

FOCUS

Volume 15, No. 7 February, 2020

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE

MEST PALM BCH FL
WEST PALM BCH FL

Main Street Focus 122 AE Backus Ave. Fort Pierce, FL 34950



Orchid Island Juice Company, First Wave Coffee and The City of Fort Pierce. Call Main Street Fort Pierce for

more information at

772-466-3880.

Mayor Linda Hudson invites you to join her for Community News, Special Announcements, Hosted by First Wave Coffee, Orchid Island Juice, with Breakfast Treats, and more!

Friday, February 21 at 8:00 a.m. at Fort Pierce Yacht Club

700 N. Indian River Drive

Sponsored by
Animal Emergency & Referral Center





Gathering the community together since 1989

Food \mathcal{N} Family \mathcal{N} Friends \mathcal{N} Fun

HOSTED BY



1st Friday of each month Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Marina Square



Join Us at Friday Fest on February 7 with live music by Will Vaughn & Friends



BRADFORD L. JEFFERSON, P.A.

Proud supporter of Main Street Fort Pierce

- ♦ Personal Injury
- **♦ Wrongful Death**

◆ Commercial and Civil Litigation

130 S. Indian River Dr., Suite 402 Downtown Fort Pierce Telephone: 772.468.8887 Fax: 772.468.2226

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharing the Love in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

by Sue Dannahower



Port Pierce has so much to offer. If you haven't already fallen in love with Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, make February the month. We have an outstanding waterfront with many top-notch restaurants, wonderful places to shop and so much more.

Food lovers can go on a culinary voyage. With so many choices there is a restaurant for everyone — tapas, gourmet tacos, Asian and so much more. The **Sailfish Brewing Company** and **Pierced Ciderworks** are the Treasure Coast's first breweries.

Art lovers can enjoy numerous galleries: the A.E. Backus Museum, and Seriously Mixed Media to name a few. Delight in the Sunrise Theatre, Manatee Observation & Education Center, and so much more. If you love the water, Salty's Water Sports offers boats, jet skis, paddle boards and more to rent by

the hour or by the day. And the Fort Pierce Marina is home to the finest fishing charters on the east coast of Florida.

Main Street Fort Pierce, in conjunction with the City of Fort Pierce offers historic downtown trolley tours through the beginning of March. Call our office at 466-3880 for more information.

March is an exciting month with our "Sandy Shoes Seafood & Brew" Festival to be held on March 21st. Would you like to volunteer for this or another event? Call today and we'll sign you up!

Someone once asked me why I love Fort Pierce. I said, "This is where my heart is." I hope you feel the same way. I hope you are in *love* with Fort Pierce too.



March 21, 2020 • 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Veteran's Memorial Park









Volume 15, No. 7

February 2020

Publisher Main Street Fort Pierce Inc.

Editor Joanne Blandford

Advertising Director Main Street Fort Pierce Inc.

Graphic Design Susan M. Roberts

Contributing Writers Britt Anderson, Joanne Blandford, Sue Dannahower,

Pam Gillette, Michael Howard, Mayor Linda Hudson,

Anne Satterlee, Holly Theuns, Doris Tillman

Photography John Culverhouse, Mary Ann Ketcham

Copyright © 2019 Main Street Focus Inc. All rights reserved. Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Main Street Fort Pierce. Contents may not be reproduced without prior written permission of Main Street Fort Pierce Inc., 122 AE Backus Ave., Fort Pierce, FL 34950. PHONE 772-466-3880 • FAX 772-466-3917 • tillman.dd@gmail.com.



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



Get the DISTRX app for all the latest downtown specials and events!

MONTHLY EVENTS

February 6, Thursday: *HISTORIC TROLLEY TOURS* — 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.; in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce; Reservations required, \$10 per person; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 7, Friday: FRIDAY FEST — 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Marina Square & Melody Lane; live music by **Will Vaughn & Friends**; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 8, Saturday: HISTORIC TROLLEY TOURS — 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.; in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce; Reservations required, \$10 per person; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 13, Thursday: ARTIST RECEPTION for Celebrating Florida Landscape 4th Annual Art Show — featuring Anita Prentice & Doretha Hair Truesdell; 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.; Platts/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Avenue; 466-3880.

February 14, Friday: 2ND PEEK of Celebrating Florida Landscape — 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Platts/ Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Avenue; 466-3880.

February 15, Saturday: 5TH ANNUAL HIGHWAYMEN ART SHOW AND FESTIVAL — 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Moore's Creek & Avenue D; City of Fort Pierce; 772-467-3183 (See back cover & story page 16).

February 21, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club; Sponsor – Voices for Children; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 21, Friday: *ARTWALK* — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; seriouslymixedmedia.com, artconnectionfp.com.

February 22, Saturday: 24TH ANNUAL NATUREFEST — 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Manatee Observation & Education Center; (See page 14).

SAVE THE DATE

March 21, Saturday: SANDY SHOES SEAFOOD & BREW FESTIVAL — Veteran's Memorial Park; 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; 466-3880.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wednesdays: Wednesday Green Market & Food Co-Op — rain or shine 12:00 to 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, jazzsociety.org.

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

LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN

allthingstreasurecoast.com

Sailfish Brewing Company
Facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company

Pierced Cider

Facebook @piercedcider

Cobbs Landing cobbs-landing.com

Bottom's Up Public House facebook.com/bottomsuppublichouse

SUNRISE THEATRE & SUNRISE BLACK BOX

772-461-4775 • sunrisetheatre.com SEE PAGE 24 FOR UPCOMING SHOWS

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

MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

Tuesdays @ 2:00 p.m.: Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding — come meet the fishes in the Center.

Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m.: Tide Pool Touch Tank—touch and hold the urchins, conchs, and more.

Thursdays @ 2:00 p.m.: Meet the MOEC Reptiles—touch and hold Diego the corn snake and turtles

Fridays @ 2:00 p.m.: Seahorse Snack Time—watch the MOEC seahorses eat and play.

Saturdays @ 2:00 p.m.: Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding—come meet the fishes in the Center.

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

Common Ground Vineyard Church— 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.; 460-5414, commongroundvineyard.com.

First United Methodist Church — 9:30 a.m.; 464-0440, umatter2Godandus.com.

Fort Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church; 940-6728, haitianmethodist.org.

Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church — 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.; 466-9617, notredamecc.com.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (founded 1893) — 8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.; Sunday School for all ages 9:00 a.m.; adult Bible study 9:15 a.m., nursery provided; 461-5009 mystandrews.org.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

A.E. Backus Museum 772-465-0630 • backusmuseum.com

> Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs 772-462-1795

2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building, Open Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Downtown Fort Pierce Library

772-462-2787 • st-lucie.lib.fl.us

Page to Screen Book & Film Discussion Group for Adults; e-mail johnsonjen@stlucieco.org for more information.

Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society 772-460-5299 • jazzsociety.org

Fort Pierce Police Athletic League 772-370-6162 • fortpiercepal.com Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center 600 North Indian River Drive

772-489-6473 • cityoffortpierce.com

Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society 772-460-5299 • jazzsociety.org

Heathcote Botanical Gardens 772-464-4672 heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

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

National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum 772-595-5845 • navysealmuseum.org

St. Lucie County Marine Center 772-462-3474 stlucieco.gov/marine_center

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



Gas Up Your Boat for *Poker Run 2020*

day out on the water, by boat, paddle or car, allows you The play poker for a cause! The *Fort Pierce Yacht Club* Foundation will host its 3rd Annual On the Water Poker **Run**, Sunday, March 22nd starting at 12 noon. Our goal is to fund a summer internship at FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute for an IRSC college sophomore majoring in marine sciences. "It's all about giving back to our community, our waterfront and our future," says Candace Banack, Director of Trustees for the Foundation.

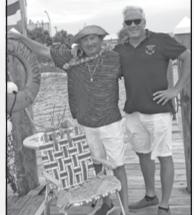
"This event is open to all who want to play," says Diane Korbey, Commodore of the Fort Pierce Yacht Club. "The support from our sponsors is essential to this event. Our youth and healthy waterways will be the cause we support again this year." Players compete for a \$500 cash prize for the Best Hand, with gift certificates and prizes for 2nd and 3rd. Compete for the "Most Spirited Boat" and join in on the fun!

The **Poker Run** will host boats, kayaks, paddle boards and cars, visiting at least five locations at docks where they will draw a card to complete a hand. Players can also join a scavenger hunt for dock memorabilia. Locations will be manned by our sponsors, who will be competing for the "Most Spirited." Lisa's Kayaks has generously offered complimentary equipment to Poker Run participants. The day will wrap up at the **Yacht Club** for a party featuring awards, food, adult beverages, Caribbean music and a whole lot of fun.

Become a sponsor today! Both cash and prizes are welcomed. For

sponsorship and player registrations go to fortpierceyachtclub.com. ❖









Upcoming Main Street Fort Pierce Trolley Tours

The 2020 Main Street Fort Pierce Trolley Tours will L focus on several books written about Florida. The tours are guided and narrated. The hour-long tour will meander through downtown Fort Pierce while reviewing books that have links or similarities to the surrounding area.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling (772) 466-3880. The dates/times for the 2020 trolley tours are as follows:

Thursday, February 6 — 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 8 — 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 5 — 10:00 and **DQ1**.30 a.m.

Saturday, March 7 — 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Tours are sponsored by Main Street Fort Pierce and the City of Fort Pierce. Tours are \$10 per person and reservations are required. The tours begin in the parking lot of the Manatee Observation & Education Center and the Seven Gables House Visitor Center located at 482 N. Indian River Drive. For more information or to reserve a seat on the trolley, please call (772) 466-3880.



Three Downtown Fort Pierce Artists Featured in In Her Image 2020

by Jeanne Johansen

The Elliott Museum, Hutchinson Island, is currently exhibiting the *In Her Image 2020* show, a sculptural display of women and women's issues. This unique, multidimensional exhibition has been created by artists from as far south as Boca Raton and as far north as Sebastian and is presented through the *Fort Pierce Art Club*.

Elliott Museum Event Coordinator Debra Banta best described the show in her text to Edgartown resident, James Norcia, hours before the show opened: "In Her Image pieces are over the top fabulous! Not sending any pictures because I want you to be surprised and awestruck." The show is a must-see for the season and will be up until March 8, 2020.

Christian Sean Yong won Best of Show for his sculpture, "Crystalline Being." Steve Fogle's piece, "A Braver and Stronger You," won Honorable Mention. The show will be on display and the art for sale until March 8th, 2020. Proceeds from the show will benefit the *Fort Pierce Art Club* and the *Inner Truth Project*, both non-profit organizations.

Among the artists are three noted downtown Fort Pierce business owners: Steve Fogle, owner of **Whirled Inc.**, located at 207 Avenue A; Christian Sean Yong, owner of **Intuitive Art Studio** located at 229 Avenue A, and KS Karen

Marsh, owner of **Karen Marsh Portrait Studio** located at 111 Orange Avenue.

Other local Fort Pierce artists participating in the show are Bezo, Julie Pouliotte, Barbara Donahue, Esperanza Jane MacArthur, Jon Neprud, Laura Rasche, and Blanca Longo Rancourt (current president of the Fort Pierce Garden Club).

In Her Image 2020 exhibit complements the interactive show, "Magnificent Me," a fun and educational interactive experience about the human body for children and adults.

The **Elliott Museum** (elliottmuseum.org), is located at 825 Ocean Blvd., Stuart, offering a variety of art exhibitions, programs and collections including vintage and antique cars, local history and an extensive collection of baseball memorabilia. Open seven days a week, the **Elliott** now features "O's Café," a delightful French bistro, serving from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.





5th Annual Highwaymen Heritage Trail Art Show and Festival February 15

The City of Fort Pierce's annual tribute to the world-renown *Florida Highwaymen Artists* and their contribution to the rich cultural history of Fort Pierce will be held Saturday, February 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Moore's Creek Linear Park, at the corner of Avenue D and 8th Street. Moore's Creek Linear Park is located in the heart of the Lincoln Park neighborhood, the birthplace of the *Highwaymen* artists who are said to have begun the "Last Great American Art Movement of the 20th Century."

This free event will feature many of the "original" and 2nd generation *Highwaymen Artists* who will be on hand displaying and selling their art, as well as tribute booths for several of the deceased artists. The festival will also include displays from regional artists and arts organizations, live jazz music, an exhibit of area 5th grade *Highwaymen Art Contest* entries, food and novelty vendors and a kid's zone.

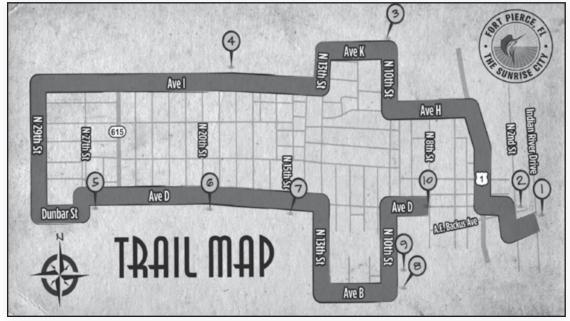
Free guided tours of the award-winning *Highwaymen Heritage Trail* will be available throughout the event, by reservation

only, by calling 772-467-3183. The Trail's colorful markers, magnificent public art and informative website help convey the plight, fortitude, entrepreneurial spirit and accomplishments of these African Americans artists starting in the 1950s through their induction into the Florida Artist Hall of Fame in 2004.

The A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery will host a Highwaymen Open House Weekend February 14 to 16 in conjunction with the Highwaymen Festival. A special weekend sale of stellar vintage Highwaymen paintings by Florida's most reputable Highwaymen dealers as well as a free shuttle for visitors to travel between the Highwaymen Heritage Trail Festival and the Backus Museum will be provided.

The Trail and accompanying website, TheHighwaymenTrail. com, are part of a multi-year project underwritten by grants from the Florida Humanities Council (FHC) and the City of Fort Pierce plus hundreds of staff and volunteer hours.

More information on the event is available by calling 772-467-3183 or by visiting https://thehighwaymentrail.com.



The Highwaymen Heritage Trail:

- 1. Seven Gables House;
- 2. A.E. Backus Studio;
- 3. Pine Grove Cemetery;
- 4. Lincoln Park Academy;
- 4. Ellicolli i dik / teddelily,
- 5. The Dunbar House;
- Eddie's Place;
- Highwaymen Trail Obelisk;
- Mary Ann Carroll, Moore's Creek Linear Park;
- Harold Newton, Moore's Creek Linear Park;
- 10. Intermodal Transit Station.

Seriously Mixed Media's February Guest Artists, Sandra Bacon and Evelyne David

C tories in Time features mixed media collage work from Carolina to Quebec! Part time locals Sandy Bacon and Evelyne David have created collections of new work that differ interestingly in style, yet are complementary, each piece containing its own story.

Sandy is a retired visual arts teacher who currently sails the seas with her husband and golden lab. Her live-aboard experiences and

views are constantly changing, so both are inspiration for her latest group of work entitled "My Backyard." She tells stories of her journeys through whimsical, colorful mixed media pieces composed of papers and paints, ephemera and memorabilia. Whether it is a moonlight sail or a beach walk where sandpipers chase the surf, Sandy invites you to step into one of her pieces and recall your own stories and memories of a special place and time.







Smooth Sailing Dental



W. ROGER LONG, DDS, PA **NEELAM SHAH, DMD**

772.464.2943

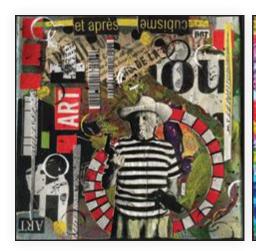
longdds@bellsouth.net

www.smoothsailingdental.com

Dr. W. Roger Long, DDS, has been proudly serving the Treasure Coast since 1983. We welcome new patients to our practice located in beautiful and historic Fort Pierce.









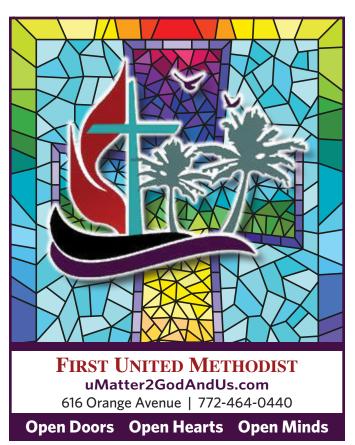


Evelyne was born in Paris, emigrating with her parents to Montreal when she was quite young. She is the oldest of 10 children in the family and so remembers many responsibilities helping her mother, but she was always fascinated with colors and textures in all objects in daily life. Later on, she was drawn to explore many different media, and has currently landed with collage as her choice of artwork. She finds herself "attracted to images that relate to 'Time with a Capital T' such as history, past, present and future." She loves integrating images together to create a story, dream, fan-

tasy or a distorted world. Torn, cut, scribbled on, gouged — all materials and ideas come from somewhere deep within and are woven into history and time in Evelyne's collages.

The *Stories in Time* show runs from February 14 to March 12 at **Seriously Mixed Media Art**, 207 Orange Avenue in Downtown Ft. Pierce. The opening reception will be at the February *Art Walk* on February 21st from 5 – 8 p.m.

Gallery hours are Tuesday to Thursday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.





Celebrating Florida Landscape 4th Annual Art Show Featuring Anita Prentice & Doretha Hair Truesdell

by Sue Dannahower

Ain Street Fort Pierce will be hosting the Celebrating Florida Landscape art show. This unique show features two incredible local artists: Anita Prentice and Doretha Hair Truesdell.

Mosaic artist, Anita Prentice has created numerous public works including: a tribute for the Highwaymen on Fort Pierce Intermodal Train Station, grave markers for five Highwaymen artists, two "Tree of Life" mosaics in the St. Lucie Tax Collector's office, a butterfly mosaic at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden, 175+ benches throughout St. Lucie County, Zora Neale Hurston Portrait series, Immokalee's 1920s above-ground pool, and the seawall at the former home of Jimmy Buffet in Key West. Her latest venture is creating mosaiced animals for the children's garden at *Heathcote Botanical Gardens* — cobalt blue and white panda stands at the entrance, and coming soon are two red and pink whimsical lions. She was also recently chosen to have her art adorn the reusable shopping bags for a local farmer's market anniversary in February. Anita has served as Chair and on the St. Lucie County Cultural Affairs Council; the Chair of Art in Public Places, Zora Neale Hurston Committee; and served on the board to bring art to the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens.

This show will be unique, as she is collaborating with 12 local photographers (René Arteaga, Chris Lesniakowski, Ter-



rie Selph, Valerie Krupa, Kristine Gibbons, Joe Sweat, Mitch Kloorfain, Robbie Adams, Mary Weden, Heather Dannahower, John Shelton and Curtis Boyd) to memorialize Fort Pierce's





sunrise photos into Sunrise City mosaics. Anita will also include her flower and miniature landscapes.

Doretha Hair Truesdell is the widow of the founder of the *Highwayman*, Alfred Hair. Doretha started working with Alfred in 1964, painting the frames for his paintings. Alfred taught Doretha how to paint the background of his paintings. She loved painting on Alfred's paintings, so he told

her to "go for it" and paint her own scenes. She is now an artist in her own right with her "Oil on Canvas & Masonite" landscapes. She sells her art to collectors at art venues all over the State of Florida. Her work was featured in Scalawag magazine, an online publication recently. She is a founding member and currently president of the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen and a committee member of the Highwaymen Heritage Trail and Art Show for the

City of Fort Pierce. She serves as a **Backus Museum** Board Member; Ambassador for the Fort Pierce Police Department; and a member of the Arts & Cultural Advisory Board for the City of Fort Pierce. She is the chair of the Arts and Culture and treasurer of the Woman's Club of Fort Pierce. For this





show, Doretha will create a series of miniature paintings with emphasis on our changing skies. She hopes to have something for everyone to love.

In 2004, Anita met Doretha while crafting a mosaic tribute on Alfred Hair's gravesite in Pine Grove Cemetery. They quickly formed a lasting friendship. Prentice says "We are two women, doing a similar subject matter that celebrates Florida's vanishing landscape. Hav-

ing the show at the **Backus House** is like coming full circle. Beanie taught Alfred in the studio there. Now, almost 50 years later his wife is showing where he got his start." Both artists support non-profits such as *Main Street Fort Pierce*, St. Lucie County Lil' Feet, the **A. E. Backus Museum & Gallery**, to name a few, by donating paintings for fundraising.

Please join us at the *Artist Reception* on Thursday, February 13th, 2020 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. or at the *Second Peek* on

Friday, February 14th from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The event will be held at the **Platts/Backus House**, 122 A.E. Backus Avenue in historic downtown Fort Pierce. The event is free to the public. Enjoy snacks and a cash bar. For more information call *Main Street* at (772) 466-3880. ❖





Tracy Newton Art at City Hall

February, in honor of Black History Month, twenty Florida land-scape paintings by 2nd Generation Highwaymen artist, Tracy Newton, will be on display at Fort Pierce City Hall. Tracy Newton is the talented son of legendary Highwaymen artist Sam Newton and Van-

essa Lesesne. He was born in Gifford, Florida on September 15, 1975. He says his love for painting began at an early age as he observed his father and uncle, famed *Highwaymen* artist Harold Newton, painting their unique landscape scenes. Their influence is notable in all Tracy's work.

Tracy graduated from Westwood High School and chose painting as the next chapter in his life, following directly in his dad's footsteps. Westwood art teacher, Eileen Ditullio, was a steadfast mentor during his high school years even having him in advanced placement art classes. He remembers his Uncle Harold saying that "You can't teach an artist; it's God's gift." He received recognition from the City of Fort Pierce for his contribution to the *Peacock Arts District Flowerpot Beautification Project*. He hopes his paintings will leave a legacy about

him as an accomplished 2nd Generation *Highwaymen* to honor his family's esteemed artistic history.

The paintings on exhibit are kindly offered from the collection of Matthew and Crystal Samuel who are long time Tracy Newton fans.



Spotlight on Local Artists — The Shoppes Down Under in the 111 Building



The next time you are in Downtown Historic Fort Pierce, stop by the Shoppes Down Under in the 111 Building. Current artists/businesses include: Mary Bennett Printing; Karen's Portrait Studio; Jewels by Marie; Larma Karma Designs; Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery; Zephyrfoto Photography; and Art by Elaine Payne.

This Month's Featured Artist/Business - Mary Bennett Printing

I take pride in producing your gicless to be as close to the original as possible. I am a stickler for color correction. If you want one print or 100 I will do that for you. Some printers will want you to do a minimum for each print, I only require one print for each piece.

If your need your artwork picked up or delivered we can work that out, I try to be accommodating to my artists.

Find her on Facebook — Mary Bennett Printing; hours: Tuesday to Friday 10 to 5 and Saturday, 10 to 2.

February — the Cruelest Month?

by Britt Anderson

It may just be me, but February is just a bummer. The holidays are over. We celebrated the new year and a new start. We made resolutions, looking forward to a new and better us and a prosperous and healthy new year. If we were up north or in the west in January, we would be warmed by cheery fires and fresh falling snow just perfect for skiing but by February the Christmas bills have all come to roost. Most of us have broken some if not all our resolutions. That lovely fresh snow has turned dirty due to sand and/or salt used to keep our cars moving. We may be running out of firewood if it's been really cold and the January heating bill has skyrocketed and is due in February.

Then there's Groundhog Day with its usual promise of more winter when what we really want is the March promise of Spring. If you were a farmer you would be planning for the new crop season and fixing tools and equipment, but you're not. And then there are taxes. If you want your refund, file

Connect with usl Like G Review Follow
Stop in our downtown Fort Pierce location TODAY!

1-800-432-1064 • SLBT.COM

early. If you are among those who will have to pay or may have to pay, there is always that stack of papers and documents to be found and collected for your tax preparer or accountant or you if you are doing your own taxes. It hangs over your head in February like a wet blanket. You know you have to it do it but it's so easy to put off.

But we live in Fort Pierce in sunny Florida or are lucky enough to have escaped for a brief time, but just by escaping doesn't lessen what we have left behind. To this condition I can offer only a suggestion. In the sunshine of Florida, our best season, we should be thankful and not gloat to those in less fortunate circumstances. We can turn Valentine's Day into not a day of romance but one of love and caring for each other, for the simple things in life and for the animals, of all species, who share his planet with us. What I'm saying is use this month to look around, not just to enjoy but truly see what we are blessed with in our surroundings and use it as an opportunity for mental health and refreshment as well as physical health. While we exercise, walk, run, ride our bikes, golf, play tennis, swim, sail, fish, whatever, take a good look around and try to truly see your surroundings and then think of what you can



do to make them even better. Thinking outside of one's self always leads to a better attitude which will drive away all of the potential "blues" of February.

As always wishing you fair winds and following seas.

P.S. I am still in search of more information on the Fort Pierce connection to the "oyster industry." Thanks for your comments to date. Keep them coming!

The Manatee Center Shares a Tradition of Celebrating Nature

by April Frederick, Education Coordinator

It's a beautiful February day. The sun is shining in the type of cloudless blue sky you only see in Florida. A light breeze brings the tang of salt water from the Indian River Lagoon as it rustles tents and flutters banners at the Manatee Observation and Education Center. It is the perfect day for a festival.

Each year on the fourth Saturday in February the **Manatee Center** hosts

NatureFest, a day-long celebration of nature and community. Around the Center, exhibitors set up tents and tables and booths with games and activities and learning for all ages. Local vendors sell environmentally-friendly wares and food trucks with delicious treats help to make NatureFest a great day for family and friends.

There are so many things to do and see at *NatureFest*. Here is a booth selling environmentally-friendly weed killer. There is a man talking about honey bees and selling local honey. Across the parking lot you spy a woman stepping out of the One Blood Bus where she has stopped to

donate blood. Right in front of you the solemn yellow eyes of an owl watch intently as you walk by. "This is a great horned owl," says the man from *Treasure Coast Wildlife Center* who is holding the bird on his glove. Several other large birds sit on perches behind him patiently waiting their turn on center stage.

Above the sounds of the festival you may hear a girl's voice, "Go Grandma! You've got this!" "I've never paddled before, but it's really pretty easy," replies a smiling gray-haired woman





from atop a bright yellow kayak. She and her grand-children have stopped by **Lisa's Kayaks** booth to learn more about renting kayaks for a family paddle. Several children are sitting on the sidewalk nearby drawing on the pavement with brightly colored chalk.

Still more children are laughing loudly while they do jumping jacks in front of a booth. A young

woman wearing a *Girls on the Run* t-shirt asks a boy to draw a card and read it aloud. "Instead of saying this is too hard, I quit," he reads and flips the card over. "Say I can find a different way or ask for help." "Great job," the woman cheers as she holds up her hands for a high five. Nearby you see a group of kids playing math Jenga at the *Boys and Girls Club* booth, answering multiplication questions written on the Jenga blocks they pull. Learning can be so much fun at *NatureFest*.

You enter the **Manatee Center's** exhibit hall just in time to see the *Fintastic Fish Feeding*. A lady stands atop a tall ladder

pouring chopped seafood into a large aquarium as she discusses the fish within. You squeeze past the crowd and enter the next room where you encounter a teenager holding a snake. "Would you to like meet Diego?" she asks. You reach out and feel the smooth scales of the red rat snake, surprised to find it is not at all slimy. Another volunteer is talking with a group around the tide pool touch tank where you join in to learn about sea urchins, sea stars and a giant hermit crab named Little Red.

The Manatee Center February Events

Season hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, February 3rd at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, February 15th at 12:00 p.m., and Thursday, February 27th at 9:30 a.m. Guided Kayak Trip

Look for wildlife, get up close and personal with mangroves, learn about the Indian River Lagoon on an easy ninety-minute paddle led by a MOEC naturalist. Great for beginners and anyone who wants to learn more about the Lagoon. Tours start at Fort Pierce Inlet State Park. The fee for this program is \$35 per person and includes kayak, paddle and safety gear (state park entrance fee of \$4–\$6 per car not included). Registration is required. Call for more information or to register: (772) 466-1600 ext. 3337 or e-mail Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org f.

Friday, February 14th at 12:00 p.m. Powerful Doctoring Women

Lunch & Learn — Midwives were the foundation of healthcare for enslaved African Americans in Florida. Listen, learn, touch and smell as historic midwife, Pearl, portrayed by Dr. Martha Bireda, Blanchard House Museum Director, shares the herbs and plants that kept enslaved Africans healthy on the Bellamy Plantation. This program is funded in part by Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Bring your lunch and bring a friend. Free event.

Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. Florida Water Stories

Eco-evening at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club — Join us for a special presentation by Steve Noll, Ph.D. from the University of Florida. From historic attempts to turn land into water and water into land to today's concerns about the impacts of climate change, Florida has a long and difficult relationship with water. Beer and wine reception hosted by the Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation begins at 6:30 p.m. Presentation begins at 7:00 p.m. This program is funded in part by Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Free event at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club

Saturday, February 22nd, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 24th ANNUAL NATUREFEST

Join the **Manatee Center** for our **24th Annual NatureFest** environmental festival. With over 35 booths from local environmental and outdoor groups, including non-profits, parks, and eco-centers, plus local businesses, you're sure to learn something new about the Indian River Lagoon. Great for kids and adults alike. *Free event*.

Recurring Programs

Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m. — Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding — come meet the fishes in the Center.

Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m. — *Tide Pool Touch Tank* — a special hands-on touch tank presentation!

Thursdays, 2:00 p.m. — *Meet the MOEC Reptiles* — and witness Diego the corn snake eating.

Fridays, 2:00 p.m. — Seahorse Snack Time — watch the MOEC seahorses eat and play.

Saturdays, 2:00 p.m. — Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding — come meet the fishes in the Center.

Thursday, February 6th at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, February 20th at 10:30 a.m. *Mermaid Tales*

Join us every first and third Thursday at 10:30 a.m. as we share tales from the sea. Each program features a fun nature story followed by an activity and/or a craft.

This program is *Free with admission* and is great for preschoolers and early elementary school students.



Outside at the rear of the building you'll find a volunteer pointing out some manatees that are hanging out in the Moore's Creek basin. As you listen, you learn that manatees often come here to "nap" and to drink the fresher water coming down the creek. A short distance down the walkway, a young father cheers as his toddler "fishes" for trash in a blowup pool while three pre-teens quietly work at assembling a life-sized manatee puzzle. You can stop by exhibits to learn about sharks and rays, Florida's fascinating reptiles, lionfish and so much more. As you make your way back

toward the parking area, you note that a new bird is perching on the glove; this one sporting a classic 1950s greaser hair style. "Crested caracara," you hear the man say as you pass. There are so many more things to do and see, but first a quick stop in the food court for a sandwich and maybe a snow cone

This year's *NatureFest* will be held on Saturday, February 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, so stop by to celebrate nature and our wonderful Fort Pierce community!

Driving Force: Alfred Hair and the Florida Highwaymen at the Backus Museum

Exhibit Explores the Long Road to Artistic Success for the Legendary African American Artists

The A.E. Backus Museum presents the latest exhibition in its annual series recognizing the artistic accomplishments of the original Highwaymen. Driving Force: Alfred Hair and the Florida Highwaymen explores the creative formula and entrepreneurial spirit of the acclaimed African American artists in a presentation of vintage works drawn from private collections, on



Alfred Hair (1941-1970), River House Poinciana, (n.d.). Oil on 36 x 24 Upson board.

view January 8 through February 16, with a closing reception scheduled for February 14 to kick off the annual *Highwaymen Celebration Weekend*. The Museum is located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

The year 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Alfred Hair's passing at the age of 29. In his lifetime, Alfred Hair (1941-1970) was a man with a vision. Intelligent, talented, charismatic, and ambitious, as a high school student in the racially

segregated Fort Pierce of the late 1950s, he was painfully aware of the obstacles to success, but was looking for his own path.

His art teacher at Lincoln Park Academy, Zanobia Bracy Jefferson (1926-2016), recognized something special in her student, and introduced Hair to her friend, white artist A.E. Backus (1906-1990) for special art instruction. Renowned for

his acceptance of others regardless of race, "Bean" Backus defied the prevailing social norms and mentored Hair, teaching him







James Gibson (1938-2017), Indian River Evening, (n.d.). Oil on 48 x 24 Upson board.

and he saw how

outside that sys-

tem. Hair's work-

arounds amounted

to a business plan

for talented Afri-

can American art-

worked

Newton

about technique, materials, and the art world. And Hair was also aware of Harold Newton (1934-1994), the only African American artist he

knew, whom Backus had also advised and who was known to make his sales door-to-door. The experiences kindled within the younger artist a way to design his own success, enlisting his friends to share and support this new path.

"In 21st century terms, he hacked the system," says **Backus Museum** director J. Marshall Adams. "There were real, long-standing barriers for African Americans who wanted to pursue the arts as a career. Hair saw how Backus worked in that system,

ists to survive and thrive as their own bosses. He was literally the driving force in what we think of today as the *Highwaymen* movement."

These young artists developed their own popular style of energetic painting, streamlining the production to lower material

Continued on page 18 ...





Mary Ann Carroll (1940-2019), Jamaica, (n.d.). Oil on 36 x 24 Upson board.





costs and quickly build a daily inventory for sales, pricing their individual paintings modestly but selling them in volume, and instead of a brick-and-mortar storefront they found their customers by taking the art to them, on the highways, in the trunks of their cars. Even selling one painting at \$25 was greater than the daily wage available to African Americans in the fields and groves of the area's agricultural economy — selling ten paintings in a single day was more than two weeks' work. Their formula of success sparked an artistic movement.

When the forerunner of today's Museum, the Fort Pierce Art Gallery, opened its doors in 1961 with its grand opening exhibition, director Backus included a painting by Alfred Hair — a quiet statement of encouragement and very likely the first integrated art exhibition the community had ever seen. While Hair's life was tragically cut short less than ten years later, his friends and associates embraced that characteristic drive in moving forward into legend: in 2004, Alfred Hair and 25 members of the original group were inducted into the *Florida Artists Hall of Fame*.

Driving Force: Alfred Hair and the Florida Highwaymen features more than 50 works by original Highwaymen Alfred Hair, James Gibson, Willie Daniels, Mary Ann Carroll, Harold Newton, Sam Newton, and more. The exhibition explores through luminous images the dream and determination of these important African American artists. The exhibition is curated by Roger Lightle. Doretha Hair Truesdell, widow of Alfred Hair, will be the featured speaker at the exhibition's Closing Reception on February 14. Driving Force: Alfred Hair and the Florida Highwaymen is on view January 8 to February 16. For more information, please visit BackusMuseum.org.

Supporting sponsor of the exhibition is **Rennick Real Estate** and Auctions.

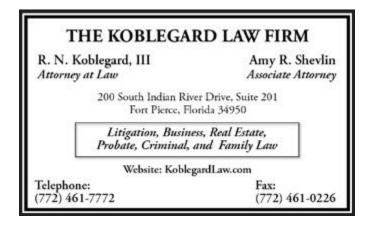
About the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**. With a recently added, multi-million dollar expansion, the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** houses the nation's largest public presentation of artwork by Florida's preeminent painter, A.E. "Bean" Backus (1906-1990), and is home to the state's only permanent multimedia exhibition on the *Florida Highwaymen*.

With a career spanning more than 70 years, A.E. "Bean" Backus (1906-1990) was the first Florida-born artist to build his professional renown by painting the landscape and scenes from daily life of his native state. He was fortunate to have known great success during his lifetime, with paintings hanging in the businesses and the private collections of many of Florida's most prominent citizens. A renowned humanitarian who abhorred the racist attitudes and segregation that engulfed the region, Backus taught and mentored the group of entrepreneurial African American artists who became known as the *Florida Highwaymen*. Their inspiring story is part of the A.E. Backus legacy.

In addition to preserving and perpetuating the artistic and humanitarian legacy of Backus, the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of national and international acclaim.

Regular Hours are: Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 p.m. (closed Monday—Tuesday). Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. During the regular season, the first Sunday of the month is Free Admission Day.

A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery is located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce; info@BackusMuseum.org, BackusMuseum.org. ❖







Driving Force

ALFRED HAIR AND THE FLORIDA HIGHWAYMEN



HIGHWAYMEN WEEKEND CELEBRATION FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 to 16

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Vintage Highwaymen paintings for sale by dealers, and independent art appraisals of Florida art on the Outdoor Mural Plaza 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Driving Force Closing Reception (Members Free, Not-Yet Members \$20) Lecture by Doretha Hair Truesdell, widow of Alfred Hair 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. — Reception — 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

5th Annual City of Fort Pierce Highwaymen Heritage Trail Festival and Art Fair, Moore's Creek Linear Park, 8th Street & Avenue D, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. City shuttles available from Museum to Park

Vintage Highwaymen paintings for sale by dealers, and independent art appraisals of Florida art continue at the Museum 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Gallery Talks — 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Vintage Highwaymen paintings for sale by dealers, and independent art appraisals of Florida art on the Outdoor Mural Plaza continue at Museum

12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Gallery Talks — 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Final day of Driving Force: Alfred Hair and the Florida Highwaymen exhibition

(Free Admission during regular hours!)

Fuller - Armfield - Wagner Appraisal & Research, Inc.

200 S. Indian River Drive, Suite 300, Fort Pierce FL 34950

Office: (772)468-0787 • Fax: (772)468-1103 S. Florida: 1-800-273-7364

E-Mail: FAW app@bellsouth.net

Daniel D. Fuller, MAI President

St. Cert. Gen. REA #RZ567

Acacia Animal Clinic



Thomas Finch, VMD

4798 South US 1, White City Del Rio Plaza 772.465.2447





McCurdy & Co. Realty

Residential | Commercial Waterfront | Land | Rentals

Stop in or call!

772-216-2821 cell | 772-242-8436

joannemccurdy1@aol.com 171 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce www.mccurdyrealty.com



Joanne McCurdy. Broker/Owner



Family owned and operated since its opening in 1950, Rosslow's is Fort Pierce's one-stop shop, offering specialty items and excellent customer service.

772.461.1222 • 772.466.2021 fax RosslowsFL.com • crosslow@comcast.net 105 South 2nd Street • Fort Pierce, Florida

New Deli in Downtown Fort Pierce is Deli~cious!

by Dale van der Lugt

Testled inside the Galleria of Pierce Harbor and located across from the Sunrise Theatre at 100 S. 2nd Street, Suite 104, a new café has opened and there's no coincidence that its named Deli-cious.

Opened this past December, **Deli~cious Deli Café** touts themselves as "a new take on deli favorites" where their menu offers enticing selections of salads, sandwiches, pizzas and flatbreads, along with specialty coffees and teas made to order. With comfortable seating and a bright tropical vibe, you're sure to want to stay awhile and enjoy the ambiance of this fabulous new delicatessen, family owned and managed.

Deli-cious is just the place for local professionals to take a refreshing break in their busy day. Bright colorful paintings hang on the walls and the "relaxation station" is just the cozy nook to enjoy a quiet conversation with a friend while sipping on a latte or a steaming cup of tea. And this is where I sat and had a delightful chat with co-owner and chef Daniel Cedeño, who with the partnership of his father Jorge, has impacted our downtown community in a **Deli-cious** manner.

Chef Daniel's diverse and rich love for food combines different cultural influences, finding there are similarities to their cuisines if not to their cooking methods. From his own Spanish background and the leadership of two early mentors, one with a Tex-Mex style and the other enmeshed in French culture, Daniel states he can build upon any dish by keeping it fresh and savory, adding just the right acidity, salt and sweetness to





influence its ultimate flavor and outcome. His focus right now is in composing winning recipes, gathering input and influence from locals, and building a strong affinity to community. This includes **Deli~cious** plans to participate in the local **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmer's Market** very soon.

Deli~cious Deli Café joins Brooklyn Sweets, the Bradford Steakhouse and the Rooster in the Garden restaurant in the beautiful Galleria of Fort Pierce on the southeast corner of Orange Avenue and 2nd Street. Check out their Facebook page @deli.ciousFortPierce or call them at 772-801-6588. ❖



Of Fort Pierce

Unique and original affordable artwork by 30+ artists

Gallery Hours

Mon—Thurs 10 to 4 \bullet Fri 10 -5 \bullet Sat 10 -3

ARTWALK / MEET THE ARTISTS every 3rd Fri 5 -8

(772) 801-5700

ArtConnectionFP@gmail.com

Www.ArtConnectionOfFt.com 101 N US 1, Suite 124, Fort Pierce, FL 34950

On the corner of US 1 & Orange Ave.

Love, JAZZ Community: Dear Focus Reader,

by Don Bestor

It's me, Don Bestor, the president of Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society and the guy who usually makes jokes and tickles the ivories for the Society. I hope this won't make you blush, but I'm taking to the keyboard (a slightly different one than you're used to seeing me at) this month to tell you how much I love you. If you know me even a little, I'm sure you're scratching your head and wondering if I'm okay because I'm not given to displays of affection, and no one is ever going to accuse me of being mushy. But since February is the month of expressing love, I wanted to take a moment to send a little love out to the community which supports live, professional music, the arts and Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society all year long.

I know I'm speaking on behalf of all of us at Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society when I share this expression of profound love for this community we all call home. All year long, rain or shine, you come out to the Sunrise Black Box Theatre, the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, the beautiful briny breezes of Melody Lane, the sidewalks of Second Street, or any number of lovely local restaurants and eateries to listen to live music performed by professionals whose love of music is long-lived and legendary. Whether it's our small performance ensemble or our gigantic 17-piece big swingin' band, FDO, you dance, clap, tap your toes, and smile in encouragement, sharing and reflecting back your own love of live music, and I want you to know that every smile, every round of applause, and even every groan at my bad jokes is appreciated.



RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

Friendly & Dependable Termite, Pest Control & Lawn Spraying

Let us "Taylor" a Service Plan to Suit You!

WE DO Real Estate Inspections

Ft. Pierce / Vero Beach Jensen / Port St. Lucie Stuart / Hobe Sound 772-464-8876 772-334-1117 772-781-4555

> Pest Protection Since 1946 Over 60 Years of Experience



Just as it is in all love relationships, this love we share is a twoway street, and when one of us shares our love of music with you through performing a piece we've learned, practiced, and developed into something worthy of sharing, we are sharing a piece of ourselves with you. We are sharing every hour we've spent practicing, polishing, and perfecting our musical talent on whatever instrument we have made a commitment to master as an expression of that love. Most of us fell in love with music long before we ever had our first kiss. Music was our first crush, our puppy love, the one relationship that has lasted our entire lives. Sharing it with you is our ultimate expression of love for you, the community.

And though I'm nobody's poet and the only verse I could conjure up would likely involve the words, "roses are red," or "There once was a man from Nantucket," I wanted to take a moment to let you know, on behalf of all of us at Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society, that you are loved. We keep our ticket prices very low to ensure it's not a hardship for you and to give everyone a chance to enjoy great music, and we work hard all year long to raise funds to provide scholarships for up and coming young musicians to keep live music alive. It's our commitment to you, and it's our in-theflesh expression of our love for the music and the community which helps to feed that love and keep it alive and thriving. If you'd like to show your love, please consider becoming a member, stopping by a Jazz Jam any Tuesday evening, or visiting us at jazzsociety.org, or call (772) 460-JAZZ today.

Love, Don P.S. I love you! �



Frank H. Fee, III, and Frank H. Fee, IV, Principals

Stacy Consalvo, Manager, Paralegal SConsalvo@TreasureCoastTitle.net

Jenny Fee, Business Development Manager JFee@TreasureCoastTitle.net

Phone (772) 461-7190 • Telefax (772) 461-0487 Historic Poppell House 426 Avenue A • Fort Pierce, Florida 34950 www.tctitleandescrow.com

A View from Above by Lisa Jill Allison



As I sat to write this article about Fort Pierce, my attention drifted elsewhere. It drifted to thoughts of travel and adventure, something that feels like a hot air balloon ride above it all. Then, for some reason, my mind shifts to something else, raising my son in Fort Pierce, and here I am with

my mind back on track but from a much different vantage point than expected.

I'm enjoying a somewhat hazy hot air balloon ride's view over the early years of raising my son, Luke. Luke is now in his 30s and he is the proud dad of Gavin, who you see my hugging in the photo above. Gavin is my gallery buddy. My musings on Luke's childhood in Fort Pierce are most likely stirred by the recent weekend Gavin and I spent running my gallery and then hanging out downtown. Fort Pierce is the perfect place for Gavin and me now and was a perfect place for my son and me then.

Much has changed and much has remained the same. One of the most striking similarities between then and now are the "folks" that live and work in Fort Pierce. It had a cozy downhome feel then and it still does now. People around town still say hello as they pass on the street and shop keepers and restaurant staff remember you and give special attention to the kids they see week after week and year after year. The cashier at the grocery store remembers my son and now greets my grandson with added enthusiasm. I have the privilege of running into my son's first grade teacher downtown and sharing photos of my son's son. I shop at the same clothing store I visited in my 30s and my favorite pizza place is still family run, although by the next generation at this point.

On the surface, this may not seem like much, but a quick reminder of our fragmented world can bring to mind what a blessing this is. Positive familiarity can provide a sense of belonging and security so often lacking in modern life. Even though you may not have had the joy of growing up in this delightful small town or raising your children here, as a "newbie" you get to reap the benefits of the interwoven fabric of this town. The ones that have been here for a while are proud of this city and love to welcome new ones with open arms and share all of our hidden treasures.

The hot air balloon ride's view of raising Luke in Fort Pierce shifts focus from people to places and comes more clearly into focus as I relive in my mind's eye the absolute beauty of *Fort Pierce Inlet State Park*, one of our very favorite places during my son's childhood. It is as stunning now as it was then. Pristine, expansive and ecologically diverse, *Inlet State Park's* likeness can't be found elsewhere, again a generational steady of Fort Pierce.

Savannah State Preserve comes into view as well. Again, unspoiled and full of all the stuff Florida is known for, including alligators, this park beckons old timers of Fort Pierce as well as new hidden gem hunters to include in a day of relaxed adventure.

So, take the time to look and you will see an unchanging steadiness to the folks around town and a timeless and diligently preserved beauty to Fort Pierce. Now look again and you will also see some striking newness to our town as well. My favorite newness is the diversity. Take a stroll on a Friday or Saturday night and you will see young people (well, young to me) strolling, having a bite to eat and just enjoying being outside. A variety of hair color, skin color and dress adorn the sidewalks and waterfront. Pride can be taken in being a "let's go out and have fun" destination, with people routinely coming from Melbourne through Miami, as far as our nearby neighbors go, not to mention our national and international visitors. My mental revelries remind me of how we have done a great job of maintaining our identity as an old town, rich in history, a town that respects and cares for our natural resources, and a place nurturing generation after generation of families. It also highlights how we have done a great job of embracing the new. Kudos to us! �



Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market Celebrates 23rd Anniversary

Another year, another milestone. The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market** is 23! The small group of civic minded leaders intended to provide a community garden and a place to showcase the harvest of these efforts, but never expected that almost a quarter of a century later would have a thriving enterprise drawing thousands of visitors to historic downtown Fort Pierce every Saturday, rain or shine!

Vendors from all over the state clamor to become regulars at the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market**. Showcasing the local four-county area is the goal of the Market. Farmers, of course, are the mainstays for locally-grown vegetables, citrus and fruits. Whether organic or conventional, the abundance is evident at the Market. The growing season for Florida is so different that most of the rest of the country that farmers spend countless hours explaining why okra isn't available locally in January, or green beans and cucumbers aren't always on the table. The traditional growing season for Florida farmers is from October through May. As the climate changes, the production

Mann Realty
Sales - Management - Rentals

Nobody Knows Hutchinson Island & The Treasure Coast Better!

772.467.9229 800.817.3703

www.HutchinsonIsland.com

will as well. For now, most farmers are producing tons of greens, tomatoes, beans and lots of other nutritious vegetables.

Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market has been home to many vendors through the years, and those faithful and regular ones keep the hometown feel at the Market. Barefoot Gourmet, Brenda's Mix-a-lotta Sauces, Tony's Produce, Lemonade Shakeups, Importico's Bakery, Macy's Smoked Fish Dip, Gina's Bakery, PJ Honey Ranch, Tony's Gyros, Connie Chung's Plants, Lola Tortola Sugar and Spice, Lucky Onion, Garden Friends, and K-Malou, are just a few of the long-time participants.

The Market is constantly introducing new vendors and products. Recent additions have been seafood, fresh pasta, homemade bread and pancake mixes, hot sauces, and popcorn. Check out the Market manager's tent for location of these vendors.

February 29th is the date of the 23rd Anniversary Celebration. Traditionally, the Market has showcased a local artist with original art on a market bag. This year, our own Anita Prentice, renowned mosaic artist, will feature her art on the fabulous canvas bag, and will be on hand to sign her work. The bags will be located in the Market manager's tent with Anita, and can be obtained for \$5 from her or board members. This is a limited edition and available on the day of the anniversary celebration. In addition, Importico's Bakery has served their fabulous cake to thousands at the Market celebration and this year is no exception. Market board members will serve cake to appreciative patrons beginning at 10 a.m. It goes fast, so make sure to get there early!

Entertainment has been part of the Market scene for many, many years. Starting with the *Hot Sauce Boys*, and progressing to full bands, the Market has been a great starting point for many local bands. Publicity and exposure are part of the allure for bands to venture out in the early morning hours, and the crowds are delighted, showing off dance moves and tons of photo ops. *Sol Party Band* will be on hand to celebrate the anniversary this year. With their mix of classic rock, blues, country and reggae, the crowd will be dancing through the aisles!

The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market** is open every Saturday, rain or shine, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on the waterfront at Marina Square. Follow us on facebook, twitter, or our webpage fortpiercefarmersmarket.com.

It's a Saturday morning tradition!

EXPERIENCE OUR 14TH SEASON OF GREAT ENTERTAINMENT!



BRING BACK THE MEMORIES' **FEBRUARY 8TH**



THAT MOTOWN BAND W/ SPECIAL GUEST LALA BROOKS FEBRUARY 14TH



LONDON'S WEST END **FEBRUARY 15TH**



CATAPULT: THE AMAZING MAGIC OF SHADOW DANCING

FEBRUARY 20TH



THE BEACH BOYS FEBRUARY 22ND



DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE: A DINO-MITE ADVENTURE FEBRUARY 23RD



HOTEL CALIFORNIA A SALUTE TO THE EAGLES FEBRUARY 27TH



GEORGIA ON MY MIND: CELEBRATING THE Music of Ray Charles MARCH 7TH



THE CHARLIE DANIELS BAND MARCH 8TH



SOUTHSIDE JOHNNY AND THE ASBURY JUKES MARCH 11TH



A TRIBUTE TO THE BEEGEES MARCH 12TH



AN AMERICAN IN PARIS A NEW MUSICAL MARCH 14TH



BRIAN REGAN MARCH 15TH



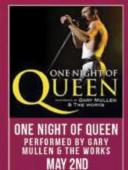
DIRECT FROM ITS SMASH-HIT ON BROADWAY MARCH 26TH



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

*More shows and attractions will be added throughout the season!







www.sunrisetheatre.com Box office M-F 10am-2pm 772.461.4775.

117 South 2nd St. Historic Downtown Fort Pierce



Do You Need a Green Card?



- Employment Based Green Cards (EB-1, EB-2, EB-3 and EB-4)
 - Marriage Cases (I-130, K-1 Visa, and K-3)
 - Investment Based and Treaty Investor/Trader Visas (\$200,000+ and EB-5 \$500,000+)
- PERM Labor Certification with the Department of Labor need job offer
 - · Affirmative/Defensive Political Asylum
 - Naturalization
 National Interest Waiver self petition

Gloria Roa Bodin, PA 215 N. 2nd Street, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950 (772) 429-2888 • Miami (305) 442-1471



MORE OF WHAT YOU WANT.

— hot water —

LESS OF WHAT YOU WANT TO SPEND.

money



TANK OR TANKLESS! A natural gas water heater simply heats water faster and for less money than an electric water heater. And tankless water heaters never run out of hot water!

Take Advantage of FPUA's Natural Gas Rebate Program and receive a rebate of up to \$675 when you switch out your old water heater.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!
772.466.1600 | FPUAGAS@FPUA.COM | FPUA.COM



FGUFP19-001



DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes, PA Established 1985

Accounting & Tax Services

Please visit our website at DMHBCPA.net

Two Locations to Serve You on the Treasure Coast

Fort Pierce

461-8833

Fax 461-8872 2222 Colonial Road Suite 200 Port St. Lucie

878-1952

Fax 878-1709 591 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd.

Ask a Coach: Coach Christina Champagne

Q: What do you admire most about **CrossFit Fort Pierce**?

A: Our community! I've been a part of CrossFit Fort Pierce for almost 4 years now and have developed great relationships with the members and fellow coaches. Our environment is so friendly and encouraging that you feel like you're part of the family as soon as you walk in the door. Also, I've managed to get almost my whole family to start attending classes. Seeing my 82-year-old grandma work out in our L.I.F.E. class is so inspiring and having my parents show up for CrossFit classes puts the biggest smile on my face. They're proving that no matter your age or condition their is always room to improve your fitness and overall health. Join the CrossFit Fort Pierce family today! Phone 772-252-4355.



City of Fort Pierce Photo Contest for 2020-21 Annual Report Calendar

City of Fort Pierce invites the public to submit photos for possible inclusion in the city's 2020–21 *Annual Report Calendar*.

Have you taken a beautiful picture of the city's historic architecture, landscape, or perhaps people enjoying fun events? We encourage all amateur and professional photographers to enter our *City of Fort Pierce Calendar Photo Contest*, with a focus on all things Fort Pierce. The deadline to submit photos is February 14, 2020. Photographers of all ages are invited to enter their best high-resolution images.

Many submitted photos will be featured in the 2020–21 City of Fort Pierce Annual Report and Calendar with a photo credit. The Annual Report Calendar is distributed to thousands of community members throughout the year, so the photos selected, as well as the photographers, receive a lot of exposure. Photos will also be used in various city publications and on social media.

The mission of the contest is to celebrate the City of Fort Pierce, therefore all photos entered must be taken in Fort Pierce. Photographs can be of the environment, local architecture, culture, community or whatever makes you love Fort Pierce. There is no limit to the number of photos you can submit. Images selected by staff will be those that best represent our city. Since this is a calendar, photographs of all seasons are requested.

Photos can be submitted online at lovefortpierce.com/photo-submission/ until February 14, 2020.

About the *Annual Report Calendar*. In 2017, the City published its first *Annual Report Calendar*. This report highlights successes, initiatives and programs that have taken place over the past year to ensure the delivery of quality public service to our community. The report is also accompanied by a convenient calendar filled with local events and activities taking place in the Sunrise City. To view a copy of the 2019-20 Calendar and Annual Report, visit: https://issuu.com/city-ftpierce/docs/cityfp_annual_report_and_calendar

For additional information call 772.467.3031. ❖





Around Town

February Events at the Susan Broom Kilmer Branch Library



Art in the Afternoon; Watercolor Painting

Wednesday, February 19 at 3 p.m. Space is limited, first come first served. All materials provided.

"Page to Screen" Book Discussion and Movie

Friday, February 21 at 1 p.m.

Join us as we watch the movie adaptation of Beloved and then discuss the book by Toni Morrison. Copies of the book are available for checkout now! The next day, our Hurston Branch Library will be hosting a film screening of the new documentary on Toni Morrison on Sat. Feb. 22nd at 10 a.m. with speakers from Indian River State College. This book discussion and movie at the Kilmer Branch is a chance to gain some insight and share your thoughts before the documentary.

Art in the Afternoon; Painting with Acrylics

Wednesday, February 19 at 3 p.m.

Space is limited, first come first served. All materials provided.

6th Annual Treasure Coast Authors' Book Fair

Saturday, February 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

At the downtown Kilmer Branch as well as the Lewis Branch in Port St. Lucie. Meet and greet with local authors, browse and purchase books, and support your local library!

Your Courts Up Close 2020

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court and your local county and circuit judges will be hosting a free community outreach program called "Your Courts Up Close." These sessions are back by popular demand with new information from different aspects of the judicial system. "Your Courts Up Close" is a once-weekly, four-night program being held each Tuesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sessions begin February 18th and run through March 10th at the St. Lucie County Courthouse, 218 S. Second Street in Fort Pierce. Reservations are required.

Judges will cover various aspects of the law and answer questions from the public.

St. Lucie County Judge Daryl Isenhower, one of the event's organizers, says he is excited about the opportunity to interact with the public and discuss court operations. The judicial branch's mission is to protect the rights and liberties, uphold and interpret the law, and provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes. Judge Isenhower says, "I think many people are interested in our legal system and how the court system works. We welcome the opportunity to share what we do with the public. This will be a great learning opportunity for all and we'll have some fun along the way."

To reserve your seat call 772-807-4370 or e-mail Your-courts@Circuit19.org.

Space is limited.

A Facebook page for the event can be found at https://www.facebook.com/NineteenthCircuitYCUC/.



SHEEPS FOR KEEPS

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

the a milder winter, there's plenty of opportunity to get out and have some great fishing adventures. This time of year, snapper, pompano, trout, snook, redfish, and sheepshead can be found. Although sheepshead season is open year-round, now is the time they are on the shallow reefs near shore. Anglers of all ages will enjoy the excitement of catching these tasty fish known for their distinctive vertical black bars and sharp dorsal spines.

Using light tackle with 30-pound fluorocarbon leader and a quarter-ounce jig with live shrimp is ideal. Try the shallow reefs along the beach in about 15-30 feet of water. Fishing for sheeps first thing in the morning as the sun comes up is a great time to catch the bite and put fish on the deck. Minimum length for keeper sheeps is 12 inches. These fish can be caught near structures like bridges, docks, and jetties, too. Targeting sheepshead will also provide a great chance to catch other fish like pompano and snapper. Pompano will give you some fantastic action and table fare.

Snook season is open again starting February 1st. Rules and regulations can be found at your local bait and tackle shops or myfwc.com. The weather is nice, don't think twice ... just have fun *Pullin Drag!*











Blackened Steak Salad

Spice Mixture

- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 2 teaspoons ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme

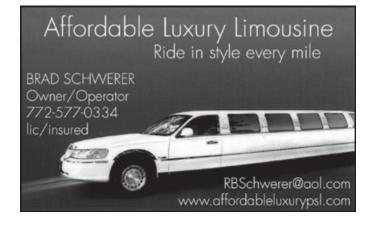
Recipe

Salad dressing of your choice

- 6 cups (packed) mixed baby greens
- 1/2 red bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 2 6-ounce beef tenderloin steaks, about 1/2 inch thick
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 6 tablespoons crumbled blue cheese
- 1 tomato, quartered
- avocado, quartered
 Grilled Baby Asparagus
 Cucumbers, diced

Mix all spice ingredients in a small bowl. Spread mixture on plate. Coat both sides of steaks with mixture. Dip both sides of steaks into melted butter. Grill steaks or cook outside in a heavy skillet. Transfer to cutting board; let stand 10 minutes. Mix dressing with greens, pepper and onion and toss to coat. Divide salad between two plates. Thinly slice steaks crosswise. Arrange slices atop salads. Sprinkle with cheese. Garnish with tomato, avocado, grilled asparagus and cucumbers. *Makes 2 servings*.











116 North 2nd Street, Suite 101 Fort Pierce, FL 34950 • 772-577-4070



SAVE TIME, ORDER ONLINE.

www.Subway.com

2 Footlongs for \$12 after 5pm

Fresh Ground Gourmet Coffee





Open for Lunch and Dinner Every Day

Home of the **Everyday Happy Hour**

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Banquet Room Available

40"HD big screen TVs, 50 Tap Beers, Food and Drink Specials Daily

122 North 2nd Street · Historic Downtown Fort Pierce 293-9191 · 2ndStreetBistro.com













Become

It Takes All of Us to Make Our Historic Downtown Prosper and Grow!

Three Easy Ways to Join!

- 1 Call Main Street Fort Pierce at (772) 466-3880
 2 Visit our Website at www.mainstreetfortpierce.org, click the membership link
 3 Fill out the membership form and mail to:

Main Street Fort Pierce 122 A.E. Backus Ave. Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

Please Take a Minute to Join Today!

Complete the form below and join our growing group of committed members. By joining Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., you are supporting the economic well being of the entire community.

Membership Level: Company/Organization: ___

Street Address:

City / State / Zip: _

FOR MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AND PRICING, visit www.MainStreetFortPierce.org.





Samuel V. Rowe, D.M.D., P.A.

605 Citrus Avenue • 461-2648 Ft. Pierce, FL 34950



CrossFit**Fort Pierce

STRONGER TOGETHER

CALL TODAY - 772.252.4355



