Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Walking Tour

THE SOUTH TOUR
Wednesday, October 26
City Hall Plaza

THE NORTH TOUR
Wednesday, October 26
City Hall Plaza

THE EDGARTOWN TOUR
Thursday, October 27
Platts/Backus House

THE NEW WEST TOUR
Thursday, October 27
Historic Arcade Building
October has finally arrived which means cooler days and nights as well as my favorite event — the Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Historic Ghost Walking Tour. Last year we had a record crowd of almost 1,000 people attend this fun event. This year we are adding a 4th route to the tour (Orange Avenue, west of US#1). We are also expanding the event to encompass two evenings instead of just one. On Wednesday, October 26th we’ll conduct the North and South Tours, and Thursday, October 27th we’ll do the Edgartown Tour and the new West Tour. We are always adding new characters and stops to the Ghost Walk. The historic tours continue to get bigger and better every year.

The Historic Trolley Tours of Downtown Fort Pierce, the Lincoln Park District and the Sunrise Theatre will resume next month. Tours have been a great success thanks to Mayor Linda Hudson, Mike Reals from the City of Fort Pierce Public Works Department and John Wilkes from the Sunrise Theatre. To date over 1,000 folks have participated in these tours. Visit our website to find a date that works for you: www.mainstreetfortpierce.org or call us at (772) 466-3880.

Other events this month include Friday Fest on Friday, October 7th on Melody Lane, and Coffee with the Mayor on Friday, October 21st at 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club located at 700 North Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce. Main Street Fort Pierce organizes over 30 events each year and most are free to the public. Some of the proceeds from these events help us renovate and refurbish historic buildings like the Sunrise Theatre, Historic City Hall, and the Platts/Backus House. Main Street Fort Pierce is committed to preserving the past, enriching the future, and making our community the best place possible to live, work, and play!
Calendar

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

MONTHLY EVENTS

October 1, Saturday: Main Street Golf Tournament — 8:30 a.m., Gator Trace Country Club; Shot Gun start; all proceeds benefit Main Street Fort Pierce; 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

October 1, Saturday: 7th Annual Dancing with our Stars — 6:00 p.m., Sunrise Theatre; Sponsored by Treasure Coast Lexus; Vote for your favorite local celebrity dancer! Tickets $25/$35/$80 (VIP); www.fortpiercepal.com.

October 7, Friday: Friday Fest — 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.; Live music by the Riverdawgs; Join us in observing Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Public Utilities Week with special activities; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

October 7, Friday: Friday Fest — 6:00 p.m., Peter Frampton Raw: An Acoustic Tour with Special Guest Julian Frampton; Tickets $75/$69; www.fortpiercepal.com.

October 8: 8:00 p.m., — Peter Frampton Raw: An Acoustic Tour with Special Guest Julian Frampton; Tickets $75/$69; 461-4775, www.sunrisetheatre.com.


October 20, Friday: Coffee With the Mayor — 8:00 a.m.; Sponsor: Little Birthday Angels; Neighborhood Gems Awards; held at Fort Pierce Yacht Club; 722-466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.


October 21, Saturday: 7:00 p.m. — Fort Pierce Police Athletic League; 722-460-5299, www.fortpiercepal.com.


October 26 & 27, Wednesday & Thursday: Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Historic Walking Tours — 1st tour starts at 5:30 p.m. with tours leaving every 15 minutes until 7:30 p.m.; $5 per person, per tour donation (children under 5 free); Reservations required, Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

WECKLY EVENTS

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

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

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.jazzsociety.org.

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

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

A.E. Backus Museum 772-465-0630 www.backusmuseum.com
Art Mundo 722-466-1010 • www.artmundo.org
Downtown Fort Pierce Library 772-462-2787 www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us
Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society 722-460-5299 www.jazzsociety.org
Fort Pierce Police Athletic League 722-370-8182 www.fortpiercepal.com
Volunteers needed: 722-466-0060
Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center 722-465-6473 www.cityfortpierce.com
Heathcote Botanical Gardens 772-464-4672 www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org
Manatee Observation & Education Center 772-429-6266 www.manateeecocenter.com
St. Lucie County Aquarium 772-462-3472 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
Sunrise Theatre’s Black Box 772-461-4775 www.sunrisetheatre.com

Save the Date!
Shop for Christmas Early at the 7th Annual “Reflections of the Future” Art Show

by Sue Dannahower

The 7th Annual “Reflections of the Future” Art Show will be held on November 10th and 11th. This unique show, spearheaded by Fort Pierce mosaic artist, Anita Prentice, draws regulars from near and far. This year, Anita will be joined by the ladies from the downtown Peacock Clay Collaborative; Ginny Piech Street, Bridget Abernethy, Victoria Beck, Martha Cross and Eileen DiTullio. You won’t want to miss this unique Christmas shopping opportunity.

October is Florida Main Street Month

The National Trust For Historic Preservation over 30 years ago. In the late 1970s and early 1980s historic downtowns across America were dying. Suburban sprawl enticed businesses and investors out of the historical commerce areas and into shopping malls and newer retail developments. The downtowns that were left behind contained historic buildings, rich histories, and a character that developers could never recreate. These were the places people went to connect with one another during times of war, times of peace, times of prosperity and times of uncertainty. They were the heart of their communities.

The National Trust started the Main Street program to revitalize downtowns and small districts within larger cities. The Main Street approach 4-point model, which each program can mold to fit their needs, includes the following steps for regenerating growth and vitality to historic downtowns: Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Vitality. For over 30 years, Main Street programs have fought to save historic landmarks, community identity, and local jobs. It has a proven track record of success and today many endangered downtowns are once again social destinations and are thriving economically.

The Florida Main Street Program is administered by the Bureau of Historic Preservation Division of Historical Resources within the Florida Department of State. There are approximately 40 Main Street cities/districts in Florida and each have their own unique features that blend in with the overall culture and history of Florida.

For more information about Florida Main Street programs please visit http://dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/main-street-program/ or like their Florida Main Street Facebook page.

For more information about Main Street America please visit www.mainstreet.org. The National Trust for Historic Preservation can also be followed on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest.

(See story on page 21, Preservation50, on Historic Preservation in Florida.)
Breast Cancer Awareness Month and FPUA Public Utilities Week at October Friday Fest

by Pam Gillette

Join Main Street Fort Pierce, FPUA and the Riverdawgs for a special October Friday Fest. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and we hope everyone will join us and wear PINK at Friday Fest while stopping by the FPUA booths and trucks to learn about energy conservation for Public Utility Week.

Friday Fest is Friday October 7, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Fort Pierce City Marina Square.

VOLUNTEER GROUP — Real Men Wear Pink is a distinguished group of community leaders raising awareness and funds for this year’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event. Together they are making a difference to create a world free of the pain and suffering of cancer. The mission behind Real Men Wear Pink is two-fold. The first is to raise awareness of a man’s role in breast cancer. Men can be diagnosed with breast cancer. In fact, over 2,600 men will be diagnosed this year. However, men are affected by breast cancer when their wives, mothers, sisters, daughters, or any other woman in their life is affected by breast cancer. The second mission behind Real Men Wear Pink is to put action behind the awareness. Each man participating in this year’s campaign is asked to raise at least $2,500. All the money raised will help fund breast cancer research as well as programs and services here in St. Lucie County to help breast cancer patients. Our local Marina Manager, Dean Kubitschek, will be at Friday Fest manning the beer booth for donations or donate at main.acsevents.org/goto/kubitschek.

Get your Pink Cups at Friday Fest — sponsored by Harbor Community Bank. These refillable Pink Cups will be available for a $1 donation for your beverage of choice. All donations collected from the cups will be donated to Real Men Wear Pink and the American Cancer Association.

MEET THE BAND: RIVERDAWGS — Wayne Hilliard, Wayne Leonard, Jim Smith and Jeff Hart have come full circle from the late ’80s Lighthouse band, to Route 66, the Jailhouse Rockers of the ’90s and now the Riverdawgs since 2000. With the recent addition of Wayne Hilliard on sax, who spent the last 19 years as St. Anastasia music director until retiring this summer, they have added a new dimension to the band. With music styles ranging from Oldies to Classic Rock, soulful Blues and fun originals, they aim to please the crowds on the Treasure Coast.

FPUA CELEBRATES PUBLIC UTILITY WEEK — In conjunction with Main Street Fort Pierce’s Friday Fest on October 7, and in honor of FPUA Public Utility Week, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority will have several vehicles, equipment and personnel available to talk about what we do and how we keep the lights on and keep the gas, water, and wastewater flowing in Fort Pierce.

FPUA Public Utility Week honors all the men and women of FPUA that work countless hours, “To provide customers with economical, reliable, and friendly service in a continuous effort to enhance the quality of life in our community.”

Billy’s Bounce House has teamed up with Main Street Fort Pierce to provide children’s activities during Friday Fest. The children’s activities include a giant slide and a bounce house. Have your face painted by Masquerade Expressions. Arts and crafts vendors will line up in front of the Indian River in Fort Pierce City Marina Square at Melody Lane and Avenue A.

Make sure you bring your appetite when you come to Friday Fest. The food variety includes Greek, Latin, BBQ ribs and chicken, seafood, Americana, and various snack items.

Admission is free at Friday Fest and there is always plenty of food, music, and activities for all ages! The City of Fort Pierce parking garage is open and free for your parking convenience!

Wear pink, dine, shop, and enjoy beautiful, historic downtown Fort Pierce at Friday Fest on October 7, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

YEARLY SPONSORS OF FRIDAY FEST INCLUDE — Garber Buick/GMC of Fort Pierce, iHeart Medias WAVE 92.7 and OLDIES 103.7, Billy’s Bounce House, Coca-Cola, Gotta Go Green, Macaroni Kid, Ocean Chiropractic & Health Centers, Park’s Rental, Southern Eagle Distributing, and St. Lucie News Tribune/TcPalm.com.
I Can Almost See Cuba From My Back Yard

by Kathleen Fredrick

This year a historic agreement was reached between the United States and our nearest neighboring country, the island nation of Cuba. Well over half the people alive today do not remember when this country had friendly relations with Cuba. Shoot, Cuba is so close to Ft. Pierce that we can almost see it from our backyards, but few of us have ever been there. After fifty years, the times are finally changing and our nearest neighboring country is cautiously welcoming American tourists. With the current thawing in international relations and our close proximity in mind, the A.E. Backus Museum will kick-off its new season and unveil its new building with a thought-provoking exhibition, titled, “Cuba: It’s Not All Black and White.” Sponsored by Seacoast National Bank the exhibit will be on view November 13 to January 6, 2017.

The “Cuba: It’s Not All Black and White” exhibition features 70 photographs and a dozen sculptures from the internationally acclaimed collection of Chicago art collectors, Madeleine and Harvey Plonsker. The Plonskers made dozens of trips to Cuba before the embargo was lifted and even more since then. Travelling with a group of missionaries, they were able to poke around behind the scenes to find artists and their work unavailable to other Cuban visitors. The Plonsker’s edgy collection explores life under communism and is at once social and political commentary. While Floridians are familiar with Cuban culture through visits to Miami, these images are of the real Cuba, unfiltered and raw.

The Museum will unveil its new $1.3 million facility with a gala ribbon cutting bash on Saturday, November 12th at 6 p.m. “An Evening in Old Havana” is the theme and we promise to take you away to a glamorous time when money and liquor flowed, the casinos were packed, and Cuba was the Riviera of the Caribbean. The Museum is going to do it up right with Robert Navarro’s Cuban band, featuring a brass section, percussion section with congas and three singers. It is the perfect sound for dancing the night away. A lavish buffet dinner will feature the finest in Cuban cuisine and an open bar and rum tasting will keep the Mojitos and cuba- libres flowing. The evening is not a fundraiser per se — there will be no auctions — but it will certainly be a Fun-Raiser. The Museum has more than a few surprises in store, so don’t miss it. Seating is limited so please contact the Museum to make your prepaid reservations. Tickets for museum members who reserve by October 24th and have a current 2016–17 membership are $150. Tickets to the general public and those reserving after October 24, are $175.

Sunday, November 13, marks the new Museum’s welcoming the public. Admission to a day of discovery is free. Cuban artists, photographers and scholars will speak hourly about all things Cuban. Madeleine Plonsker, whose collection is on exhibition, will also be speaking about the challenges and triumphs of collecting art in a Communist country. Refreshments will be provided.

Continued on page 10 …
CUBA — continued from page 9

If coming to the party or seeing the exhibition spark your curiosity you might want to join Museum Executive Director, Kathleen Fredrick, and art collector, Madeleine Plonsker, on an Art Trip to Cuba. Departing on January 3 and returning on January 8, 2017, this is a unique opportunity to poke around the studios of artists and fashion designers. Get behind-the-scenes tours of museums and the Ballet de Cuba and much more. A complete itinerary and pricing will be posted to the Museum’s website, BackusMuseum.com. There are only 20 spaces available so don’t dilly-dally. Check your passport and jump on this rare opportunity.

The A.E. Backus Museum, located at 500 N. Indian River Drive in Downtown Fort Pierce, is currently closed for construction. The Museum will reopen to the public at noon on Sunday, November 13, 2016. Contact the Museum via email Info@BackusMuseum.com. Call 772-465-0630.

Your Hometown Service People

by Jason Hoffman, Customer Solutions Manager, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority

Your Hometown Service People — sure it’s our tag line but what does it mean?

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) is located in the community we serve and is readily available to assist customers. If a customer has a complaint, he or she doesn’t have to take it to a state agency in Tallahassee or corporate headquarters in another city; they can discuss the problem locally, with another member of the community, and be assured that the problem will be addressed.

With electric, gas, water and sewer crews located within the community, citizens benefit from a quick and effective local response to emergency situations and outages. FPUA is operated in the public’s interest, for the benefit of Fort Pierce residents. FPUA is not operated for the benefit of stockholders who may live hundreds of miles away and have little interest in the community. With private utility ownership, there is often conflict between the interests of customers and the interests of the stockholders. This disparity of interest has given rise to a complex system of regulation of private utilities that is unnecessary when the utility is publicly owned and operated for the benefit of the community it serves. Because of local control, you determine how utility services are provided within our community. This includes the design and aesthetics of electric distribution systems, natural gas infrastructure, water treatment plants, and wastewater treatment plants. Local control means matching local resources to local needs and offering special programs (energy efficiency and conservation, economic development incentives, etc.) to benefit citizens.

There are numerous ways that FPUA helps to maintain and improve a sound local economy:

• FPUA makes significant contributions and payments-in-lieu-of-taxes to the city. These payments are similar, and often much greater to the tax payments that would be made by a private utility.

• Local ownership means that customers’ utility dollars stay in the community, creating jobs and supporting the local economy.

• Local employment.

• FPUA serves as an engine for economic development. Local flexibility, reliability, and quality service are a major advantage for the community in attracting and retaining commercial and industrial customers.

• On average, FPUA’s rates are competitive and oftentimes lower than those of other utilities. Competitive rates mean that more dollars are available to spend on other goods and services, boosting the local economy.

Decisions about the operation of FPUA are made locally, by members of the community, at open, public meetings. Because all decisions are made locally, FPUA is uniquely able to respond to the community’s needs, build on the community’s strengths, and reflect and advance the community’s values. FPUA is truly “Your Hometown Service People.”
Lemonade Shakes Up the Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market!

by Brenda Gibbons, Market Secretary

John Bouffard and Cindy Guglielmi are really shaking things up with their version of lemonade! A family business started 15 years ago, Lemonade Shake Up has been at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market for over 14 years. What began with just lemonade has expanded to include fresh-squeezed citrus-based drinks and smoothies as a refreshing alternative to sodas and other packaged drinks.

Watching John shake the lemonade or Cindy blend the frozen smoothies is a reminder of just how fresh everything is. Sons, Justin and Joe, have been in the action since middle school and have now completed college degrees; both still come back to Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market because it’s always been their favorite. Their prime location at the north end of the market gives them the best location, the best music and the best market patrons.

Lemonade Shake Up drinks and smoothies are made with fresh-squeezed citrus of your choice. Depending upon what is in peak season, lemons, limes, oranges, tangerines, and grapefruit may be featured. The menu is always changing with whatever is ripe for the season. Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market customers are treated to smoothies blended right on the spot using fruits like pineapple, mixed berries, strawberries and mango. Dark cherries and ginger round out the selection that customers can choose.

Ever conscious of demands of the customers at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market, all smoothies are made with fresh squeezed oranges or grapefruit and fresh-frozen fruit, since they have been professionally harvested, cleaned and frozen at their peak of freshness. The fruit has no added sugar and all the drinks made by Lemonade Shake Up with oranges, tangerines and grapefruit also are made without added sugar. Cindy and John make sure stevia is always an option if customers want an alternative to sugar.

Quench your thirst with fresh juice drinks at Lemonade Shake Up every Saturday morning at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market Marina Square, on the waterfront. It’s a Saturday morning tradition, from 8 a.m. until noon, with plenty of free parking, and the free trolley conveniently stopping wherever you want!
Recently, I felt like I was in a meal rut with my kids. So I checked out a book called *Bringing Up Bebe*, subtitled *One American Mother Discovers the Wisdom of French Parenting*, written by Pamela Druckerman. Druckerman and her English husband are raising their kids in Paris, France. The book was an interesting study of French culture and rituals, especially the culinary training of children.

My interest in French culinary customs grew after reading *Bringing Up Bebe* so I picked up the book *French Kids Eat Everything*, subtitled *How Our Family Moved to France, Cured Picky Eating, Banned Snacking and Discovered 10 Simple Rules for Raising Happy, Healthy Eaters*. The book's author, Karen Le Billon, is from Canada and married a Frenchman. They decided to temporarily move to the small French town that her husband is from. The book depicts the positive and negative cultural changes they experienced as a family.

Another book I read about an American living in France was *Picnic in Provence*, subtitled *A Memoir with Recipes*. This was an interesting read about an American woman and her French husband. They met in college and lived in Paris. This book was about their move from Paris to the smaller village of Provence. It has several delicious recipes sprinkled throughout the book. Elizabeth Bard, the author, wrote a prior book, *Lunch in Paris*, subtitled *A Love Story, with Recipes*, about the courtship between she and her husband. This is a book I intend to read soon.

Historic downtown Fort Pierce has an excellent library, conveniently located at 101 Melody Lane. The following programs, and more, are available:

**St. Lucie County Library Downtown Branch**

**Children Programs**

- **Wednesdays @ 10:30 a.m.:** Storytime Jam
  - Recommended ages 3 – 5 years.
- **Thursdays @ 3:30 p.m.:** Thursday Action Space Play ’n Learn
  - Recommended ages 2 – 10 years
- **Fridays @ 10:30 a.m.:** Rhythm & Rhyme
  - Recommended ages 2-3 years
- **Saturday 10/22 @ 10:30 a.m.:** Open Air Puppet Theatre
  - Recommended ages 5-10 years

**St. Lucie County Library Downtown Branch**

**Adult Programs**

- **Wednesdays @ 1:00 p.m.:** Melody Lane Writers Group
  - 10/6 & 10/20 @ 10:00 a.m.: *Great Expectations* Book Club
  - 10/6 @ 6:00 p.m.: *Thursday Evening Book Discussion Group*
- **Fridays @ 2:30 p.m.:** Book-a-Tech
  - 10/20 @ 2:30 p.m.: *Dia de los Muertos* Come learn about Day of the Dead.
  - Recommended ages 10-14 but all kids welcome.

For more information about these and other St. Lucie County Library Programs please call 772-262-1615 or visit www.library.stlucieco.gov.

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**The Ashley Gang**

John Ashley terrorized Florida in the early 1900s as the leader of the Ashley Boys gang. Together, they engaged in bootlegging, bank robberies, and murder. One of the Ashley Boys’ first crimes was a bank heist in Stuart, Florida, in 1915. In 1924 these notorious gangsters headed north where they met their fate on the old wooden Sebastian Bridge. Deputies set up a trap and the entire gang was shot dead. The sheriff's deputies laid their dead bodies on the sidewalk in front of Will Fee’s Hardware Store & Mortuary (2nd Street & Avenue A) in Fort Pierce, for all to see that they were truly dead and would not be terrorizing the citizens again.
Every historic building or site has a past. The people who occupied these spaces lived full of stories. These stories are the inspiration behind the Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Historic Walking Tour. Every year around Halloween, Main Street Fort Pierce organizes walking tours in downtown Fort Pierce that bring alive the past — literally — with live actors performing the parts of general or specific people from the past.

New this year is the addition of a 4th tour and the expansion of the event to encompass two evenings instead of one. This year’s event will take place on Wednesday, October 26th and Thursday, October 27th. The tours start at 5:30 p.m. with additional tours leaving every 15 minutes until 7:30 p.m. There are approximately 10 stops on each tour and each tour is 1 to 1.5 hours in length. There is a $5 per person donation (children under 5 are free) per tour.

THE SOUTH TOUR
Wednesday, October 26
Starts from the City Hall Plaza between the new parking garage and the City Hall building

This tour will enter the Sunrise Theatre where you may encounter one of the many ghostly ushers who still roam the building. Then it will wander through the haunted 111 Orange building where spirits move to greet you. You will encounter an authentic blacksmith reenacting his early profession. Other stops include Mr. Miley, reporter and editor for the Fort Pierce News and Mr. Klopp, the courthouse architect who was crushed by a 10-ton safe.

THE NORTH TOUR
Wednesday, October 26
Starts from the City Hall Plaza

Includes a stop at Fee’s Hardware & Mortuary where the notorious Ashley Gang’s bodies were laid out “dead” on the sidewalk. Throughout the evening you will hear the explosion of cannons detonated by a squadron of soldiers reenacting wartime. Other stops include pioneer rancher Henry Flagler and the “Night Train” and Zora Neale Hurston, former folklorist and author.

THE EDGARTOWN TOUR
Thursday, October 27
Leaves from the Platts/Backus House at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue

This tour features Lucinda Lagow, the wife of Edgartown founder, Alford Lagow. She shares the gossip of the early settlers and life as it was in the 1890s. You will encounter a rugged old fisherman mending his nets reminiscing about his life on the river. The Coral and Yellow houses sit side-by-side, boasting ghostly souls who wrap on windows and slam doors. Meet Mr. Hill, the official photographer for Henry Flagler and Mrs. McCurry, grandmother of Dan McCurry, whose husband was gunned down in the streets over a land deal.

THE NEW WEST TOUR
Thursday, October 27
Starts from the Historic Arcade Building at the Northwest corner of US1 and Orange Avenue

This tour features the builder of the Arcade Building, which has been a popular shopping destination since 1926. Other stops along this tour include: the wife of a cattleman, a postmaster, an Irish priest, a Sandy Shoes Festival theme girl, and more.
GHOSTS … continued from page 17

The Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Historic Walking Tour sells out every year and reservations are required. For more information or to place a reservation, please call Main Street Fort Pierce at 466-3880. Participants need to arrive 15 minutes before their tour and wear comfortable walking shoes. The Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Historic Walking Tour is fun for the entire family.

If you miss the Ghost Walking Tour you can still learn more about Fort Pierce by taking a Historic Trolley Tour. Scheduled tours will start again in November. Private tours are available. For more information call Sue Dannahower, (772) 618-0155.

Bahamaville – A Slice of the Islands in the Heart of Downtown

by Joanne Blandford

Sheila was born in the Bahamas and moved to Miami with her family when she was 10. She attended college in Atlanta and began her career there in interior design. After a brief visit to south Florida for a family event, Sheila decided to move back in 2001. Soon after, she met her husband, Al, and together they sold real estate in both south Florida and Atlanta.

In 2007, Sheila and Al decided to move to the Bahamas for its relaxing lifestyle and to raise their two small children, Yasmine and London. They tried to open a business in Freeport, however, the recession had begun and it hit the Bahamas tourism industry hard. The family moved back to south Florida in 2009 and resumed work in real estate and home interior restoration projects. A client introduced the couple to Fort Pierce when she hired Sheila to rehab a house in the city.

Sheila was amazed at the affordability of the homes in Fort Pierce compared to south Florida and the easy access to the waterways. “Fort Pierce is the closest place to the Islands we could find. There is never competition for the beaches which is similar to how it is in the Bahamas.” After visiting Fort Pierce a few times they decided to move their family here to take advantage of the “old world pace of Island life.” Openning a store in downtown Fort Pierce is a fun side job that they pair with their real estate business.

Looking for a niche in design and décor, Sheila decided hers would be to bring the look and atmosphere of a vacation to her customer’s backyards. After visiting several markers in the North Carolina and Atlanta area they chose a unique line of outdoor furniture made from marine grade mahogany and painted using a two-stage acrylic and two-stage epoxy marine finish. These durable furniture pieces are painted in bright, brilliant colors that resemble the colors one would see while visiting a tropical island paradise. Many of the pieces have beautiful fish and other sea life details carved into them. They have a great variety of items in stock and an even larger selection available for special orders.

In addition to the outdoor furniture, Bahamaville also has outdoor décor items such as life-sized, hand-carved and airbrushed wood fish of many species and vibrantly colored giclee-printed photographs printed on weather resistant canvas. Indoor coastal décor items and larger rustic coastal furniture pieces are also available to bring a taste of the Bahamas to any living room.

If you want to bring the ambience of the Bahamas to your home and yard visit Bahamaville at 218 Orange Avenue. They are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and may be open for extended hours for certain downtown events. Call 772-777-6165 or visit www.bahamaville.com for more information.

Walking into the new Bahamaville store on 218 Orange Avenue is like entering a state of relaxation. This is the exact state of mind Sheila and Al Secgin want their customers to have in their own homes with their unique line of outdoor furniture and Bahamian coastal décor.
Seasonal Employees: What to Know for the Upcoming Holiday Season

by By Barbara Weltman, Guest Blogger, www.SBA.gov

Retailers, food establishments, and some other types of businesses routinely take on more help to handle customers during the holiday season. These extra workers can go a long way in making your holiday season a success. Of course you need to treat them with the same care and respect as you do your permanent staff, such as avoiding any discriminatory practices and providing sufficient training. Also, be sure you consider the following special tax, financial, and legal concerns.

Hourly payment. The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires employers to pay the minimum wage rate, as well as overtime, for hourly employees (nonexempt employees).

Applying to seasonal workers can go a long way in making your holiday season a success. Of course you need to treat them with the same care and respect as you do your permanent staff, such as avoiding any discriminatory practices and providing sufficient training. Also, be sure you consider the following special tax, financial, and legal concerns.

Hourly payment. The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires employers to pay the minimum wage rate, as well as overtime, for hourly employees (nonexempt employees). This applies, for example, to salespeople hired for the holidays. The applicable rate you must pay is the federal minimum wage rate of $7.25 per hour, or higher, depending on your state or local hourly rate. Of course, you can pay more, and likely will if the competition demands it and your budget allows it.

Taxes. Employers are responsible for withholding income taxes and Social Security and Medicare taxes from employees’ wages. Employers must also file quarterly and annual payroll tax returns to report and pay these taxes. Some states and localities may also require payroll taxes. You must also report wages to state and federal unemployment insurance agencies. If you hire seasonal workers, you must report and pay unemployment taxes and, if required, workers’ compensation premiums.

Unemployment insurance. When an employee is laid off (other than for a serious cause), he or she may be eligible for unemployment benefits. The rules differ by state. For example, in Pennsylvania, anyone who earns at least 50.5% of annual income in any 3-month period is ineligible for benefits. In many other states, a seasonal worker is not barred from collecting benefits.

If seasonal workers collect benefits, it may impact what you pay for state unemployment taxes. Usually your rate is fixed on the experience of claims made against you, and having a number of layoffs can increase the number of claims and hike your rate. This may be a small price to pay for adding personnel during a busy time of year in order to keep your customers happy.

Conclusion. Federal laws are not your only concern when taking on seasonal help. Be sure to check with your state labor department to learn your obligations at the state level. In many cases the rules are stricter than under federal law. If you have any questions, talk with an employment law attorney.

About the Author: Barbara Weltman is an attorney, prolific author with such titles as J.K. Lasser’s Small Business Taxes, J.K. Lasser’s Guide to Self-Employment, and Smooth Failing as well as a trusted professional advocate for small businesses and entrepreneurs. She is also the publisher of Idea of the Day® and monthly e-newsletter Big Ideas for Small Business® and host of Build Your Business Radio. She has been included in the List of 100 Small Business Influencers for three years in a row. Follow her on Twitter: @BarbaraWeltman.
Love, JAZZ Community: Haven’t I Seen You Somewhere?

by Wendy Dwyer

You may like the way it sounds when you hear the combo on stage belting out a classic from the Great American Songbook or when they toss in something from Chicago or Blood Sweat, and Tears, but who knew those unassuming folks on stage actually played with stars including: Tony Bennett, the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, the Four Tops, Nelson Riddle, Bobby Darin, The Supremes, Neil Sedaka, Guy Lombardo, Peter Cetera, Sting, and Sister Sledge? After all, they don’t make a big deal about it, and they certainly aren’t up there on the stage bragging about having rubbed elbows with Sammy Davis, Jr. or Aretha Franklin. They’re just playing music — good music, every single week, and you sing along, laugh at their jokes and cracks, and have a great evening with refreshments for just $6. Now that you know what tremendous talent you’re mingling with and enjoying every week at the Sunrise Black Box, every other week at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, and at a host of local events and activities throughout St. Lucie County, don’t you wonder why they do it? Why do these professional musicians come out and give up their time and energy when they clearly could be on the road, rifting with likes of Bernadette Peters, the Alan Parsons Project, and John Secada? The answer is simple — the members of the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society love St. Lucie County and are dedicated to sharing and promoting culture in many forms right here in St. Lucie County. Not only do they bring you weekly jazz jams with live music and refreshments that cost you less than a matinee at your local theatre, they also provide master classes for local high schools. And that’s not all. These same dedicated musicians offer one-to-one lessons for students who have been identified by their music teachers as having tremendous potential but not tremendous wealth. Instead of asking for the money up front, these amazing and tenderhearted professional musicians make the time to work one-to-one with young musicians at no charge to the family.

There are also the scholarships. Every Saturday morning, Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society members Bernie and Donna Bires coordinate the wildly successful Jazz Market featuring arts and crafts in historic, downtown Fort Pierce adjacent to the Saturday morning Farmer’s Market. The funds received from coordinating this weekly event help ensure that Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society can continue to provide scholarships to deserving high school senior who are pursuing a career in music. On top of all of those kindnesses to the community, members of the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society are always the first to say yes to help out other non-profit organizations in the community providing music for Art Walks for ArtMundo or sharing music at the new Farm to Fork Fresh Market on Tuesday afternoons at the Treasure Coast Research Park. The next time you cross the threshold at the Black Box and pay your $6 entry ($5 if you’re a Jazz Society member), please take a moment to think about what a deal that is! Take a moment to thank the volunteer who takes your money, or stop the bass player as he heads up to the stage and shake his hand. These quiet community heroes are always giving back through their time, talent, and treasure, and while they never expect anything more than a bit of applause as the bandleader introduces the musicians on the stage, the gifts they share are priceless. ❖
Tech Bytes: Fake Support Calls Revisited
by Michael Lewis, Mike’s Downtown Computer Repair

Look out! Fake support calls seem to be happening more frequently. No company will offer free support over the phone. Tech companies have very limited resources and they charge for support. Do not be misled by these calls, the callers identify themselves as Microsoft, Apple, or any major company representative. Promptly ask them to remove your number from their call list and hang up. Report it here: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0346-tech-support-scams. If you happen to search for help on the internet be sure to verify you are on a reliable site. Most third party support sites are filled with Malware. If you are looking for a driver for your device it is best to go directly to the manufacturers website for the driver. Searching for drivers in Google (or any search engine) is the number one way to get a virus. Remember to never let someone connect to your computer unless you know who they are and what company they represent. Good luck and safe computing!

Mike’s Downtown Computer Repair is located at 207 Orange Ave, Suite E in Fort Pierce; phone (772) 448-8153, cell (772) 480-3427.

Lime (Citrus) Juicer

Over 30 years ago, on a trip to Mexico, I discovered my lime juicer. It’s made of “pot metal” and cost a whole 25 cents at a roadside stand. Years later, I was happy to see that they were available in the US. This innovative juicer allows you to squeeze all of the juice out of any citrus fruit free of seeds and without splatter. If you use a lot of lemons, limes or oranges, I highly recommend this handy tool.

Mexican Lime Squeezer
Contemporary Lime Squeezer

by Sue Dannahower
**Recipe Corner**

by Sue Dannahower

### Kapusniak (Sauerkraut Stew)

1 pound polish sausage, sliced  
1 pound bacon, diced  
½ pound ham, cut into 1/2” pieces  
1 small onion, chopped  
1 8-ounce can of sauerkraut, undrained  
Salt & Pepper to taste  
3 chicken bouillon cubes  
½ cup celery, sliced  
1 cup mushrooms, sliced  
4 potatoes, diced  
Caraway Seeds

Brown sausage, bacon and ham in Dutch oven. Add the remaining ingredients and cover with water. Simmer until potatoes are tender. Serves 8 to 10.

### Stuffed Cabbage

1 onion, chopped & browned  
1 pound lean ground beef  
2 teaspoons Italian seasoning  
Handful of uncooked rice  
1 head cabbage  
1 bag sauerkraut  
1 can tomato paste  
2 cups water  
1 can of tomatoes

Cut out core of cabbage. Boil for 30 minutes. Cook, then tear the larger leaves off of the cabbage. Mix onion, ground beef (uncooked), rice and Italian seasoning. Stuff cabbage leaves each with about ½ cup of the beef mixture. Mix tomato paste with water. Pour sour croute in the bottom of a crock pot. Place stuffed cabbages on sauerkraut, top with tomato paste mixture and tomatoes. Cook 8 hours on low setting. Serves 6 to 8.

**Fishing Report: The Conditions are Prime for Snook Fishing**

by Joe Payne

Snook are some of the best tasting fish in our local waters. When fishing for snook we use 20-30 pound braided line with a 30-40 pound leader line. Using live bait fish or live shrimp with a split shot weight works well. The hook size will depend on the size of your bait. The best spot to hook live bait if fishing in an area with a light current would be through the tail. If the current is strong, hook the bait between the eyes and nose area, which will allow the bait to swim naturally. Artificial lures also work great when used properly and there are literally hundreds of these lures to choose from. These lures include top water plugs, jigs, crank baits, jerk baits, etc., and these lures can span many different depths. Every snook fisherman has his or her go-to lure.

Snook primarily hang out in a spot where they can spy their soon-to-be dinner swim by. They are frequently found in areas near a current. Snook also tend to be found near structures where smaller fish gravitate to for protection. Visible structures include bridges, docks or mangroves and underwater structures include oyster bars, ledges, logs or natural debris. The best way to locate a possible snook nook is to look for signs of bait in the area you plan to fish.

Lobster — The start of the season was slow with low quantities of lobster due to the colder water temperatures.

Offshore — Dolphin may be hit or miss. Kingfish should be great in 80-100 feet of water. Fishing for snapper and grouper in 60-80 foot of water has picked up. Sailfish and cobia catches also had some good days.

Inshore — The trout bite is good around the Harbor Branch in the flats. Small snapper are being caught along the channel in the same area. The inlet has been seeing a lot of bait running with snook, Spanish mackerel and tarpon hits.

Check your local bait stores for further info, bait or tips. Always check www.myfwc.com for rules, regulations, licenses and permits.

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