The month of May is filled with festivals; Cinco de Mayo, May Day, and here at Main Street Fort Pierce we will celebrate our 30th year at our Annual Meeting. We have a lot to celebrate here at Main Street, but our accomplishments would not have been possible without the great partnerships we have formed with the City of Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, local businesses, corporations, and community-minded individuals. At this year’s Annual Meeting we will celebrate our partners, members, and volunteers. We invite you to join our celebration on May 2nd at the Platts/Backus House from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

If you are looking for a way to get involved with your community, I invite you to find out what we are all about. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities for all ages. Do you enjoy writing? We need writers for our monthly newspaper, the Main Street Focus. Do you like to plan or help with events? We have 30+ events a year that are designed to bring thousands of people to downtown Fort Pierce.

Want to become a member of Main Street Fort Pierce? If you like the positive changes that have occurred in downtown Fort Pierce or enjoy hanging out with friends at Friday Fest, please consider becoming a member of our organization. Your donation will help fund the projects of Main Street Fort Pierce. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Please help us keep historic downtown Fort Pierce vibrant by shopping and dining local! ❖

by Sue Dannahower

Main Street Fort Pierce Celebrates Its 30th Year!

Mayor Linda Hudson invites you to join her for Community News, Special Announcements, Complementary Coffee, Orchid Island Juice, Breakfast Treats, and more!

Friday, May 18, at 8:00 a.m. at Fort Pierce Yacht Club 700 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce

Sponsored by

Suncoast Mental Health Center

$675 Tankless Water Heater Rebate

Water heaters are the second highest source of energy usage in the home. Natural Gas tankless water heaters are an easy choice for energy savings, performance, and reliability. Switch to Natural Gas and start saving now.

www.FPUA.com

Presidents' Message

Bradford L. Jefferson, P.A.

Proud supporter of Main Street Fort Pierce

Personal Injury • Commercial and Civil Litigation • Wrongful Death

130 S. Indian River Dr., Suite 402
Downtown Fort Pierce

Telephone: 772.468.8887 Fax: 772.468.2226

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May 2, Wednesday: MAIN STREET ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATION — at the Platt/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Ave. in Fort Pierce; general public welcome, Refreshments, trolley rides, and more, 5 to 7:30 p.m.; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

May 4, Friday: FRIDAY FEST — 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Marina Square & Melody Lane; Live music by River Dawns; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

May 12, Saturday: MAIN STREET GOLF TOURNAMENT — at Gator Trace Country Club; 8:30 a.m. shot gun start. 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

May 18, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m.; presented by Fort Pierce Police Athletic League; Suncoast Mental Health Center.

May 26, Saturday: Community Corner Presents: Frankie Paul / Juelia Lola; Black Box @ 8:30 p.m.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesdays: Weight Watcher meetings — 5:30 p.m. at Anytime Fitness of Fort Pierce, 461-2348.

Wednesdays: Wednesday Green Market — Rain or Shine 12:00 – 6:00 p.m., Downtown Marina Square; 772-581-8430.

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

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

Saturdays: Pierce Harbor Flea Market — 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Depot Drive parking lot behind City parking garage.

CALENDAR

May 1, Saturday: FARMERS’ MARKET FEATURES EXTRA-SPECIAL CELEBRATION MAY 5TH — at the Platt/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Ave. in Fort Pierce; general public welcome; Refreshments, trolley rides, and more, 5 to 7:30 p.m.; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

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WEATHER

Temperature: 80° F
Humidity: 42%
Wind: 8 mph

FARMERS’ MARKET FEATURES EXTRA-SPECIAL CELEBRATION MAY 5TH

Both Cinco de Mayo and Derby Day fall on the same Saturday this year — May 5th. So join the revelry and celebrate these two diverse traditions at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market on May 5th from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at Marina Square, where there will be a variety of goods to purchase to make this day extra special.

The band River town will provide entertainment, so wear your dancing shoes. And, whether you decide to don a sombrero or wear a decorated Derby hat, you’ll be greeted at the Market by dozens of vendors offering fresh, tasty, healthy selections for your celebration.

Salsa Fresca, Anita’s Guacamole, Lola Torta, Lucky Onion, Brenda’s Mix-A-Lot, Rio Cocoa, Olive Tapenade, Gourmet Glazed Nuts, and Wicked Good Spices will provide a variety of items to help you spice up the day.

Greens and fresh produce (including mint for your mint juleps) will be sold by Gibbons Organics, Tony’s Produce, Pure Produce, Okeechobee Farms, Micro Greens, G & C Produce, Aunt Zorada Farm, and KSS Mushrooms.

As you shop, take the time to enjoy freshly-prepared, ready-to-eat food and drink from Tropical Jerk, Danny’s Delight, B’More Crabcakes, Faith Lunch, FL. Cracker Kettle Corn, Cider Donuts, Tony’s Gyros, Seaside Smoothies, Lemonade Shake Up, and other vendors.

Don’t forget to stock up on cheese from the Cheese Shoppe and baked goods from Importico’s Bakery, Gina’s Bake Shop, and Laura’s Pantry.

Whether it’s a special holiday or a regular Saturday, the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market is a “Saturday Morning Tradition” where you are always welcome year round, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. until noon at the Market’s beautiful waterside location.

The Market is open from 8 a.m. until noon each Saturday, rain or shine, and greatly promotes local agricultural businesses, commerce, trade, and healthy shopping choices at its downtown. Sixty vendors sell their finest selections of locally-grown produce, plants, fresh and ready-to-eat foods. Other items sold include breads and pastries, jams and jellies, pickles, kettles, corn, olives and tapenade, crab cakes, fish, poultry, spices, natural body care products, fruit smoothies, coffees and specialty teas, and more.

For additional information on the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market, please visit the website at www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com or go to the Facebook Fort Pierce Farmers Market page, or e-mail downtownfpfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

FARMERS’ MARKET FEATURES EXTRA-SPECIAL CELEBRATION MAY 5TH

by Brenda Gibbons

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Attention Parents! Summer Camps In and Around Downtown

MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER CAMPS
See article on page 20.

FORT PIERCE JAZZ & BLUES SOCIETY CAMPS
See article on page 19.

THE CAKE LADY’S CUPCAKE CAMP
Activities include but are not limited to decorating cupcakes each day using various professional techniques. Participants will learn to decorate cupcakes using buttercream, fondant, and sugar paste techniques.

Participants keep what they create each day. All materials are included. (Participants will not be baking — cupcakes will be baked fresh by our staff)


Registration: www.thecakeladybakes.com; The Cake Lady Cakes, 205 Orange Avenue, Fort Pierce, 772-242-8128.

ST. ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL ACADEMY S.T.E.A.M. SUMMER CAMP
All sessions will include the following activities: Robotics, arts & crafts, water activities, culinary, local field trips, guest speakers, virtual reality/3D printing, coding, team building, animal studies, self reflection, writing skills, outside activities, and visual arts. Ages 5 to 13.

Camp Session Dates: Friends of the Environment, June 11 – 15 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Animal Adventure, June 18 – 22 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Summer Olympics, June 25 – 29 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Registration: www.staacademy.org; St. Andrew’s Episcopal Academy, 210 S. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce; 772-461-7689. Contact Francesca Graham at fgraham@staacademy.org for more information. Application fee $25; session fee $175 per week.

Registration: www.treasurecoastyouthsailing.com Fees $250 not including lunch. $275 sailing with lunch included. Discounts and scholarships available.

ST. ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Camp Session Dates: June 4 – 7, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.; June 10, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Registration: 772-461-5009.
Downtown Fort Pierce began its existence as the commerce center of the area over a century ago. At the time, the steps of Peter Cobb’s store was the Facebook of its day. Folks from miles around would plan weekly, biweekly or monthly treks to learn of any news or gossip circulating around, purchase supplies, and pick up their mail. The gazebo was the place to listen to weekly Fort Pierce band performances and was the gathering spot for celebrations. For decades, the footsteps of our predecessors fell in the same footpaths, over the same sidewalks, as ours do today.

Downtowns have been the heart of human interaction and activity for ages. Then, in the latter half of the 20th century, this foundation was threatened by a social economic trend. That’s when the National Trust for Historic Preservation stepped in and created the Main Street Approach to save the buildings and traditions of our past.

Main Street Fort Pierce Celebrates its 30th Year!
by Joanne Blandford

Downtown Fort Pierce began its existence as the commerce center of the area over a century ago. At the time, the steps of Peter Cobb’s store was the Facebook of its day. Folks from miles around would plan weekly, biweekly or monthly treks to learn of any news or gossip circulating around, purchase supplies, and pick up their mail. The gazebo was the place to listen to weekly Fort Pierce band performances and was the gathering spot for celebrations. For decades, the footsteps of our predecessors fell in the same footpaths, over the same sidewalks, as ours do today.

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Today, there are thousands of Main Street cities and districts in the United States and the 4-Point Main Street Approach is studied and implemented worldwide. Main Street Fort Pierce begins its 30th year in May, and as we look ahead to upcoming goals, we celebrate the accomplishments of many to bring our downtown back.

The Demise of Downtown
After World War II, advancements to and the availability of automobiles and the highway system gave rise to a growing trend — suburban living. People no longer had to live within a short distance of their offices and job sites. Housing developments began to appear further and further away from downtowns across America. Soon, major retailers followed suit, and one by one downtown storefronts vacated.

In downtown Fort Pierce, one of the first indicators of this trend was the end of passenger service on the East Coast Railroad in 1968. People no longer needed to ride the trains from town to town because they now had the freedom of the automobile and the open road. It was also around this time that a new program was established in Tallahassee and was offering seed money to cities that fit its criteria as candidates for the National Trust’s Main Street 4-Point Approach to revitalizing downtowns. A committee was formed locally to gather the needed community support letters and complete the application. Fort Pierce was awarded its Main Street designation in 1988.

The Main Street 4-Point Approach for Community Transformation
The first volunteer board was made up of downtown business owners, bankers and community advocates. They soon hired a full time manager and settled in to learn the Main Street process. The four initiatives that the National Trust found were most needed for community transformation are: Organization, Design, Promotion and Economic Vitality. Each community is different, so the Main Street process can be tailored to fit a city with a population of 40,000 or a town with a population of 3,000. The process is now also being applied to neighborhood districts within large cities.

The Organization step was set into motion by forming the nonprofit that would become Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., securing a volunteer board, hiring a full time manager, and partnering with the City of Fort Pierce, business owners, other nonprofits, corporations, volunteers and the general public to come up with a general consensus of what downtown needed.

The Design element in the early days of Main Street Fort Pierce included offering business owners grants to spruce up their storefronts and market their stores through signage and advertising. In the mid 1990s, Main Street Fort Pierce played a role in helping the City of Fort Pierce acquire the data that was key to creating a comprehensive master plan for its downtown development.

The data was gathered from the general public’s ideas of what they wanted to see in their downtown. This included improved streetscapes, lighting, signage, and pedestrian walkways that are visible today. Today, a partnership with Wells Fargo allows Main Street to continue to provide grants to store owners who wish to update their facades and signage.
In 2011, Main Street Fort Pierce was awarded the highest award Main Street America offers, the coveted Great American Main Street Award. They also provide training and tools for existing businesses to strengthen and grow and recruit existing successful businesses to open additional stores downtown.

**Main Street Fort Pierce Through the Decades**

The first few years of Main Street were devoted to organizing events to bring people downtown and sprucing it up with small façade grants and community beautification projects. Then, in the early 1990s, Main Street cut its teeth on a historic preservation endeavor when the potential demolition of the Historic City Hall building spurred the public into action. The community needed a 501(c)(3) organization to apply for State Preservation Grants and manage the restoration process. Main Street Fort Pierce decided to commit to saving the historic building and took the reins. Many steps are required to complete these complex grants, including extensive research, completing a detailed application, and traveling to Tallahassee to answer questions before a review board. The Main Street board and staff rolled up their sleeves and met all the requirements. The grants were awarded and additional fundraising, along with future rental income, secured the funds needed to restore Historic City Hall.

Through the years, more large-scale projects followed, each leading to further downtown revitalization, including: the construction of the Manatee Center in the late 1990s (a grant awarded to the City of Fort Pierce and managed by MAIN STREET Fort Pierce); the restoration of the Sunrise Theatre from 1997-2006; and the restoration of the Platts/Backus House in the mid 2000s. These projects encouraged investors to restore and/or develop other properties and lead to several new business upstarts.

In the early 2000s, the City of Fort Pierce wanted to plan a large celebration for it's centennial to be held on February 2, 2001. Main Street partnered with the City to organize the celebration and handled the multitude of details that went into its planning. For years leading up to the event, Main Street held a community birthday celebration at every February Friday Fest. After the success of the Centennial celebration, Main Street brought back the once popular Sandy Shoes Festival, a community event that began in the late 1950s.

In 2011, Main Street Fort Pierce was awarded the highest award Main Street America offers, the coveted Great American Main Street Award. The cities that apply for and win this national award must show the positive success of preservation-based, commercial revitalization progress in their community. The factors that measure success include statistical data that has been collected since a Main Street program began in its community including: the number of businesses in the downtown, the number of employees added, the number of volunteers that participate, the number of housing units available, the number of people drawn to Main Street events, and more. This achievement was awarded at the annual National Main Street conference and is a great honor to the cities that earn it.

Street Fort Pierce is working in a different environment than the one that was present when it first began. Major storefronts that once sat empty are occupied, brick pavers line pedestrian-friendly walkways, building facades are maintained and improved frequently, people are living in downtown again, and folks are sticking around after 5:00 p.m. almost every night of the week. Much has been done but there will always be goals to work toward and hurdles to overcome to maintain and improve commerce in downtown Fort Pierce.

A lot of people and organizations worked together to achieve success in downtown Fort Pierce. The same waterfront frontage that afforded the early settlers the ease of transportation on which to build a town, has become one of Fort Pierce’s greatest assets. Some of the major industries of the past that funded jobs in this area are gone. Tourism has become one of the major industries of Florida and Fort Pierce. Through thoughtful, community-minded and preservation-driven development, downtown Fort Pierce has kept its charm and small town appeal. It has become, once again, a popular destination for locals, new residents, and tourists alike.

Let’s continue the progress together for the next 30 years! Join us as we celebrate Main Street’s past and look forward to its future at the Annual Celebration meeting on Wednesday, May 2nd from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Platts/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Drive. There will be refreshments, trolley rides, memorabilia and more at this free public event.

![Historic City Hall](Image)

**Promotions Component**

The Promotions component includes both hosting events that draw people into the downtown area, and promoting downtown in positive ways. Most Main Street communities are small and do not have the funds for a Parks and Recreation Department to oversee community events. One of the first events created by Main Street Fort Pierce was Friday Fest. To date, it is one of the longest running, monthly, street festivals held in the state of Florida. Friday Fest has become a more endearing celebration after a festival held in the state of Florida. Festivals held in the state of Florida.

**Economic Vitality (formerly Economic Restructuring)**

Includes facilitating a welcoming environment for entrepreneurs and property owners within a downtown.

The City of Fort Pierce conducted a marketing study that Main Street assisted with in the late 1990s. This study indicated the shoppers that would likely frequent downtown Fort Pierce and what types of businesses they would most likely support. From this data, promotion materials were made and distributed to potential entrepreneurs. Main Street Fort Pierce also offers advice to potential new businesses looking to open in the downtown area. This process includes partnering with IRSC’s Small Business Development Center to maximize a business’s chance for success, recommending which retail spaces are available and providing introductions to property owners. Main Street Fort Pierce also provides training and tools for existing businesses to strengthen and grow and recruit existing successful businesses to open additional stores downtown.
Pam Gillette Retires from Main Street Fort Pierce

by Joanne Blandford

We all have individual stories. The relationships we develop throughout our lives are woven into the framework of our story. Hopefully, most of these relationships affect our lives in positive ways. The central theme of Pam Gillette’s story is service; and specifically, service to her family and to her community. This marvelous lady has served Main Street Fort Pierce (MSFP) first as a volunteer and then as an employee for over 17 years. She retires as MSFP’s Marketing and Events Coordinator this month. Pam is not one to seek the limelight and accolades, therefore her contributions are sometimes overlooked; however, her involvement with Main Street Fort Pierce will leave a lasting impression on our organization and on downtown Fort Pierce.

Pam’s story began near Orlando, Florida. Her parents owned and operated the well-known and popular restaurant, Freddie’s Steakhouse. From this experience, she learned the art of fine dining and inherited the culinary skills of her parents, Steven and Frances. When her parents moved the family to Fort Pierce in the late 1970s, she developed a knack for landscape design while working for her family’s plant nursery. She earned a degree in Business to broaden her business skills. After her children came along, Pam dedicated her time volunteering as Den Mom for her boys’ Boy Scouts troops. Her service with Boy Scouts led her to become the volunteer coordinator for the Fort Pierce Centennial Celebration in 2001. The planning of this event was organized by MSFP. After the Centennial Celebration, Pam was asked to join the MSFP board.

As a board member, Pam volunteered at every MSFP event. At Friday Fest, she and her husband, Gary, ran one of our beer booths on their own. They sold tokens and brought volunteers to serve beer month after month without fail. Soon, she and her family became familiar faces at all MSFP events. Pam does not do anything half-hearted. If she believes in a cause, she will devote everything to it and will convince everyone around her to help. See, with Pam you don’t just get Pam (even though she can complete a multitude of tasks singlehandedly), you get Pam’s whole family which includes Gary, her mother, Frances; her sister, Patty; her sons Doug, Erik, Kevin and Kenny; their wives; and her precious grandchildren (two of which were born during MSFP events). For nonprofit organizations that depend on volunteers, this is like winning a jackpot.

When the MSFP Events & Marketing position became available at the end of 2005, the staff and board offered the position to Pam. Thankfully, she accepted it, and thus began a productive relationship.

One of the first benefits Pam brought to Main Street during her employment, was her gift of organization. All Main Street programs perform a number of different tasks within their communities. In addition to these tasks, our Main Street program coordinates over 30 events per year. This requires extreme organization and the ability to maneuver and function effectively to accomplish our missions.

Pam was hired shortly before the economy downturn of 2008. During this crisis, many nonprofits were hit hard; however, Pam was able to help cut expenses and develop new fundraising techniques to help MSFP not only survive this time, but also continue to meet its goals. By example, Pam would use her own tablecloths and ask members from her gourmet club to prepare delicious dishes for Main Street events. This determination not only saved money on items we would have normally had to rent or buy, but it also brought an additional level of opulence to the events. Pam’s talent, poise and dedication has led Main Street through a period of transition during the past 12 years and her decisions have created many opportunities that will be available in the years to come.

The decision to retire was a bittersweet one for Pam. Her drive to serve her community sometimes competes with her need to be with her family. When Gary retired from the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (after working there for 35 years) in March, Pam’s decided to retire with him to spend more time with her family and her beautiful grandchildren. Pam’s presence has been a fixture for the past 12 years and she will be deeply missed; however, we know that her relationship with Main Street remains a part of her story, and ours, for many years to come.

by Marshall Adams

Don’t miss the captivating exhibition of four contemporary Florida artists that’s “Just Four Fun” at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery, on view May 4 – June 22, 2018.

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery showcases the imaginative, fanciful paintings and sculptures of four contemporary artists — Michael Enns, Skip Hartzell, Stephanie Jaffe, Alison LaMons — in an exhibition full of wit, wonder, and whimsy. The Museum is located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, Florida.

“Just Four Fun” gathers together four different yet complementary artists, whose dedication to artistry and craft is serious, but whose expressions can elicit smiles, surprise, and perhaps a laugh or two.

MICHAEL ENNS lives in Coral Gables, but was born in Fort Pierce. He began his path as an artist at the age of ten in the studio of none other than A.E. “Bean” Backus, whose influence can still be seen today. Upon graduating from Parsons School of Design in New York, Enns began building a reputation by working with artists Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, and Robert Rauschenberg, among others. His varied tastes and experimental practices continually guide him in the quest to capture on canvas the life force, the cheap, and the tawdry of his native South Florida.

SKIP HARTZELL lives in Port St. Lucie, and earned his masters from Illinois State University. After a successful career in advertising and marketing in Chicago, he now indulges his interest and expressive skill in harnessing his love of dogs as the subject of large oil paintings and fiberglass sculptures. Dogs are always in the moment, living with passion, excitement, and love — and like his own dogs, his daily creative process can be going to the studio and sniffing around for the thing he finds interesting. For Hartzell, art is more about emotion and intuition than about intellect — a magic in the making, when he leaves his fingerprints and heart behind.

STEPHANIE JAFFE lives in Miami, was raised in New York, and studied glass and ceramics at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia. She currently favors found objects to incorporate in her gallery work that hark back to a bygone era of handmade, family heirlooms. These distinctive works of three-dimensional mixed media collage construct new identities from the familiar and the nostalgic, often playing with humor and the emotional resonance of objects. Her public art commissions are known throughout the state, with many Treasure

Continued on page 18 …
Coast aficionados familiar with her monumental Florida High-
waymen Obelisk in Fort Pierce.

ALISON LAMONS lives in Lakeland, but with the heart and
the passport of a world traveler before, during, and after her
graduation from The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale and Co-
lumbia International University. Her broad range of travel and
creative experiences as a draftsman, designer, and architectural
illustrator inform her watercolor paintings and interest in cap-
ture of the Florida High-
waymen.
Summer Camp Season at MOEC is Here
by Erin Lomax, MOEC Education Coordinator

It's hard to believe, but summertime is almost upon us! Get ready for rising temperatures, daily afternoon thunderstorms, and the return of one of our favorite seasons here at the Manatee Center — summer camp season!

Summer camps are a fantastic way for kids to interact with the natural world around them, and gives them opportunities that they might not otherwise get during the school year. Camp has long been a staple of childhood, and for many, holds a sentimental place in their heart. Whether learning a new skill or making new friends, camp can be an important and transformative experience in a child’s life.

The Manatee Center’s summer camps give kids the opportunity to explore our natural world in a safe, supportive environment where the ratio of campers to camp counselors is kept low, at 5:1, and the camps themselves are kept purposely small, with the average size of a summer camp session being around 25 campers. This assures that everyone feels included, and everyone gets ample opportunity to partake in a wide range of activities.

Parents often tell us they wish they could go to a summer camp, since their campers have so much fun! The Manatee Center’s summer camps give kids the opportunity to explore our natural world in a safe, supportive environment where the ratio of campers to camp counselors is kept low, at 5:1, and the camps themselves are kept purposely small, with the average size of a summer camp session being around 25 campers. This assures that everyone feels included, and everyone gets ample opportunity to partake in a wide range of activities.

Parents often tell us they wish they could go to a Manatee Center summer camp, since their campers have so much fun! Every day of summer camp with the Manatee Center is different, and we take pride in being able to take our campers on many field trips to natural places and nature centers in St. Lucie County, Martin County, and even Indian River County. One day we may be snorkeling at the Sebastian Inlet; the next day we could be kayaking on the Indian River Lagoon; and the day after, we might be touring a real working cattle ranch or learning how to fish, or perhaps even doing an eco-art project.

There are three sessions of summer camp that are now open for registration:

**WILD DISCOVERY**, for ages 6-9, runs from June 25th to June 29th, and features field trips to places like Ochopee Eco-Center, Heathcote Botanical Gardens, and Adam's Ranch, as well as kayaking, swimming and seining adventures on the Indian River Lagoon.

**OCEAN EXPLORERS**, for ages 8 to 12, runs from July 16th to 20th, and will include snorkeling adventures, field trips to area nature centers like Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, as well as kayaking, seining and a Junior Ranger program at the Fort Pierce Inlet State Park.

**ECO ADVENTURES**, for ages 8 to 12, runs from July 30th to August 3rd, and has a lot of fun in store, like fishing on the Indian River Lagoon, snorkeling at the Sebastian Inlet, visiting area nature centers, and kayaking with Audubon naturalists near the Oslo boat ramp, where the most pristine sea grass in the Indian River Lagoon grows, giving us an up-close view of wildlife.

Much more is in store for each of these camps, and because parents often like to sign their campers up for more than one camp session, each camp is different in its scope and planned activities.

**The Manatee Center May Events**
by Rachel Tennant, MOEC Manager

**Friday, May 11th at 12 p.m.**
**Update on the State of the Lagoon**
"Lunch & Learn:" Join us for a presentation by Bo Platt and Wayne Mills of the Marine Resources Council. You’ll learn all about the current state of the Indian River Lagoon, restoration efforts along the Treasure Coast, and how community members are working to preserve our waters. Bring your lunch and learn! Free event.

**Recurring Programs**

**Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.** — *Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding* — come meet the fishes in the Center.

**Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.** — *Tide Pool Touch Tank* — touch and hold the echinoids, conchs, and more.

**Thursdays, 1:30 p.m.** — *Meet the MOEC Reptiles* — and witness Diego the corn snake eating.

**Fridays, 1:30 p.m.** — *Seahorse Snack Time* — watch the MOEC seahorses eat and play.

**Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.** — *Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding* — come meet the fishes in the Center.

We hope to see you this summer! ✿

**Prices for camp are $175 per camper, with a $10 discount if you register before May 1st, and another $10 discount for sibling registration (this discount is only applied to one camper per family). To register, call Erin Lomax, Education Coordinator, at 772-466-1600, ext 3337, or e-mail Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org. You can also find more information on our website, including registration forms, at ManateeEducationCenter.org. If you’re interested in being a camp counselor, are over the age of 16, and can commit to at least one full week of camp, please contact Erin Lomax. Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program also available for teens 13 to 15 years old.

**Local businesses:** sponsor-a-camper opportunities available. Contact MOEC Manager Rachel Tennant for more information at 772-429-8597.

We hope to see you this summer! ✿

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**LOCAL BUSINESSES:**

**Sponsor-a-Camper Opportunities Available.** Contact MOEC Manager Rachel Tennant for more information at 772-429-8597.

We hope to see you this summer! ✿
**Former Main Street Fort Pierce Board President Allen Osteen Awarded 2018 Entrepreneur of the Year Award**

Exemplifying the innovation, drive and persistence of a successful entrepreneur, Allen Osteen of Vero Beach and East Coast Lumber and Supply Company was recognized with the Dan K. Richardson Entrepreneurship Program’s 2018 Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Announcement of the award was the highlight of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award dinner held on Thursday, March 1 at the Indian River State College Richardson Center at the Mueller Campus in Vero Beach. The award, which recognizes the entrepreneurial spirit, business excellence, and community involvement, is a central element of the Dan K. Richardson Entrepreneurship Program established by the IRSC Foundation and 13 other founding members to promote awareness and appreciation of the free enterprise system.

“Recognizing the spirit of entrepreneurship and the role that it plays in developing communities and supporting their economic success is crucially important. Allen Osteen’s innovation, drive and persistence exemplify the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur and it is a great honor to present him with the 2018 Entrepreneur of the Year Award,” shares Dr. Edwin R. Massey, IRSC President. “No one embodies this spirit more so than Mayor Linda Hudson, and we are pleased to present her with this year’s Distinguished Alumni Award.”

A native of Fort Pierce, Mayor Hudson graduated from Indian River Junior College in 1964 with an Associate of Arts degree. She furthered her education at the University of Florida, graduating in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and History. Hudson then pursued a career in association management in Chicago, Illinois, and after marking a 25-year career, retired in 1994 as a vice president with the Illinois State Medical Society.

Hudson then returned to her hometown of Fort Pierce where she became active in several civic and cultural organizations. In 2012, she was elected Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce — the first female elected to that office — and ran unopposed for reelection in 2016. She currently serves as President of the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities and is past Chair of the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments. She earned the Florida League of Cities Home Rule Hero Award, in 2015 and again in 2017, for her advocacy efforts with the state legislature. Mayor Hudson is active in community service and, among other commitments, serves as Vice Chair of the St. Lucie County Executive Roundtable, an organization that seeks to build a community where every child succeeds.

In her address to students, Mayor Hudson reflected on the journey that brought her back to Florida and the importance of service to others. “Education never stops,” says Hudson. “If you’re open to it, you can learn something from every person you meet, every job you perform, and every experience. Life-time learning comes from the conviction that you don’t know everything, and from an attitude that learning from every situation is your job.”

**City of Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson Named IRSC Distinguished Alumna**

City of Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson was recognized with the Indian River State College Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is presented annually to an outstanding graduate who has achieved a high level of success in his or her chosen career and is an exemplary role model for students.

The honor was conferred during the College Awards Ceremony, where Hudson served as the event’s featured speaker.

“IRSC alumni are actively involved with both their communities and their professions, setting higher standards, improving relationships, and bringing about change for future generations,” said Dr. Edwin R. Massey, IRSC President. “No one embodies this spirit more so than Mayor Linda Hudson, and we are pleased to present her with this year’s Distinguished Alumni Award.”
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Oops, we made a mistake!

The Main Street Focus apologizes for an error in the April edition of the Focus. Our article on Downtown Fort Pierce aquatic adventures, stated that Capt. “Chop” Lege does not charge if you do not see a dolphin on his Indian River Lagoon pontoon boat runs. This is incorrect. However, he does allow passengers to return for free until they do see a dolphin! Here is the original paragraph with the correct information:

Indian River Lagoon Wildlife Boat Tours is run by Capt. “Chop” Lege. His large pontoon boat runs three times a day from the City Marina. The boat seats a maximum of 35 people. Capt. Chop conducts most of the tours and goes in search of dolphins, manatees, birds, and other sea life native to the area. If you don’t see a dolphin Capt. Chop invites you back on a future tour free of charge until you do get to see one. Capt. Chop is also extremely familiar with the area and shares his knowledge of the surrounding environment during this guided tour. Reservations can be made at the Marina or by calling 772-464-4445. Cost is $23 per person, $20 for seniors, $15 for children 12 and under. He leaves from the Marina Monday thru Saturday at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. For more information check www.IndianRiverLagoonBoatTours.com.

Main Street Fort Pierce Wishes to Thank the Sponsors of the Sandy Shoes Seafood & Brew Festival!

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Join us for the 2019 Sandy Shoes Seafood & Brew Festival on March 23, 2019!

Nicholas Mahoney, Liz Ivy, Latrina Hickman and Kevin Wilkinson of Bev Smith Automotive Group

Jeff Sabin and Tony Bishop of Waste Management

Peter Martin, Trish Hickey Jones, Cherie Thompson and Jim Hickey of Fly The Whale

WASTE MANAGEMENT WINS with Tony Bishop, Greg Gillette and Jeff Sabin

2ND PLACE Team Pierced Cider Matt Tilford, Don Spaeth and Brian Spaeth of Freedom Boat Club

McKenzie Channon, Michelle Cavalcanti and Ainsley Channon

1ST PLACE CHOWDER and PEOPLES CHOICE to Christy Steinmeyer, Bluewater Beach Grill

Performance by String Assassins
Along our Treasure Coast is some of the best water you will find! Fishing is always pretty good here and there are some amazing species to target.

Lately, there’s been a great mahi bite offshore. You can find these colorful fish, also called dolphin, dorado, or mahi mahi, along weed lines and floating debris. They are known to be in schools so if you hook one, there’s more to be caught. Slow trolling with live bait or pre-rigged ballyhoo is a nice option to land mahi. Be prepared for jumps and flips when hooked since these fish are acrobats and always pull drag.

Snook are in season now until May 31st and your best bet to land one of these fighters will be live bait like mullet, pilchards, and threadfins. Snook can be found around bridges, docks, and any structure with some fast moving currents. These linesiders also give a pretty impressive fight so keep your drag tight and try to keep them away from any structure.

Finally, grouper season opens this month and bottom fishing on the reef with natural bait can give you nice grouper or snapper for dinner. Grouper can also be found along the edge of the channel or around deep bridges.

For more information on regulations, limits, and seasons visit any local bait and tackle shop. Remember, every day is a good day to be Pullin Drag!

Bang Bang Shrimp
By Chris & Sara Craft

Soak shrimp in buttermilk for 15-20 minutes. Meanwhile, make sauce by whisking mayonnaise and Thai sweet chili sauce. Add a couple of drops at a time of Sriracha until you get the heat you want. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Add 1 inch of oil to a large pot and heat over medium-high heat. Fry shrimp for 2-3 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through. Drain on a paper towel lined plate. Toss shrimp with the sauce and plate. Serves 4.

Mexican Shrimp Cocktail
By Anita Prentice

So fresh and tasty! The savory shrimp mixes well with the other healthy ingredients. This “semi-homemade” recipe was a huge hit.

Soak shrimp in buttermilk for 15-20 minutes. Meanwhile, make sauce by whisking mayonnaise and Thai sweet chili sauce. Add a couple of drops at a time of Sriracha until you get the heat you want. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Add 1 inch of oil to a large pot and heat over medium-high heat. Fry shrimp for 2-3 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through. Drain on a paper towel lined plate. Toss shrimp with the sauce and plate. Serves 4.
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  - Guavatron 6-9

- **Monday**
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