29th Annual Sights and Sounds Festival & Parade
“Magical Musical Christmas”
Volunteer of the Month
October 2017 Coffee With the Mayor

Mayor Linda Hudson and Matt Samuels with Volunteer of the Month, Allison Spencer. Volunteer of the Month is sponsored by Bluewater Beach Grill, Cobb’s Landing and The Original Tiki Bar.

Fort Pierce Coffee with the Mayor

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

Friday, November 17, at 8:00 a.m.
at Fort Pierce Yacht Club
700 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce
Join Us For Neighborhood Gems Awards

Sponsored by

Bradford L. Jefferson, P.A.
Proud supporter of Main Street Fort Pierce

Main Street Focus
NOVEMBER 2017

The holiday season is here! Soon, the air in Fort Pierce will be slightly cooler. It is my favorite time of the year. In November and December, Main Street will host two great art shows.

“Reflections of the Future” will be held on Thursday, November 10th. This annual event, produced by Anita Prentice, will have a “Circus” theme this year. Featured artists are Debi Crouse, Ginny Piech Street and Edgar Streatfeild, as well as Anita Prentice. Join us for fabulous art and great food.

The “Holiday Shopping Party” & Raffle Drawing will be held on Thursday, December 7th. Join us for Colleen Nash Becht’s annual shopping party where you can purchase original artwork and gifts. The highlight of the evening is the raffle drawing for an original framed watercolor by Colleen, The Love Shack Pineapple. Tickets are on sale now by calling the Main Street office at 772-466-3880. Tickets are $10.00 per ticket or for $20.00. Join us for this spectacular show and wonderful opportunity to obtain truly unique holiday gifts.

I’ve been volunteering at Main Street for over 12 years. I started out pouring beer at Friday Fort, then helped with the Reverse Raffle and Sandy Show. Now I have my hands in almost all of the major events we host. This is the way I give back to my community. If you are looking for a way to get involved with your community, please come find out what we are all about. Main Street has over 30 events each year that are designed to bring people to Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Without the valuable time our volunteers provide, these events would not be possible. We have a lot of fun. Call me today — I’ll be happy to get you involved.

We couldn’t exist without the support of our Members. Your personal involvement and membership commitment helps Main Street Fort Pierce accomplish goals, set new ones, and support downtown’s economic well being, revitalization and cultural vibrancy in the very heart and soul of our downtown community. Stroll our downtown shops, visit the Farmers Market, have lunch on the waterfront, enjoy a scoop of gelato from Carlos’ or one of the Cake Lady’s delicious cupcakes. Shop and dine locally in beautiful, historic Downtown Fort Pierce!
November 2, Tuesday: APRIL FRIECE presents a talk on the artificial reef program on the Treasure Coast at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club, www.fortpierceyachtclub.com.

November 3, Friday: FRIDAY FEST — 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Marina Square & Melody Lane; Live music by Flat Natural Band; Volunteer Group of the Month — Family Meals; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

November 4, Saturday: MOE’S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION at the Manatee Observation & Education Center — 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 480 N. Indian River Drive; 429-6857; www.manateeeducationcenter.org. See story p10.

November 4, Saturday: SET SAIL FOR DISASTER: Murder Mystery on the Indian River Lagoon — 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Academy; 210 S. Indian River Drive; 461-7869; Ext. 2303; Tickets must be purchased in advance. See story, page 7.

November 8, Wednesday: ART WALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; peacecidadc.com, seriouslymainstreetmedia.com.

November 9, Thursday: REFLECTIONS OF THE FUTURE ART EXHIBIT: “CIRCUS” — 5 to 7:00 p.m. at the Platts/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Avenue; Featuring works by: Anita Prentice, Debi Crouse, Edgar Straeffer & Ginny Piech Street; 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org. See story p16.

November 11, Saturday: CHIC AND SHORE THINGS 4th Annual Holiday Open House: refreshments and beverages will be served all day; 205 North Second Street, downtown Fort Pierce; (Chez and Shore Things will be closed from 11:30 to 11:00 to redecorate the store). See story p10.

November 11, Saturday: PEACOCK CLAY COLLABORATIVE HOLIDAY OPEN STUDIO & POT SALE — 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 123 N. Second Street.

November 17, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m.; with Neighborhood Gems Awards presented by City of Fort Pierce & Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Committee. Sponsor: Waste Management; held at Fort Pierce Yacht Club; 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

November 19, Saturday: WATERSIDE BLUES — 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.; Marina Square @ 101 Melody Lane; Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society; 460-5299; www.jazzsoc.org. See story p20.

November 24 & 25, Friday & Saturday: 3RD ANNUAL GARDEN OF LIGHTS — See Healthcote in a whole new light! Show continues thru end of December, 5:30-5:30 Timings at Gate, Gift Shop or visit online: healthcotebotanicalgardens.org.

November 25, Saturday: SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY — Shop local for the holidays! Downtown Fort Pierce is filed with unique, one-of-a-kind gifts as well as a one-stop-shop for all your dining gift certificate needs. Holiday shopping does not need to be an impersonal, hectic experience.

December 3, Sunday: RIGHTS & SOUNDS CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL, PARADE & TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY — Events begin at 1:00 p.m.; 460-5299; Parade Theme “A Magical, Musical Christmas” Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org. See story p16.

MONTHLY EVENTS

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wednesdays: Wednesday Green Market — Rain or Shine 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.; Downtown Marina Square; 971-8480.

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

Saturdays: Mt. Pierce Farmer’s Market — 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager; 549-1140.

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

LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN

www.allthingsbeachcoast.com

Sailfish Brewing Company
Facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company

The Original Tiki Bar
www.tikibarandrestaurant.com

Cobbs Landing
www.cobbs-landing.com

SUNRISE THEATRE & SUNRISE BLACK BOX

Tuesdays: Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre — 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.; 460-5299; www.jazzsoc.org.

November 2, Saturday @ 7:00 p.m. — Pink Rose Foundation Presents Jazz Soiree Featuring Naja; 461-4775, sunrisetheatre.com.

November 17, Friday @ 8:00 p.m. — The Australian Bee Gees Show; 461-4775, sunrisetheatre.com.

November 17, Friday @ 8:00 p.m. — Bluebird Productions Presents Kara Granger/Skyla Bumet; 461-4775, sunrisetheatre.com.

November 18, Saturday @ 8:00 p.m. — On the verge Concert Series Presents: Tom Jackson; 461-4775, sunrisetheatre.com.

November 18, Saturday @ 8:00 p.m. — Ocean Chiropractic & Health Center Proudly Presents: Parent Academy of SLC Lip Sync Battle 2; 461-4775, sunrisetheatre.com.

November 26, Sunday @ 7:00 p.m. — Tango Buenos Aires — The Spirit of Argentina; 461-4775, sunrisetheatre.com.

November 30, Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. — National Acrobat and Martial Artists of Tianjin the People’s Republic of China; 461-4775, sunrisetheatre.com.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

A.E. Backus Museum
772-465-8500 • www.backusmuseum.com

Downtown Fort Pierce Library
772-462-2767 • www.fl.lib.fl.us

Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society
772-460-0299 • www.jazzsoc.org

Fort Pierce Police Athletic League
772-392-8463 • www.fppal.org

Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center
772-489-6473 • www.cityoffortpierce.org

Healthcote Botanical Gardens
772-464-8672 • healthcotebotanicalgardens.org

Manatee Observation & Education Center
772-429-6266 • www.manateecenter.org

St. Lucie County Aquarium
772-462-5474 • www.stlucieco.gov/marine_center

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

Sunrise Theatre
772-461-4775 • www.sunrisetheatre.com

FORT PIERCE HISTORIC TROLLEY TOURS

Saturday, December 9 — 1:00 & 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 12 — 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. www.mainstreetfortpierce.org 466-3880. $10 per person

In Memory of Alto “Bud” Adams, Jr.
April 4, 1926 – September 22, 2017

Bud Adams leaves behind a community that is better because he was part of it. For an in-depth look into the life and legacy of this humble cowboy please pick up a free copy of the special tribute edition of the Indian River Magazine at the Main Street office, 122 A.E. Backus Avenue, or the Indian River Magazine office, 308 Avenue A, or read online at http://indianrivermag.com.
The “Best of the Best” at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery

by J. Marshall Adams, Executive Director A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery

The 57th Season of the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery opened on Sunday, October 15 with the annual Best of the Best juried exhibition. This tradition continues to offer artists the opportunity for their best creative works to be honored and shared with the public. Jurors this year were practicing artists Jini James, Suzanne Peiffer, and Sean Sexton, who reviewed 152 accepted entries to select the final 69 works by 53 artists.

The competition and exhibition’s Best of Show, the highest honor, was awarded to Dunes by Ellen E. Fischer, an oil painting on canvas. The Director’s Choice Award was given to Still Life with Fruit by Vedia Bagnasco, an acrylic painting on canvas.

The First Place Award in Oil/Acrylic was given to Dividing Line by Rita Barone; First Place in Watercolor to Florida Reflections III by Franyk Spinno; First Place in Varied Techniques to Night Blooming Cereus by Susan J. Juranich; and First Place in Three-Dimensional to The Family Gathering by Soozi Schuble. Additionally, Second, Third, and Awards of Merit were conferred to 24 other works entered in the competition.

The Best of the Best is an annual competition open to all artists, with First, Second, and Third Place Awards juried in the following artistic categories: Watercolor; Oil / Acrylic; Varied Techniques (which may include mixed media, pencil, pastel, collage, graphics or other non-photographic two-dimensional media); and Three-Dimensional (which may include wood, clay, stone, metal, jewelry, or fiber).

“Celebrating the creativity of artists far and near is an important part of our history,” said museum director J. Marshall Adams. “A.E. Backus welcomed artists into his studio, and helped found the original gallery with the idea of encouragement and recognition. Carrying that idea forward each year with an exhibition of vibrant and exciting work like this today is central to remembering how we started and why we’re here.”

During the presentation through November 17, visitors to the exhibition are invited to share their own vote for their favorite work on display. The results will be tallied for the annual People’s Choice Award given at the close of the exhibition.

The Best of the Best Juried Art Exhibition is on view through Friday, November 17 during regular hours at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery. Wednesdays to Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays 12 Noon to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit www.BackusMuseum.com.

Set Sail for Disaster on Saturday, November 4th

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Academy presents Set Sail for Disaster: Murder on the Indian River Lagoon. Amateur and professional detectives are needed for this thrilling murder mystery of a local boat captain! Participants will begin at St. Andrew’s Parish Hall and then gather clues from participating downtown Fort Pierce businesses such as: 2nd Street Bistro, the Galleria, Varsity Sport Shop, Freedom Boat Club, and more. After all the clues are collected attendees will obtain the final clue back at the Parish Hall and accuse their suspect! Come help solve this mystery! Tickets are $30 per person or $55 per couple and are available online at www.stacacademy.org/events or by calling the office at (772) 461-7689.

Set Sail for Disaster evening schedule:
5:30 p.m. — Arrive at St. Andrew’s Parish Hall (210 Indian River Drive) for check-in.
5:30 to 8 p.m. — Silent auction & raffles. Food bites and spirits provided.
6:30 to 8:15 p.m. — Gather clues around downtown Fort Pierce.
8:30 p.m. — Final clue at Parish Hall … Accuse a suspect!
9:00 p.m. — Crime solved. Prizes awarded (winners drawn at random from all the correct answers.)

During the presentation through November 17, visitors to the exhibition are invited to share their own vote for their favorite work on display. The results will be tallied for the annual People’s Choice Award given at the close of the exhibition.

The Best of the Best Juried Art Exhibition is on view through Friday, November 17 during regular hours at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery. Wednesdays to Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays 12 Noon to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit www.BackusMuseum.com.
The **CIRCUS** Arrives at the 9th Annual Reflections of the Future Art Show

by Sue Dannahower

Throughout the year, Main Street Fort Pierce hosts numerous art shows and social events. The Reflections of the Future Art Show is truly one of the most extraordinary shows we host at the Backus House. Join us on Thursday, November 9th at 5:00 p.m. for our exciting Artist Reception.

Each year, Anita Prentice curates work from a diverse group of artists working in a myriad of medium. This year, Anita is showing with Edgar Straeffer, Debi Crouse, and Ginny Piech Street.

In the “Center Ring,” Circus Man, Edgar “Lucky” Straeffer is a painter, sculptor, photographer and musician. His professions have included teacher, museum curator, photojournalist and more. In 2007, Edgar received a call from his old friend, John Ringling North II, offering him the position of Musical Director with the Kelly Miller Circus. So, Edgar and his wife Vickie left their jobs, sold their belongings and set off on the road, touring the circus for five seasons. Now back in Fort Pierce, Edgar is painting abstract reflections of the beauty and symmetry of some of the outstanding trapeze artists and acrobats that he had the pleasure of watching daily during his tenure with “America’s One Ring Wonder.”

Another part of the troupe is mixed media artist, Debi Crouse. Debi’s collection of works are titled “Midnight Reverie” an after-hours look at the mysterious, oddities and activities of those who have chosen life in the circus. Debi grew up in Fort Pierce and was educated by Dominican Nuns, who let her free spirit wander through the world of Art via pastels, oils, watercolors, sculpting and mosaics. Art should draw a person into a piece, allowing them a wee peek inside the soul of the Artist.

Through her friend, Edgar Straeffer, who ran away with the circus twice, Clay & Collage artist, Ginny Piech Street has acquired an intimate knowledge of, interest in and respect for circus life. This exhibit gives her an opportunity to explore the colorful and sometimes-edgy imagery associated with the circus. She also is excited to honor a part of American history that may soon be found only in our memories and imagination.

The star of the show is mosaic artist, Anita Prentice. Anita will be showing a mosaic portrait of Fort Pierce native, Lucia Zora, a 1900s circus animal trainer billed as “the bravest woman in the world.” Her works will include furniture and “hamsa hands,” which are known as the protective eye of God. Anita will also be showing other curious oddities.

The Artist Reception is Thursday, November 9th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you can't attend the Thursday Reception you have one final opportunity at the 3-Hour Last Chance Sale on Friday, November 10th, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Wishing You a Happy Holiday Season Filled With Love and Joy!**

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di Mickey Lang, Fort Pierce • www.McCarthyRealty.com

**4th Holiday Open House, Saturday, November 11, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Refreshments served all day.**

**Chic And Shore Things**

The boutique shop in downtown Fort Pierce has your unique Scandinavian inspired home décor and furnishing needs.

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205 North Second St. Fort Pierce, FL

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105 S. 2nd St. Fort Pierce, FL, 772-461-1222
Manatee Observation & Education Center Celebrates 21 Years

November is Manatee Awareness Month and October 26th marked the 21st Anniversary of the Manatee Observation & Education Center (MOEC) and its mascot, Moe. To celebrate these events the MOEC together with the Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation, www.mfinc.org, will host Moe’s birthday celebration on Saturday, November 4th. The MOEC will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with special birthday activities throughout the day and then the center will close from 5 to 6, reopening at 6 p.m. for a special evening presentation until 8 p.m. FREE admission and 10% off all items at the Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop all day.

The schedule of events is as follows:

11 a.m. – Mermaid Tales with a real live Vero Beach mermaid. Join us for story time at the Manatee Center. Vero Beach Mermaid will make a special visit to the Manatee Center to celebrate Moe’s birthday with story time, photos and her greatest tales from the sea.

12 p.m. – Celebrate with Moe by singing “Happy Birthday” and sharing birthday cake with Moe the Manatee. Plus the name of MOEC’s newest family member — the Black Edge Moray Eel — will be announced.

12:30 p.m. – Ranger John from the Fort Pierce Inlet State Park will give a special presentation on the Florida State Park Junior Ranger Program. Information about the Fort Pierce Inlet State Park and its animals will also be presented. Each junior participant will receive a FREE Junior Ranger Kit. Juniors who complete the six core activities contained in the kit will become official Florida State Park Junior Rangers.

1:30 p.m. – Fin Tastic Fish Feeding of the MOEC critters.

2 to 4 p.m. – Volunteer open house: join MOEC’s Volunteer Program Coordinator to learn all about the volunteer opportunities with the Manatee Center.

There is a great rewards program and an even greater family of volunteers who have kept the Manatee Center thriving for 21 years.

7:00 p.m. – Featured evening presentation: Manatee Communication, presented by Beth Brady, Ph.D of Florida Atlantic University. Beth will present the latest fascinating research about manatee communication and underwater vocalization.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Native plant sale fundraiser: native plants provided by Native Plant Specialist, D.R. Bates Liners & Gallons. All funds raised through this plant sale will be used to replace plants that died due to wind and salt damage from Hurricane Irma. The vision of the MOEC is that its landscaping is to become an educational site with signage about native Florida plants and butterflies. Slash pine seedlings will also be given away courtesy of the Florida Forest Service.

Join Moe the Manatee, the MOEC and the Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation for this all day celebration on Saturday, November 4th at the Manatee Observation & Education Center located at 480 North Indian River Drive. Visit www.manatee-educationcenter.org for more information.

Fort Pierce – The Heart of Art

by Cheryl Ferrari

Fort Pierce is fast becoming the art hub of St. Lucie County and for good reason. There are presently well over a dozen shops, galleries, and studios with in-a-two-block radius of the corner of Orange Avenue and 2nd Street, and the number is growing.

With that in mind, the Focus has decided to dedicate a section in every monthly issue to the wonderful artists and art events happening in our historic downtown by the river and our newly developing Peacock Arts District. The City of Fort Pierce has a great vision for the Arts District and with the abundance of local talent, we will see this vision begin to take shape over the next several months.

Peacock Arts District

Take a ride or a stroll on Orange Avenue between 7th Street and U.S. 1 to see the recently placed terra cotta pots. The vivid colors and creative designs are the work of many of our Fort Pierce artists who volunteered for the City of Fort Pierce’s project to beautify and delineate the Peacock Arts District.

While you’re there, the place to explore is the historic Arcade Building at the corner of U.S. 1 and Orange Avenue, new home of Art Connection (formerly the Woodcarver’s Den on 2nd Street). This four-member art co-op offers original and unique art, gifts, and cards created by over 35 local artists.

Watch for additional art venues opening this season in the Arts District. Surprises are in progress!

New Trolley Stop

If you’re visiting downtown on a Saturday (or during any major event, including Artwalk), you can park on the west side of U.S. 1 and hop on the trolley at its newest stop, the corner of 5th Street and Orange Avenue. It will take you east on Orange Avenue to the river where the Green Market and Craft Market take place. If a major event is happening at Veteran’s Park, the trolley goes north to it as well before completing its loop back to the Arcade Building, making stops at various locations on route, including the parking garage.

Downtown Changes

Some new changes in the downtown area include the relocation of Seriously Mixed Media from 2nd Street to 207 Orange Avenue, right around the corner. You’ll love their new space, and the back patio is a serene addition to the artistic ambiance. Besides their own beautiful art, the five members of this co-op feature monthly guest artists during the Artwalk event.

Next door at 209 Orange Avenue is Mike’s Downtown Computer Repair, not only the best place to get repairs done but also recently redesigned to include an art gallery, WiFi hot spot, and internet cafe offering coffee, tea, beer, and wine. If you need repairs, have questions, or are interested in placing some art on his walls, call Mike at 772-480-3427 and leave a message if he’s out on a service call.

New to 2nd Street is Galleria Paradise, owned by Linda Knowles, formerly of the 111 Orange Avenue studios. It now occupies the space vacated by Seriously Mixed Media at 131B N. 2nd Street. Linda’s artwork is quite varied, like her art background. This storefront is both her working studio and gallery and you can find her creating acrylic paintings, mixed media, or glass mosaics when you stop in to visit. The center stage mosaic porpoise is art you shouldn’t miss.

Art Underground in the 111 Orange Avenue building is temporarily closed for some repairs and renovations. We hope to report its re-opening by December’s issue — stay tuned!

November Events

November 8th — Artwalk will be on Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. This monthly art event is spectacular so don’t miss it! You can pick up a map at any art gallery downtown.
November 11th — Holiday Open House! Many of our downtown stores are kicking off the Christmas shopping season with an all-day event, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Original tree ornaments, table decorations, and other décor items will be in abundance so you can start adorning your own home for the festive weeks ahead. The list of participating shops offering refreshments and welcoming you through their doors includes Chic and Shore Things, Peacock Clay Collaborative, Notions and Potions and Art Connection.

November 25th — Small Business Saturday. When you think of after-Thanksgiving Day shopping, put Downtown Fort Pierce at the top of your list. Find some original art for your loved ones and don’t forget to gift yourself! Supporting local business makes our economy strong.

Art Connection continues to sponsor and host the St. Lucie County Teen Art Competition for ages 13 to 18 through the end of December. Rules for entry are listed under the events tab on their website, www.artconnectionfp.com. Art submissions change every two weeks so please visit regularly and vote for your favorite art pieces in the People’s Choice category. The recognition is important to our budding young artists.

Try Creating Some Art Yourself
If you’ve ever wondered how you would do with a brush in hand and a painting surface in front of you, there are a couple of local businesses where you can find out. Get a few of your friends together for a paint-and-sip event which is a party where you hang on your wall.

Swig of Color will be putting on parties at Sailfish Brewing Company on 2nd Street on November 6th and 28th and at Cobb’s Landing on the 29th. All events begin at 6 p.m. You will need to pre-register. Contact them through their website at www.swigofcolor.com or by calling 772-971-4031 for details.

Notions and Potions at 116 N 2nd Street offers paint parties on the second and last Thursdays of every month. Details and contact information can be found on their Facebook page.

Get the Holiday Spirit
Holiday shopping season is upon us. The best gifts of all are gifts from the heart and there’s no better place to find them than in the art galleries and shops of Fort Pierce. Revisit the feeling of years gone by as you stroll the brick paver walks lined with street lamps, ride the trolley browsing windows decorated in holiday style, and meander storefronts filled with one-of-a-kind works of art fit for your loved ones or yourself. It’s an exciting experience that bears repeating all season long in Fort Pierce — the heart of art.

In 2009, Allie Comer, Sherry Horton and two other artists created a not-for-profit art incubator in downtown Fort Pierce because they had the vision to image art and artists as a catalyst for transforming an empty downtown into a thriving art and cultural scene. Eight years, one recession and a recovery later, they and their three gallery partners — Gretchen Green, Janet Bird Fuller and Judy Coffman — find themselves quickly outgrowing our original Seriously Mixed Media gallery space and expanding to larger and more centrally located space at 207 Orange Ave. The new gallery space is located between Mike’s Computer and The Cake Lady on Orange Avenue in the heart of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, a block from the City’s free parking garage and walking distance to many of Fort Pierce’s wonderful restaurants and Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market.

I want to introduce you to these five award-winning artists and tell you a little bit about their work — enough to intrigue you to stop by the gallery to see their work in person. Allie Comer is a fiber and collage artist. Her bird series, made from attach small bits of folded fabric to bird forms she makes, each have real personality. Have a favorite bird? Talk to Comer about a special commission. Janet Bird Fuller, a retired New Jersey police officer, works in a style called Steampunk. She creates new work from old things that people have discarded. Her work is amazing — where other people see trash, Fuller sees mice, owls or a garden. She is always on the hunt for more source material and says the Edgartown neighborhood of Fort Pierce is her favorite gardening distance to many of Fort Pierce’s wonderful restaurants and two other artists created a not-for-profit art incubator in downtown Fort Pierce. Please stop by, say hello and buy some local art from some of the artists who work to make our downtown the creative mecca of the Treasure Coast.
City of Fort Pierce After Hurricane Irma

by Joe Sweat, Marketing Specialist, City of Fort Pierce

Open 363 days a year from sun up to sun down, the Fort Pierce City Marina doesn’t seem to stop with its seven-day-a-week workload. With the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, a lot of us seemed to be going non-stop — preparation, planning, anticipation, and worry as the storm approached, especially with an uncertain track — however, that wasn’t the case in 2004.

The 2004 hurricanes left behind a swathe of rubble, debris, and destruction with a near direct hit to Fort Pierce each time. The storms were nothing short of powerful when they made landfall with peak winds of 120 to 145 mph.

The most devastated area and most unrecognizable was the Fort Pierce City Marina. It bore the most damage with a crumbled dock system. Boats on top of boats, sailboats flipped sideways, and debris from the marina was everywhere. Recovery seemed impossible, and the estimated damage exceeded well over $26 million. It is human nature to survive, to keep striving, and to rise again when we fall. Hurricane Jeanne did more than trip us up, but we got back up and rose even higher.

As construction began on the new marina in August 2011, there was a lot of concern and anticipation of the “new islands” that could block a beautiful river view. Complete understanding of that concern went into the build as a foundation was laid for a future Farmers Market in Marina Square. Not that it would ever take the place of that view; for it was the priority of the marina to be strong enough to withstand such an impact as Jeanne.

Fast-forward a few years and the marina was receiving national recognition for the state-of-the-art improvements and island design produced by our exceptional City Engineers. They say a ship is untested until it’s tried in the waves, not in the harbor. The same is true for our precious marina. Hurricane Matthew rapidly approached our shores in October of 2016 and it would be the first time our marina would see a serious storm. Luckily, as bad as Matthew was projected, it stayed offshore, only producing rains and flooding. Not so much for Hurricane Irma. Though it wasn’t a direct hit, it was enough to cause 22 inches of rain and flooding in addition to the large amounts of debris still being picked up today. Wind gusts reached 100 m.p.h. at the peak of impact and created quite the storm surge in the Atlantic.

White caps and turbulent waters began slamming the marina around 6:00 p.m. The Indian River was cresting over the sea wall adjacent to the marina, posing a serious threat to the newly constructed Melody Lane Fishing Pier.

There wasn’t any doubt in our minds the restored marina would hold up despite the unsettling fear of the unknown. It was built to withstand such a force as Irma. Marina Manager, Dean Kubineck, briefly recorded the fierce storm just outside the marina from his office. High gusts, white caps and storm surge could be seen beyond the islands creating serious waves and wake, but the marina withstood every ounce. The marina did exactly what it was built to do. We, as a City, have done more than bounce back. We were so well prepared for this storm in so many ways. Constant communication from the City Manager’s office to our Public Works, Building, Code Enforcement, and Engineering departments working in overdrive, ensured every detail throughout the city was covered. Every department did more than rally together, on top of scrambling just to make sure their own homes were ready.

The following weekend, and after thorough inspections, Marina Square opened up its traditional Saturday morning Farmers Market. What a site for sore eyes after being cooped up looking for sunlight and a warm meal, but that is thanks in part to the marina standing its ground. This little town has heart. We can be #FortPierceProud as we say on social media; not only did we come together during an intense time, but we proved we are stronger together.
29th Annual Sights and Sounds Festival & Parade
“Magical Musical Christmas” by Pam Gillette

Sponsored by City of Fort Pierce, Ocean Chiropractic & Health Center, and Waste Management

There will be magic in the air and music all around on Sunday, December 3, 2017, as Main Street Fort Pierce and the Sunrise Kiwanis kick off the 29th Annual Sights & Sounds on Second Festival and Parade in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. This year’s theme is “Magical Musical Christmas.”

Main Street Fort Pierce is so happy to be celebrating our 29th parade and to announce this year’s Grand Marshal — The Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society. The City of Fort Pierce, Main Street Fort Pierce, and our citizens, have worked very hard to create a beautiful downtown, and the Sights & Sounds on Second Festival and Parade is the perfect time to showcase our community to visitors and friends.

Main Street Fort Pierce has a day full of activities planned that will appeal to all ages and we hope that you will find the time to join us for this exceptional day. Begin your day with Common Ground Vineyard Church. The church will hold an outdoor Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. and the public is invited to join them at the intersection of Orange Avenue and Second Street.

The festival begins at 1:00 p.m. with live entertainment, and then we welcome Santa at 1:30 p.m. After the arrival of Santa, the crowd will be entertained by local youth dance groups: Club Pure Studios will perform at 1:00 p.m., True Crew Dance at 1:45 p.m., Mrs. P’s Dance & Acrobatic Studio at 2:30 p.m. and a dance performance by Borras Dance Company at 3:15 p.m.

This year Main Street Fort Pierce has enlarged our Children’s Area. The kid’s zone will include Santa, pony rides, face painting, special characters and hands-on children activities by local businesses and nonprofits.

Local shops and restaurants will be open for your shopping and dining experience, along with food vendors, arts and crafts, and the much-anticipated Christmas parade at 4:00 p.m.

The Sights & Sounds Parade, sponsored by the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis starts at Tiedle Tumey Hill on Second Street. It will travel south to Orange Avenue, turn east on Orange, and north on Indian River Drive, concluding at the River Walk Center.

Immediately following the parade will be the lighting of the Holiday Christmas Tree. The tree is located in the roundabout at Avenue A & Indian River Drive. The Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society will be at the roundabout playing holiday jazz music before and after the tree lighting.

After the tree lighting, stay around for the “The Holiday Lights Spectacular” in Marina Square on Melody Lane. “The Holiday Lights Spectacular” is presented by the City of Fort Pierce. The light show consists of over 100,000 lights synchronized to holiday music and is a must-see for both locals and out-of-town guests. The lights and music will run from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. daily until January 4, 2018.

“Magical Musical Christmas” is special time and we hope you and your family will join us for the festival and parade. For more information call Main Street Fort Pierce at 772-466-5880 or www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Free parking is available at: the City Parking Garage (Orange Avenue & Depot Drive); Country Parking Garage (2nd Street & Boston Avenue); Parking Lot (South Indian River Drive between Orange Avenue & Avenue A), Parking Lot (North Indian River Drive between AE Backus Avenue & Avenue D).

Main Street Fort Pierce
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Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market Opens its 21st Season

by Brenda Gibbons

The Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market opens its 21st season in November, with 55 vendors selling the finest selections of locally-grown produce, plants, and other fresh and ready-to-eat foods each Saturday morning from 8 a.m. until noon at the vibrant venue on Melody Lane.

Since 1977, the Market has grown into a year-round “Saturday Morning Tradition,” open rain or shine to thousands of visitors and patrons. Stunning waterfront views, plentiful seating, and fantastic entertainment delight visitors of all ages. The Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market is one of Florida’s favorite farmers’ markets for stocking up on healthy selections, and for noshing, browsing, socializing, and listening to upbeat live music.

“Legacy” vendors who have been with the Market since its beginning include Gina’s Bake Shop, Faith’s House of Orchids, and PJ’s Honey Ranch. Other longtime favorite vendors are Importico’s Bakery, Gibbons Farms Organics, Al’s Family Farm, Tropical Jerk, Barefoot Gourmet, Guweli Apiary, and dozens of other vendors. All vendors are happy to answer questions about their products and production.

The Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market greatly promotes healthy shopping choices, community access to local agricultural products and fresh food. An added bonus includes a savings for market shoppers of an average of nearly 25 percent on food annually — when compared to shopping at grocery stores.

The Market also provides a boon to the economic development of small businesses, agricultural businesses, and Fort Pierce’s downtown businesses, where stores, restaurants and other venues near the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market report higher sales on market days.

For more information on the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market, visit the Market website at: https://www.fortpiercemarket.com/ or go to the Facebook Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market page. The Market Manager can be contacted at 772-940-1145.

Elizabeth’s Emporium in Historic Downtown

by Britt Anderson

I looked up the definition of “emporium” in my handy dictionary. One of its meanings is as follows: “a large store, esp. one selling a great variety of articles and having an air of importance.” Elizabeth’s Emporium fits some, but not all of that definition. It is certainly a store, although not large, selling a great variety of articles, however, it definitely does not have “an air of importance”; quite the contrary, it is warm, friendly and inviting.

Couches and comfy chairs are available to relax in for an intimate chat over a glass of wine, a cold beer, or a cup of coffee. This is a place to meet old friends and make new ones. While you chat away, your eyes can wander over all that is displayed on the walls, tables, bookcases, etc. It’s all for sale. This is not a “hard sell” place, it’s rather a feast for your fancy or a place to treat your whim of the moment; a place to relax for the weary traveler or to take a mid-afternoon or evening respite from the troubles of your office or home. The owner, Liz Barton, is the perfect hostess.

Elizabeth’s Emporium opened this past May and is making its mark. It caters to anyone and everyone and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. In the late afternoon or early evening on Thursdays, “tidbits” are served. They are free and their nature depends on the whim of the “chef” of the day: soup, tapas, etc. You serve yourself. Other times you can bring your own or ask Liz who will try to accommodate your culinary needs or desires.

The Emporium is located at 208 Avenue A (now named Marina Way) just off 2nd Street. The premise has been many things in the past, but it’s perfect for what Liz has in mind. Beside the comfortable furniture, it has a long bar and a stage for karaoke, readings or whatever, and a back room with a second bar for private parties and receptions.

Liz is not new to the “bar” business and neither is her family. Her brother, Rob Kluba, owns The Hurricane on Hutchinson Island and a Taco Bell franchise. The rest of her family have been locals since the 1990s and are very involved in the city they love and call home. Liz grew up in Palm Beach Gardens and moved to Fort Pierce in 2003. She has a B.S. degree from FSU in Human Resources, opening several of their stores in the area.

Liz has collected all of the items for sale at the Emporium with the exception of the bar. Her taste is eclectic: guitars, pictures, china, lamps, pillows, needlepoint, tiles, furniture, and ceramics. All are tastefully, if randomly, displayed or in use. It truly is a feast for the senses. There are absolutely no “do not touch” signs and all items are viewable or touchable while sipping your beverage of choice and relaxing in comfort. We hope Liz’s concept for her Emporium takes hold in Fort Pierce and that it can rightfully claim in it’s own way an “air of importance.”
Love, JAZZ Community: Music & Gratitude
by Don Bestor

If you're anything like me, you've been seeing holiday decorations on the shelves of local stores since way back in August. During those dog days, I wasn't sure I'd ever be in the holiday spirit, and Hurricane Irma had us all on edge and thinking less about the holidays and more about bottled water. But now that Halloween has passed and November is upon us, I'm reminded of all we have to be grateful for here on the Treasure Coast. The Saturday morning Jazz Market is back in full swing on Melody Lane, and the sound of music is back in the Sunrise Black Box Theatre every Tuesday evening beginning November 7th.

For just a few dollars, you can hear professional musicians jam and joke their way through everything from the American Songbook classics to some pretty spicy new age jazz, sure to have you nodding and snapping your fingers along to the beat. Sometimes Scatman Jack takes the mic and guides you on a trip down memory lane, but no matter who's on stage or what's playing. Tuesday evenings are a great time to get together with friends and enjoy live music in historic downtown Fort Pierce.

On Sunday afternoon, November 19th, Waterside Blues takes over Melody Lane and rocks the waterfront with a free concert featuring Dave Scott and the Reckless Shott starting at 3 p.m. Time and again, Dave Scott and his screaming guitar has brought the crowd to its feet during the free concert on the waterside. All you've got to do is show up – bring a lawn chair if you'd like, or just find a space along the seawall and enjoy the music and the atmosphere of a Sunday afternoon filled with music, sunshine, laughter, friends, and fun. Whether it's spring, summer, or fall, Waterside Blues is Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society's gift to the Treasure Coast to thank you for enjoying and supporting the arts.

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The thing is, gratitude is not just a seasonal thing for us at Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society. All year long, everything we do revolves around our gratitude for the music that is the soundtrack of our lives. Whether it’s helping teach new students about jazz and blues through our master classes and special lesson programs, playing for the public on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and at the Saturday morning Jazz Market, or sharing our time and talent with other non-profits to help build a better community, we practice an attitude of gratitude all year long. And what we're most grateful for is you. Thank you.

If you'd like advance notice and special discount ticket prices for all of our performances, visit www.jazzsociety.org or call 772.460.JAZZ right now.
Small Business Solutions: Six Ways to Prepare for a Successful Holiday Season

by bridgetswpollack, Guest Blogger @ www.sba.gov

Anticipate holiday orders by manufacturing additional product.

It’s important to determine your holiday operating hours, whether that means you’ll be open longer than usual or you may plan some additional days when your business is closed. Be sure to communicate those holiday hours with your staff, and explain your expectations of your employees during the holiday season.

1. Make a list, check it twice, and order supplies

Reference your orders from last season to anticipate how much you will need in September before rocketing up in October and November. Customers are looking ahead, and your small business needs to get ready for this busy season.

Now, before the holidays get hectic, is the perfect time to plan ahead for success. Many experienced business owners start this planning process in June or July! Prepare for a successful holiday season by reviewing these six tasks and delegating with your team.

2. Make holiday staff schedules

It’s important to determine your holiday operating hours, whether that means you’ll be open longer than usual or you may plan some additional days when your business is closed. Be sure to communicate those holiday hours with your staff, and explain your expectations of your employees during the holiday season.

Ask your team to request any holiday time off by a certain date so you can plan employee schedules accordingly.

3. Order or make extra inventory

Anticipate holiday orders by manufacturing additional product or placing orders with your vendors. Be aware that your suppliers are under their own holiday pressures, and may have ordering deadlines to get product to you in time for the holidays. Mark these deadlines on a calendar you can see easily so these ordering deadlines don’t pass you by.

4. Freshen up your website

Give your business website a once-over to make sure it’s ready for a busy holiday season. Is the design tidy and easy to use? Can customers easily find your most popular products or services? Does your ecommerce checkout work smoothly? If you’re the person who works on your website most often, hand this task to a staffer or a trusted friend. They’ll be able to spot the issues you might miss.

5. Get in the spirit — decorate!

Even if you feel like the Grinch when it comes to holidays, your business will need a little extra flair to help stand out from the crowd during this busy season. Your whole team can get involved: plan a late-night or early-morning decorating party. Order takeout for your team, play festive music (or regular music, for the Grinches among us), and transform your business in a matter of hours. Remember to check corners for cobwebs, and dust your fixtures to help your merchandise shine.

6. Develop and execute a marketing campaign

Why will customers want to spend time at your small business this holiday season? Determine the answer, and build a marketing campaign around it. Maybe you have the best selection in town. Or, perhaps you can be the first to offer an item because your service is so great. Develop your holiday marketing about what makes your business stand out from the crowd.

Don’t forget to plan for Small Business Saturday! Kick off the holiday season on November 25 by adding your business to the Shop Small map, and take advantage of free promotional materials available to small businesses. More than 112 million customers reported shopping on this day celebrating small businesses last year.

Already feeling overwhelmed by the holiday season? Meet with a SCORE mentor who can guide you through the preparation process.

About the Author: Bridget Weston Pollack, Guest Blogger. Bridget Weston Pollack is the Vice President of Marketing and Communications at the SCORE Association. She is responsible for all branding, marketing, PR, and communication efforts. She focuses on implementing marketing plans and strategies to facilitate the growth of SCORE’s mentoring and training services. She collaborates with SCORE volunteers and develops SCORE’s online marketing strategy.

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, October 20, at the monthly Coffee with the Mayor.

The Mayor’s Gold Hammer Awards are presented semi-annually 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 March 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.

About Coffee with the Mayor: Coffee with the Mayor is held on every third Friday of the month at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club (700 N. Indian River Drive, 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 email pregill@mainstreetfortpierce.org.
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Tech Bytes: Powering Off the Computer

by Michael Lewis, Mike's Downtown Computer Repair

When should you turn your computer off and when should you leave it on? It’s almost always best practice in Florida to power off your computer when it is not in use. We can have unexpected weather conditions that can lead to power surges and/or fluctuations. These fluctuations can damage your hard drive and your data on it. If you are using a desktop, the best way to prevent problems related to power is to unplug it when not in use or to invest in a battery backup. Laptops have a built-in battery that helps prevent your data from being damaged, however they are not protected from surges through the line. I always recommend to unplug your computer/laptop during any type of electrical storm. 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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A Look Back: Excerpts from the Fort Pierce News from Friday, November 16, 1906.

Years ago when Fort Pierce was only a name and when the country round about was little less than a wilderness, the Florida Canning Company started what purported to be a factory for the canning of Indian River oysters. This, however, did not prove a successful venture and P.P. Cobb bought the stock of merchandise and continued business in that line, and as the years rolled on, the country settled up and Fort Pierce grew to a thriving town. Mr. Cobb’s business grew in a like manner and today the floor space covered by his immense stock is equal to any store on the East Coast.

Starting with a modest one-room building he has added to it at various times until now it consists of a two-story building, fronting on the river seventy-five feet, and one hundred feet on Palmetto avenue, with two smaller buildings to the rear of the big store containing two departments, while a third is used a wareroom for surplus stock. An addition is now being made which will connect all of these buildings thus making one big store of immense proportions. A barn and stables complete the list of buildings.

He employs a force of 15 clerks and deliverymen, and his wagons cover this territory like the dew. His slogan is “Everything to eat, wear, and use is found in this store.” This explains the character of his stock, for he carries a full line in all departments.

Mr. Cobb is also postmaster and the post office occupies one room of the big building, and is fitted up equal to any office in the State doing the same volume of business.

For more local history please visit the St. Lucie County Regional History Center, the Bud Adams-Cobb Cultural Center, the Navy Seal Museum, the A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery, and the 7 Gables Visitor Center. In addition to these museums, Main Street Fort Pierce has historic trolley tours from December – May (see schedule in this edition). A free, self-guided walking tour is available through the Florida Humanities Council’s Florida Stories app.
What’s the proper way to refer to it: stuffing or dressing? Is there even a distinction?

Some believe that if it’s cooked inside the bird, it should be dubbed stuffing; if it’s prepared outside the bird, then the proper name for it is dressing. But go south of the Mason-Dixon line, and cooks will call it dressing, regardless of its preparation, citing the term “stuffing” as an unpleasant-sounding word. Likewise, northern states and New Englanders generally refer to the dish as stuffing across the board.

Stuffing Cups

¼ pound bacon, sliced into 1/2 inch pieces
1 large onion, chopped
6 stalks celery, chopped
8 mushrooms, cleaned and chopped
1 loaf of dense day-old French or Italian bread, cubed and dried
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 tablespoons poultry seasoning, or to taste
2 eggs
1 cup chicken broth

Half and Half

Sauté bacon in pan until crisp. Remove bacon from pan and drain on paper towel. Add onion and celery to the bacon grease and sauté until tender. Set aside while you mix the other ingredients. In a large bowl, mix bacon cubes, Parmesan and poultry seasoning. Add bacon, onion, celery and eggs. Pour in chicken broth and mix. Add Half & Half to desired consistency. Place stuffing into a greased muffin tins and bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes.

Mom’s Stuffing

1 loaf bread, cubed and dried
1 tablespoon poultry seasoning
6 stalks celery, minced
1 large onion, minced
1 stick butter
2 cups water
3–4 teaspoons chicken bouillon
3 eggs

Sauté celery and onion in butter until tender. Add water, bouillon and poultry seasoning. Let cool 30 minutes. Stir in egg and whisk one minute. Add ¼ of the cubes and ¼ of the liquid, mixing between each entry. Do not over mix. Let sit in the fridge, uncovered for one hour. If stuffing is too dry, add more water; if too wet add more bread cubes. Makes enough stuffing for 12 to 16 pound turkey; makes 10 servings.

Thanksgiving Stuffing

Recipe Corner

by Sue Dannahower

Chic and Shore Things: News from Downtown Businesses

4th Annual Holiday Open House

Becky Demanuel began her annual open house as a way to show her appreciation to her clients. “It is my way to thank loyal customers and to share the holiday spirit with the community,” says Becky. A lot of planning and preparation go into this event each year; in fact, Becky closes the store for a few days before in order to totally revamp it into a holiday wonderland.

The new look is revealed during the open house on Saturday, November 11th from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Attendees are treated to refreshments all day while browsing the beautiful décor of Chic and Shore Things. There are themed areas such as: coastal, vintage, woodlands, and a gingerbread & peppermint area.

Chic and Shore Things specializes in home décor, furniture, gift giving items and more. It is located at 205 North 2nd Street. Visit the website at www.chicandshorethings.com and on Facebook.

Orange Bloom Restaurant: New Menu Items and Décor

Things are a little different at the Orange Bloom Restaurant located at 101 North 2nd Street. In fact, a nautical vibe now sets the stage when patrons walk in. From the décor on its walls to the new menu selections – Orange Bloom is highlighting its location near the Indian River lagoon and Atlantic Ocean.

One great new feature of the new menu is the Shrimp Cove selections for lovers of this tasty crustacean. Along with their appetizing food selections, Orange Bloom offers a full bar and plenty of fun events. Orange Bloom is open Monday – Friday 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m & Sundays from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Check out their Facebook page, or better yet, visit them soon!
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