for $10,000 to the Kiwanis.
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