



# FOCUS

Volume 18, No. 9

April, 2023

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce




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

# SUNRISE THEATRE


The Treasure Coast's #1 Destination for Live Entertainment



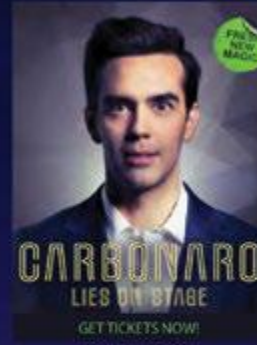
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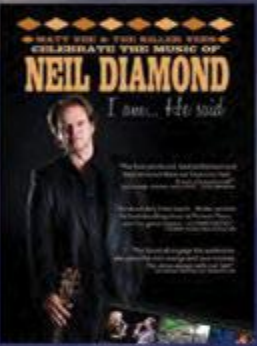
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**MAR 9**



**MAR 18**



**MAR 25**



**MAR 31**


GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!  
MORE PERFORMANCES COMING SOON!  
2023 SEASON

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SHOWS,  
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**BOX OFFICE: 772.461.4775**  
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HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

## Spring is in the Air!

by Donna Sizemore



During this time of year small animals that hibernate are usually coming out for their burrows in April. Although, there are very few animals who hibernate in Florida. The birds fly back northward and settle down to have their families. The bees and butterflies begin to gather nectar from the first flowers of the season ([www.americantraininginc.com/aprilfacts/](http://www.americantraininginc.com/aprilfacts/)). It's the time of year for new beginnings in the wilderness. My favorite time of year!

Speaking of new beginnings, maybe Spring cleaning is on your agenda and its time to update your wardrobe. Are you looking for a new Easter dress? Remember that we have some incredible boutiques in downtown Fort Pierce. There's no need to drive north or south. And guys, you can have a drink and watch


sports while the girl's shop. There is something for everyone.

As I mentioned in the last *Focus* letter, *Main Street Fort Pierce* Board members, the Director and staff met and began the first of a series of Strategic Planning meetings and the outcome included several new and exciting events for downtown. In addition, part of our Strategic Plan included growing our board. We are happy to announce that we have welcomed two new board members to the team: Kathy Perona and Steve Holland. Both folks are Fort Pierce proud and have hit the ground running! We are thrilled to have them join our Board. The next Strategic Planning meeting is scheduled for March 25th. I'll keep you updated on the outcome.

One last plug for the *Reverse Raffle*. The event is on April 15. There's still time to buy tickets and have a chance to win up to \$5,000 in prizes. The theme for this year is *Yellowstone – the Show!* Pull out your country attire and come and enjoy the night. If you've never been, you're sure be glad that you did! Visit the website <https://mainstreetfortpierce.org/local-events-calendar> to obtain tickets and register to bid on the incredible auction items that have been donated by very generous folks within our community.

As always, we thank our numerous volunteers for their hard work and support of ensuring that *Main Street Fort Pierce* remains the heartbeat of our community.

*Happy Spring!* ❖



## MAIN STREET FOCUS

FORT PIERCE

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Volume 18, No. 9 April, 2023

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### 2022 – 2023

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Phone: 772.466.3880 • [mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://mainstreetfortpierce.org)



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

**Friday, April 21, at 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club**  
700 N. Indian River Drive

*Sponsored by*




**HOSTED BY**  
Fort Pierce Yacht Club, Main Street Fort Pierce, 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.



**Food Family Friends Fun**  
1st Friday of each month, Historic Downtown Fort Pierce  
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Marina Square



**Join Us at Friday Fest on April 7 with Live Music by Stephan Hunt**



**BRADFORD L. JEFFERSON, P.A.**

*Proud supporter of Main Street Fort Pierce*


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Downtown Fort Pierce

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Fax: 772.468.2226

# Calendar

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




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

### MONTHLY EVENTS

**April 7, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE** — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by **Stephan Hunt**, sponsored by Cobbs Landing and Little Jims restaurants; **Please remove all vehicles from the permitted Friday Fest road closure area (Marina Way & Melody Lane) by 2:00 p.m.**; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

**April 13, Thursday: STREET DREAMS ON THE TREASURE COAST CAR SHOW** — 6–9 p.m.; visit Facebook page for *Shift Culture*.



**April 15, Saturday: "YELLOWSTONE" 28TH ANNUAL REVERSE RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION** — 500 Orange Avenue Event Venue; Limited tickets; [www.mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://www.mainstreetfortpierce.org); See story on page 8.

**April 21, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR** — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; *Sponsor* — **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

**April 21, Friday: ARTWALK** — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; [artstlucie.org](http://artstlucie.org).

### 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](http://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

**Wine Down Wednesday**  
Fort Social in the Galleria on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6 to 8 p.m.  
[TheFortSteakhouse.com](http://TheFortSteakhouse.com)

**Sailfish Brewing Company**  
[facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company](https://facebook.com/SailfishBrewingCompany)

**Pierced Cider**  
[Facebook @piercedcider](https://facebook.com/piercedcider)

**Cobbs Landing**  
[cobbs-landing.com](https://cobbs-landing.com)

**Bottom's Up Public House**  
[facebook.com/bottomsuppublichouse](https://facebook.com/bottomsuppublichouse)

**121 Tapas on the Water**  
[facebook.com/121tapasonthewater](https://facebook.com/121tapasonthewater)

### SUNRISE THEATRE & SUNRISE BLACK BOX

772-461-4775 • [sunrisetheatre.com](http://sunrisetheatre.com)

**Tuesdays: Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre** — 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.; 460-5299; [jazzsociety.org](http://jazzsociety.org).

### MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • [ManateeEducationCenter.org](http://ManateeEducationCenter.org)

### DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

462-2787 • [www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/](http://www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/)

### SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

**Common Ground Vineyard Church**; 460-5414, [commongroundvineyard.com](http://commongroundvineyard.com).

**First Church**; 464-0440, [firstchurchfp.org](http://firstchurchfp.org).

**Fort Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church**; 940-6728, [haitianmethodist.org](http://haitianmethodist.org).

**Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church**; 466-9617, [notredamecc.com](http://notredamecc.com).

**St. Andrews Episcopal Church (founded 1893)**; 461-5009 [mystandrews.org](http://mystandrews.org).

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION

**A.E. Backus Museum**  
772-465-0630 • [backusmuseum.com](http://backusmuseum.com)

- Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs**  
772-462-1795  
2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building
- Fort Pierce Police Athletic League**  
772-370-6162 • [fortpiercepal.com](http://fortpiercepal.com)  
Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606
- Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society**  
772-460-5299 • [jazzsociety.org](http://jazzsociety.org)
- Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center**  
600 North Indian River Drive  
772-489-6473 • [cityoffortpierce.com](http://cityoffortpierce.com)
- Heathcote Botanical Gardens**  
772-464-4672  
[heathcotebotanicalgardens.org](http://heathcotebotanicalgardens.org)
- Manatee Observation & Education Center**  
772-429-6266 • [ManateeEducationCenter.org](http://ManateeEducationCenter.org)
- National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum**  
772-595-5845 • [navysealmuseum.org](http://navysealmuseum.org)
- St. Lucie County Marine Center**  
772-462-3474  
[stlucieco.gov/marine\\_center](http://stlucieco.gov/marine_center)
- St. Lucie County Regional History Center**  
772-462-1795 • [stlucieco.gov/history](http://stlucieco.gov/history)

- APRIL: JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH
- APRIL 1: APRIL FOOLS' DAY
- APRIL 2: WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY
- APRIL 2: NATIONAL PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY DAY
- APRIL 2: PASCUA FLORIDA DAY
- APRIL 5: PASSOVER
- APRIL 5: PEEPS DAY
- APRIL 6: ARMY DAY
- APRIL 8: NATIONAL CATCH AND RELEASE DAY
- ➔ APRIL 9: EASTER
- APRIL 14: NATIONAL DOLPHIN DAY
- APRIL 17: GO FLY A KITE DAY
- APRIL 18: LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

# Mayor's Message **How Your Commission Serves Fort Pierce**

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Your elected city officials devote far more hours to the job of serving their constituents than many of our citizens realize. Often, it is a real surprise after election for the newcomer to city commission and mayor.

What the interested Fort Pierce voter sees is the three meetings held every month in the commission chambers and *Fort Pierce Redevelopment* meetings, available on video. What is not very visible are the other commitments each elected official must keep during the month, in order to represent our city throughout St. Lucie County. Each January, the Commission decides these committee assignments.

Commissioners Curtis and Jeremiah Johnson serve on the *Transportation Planning Organization* (TPO), Commissioner Curtis Johnson and I serve on the *St. Lucie Fire Board*; Commissioners Broderick and Gaines serve on the *Retirement Board*.

Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson serves on the *Tourist Development Council*, and as ex officio on the *Main Street Board* and the *St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce*. He also meets with the *Downtown Business Alliance*.

Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr. serves on the *Roundtable*

and the *Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council*, as well as the *Port Advisory Committee* and the *St. Lucie Land Acquisition and Selection Committee*.

Commissioner Arnold Gaines serves on the *Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments*, the *Council on Aging*, *St. Lucie Homeless Committee*, the *Treasure Coast Education, Research and Development Authority* (TCERDA), and as ex officio on the *Lincoln Park Main Street Board*.

Commissioner Broderick serves on the *Parking Committee*, the *Sunrise Theatre Advisory Board*, and meets with the *Orange Avenue Business Corridor Association*. He is also liaison with the *Florida Municipal Power Association* (FMPA) and the *Florida Municipal Education Association* (FMEA).

As Mayor, I serve on the *Fort Pierce Utility Authority* ((FPUA). I also serve on the *Florida League of Cities*, the *Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities*, and *Florida Municipal Insurance Trust* (FMIT). I also host *Coffee With The Mayor* monthly.

Meetings with constituents and personal appearances must be scheduled around these assignments, as well as our own business and personal lives. Our positions are supposed to be part time. If you're planning to run for office, know and understand what you've signed up for. ❖



## City of Fort Pierce Launches Assessment Survey for Community Development Block Grant

The *City of Fort Pierce* anticipates the *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development* (HUD) will allocate approximately \$564,875 to the *City of Fort Pierce* for the fiscal program year, October 2023–2024 for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The *City of Fort Pierce* is developing its 2023–2024 Annual Action Plan to detail the proposed use of the CDBG funds during the program year, which begins October 1, 2023, and ends September 30, 2024. The Action Plan represents Year #3 of 2021–2025, 5-Year Consolidated Plan previously reviewed by citizens and approved by the City Commission. The Action Plan will outline issues and opportunities facing Fort Pierce and address matters such as infrastructure, public and assisted housing, and economic and community development.

Fort Pierce city residents and public service providers are encouraged to take the Community Needs Assessment Survey, online or in hard copy. A survey in English or Spanish can be

easily accessed on the City website at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S9YC9LX>

Citizens may request a copy e-mailed or mailed by calling 772-467-3161 or e-mailing [grantsadministration@cityoffortpierce.com](mailto:grantsadministration@cityoffortpierce.com) between March 15th and April 15th, 2023.

Survey results will be automatically tabulated and listed in the 2023–2024 Annual Action Plan which will help set the framework for community, housing, and economic development projects for Fort Pierce during the next fiscal year.

For more information or questions related to the survey or to the *U.S. Department of HUD* CDBG allocations to the *City of Fort Pierce* for Program Year 2023–2024, citizens are encouraged to call 772-467-3161 or e-mail [grantsadministration@cityoffortpierce.com](mailto:grantsadministration@cityoffortpierce.com)

For additional information, please contact: Grants Administration Division; 772-467-3161; [GrantsAdministration@cityoffortpierce.com](mailto:GrantsAdministration@cityoffortpierce.com). ❖

Easter at First UMC Fort Pierce

Enough

SUNRISE 7:00AM - MARINA SQUARE

TRADITIONAL 9:30AM - SANCTUARY

CONTEMPORARY 11AM - CENTENNIAL HALL

## Yellowstone 28th Annual Reverse Raffle in Paradise Valley

**M**ain Street Fort Pierce cordially invites you to attend the **28th Annual Reverse Raffle Live & Silent Auction**, to be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023. The theme this year for dress and attitude is **Yellowstone**.

*Main Street Fort Pierce* knows how to throw a great party. There will be an array of silent auction items donated by local, statewide, and national businesses on display as partygoers mingle with friends. This year our food will be prepared by **Dales BBQ**.

At 6:30 p.m., crowd favorite and always a highlight of the evening, the **Reverse Raffle** kicks off. The **Reverse Raffle** starts with 250 numbers. Depending on when a number is pulled determines if it wins money or not. There is a chance to win money 10 times up until the last 10 numbers. Each of the last 10 numbers drawn will win funds starting at \$100 and ending with the grand prize of \$2,000. And don't forget to get tickets for a chance to win big with the lottery tree drawing! All prizes are based on the total number of tickets sold. If 100% of tickets are not sold prior to the event date, prizes will be based on a sliding

scale in proportion to the total number of tickets sold.

Starting at 8:30 p.m. another highlight begins — the live auction. There are some exciting new items that will be on the live auction this year including a 1-week stay on Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas provided by Mike Broderick and Katy; a private in-home dinner for 4 people provided by Chef Liepa of **Zest Gourmet**, and a **Budweiser** cooler filled with assorted libations.

Tickets for this annual fundraiser are \$100 per person and offers the bearer a chance to win the grand prize of \$2,000 along with all the food and entertainment mentioned above. This event sells out every year due to the limited amount of tickets sold. They must be purchased in advance and will not be available at the door. Tickets are available on our website [www.mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://www.mainstreetfortpierce.org).

The **Reverse Raffle** has been a major fundraiser for the projects and mission of *Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.* since 1994. *Main Street* is extremely grateful to the local business sponsors that contribute to this event. When the need arises, please consider supporting these local businesses that support our local community.

★ YOU ARE ★

# WANTED

SAVE THE DATE!  
April 15, 2023  
500 Orange Avenue Event Center

**RR**

\$100 Per Person  
[mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://mainstreetfortpierce.org)

**At the Main Street Fort Pierce  
28th Annual Reverse Raffle**

Over \$5,000 in Cash Prizes

# REWARD

All proceeds benefit the projects of *Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.*, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. The *Main Street Program* was created by the *National Trust for Historic Preservation* in the late 1970s to revive downtown commerce and save historic properties nationwide. *Main Street Fort Pierce* restored the **Historic City Hall Building**, the **Sunrise Theatre**, and managed the grant to build the **Manatee Observation & Education Center**. *Main Street Fort Pierce's* most recent and current restoration project is the **Platts/Backus House**. Along with major restoration projects, *Main Street Fort Pierce* organizes over 30 community events each year to draw people to eat, shop and play in the beautiful, historic downtown Fort Pierce.

### SPONSORS

The Tierney & Wetzel Foundation | Sandee's TWW World, LLC  
Treasure Coast Lexus/Treasure Coast Toyota | 4616 Investment  
Booth Manufacturing Company  
Dale Matteson of Audubon Development in Partnership  
with Greg Lewis of Conkling & Lewis Construction, Inc.  
Larry Neese Roofing & Construction | Seacoast Bank  
Hoskins Turco Lloyd & Lloyd | Beachfront Brooke Team  
Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frink | Carpets Etc.  
Custom Air Systems | Dean, Mead, Minton & Moore  
East Coast Lumber & Supply/Ace Hardware  
ENT & Allergy Associates of Florida — Drs. Berghash & Lanza  
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority | Garber Buick GMC  
Gratitude Fund | Gulfstream Building Group  
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McAlpin, Cavalcanti & Lewis, CPA | Mildner & Associates, P.A.  
Ocean Chiropractic & Health Center | Post Insurance  
R. K. Davis Construction Corporation | Southern Castles  
SouthState Bank | Geneva Financials | *Indian River Magazine*  
Florida Hemp Collective | Affordable Swarayz  
Epic Events | Wild Rose Dance Team

**The Tierney & Wetzel Foundation:** The **Tierney and Wetzel Foundation** was established in November 2021 following the sale of **Sunrise Ford**, one of St. County's oldest family-owned businesses. Founded in 1932, **Sunrise Ford** was also a strong supporter of local non-profits and charitable organizations.

**Sunrise Ford's** owner, Mary Jo Tierney, and her husband, Mike Wetzel, vice-president of the dealership, wanted to continue that legacy through their foundation.

"For decades the community was very supportive of **Sunrise Ford**, making it one of the top volume Ford dealers in the area, so we wanted to continue to contribute to local causes," Tierney said. The foundation has donated to groups that the dealership supported for years, including the **A.E. Backus Museum**, **Main Street Fort Pierce**, **WPSL Christmas Kids**, providing funds for school supplies and swimming lessons for needy children, and the **St. Lucie County Education Foundation**.

The **Tierney and Wetzel Foundation** has also taken up a new cause focusing on efforts to restore the Indian River Lagoon by curtailing pollutants flowing into Treasure Coast waterways from Lake Okeechobee and other agricultural canal systems. The foundation teamed up with **Friends of the Everglades** and **Vote Water** to fund a legislative accountability project, which tracks proposed federal, state and local laws that can be detrimental to the health of the lagoon. "We also want to see who the politicians and lobbyists are pushing these policies so the public can be educated about what can be done to stop them from becoming law," Wetzel said.

Of particular concern this legislative session, is a proposed bill that would strip cities and counties from regulating their waterways and wetlands. The state would take over and could undermine stricter restrictions imposed by local governments.

"That could be devastating considering all of the other pro-growth legislation under consideration this session," Wetzel said.

**Friends of the Everglades**, based in Stuart, also is promoting more aggressive monitoring of pollutants in waterways and enforcing policies to reduce them. Early in his first administration, Governor Ron DeSantis established the **Blue Green Algae Task Force**, made up of scientists and other experts, who made dozens of recommendations on how to curb pollutants in waterways throughout the state. "Most of those recommendations were ignored since they were released two years ago. It's time for the governor and state legislators to take a hard look at those recommendations and implement them," Tierney said.

When **Sunrise Ford** was founded more than 90 years ago by the Sneed family, the Indian River was pristine and Fort Pierce was a small town, but had a burgeoning citrus industry and beautiful beaches. Much has changed since then, but Tierney and Wetzel hope their foundation will help environmental groups in their efforts to restore the lagoon so it continues to have an abundance of fish species that makes it one of the most biodiverse estuarine ecosystems in North America.

*Continued on page 10 ...*

YELLOWSTONE ... continued from page 9

**Sandee's TWW World, LLC:** When Sandee Allen's first child was born in 1977, she coined the phrase "I Love You The Whole Wide World." It was a phrase that stayed with us through the years and relayed her all-encompassing love for her children and now, her grandchildren. Five years ago, when she felt things starting to go astray in the world, she thought many people could benefit from knowing there was someone close to them that loved them above all else, that their world was better because they were in each other's lives. Her idea was to create merchandise that relayed the special bond between loved ones, thus, the "I Love You The Whole Wide World" collection was born. The recent creation of jewelry, teddy bears and decorative pillows will give you the opportunity to tell your special someone that message. Sandee invites all to visit her website [www.thewholewideworld.store](http://www.thewholewideworld.store) and view the beautiful products. Updates to the baby line will be available this spring.

**Treasure Coast Lexus / Treasure Coast Toyota:** Welcome to **Treasure Coast Lexus**, a fast and convenient way to research

and find a vehicle that is right for you. Whether you are looking for a new or pre-owned Lexus car, truck, or SUV you will find it here. We have helped many customers in or near Fort Pierce, Vero Beach, Stuart, Sewells Point, Hutchinson Island, Jensen Beach, Port St. Lucie West, Port St. Lucie, Hobe Sound, Jupiter and Palm City find the Lexus of their dreams!



We know that prospective customers are extremely well educated when researching their next vehicle. **Treasure Coast Lexus** has made it easy to get all the available vehicle information so you can spend less time researching and more time enjoying your purchase. Check out our new specials and pre-owned specials on our website for additional savings on your next vehicle.

As a premier Florida Lexus dealer, we have a huge selection of new and pre-owned vehicles from which to choose. **Treasure Coast Lexus** online and offline customers enjoy vehicle specials every day. We offer Lexus service & parts, an online inventory, and outstanding financing options, making **Treasure Coast Lexus** a preferred dealer for Lexus buyers. Ready to set up a test drive?



Visit our Vero Beach area Lexus dealership in Fort Pierce, FL today!

**4616 Investment:** Stan and Jean Synkoski fell in love with Fort Pierce in 2005. They were on what was supposed to be, a brief visit away from their residence near Washington D.C. Each kept asking the other when they should return home until the realization hit — they were home. They decided to make their vacation paradise their permanent residence in 2006.

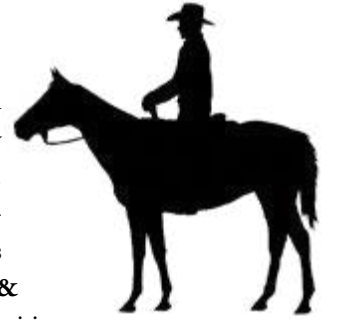
As they would drive back and forth along Orange Avenue, Jean would admire the vacant mission-style building that sat one block west of the newly restored **Arcade Building** and U.S.1. It was obvious the building had been severely neglected and needed extensive repairs and renovation, but Jean saw its potential and when the City of Fort Pierce listed it for sale in 2017, she immediately called for a showing.

The inside was much worse than the outside, but Jean had a vision for the future, so, the decision to buy the building and prepare for its restoration was made. Now, it was Stan's job to bring that vision to life. The process took three years but the end result was an "Award Winning" Historic **500 Orange** event venue in the heart of our great city.

Weddings, business banquets, birthday parties, Quinceanera, holiday celebrations and more: let us bring your vision for an historic memorable event to life. "If you have not seen the inside of this historic building please stop by for a visit and a refreshment when you are in the area. You are always welcome at **500 Orange.**"

**Booth Manufacturing Company / Auto Lab:** We are a laser cutting business servicing St. Lucie and Indian River County for both industrial and retail customers. We pride ourselves on our quick turnaround times and specialize in creating parts for the aerospace and marine industry. If you are curious about a service not listed, just fill out our online quote form and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

**Audubon Development in Partnership with Conkling & Lewis Construction, Inc:** Connecting Downtown to Edgartown with a focus on structures and design that enhance and complement the existing pedestrian-friendly atmosphere of Fort Pierce, **King's Landing** features easily-accessible, walk-up commercial space, unique residences and a low profile, boutique-style hotel. The community lynchpin will continue the span of Fort Pierce's waterfront downtown, connecting its historic downtown with



surrounding neighborhoods, and allow visitors to enjoy specialty retailers, restaurants and events. **King's Landing** is in partnership with **Conkling & Lewis Construction, Inc.** **Conkling & Lewis** is a mid-sized General Practitioner Construction and Construction Management firm boasting more than 100 Florida landmarks within its portfolio. Established in 1983, the family-owned firm provides construction management services for commercial, residential, healthcare and historic restoration projects. We have built our business on reliable service, clear communication practices and impeccable results — maintaining many clients for more than twenty years. Organizations who regularly call on **Conkling & Lewis** include the **Church of Bethesda by the Sea**, the **Society of the Four Arts**, **JFK Medical Center** and **Main Street Fort Pierce.**

**Larry Neese Roofing:** At **Larry Neese Roofing** they offer a wide array of proven roofing and construction services that are appropriate for not only your property but your budget. Their team has over 30 years' experience in Florida Construction technology while also going through extensive training in-house. They are leak repair & building envelope specialists. **Larry Neese Roofing** is state-certified to build or provide services to any building in any town and jurisdiction in the state. **Larry Neese Roofing** says their biggest difference from other roofing companies is that they commit to making sure that they meet the warranty requirements.

**Hoskins Turko Lloyd & Lloyd:** For over 35 years, the lawyers at the law firm of **Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd** have been protecting clients, fighting for families, and supporting the prosperity of our community. Our attorneys and staff have lived here on the Treasure Coast and Lake Okeechobee areas for generations and we're proud to call this part of Florida our home. With four offices in Port St. Lucie, Vero Beach, Fort Pierce, and Okeechobee, we're one of the region's oldest law firms with hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements and verdicts, and still, countless hopes and dreams restored on behalf of our clients. If you've been injured or are facing financial hardship due to a disability or bankruptcy, contact our office today and start getting the answers and protection you need. ❖



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## A New Way to Get Around Fort Pierce is Free, On-Demand, and 100% Electric

Beginning March 9th, there is a new and eco-friendly way to get around Ft. Pierce. In partnership between the *City of Ft. Pierce* and the *Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency*, the launch of **Freebee** has been announced — the city’s *free*, on-demand, 100% electric transportation service.

The goal of the program is to provide connectivity within the CRA and business district that will be a huge economic development driver for the local business community while also filling mobility gaps, easing traffic congestion, and stress on parking demands. Whether for work, appointments, or play, **Freebee** will pick passengers up at their doorsteps and safely deliver them to their destination of choice within the service zone. The current service area encompasses downtown Fort Pierce and stretches across the bridge to the north end of the island on the beachside. It includes notable destinations like the **Sunrise Theatre**, **St. Lucie County Aquarium**, and **Jetty Park**.

The highly anticipated service is a welcome addition and will be a game changer for the *City of Fort Pierce*. Previous service launches in other municipalities have proven to increase economic development, help decrease traffic congestion, provide equitable transportation to all, and reduce carbon emissions through the usage of 100% battery-powered vehicles.

Users can access a **Freebee** ride in three simple steps:  
**1:** Download the **Ride Freebee** mobile app on the App Store or Google Play. Users in need of accessibility accommodations

or who do not have a smartphone can call (855) 918-3733 to request a ride.

**2:** Request a pickup at your location and select a destination from an array of interesting places to explore on the Freebee app or enter the address of their desired location.

**3:** Enjoy the *free* ride!

**Freebee’s** on-demand service will be available in Ft. Pierce Thursday through Sunday beginning at 10 a.m. each day until 8 p.m. on Thursdays and Sundays, and 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

“We are dedicated to solving some of the most challenging problems for communities, which includes getting people to leave their personal vehicles at home and providing convenient options for people to get where they need to go,” states Jason Spiegel, managing partner of **Freebee**. “We are excited to partner with the *City of Fort Pierce* and share the city’s vision in providing innovative transportation solutions.”

About **Freebee**: **Freebee** operates a fleet of more than 125 electric vehicles in over thirty municipalities and campuses in the state of Florida as well as in Virginia Beach, Virginia. **Freebee’s** unique platform is transforming the way people experience their communities by inspiring local mobility and seamlessly connecting them with their destinations by way of fully electric vehicles. For more information contact: Jason Spiegel, **Freebee**, Managing Partner, (215) 370-5699. ❖



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## Fort Pierce Police Department Celebrates its 100-Year Anniversary

In last month’s *Focus*, Mayor Linda Hudson wrote an excellent article about the history of the *Fort Pierce Police Department* and the fact that on March 21, 2023, the FPPD celebrated its 100th anniversary. In the ensuing years, Fort Pierce has come a long way.

To celebrate the occasion, there will be a “Back the Blue” celebration at Causeway Cove Marina on April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

From the time that Chief Diane Hopley-Burney became our police chief in 2015, she has brought a spirit of community policing to our city. The *Department of Justice* defines community policing as “collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police; the alignment of organization management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem-solving efforts must be achieved.” To make this work, our citizens must forge relationships with those who serve them.

To this end, this event strives to be a true community event. All local organizations are encouraged to set up booths/tents to show visitors the services that you provide. This event is free to the public and will feature a variety of entertainment to celebrate this special anniversary. Starting around 9:30 a.m., there will be a parade over the bridge honoring our first responders. Joining the parade will be members from the *St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Department*, the *Port St. Lucie Police Department*, the *St. Lucie County Fire Department*, the *U.S. Coast Guard*, and others. Then at noon, there will be a K-9 demonstration followed by a clinic for youngsters sponsored by **Fort Pierce Sportfishing** at the docks. They will provide all the necessities for learning how to fish — rods, reels, bait, and instruction.

Along with the activities above, there will be music and complimentary burgers, hot dogs and water served by volunteers.

Please plan on joining us to learn more about our community and to meet our officers who work hard to keep our city safe and work under the motto “In Honor We Serve.” They deserve our respect for their hard work and dedication. Hope to see you there. ❖

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# New at The Galleria! LyLyJustLyLy Offering "Cute Little Things"

by Dale van der Lugt

An exciting bright wave of pink energy has come to **The Galleria at Downtown Fort Pierce** with newest addition, **LyLyJustLyLy**. Owner and Influencer, Lynette Irizarry, exudes a vivacious and positive perspective carrying items that are cute, inexpensive, and useful — a marketing catch phrase Lynette explains to every potential customer she meets.



Although not new to retail, Lynette explained this is her first brick-and-mortar location. Starting in 2021 with an Etsy shop that soon grew to an online website launch, Lynette started getting requests from friends and family to offer her items locally. She started first with a tent at a local market and soon thereafter with a mobile shop on wheels. The ongoing plan for **LyLyJustLyLy** is evolving, and locals can soon find her boutique trailer back out at the local **Farmer's Market** on weekends as she continues to expand her local presence. Lynette says her future "has no limits" and with that kind of enthusiasm, it probably doesn't.

Lynette grew up in New York and of an early age she and her sister loved to go to little mom & pop shops with their mother. While their mom was shopping for practical items for the girls Lynette was always drawn to the cute stuff planting a seed that continued to grow. In 2020 Lynette started making videos of items she loved on Amazon, posting them on Tik Tok and YouTube. Amazon eventually discovered "LyLy" had a huge following and brought her onboard officially, something that helped fund **LyLyJustLyLy** at **The Galleria**. Lynette says

"It's not just about sales. It's an entire vibe. A shopping experience." **LyLyJustLyLy** offers items for men, women, children, and even pets. She wants her young guests to especially know that if she can do it, anyone can do it, and she'll happily share the journey that got her to this place with anyone interested.

There's one goal for every customer and that is to "leave happier than when they came in." "And if my experience is anything to go by, objective met!" continues Lynette. All items in the

shop are under \$30 and there are so many things to choose from. I walked out with some cute new barrettes and makeup sponges.

**LyLyJustLyLy** can be found on most social media outlets @ **LyLyJustLyLy**. Join her April 22 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. for the *Grand Opening* celebration! For more information go to her social media platforms. ❖



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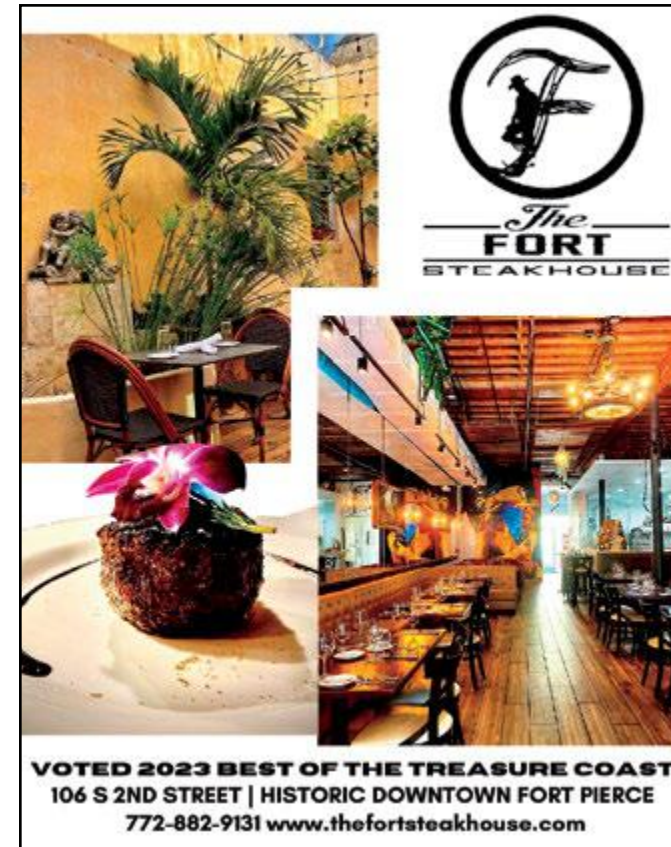
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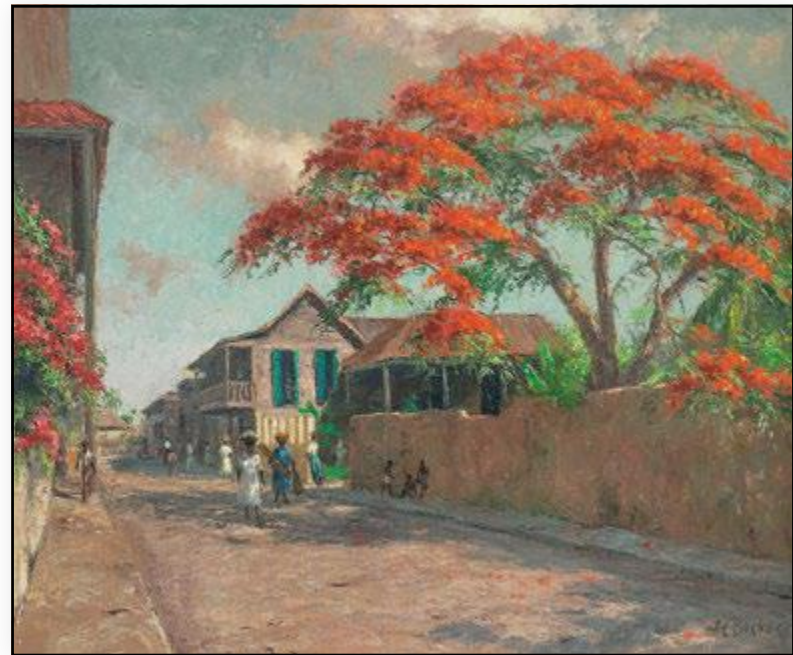
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# A New View: Rediscover the Backus Portfolio on Paper and Canvas in the Special Exhibition *Fine Print*, March 3–April 30

The next exhibition of the 2022–23 season at the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** provides a unique view of A.E. Backus’s work. *Fine Print: Rediscovering the Backus Portfolio on Paper and Canvas* focuses on a very prominent limited-edition print portfolio titled “Florida and the West Indies – Sketches by A.E. Backus.” What makes this exhibition so special is that the original

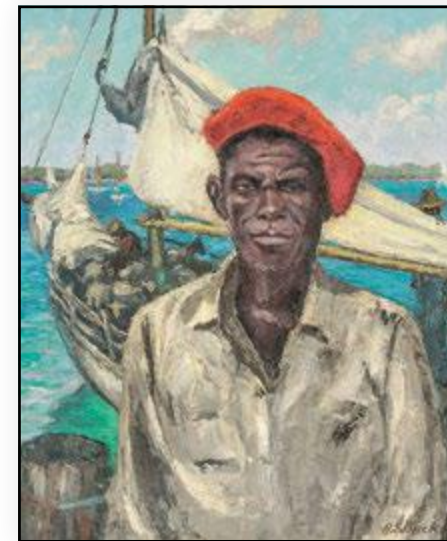
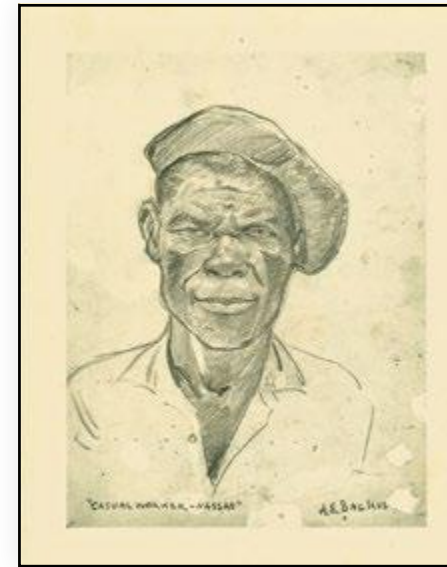


sketches have been paired with paintings from public and private collections that connect with the portfolio images. The exhibition will be on view from March 3 through April 30 at the **Backus Museum** located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

The story of the prized limited-edition print portfolio “Florida and the West Indies – Sketches by

A.E. Backus” is revisited in *Fine Print* for the 50th anniversary of its publication. These exceptional images were drawn from and inspired by the artist’s travels over nearly twenty years and gathered in 1972 as a high-quality portfolio. This assembly reveals Backus’ deep connection to the places and people he encountered. 16 of the original drawings are part of the Museum’s permanent collection, and are presented together for the first time since the limited-edition folio was published.

These singular drawings from the Backus Portfolio are displayed in conversation with colorful, rarely seen oil paintings that showcase the artist’s inspiration and creative process. The 40 works in the exhibition are grouped into the geographical subject categories of the original portfolio, with contextual information provided for each. Those categories include Florida; the Everglades; the Bahamas; Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic); and Jamaica. The collection of drawings and paintings breathe new life into the classic 18 prints known and cherished for generations.



“Fifty years ago, there were originally 999 portfolio sets that were offered for \$20 as an early fundraiser for the forerunner of today’s **Backus Museum**,” explains J. Marshall Adams, Executive Director. “Because the portfolio’s images were loose, people separated them over the years to frame individually or give as gifts. Today many people love the prints, routinely mistaking them for original sketches because of their high-quality production. But the memory of the original portfolio has dimmed a bit. It felt like it was time to bring them together once more and discover new and forgotten insights into the artist’s extraordinary and beloved work.”

The Members Opening Reception for *Fine Print: Rediscovering the Backus Portfolio on Paper and Canvas* is scheduled for Friday, March 17 from 6:00–8:00 p.m., free of charge to Museum Members, not-yet members \$20 (or join at the door and enjoy free access to all exhibitions and receptions for the year).

All dates and programming subject to change; please check the website for any updates or cancellations. We appreciate

your understanding, your patience, and your support as we navigate the continuing pandemic challenges this season. ❖

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## Love, JAZZ Community: For the Love of Music

by Don Bestor

We spend all year gigging, sharing our music and our knowledge of music with others, and raising funds to help provide support for the next generation of professional musicians. And every year, all that hard work comes down to April and May, the months when we get to audition young musicians and distribute substantial scholarships to them to help them achieve their dreams the way others have helped us achieve ours.

But it's not just us making it happen and handing out scholarships to help make dreams come true. Every time you come out and enjoy an evening of live, professional music, shop at the *Saturday Morning Jazz Market*, make a donation, or become a member of *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society*, you're helping a young musician keep dreaming, too. And though I know we say it all year long, I want to say it again right now. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

In case you're not familiar with how it works, here's a quick synopsis. Early every spring, our website [www.jazzsociety.org](http://www.jazzsociety.org) begins accepting applications from high school seniors who are planning a career in music or music education. Applicants fill out an application and agree to perform two approved selections with the pros at one of *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues*

*Society's* weekly *Tuesday Evening Jazz Jams*, live, in front of an audience, at the **Sunrise Black Box Theatre**. A lot of the scholarship applicants tell us that the opportunity to perform live with the pros was a valuable learning experience which helped make them better musicians instantly.

On Tuesday, May 23rd at the **Sunrise Black Box Theatre**, scholarships of \$1,000 per student are awarded to aspiring young musicians at a special evening of music, merriment, and a whole lot of very special moments with music lovers of all ages. The auditions are a great chance to hear up and coming talent you'll be seeing far more of in the future, and the scholarship award night is the perfect evening to come out and have your faith in the future renewed because it's a night of true community and what can happen when we all encourage one another. If you'd like to help support this annual endeavor, we'd love to have you join us. You can make donations in any amount safely and securely by clicking the Donate button on the left side of the page at [www.jazzsociety.org](http://www.jazzsociety.org) or in person at any one of our events. If you're not in a place where you can donate right now, that's okay, too. We'd still like to keep you posted on all of our performances, events, and activities, so feel free to sign up to receive e-mail reminders at [www.jazzsociety.org](http://www.jazzsociety.org), too. ❖

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## Well...

by Lisa Jill Allison, *Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery*



Well, it has been several months since I have last written for *The Focus* and it is with a bit of trepidation that I write this article. Frankly, I have missed you all and I have missed the privilege of being a moment in your life. Typically, I like to share fun, happy, upbeat and maybe even motivating snippets. The fun, happy upbeat and motivated elements of my life have diminished a bit lately and I am struggling to fan the flames. Six months ago my husband got hit by a car while we were biking.

A year ago we started pretty hard core biking for "people our age." It was a blast. Ever increasing distances and speed were accomplished. We were looking and feeling pretty darn good! Then, one Saturday morning a pickup ran a stop sign. A sickening thud was heard, followed by heart-wrenching moaning and ambulance sirens. Fortunately, and I do say fortunately, or by the grace of God, immediate surgery to repair a badly broken leg followed and this was the extent of the physical injuries. The course over the past six months has been, first bed, then a wheelchair, followed by crutches and now walking, although it be a bit like Herman Munster. Pain is a constant companion and much progress lies ahead.

In the midst of all this, I did decide to conquer my demons and ride again, despite the sound of the thud of my husband getting hit still visiting me in my dreams. This is the truly ironic part. I hit an obstacle in the road and went flying. In the time it took for me to hit the pavement, my mind rapidly calculated the scenario and I knew it was not good. I lay in the road for a while unable to get up and unable to reach my phone attached to my bike. The next little scenario shows the strength and multidimensional mind of a woman. In what seemed like a very long time, under the circumstances, a neighbor, who I had in the past, just said quick friendly hellos to, came by on her bike, assessed the situation and got me to the hospital in quick order, having the foresight to swing by her house on the way and grab a string cheese because she is hypoglycemic and did not want to faint on her watch.

I felt a bit like a lost child in the hospital alone, as my neighbor had to go home to care for responsibilities there and hubby had not yet ventured out solo. At the hospital I was treated with kindness. Warm blankets were brought to combat the shaking chills.

Well, long story short, a separated shoulder, broken collar bone and rib, with bruises to make a brawler proud, was the extent of the damage. Again, very fortunate.

So, to paint the picture, I come home from the hospital to hubby in a wheel chair, can't lift anything, arm in a sling, quite miserable and pretty much glued to the recliner. It felt bleak and a new layer of pain settled over our home. Yet there was brightness, some order amidst chaos. Gratefully, just before my mishap I had rearranged the house, removing furniture that was in the way of a wheel chair and lowering things in the kitchen so hubby could reach everything he might want. So, when duty called, he was able to navigate our home, keep us in clean clothes and rustle up some fantastic meals. Brad's clearance to drive coincided exactly with being able to come get me at the hospital (a wonderful sight) and my no-driving restriction of six weeks. Greater adversity was met with greater strength. Here's testimony to stepping up to the plate when needed! We saddled up together, with very few melt downs. We ate delicious healthy meals, good for the body and soul. We watched ridiculous comedies to entice our funny bone to find joy and spread it throughout our bodies. We sat in our front drive where the sun shines, ignoring how pathetic we looked, with our little Rosy dog contentedly curled up in her fluffy doggy bed at our feet and we took rides to the jetty to watch the fishermen. Our big outing was the grocery store, which was a major undertaking. One thing we do know for sure is that our new marriage has held up well during these unusual times.

Hubby is now six months in and I am four months in with the recent news that I will need intervention to repair complications, so there is still a project ahead of me. Why share all of this? Because we are all fragile and human. Being human can be very messy and very hard. It may sound trite, but a little bit of kindness goes a long way. Brad and I both look pretty good right now and passing by us you would not guess the daily pain, sometimes despair and concerns that are a present. Everyone is bruised in some ways and we all brush up against each other day to day. We have the opportunity to sooth each other or abrade each other and it is difficult to be conscious, especially since we all have our stuff going on. Patience, insight, love and humility are the finest of balms of which I know. Let's amply and abundantly pour this out into the world at the highest level we are able. As one accesses these traits they grow and sooth the giver and the receiver. Thank you for the visit. I'll see you again next month! ❖

# FPYC On the Water and Around Town

by Robynn Holland, Community Liaison, FPYC



**Chart Your Course**, a *Maritime and Marine Career Expo* for approximately 100 St. Lucie Public School students, was sponsored by the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation**. A collaborative effort by many individuals who generously shared their knowledge and skills in specific fields, exhibited enthusiasm, and provided a positive attitude, made this event a resounding success.



Diane Korbey, past commodore and past chair of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation**, provided the vision for and overall management of the event. Individuals from the St. Lucie Public School system, Mrs. Aliesha Seitz, Dr. LeiNitia Robinson and Mr. Keron Belgraves, helped organize the day's events. Thirty-five representatives in the Maritime and Marine Industry agreed to share their careers, and 45 volunteers from the **Fort Pierce**



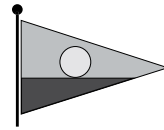
**Yacht Club** provided helping hands needed for the coordination of the event. Mayor Linda Hudson and City Manager, Nick Mimms, welcomed students as they arrived

at the venue, Michelle Kubicheck and Joyce Kobbe provided a gracious welcome to the **Riverwalk Center**, as did Commodore Forest Blanton for the **FPYC**. Guests included representatives from the St. Lucie Public School System, St. Lucie County, and U.S. Representative Brian Mast's office. Sponsors included **Chuck's Seafood Restaurant**, the **UPS Store** – St. James Drive – Port St. Lucie, **Al Beltran Realtor**, **Ft. Pierce City Marina**, **Marine Industries Association**, the **City of Fort Pierce**, **Neese Roofing and Construction**, and the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**. The day would not have possible without sponsors and every individual that helped.



Student evaluations were completed from all four schools that participated: St. Lucie West Centennial High School, Fort Pierce Central High School, Fort Pierce Forest Grove Middle School, and Fort Pierce Dan McCarty Middle School. In addition, vendors, volunteers, and guests were also asked to provide feedback through evaluation forms.

The results of the evaluations indicated that **Chart Your Course** met the goals of:



—Introducing students to the possibilities of careers and job in the maritime and marine industries;

—Providing students with specific information about jobs on or near the water;

—Providing a unique educational experience for the students.

The **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation** is most appreciative of everyone who made **Chart Your Course** not only a possibility but a success. We were honored that one of the participants, Ed Killer, wrote an article about **Chart Your Course** for the *St. Lucie News Tribune*. <https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/indian-river-lagoon/2023/03/10/teen-jobs-treasure-coast-marine-industry-introduces-careers/69948145007/>.

You can see more about **Chart Your Course** through the video, Steve Devlin, WLX-TV, Media Services, St. Lucie Public Schools shared with us: <https://youtu.be/71TNu4NODBI>.



*On The Water:* VC Fleet Victoria Westphal has been busy with various events including a weekend celebration of *Women on the Water*. On March 10th, the audience, both men and women, were delighted to hear Janet Zimmerman, Assistant Executive Director of the Florida Inland Navigation District talk about the importance and management of the Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway that runs from the Georgia border to the Florida Keys. <http://www.aicw.org/>.

Although the weather prevented the running of the annual *Betty Jo Memorial Woman-at-the-Helm Race* held in honor of the first woman commodore of the **FPYC**, the annual low country boil, the event culminating a weekend of celebrating women on the water, was still held. A favorite of members and guests,

the low country boil is organized by former **FPYC** commodore Criag Zezeck and his wife Jane. This year over 30 volunteers helped with the event and approximately 100 people attended. For more information about Fleet events e-mail: [vcfleetfpyc@gmail.com](mailto:vcfleetfpyc@gmail.com) and for more information about the **FPYC**: <https://www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com/>.



*Other Activities:* February and March were both busy months at the **FPYC** with grill nights, *Rock the Dock* open house, the *Commodores Ball*, *Low Country Boil*, St. Patrick's Day dinner and members' meeting. The **FPYC** was honored to have City Manager Nick Mimms and Shyanne Harnage, Economic Development Manager, speak at the March members' meeting about the *Fort Pierce Downtown Master Plan*. It was exciting to see what is being planned for beautiful downtown Fort Pierce.

And, there was definite excitement in the air when **FPYC** members Beverly Craft and her daughter Stephanie Salsich announced that Beverly's grandson and Stephanie's son, Neil Salsich appeared on the television show "The Voice" the night of March 6 and "turned all four chairs!" Neil is from St. Louis and has been coming to Ft. Pierce since he was 9. He feels Fort Pierce is his second home. His mom Stephanie and his sister, Lizzie, made an appearance at his blind audition. Catch "The Voice" on NBC at 8:00 on Monday and Tuesday nights. You can watch Neils' performance and Mom's reaction at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSaFgA4st90>. ❖



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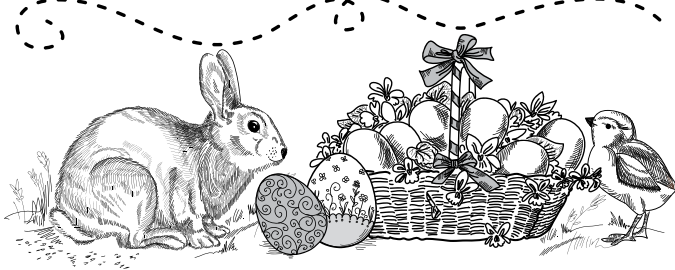
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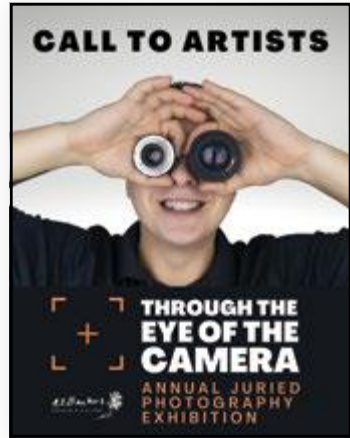


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## The Backus Museum Announces its Call to Artists for the Annual Juried Photography Competition “Through the Eye of the Camera”



**T**hrough the Eye of the Camera, the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery’s annual juried photography exhibition, returns to provide artist-photographers (amateur and professional) their opportunity to be a part of this continuing and sought-after competitive survey. Traditional and Digital Photography entries will

be accepted by advance appointment April 5 through May 5. There is a \$30 entry fee for artists entering 1–3 works; \$25 entry fee for artists entering 4 or more works. This year’s full prospectus with application, dates, guidelines, categories, awards, and entry procedures is available to download from the Museum’s website at [www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows](http://www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows) or pick up during regular hours at the Museum, 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

Photographers may enter their work in one of four categories: (1) Animal subjects; (2) Flora & Landscape subjects; (3) People/Portrait subjects; or (4) Open, for subjects that are not included in the three major categories. In addition to *Best of Show*, *Director’s Choice*, *People’s Choice*, and *1st–2nd–3rd and Award of Merit* in the category awards, there is a special “Best Black & White Photograph” and “Best Film / Traditional RAW Photograph” award. Details are available in the prospectus.

Artists are required to sign up online for an entry appointment in advance. Each 15-minute entry appointment will accommodate one artist entering up to three works of art; artists wishing to enter more than three works may sign up for additional entry appointments. Artists can access the online appointment schedule with all entry information at [www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows](http://www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows).

The juried exhibition *Through the Eye of the Camera* will be on view May 12 through the closing out of the regular season on June 23, 2023, with accepted artists and award winners announced online by Thursday evening, May 11. The opening



reception is planned for Friday, May 12 from 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Currently On View: *Fine Print: Rediscovering the Backus Portfolio on Paper and Canvas*. The story of the prized limited-edition print portfolio “Florida and the West Indies – Sketches by A.E. Backus” is revisited in this special exhibition on view March 3 through April 30. This exceptional set of images, drawn from the artist’s travels over nearly twenty years and gathered in 1972 as a high-quality portfolio, reveal his deep connection to the places and people he encountered. The portfolio is examined through original, singular drawings and a collection of colorful, A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery rarely seen oil paintings that showcase the artist’s inspiration and creative process, and breathe new life into the classic 18 prints known and cherished for generations. ❖

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## 26 Years of Community! Farmers Market – A Saturday Morning Tradition!

Every year the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market celebrates its birthday, ever grateful for the community support and enthusiasm our fabulous patrons show for our efforts. Twenty-six years of maintaining the charm of our hometown Market and small businesses and we’re just getting started. This year the Market honored the Sunrise Theater with its limited-edition Anniversary bag art by local artist Susie Cassens’ rendition of the Sunrise Theater. The Theater is celebrating its centennial in 2023. Susie was on hand and signed every bag as patrons were delighted to meet our celebrity artist.

Through the years, the Market has celebrated many milestones including the opening of the new Fort Pierce City Marina and beautiful Marina Square. We’ve watched downtown revitalize with the construction of Renaissance Center, the Galleria with its many shops and new restaurants, and now Kings Landing is set for development. Downtown Fort Pierce has become the place to gather in its many restaurants and galleries.

All the while, the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market continues to draw thousands of people every Saturday to our wonderful, quaint, and historic town. Downtown businesses benefit from all the traffic with shoppers browsing the store windows on their way to the waterfront to the Market. Though parking has been in high demand, patrons make their way to the Market on foot or by the free tram run by the City of Fort Pierce — and it seems to matter not



that one may have to walk a few blocks to this fabulous venue.

Hosting several annual events highlights the fact that the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market is the most desirable place to be. Each year *Empty Bowls* demonstrates the talents of local student artists with ceramic bowls filled with soups from local restaurants and chefs as a major fundraiser for *Treasure Coast Food*

*Bank*. The *Cracker Trail Ride* ends at the Market after a historic ride on horseback across the state.

Boaters make our City Marina a destination for weekends just to enjoy the Market. Visitors from all over the country and beyond make it a point to visit our little Market. Of course having the *Jazz Society Craft Market* next door makes a well-rounded morning of shopping every Saturday.

There’s something for everyone — from fresh-made onsite meals, breakfast, lunch or dinner, to pantry staples and fresh produce there’s no shortage of delicious and nutritious products. Plants, flowers, healthy offerings — it just doesn’t end. The Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market is the place to meet and greet, see and be seen. Old friends, new friends, always fun. Shopping, eating, sunshine, waterfront, music, dancing.

It’s no wonder the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market is the place to be — it’s a Saturday morning tradition! Every Saturday, rain or shine, from 8 until noon, come make it yours. Check out our website [fortpiercefarmersmarket.com](http://fortpiercefarmersmarket.com) for details and follow us on facebook and instagram. ❖



# A Salty Spring

by Captain Bo Samuel

Some say spring is in the air, but I say it's in the water! As the winds calm down and the weather gets nicer, opportunities to catch great fish only get better. Inshore and offshore anglers are finding success with sails, mahi, cobia, snapper, snook, and sheepshead.

Snapper and sheepshead fishing continue to provide steady action on the nearshore reefs with some good-sized ones being reported. Target sheepshead with live shrimp early in the morning as the sun comes up. I like to use light tackle with 30-pound fluorocarbon leader and a quarter ounce jig. For many anglers, snook fishing continues to be a main focus, especially on the incoming and outgoing tides in the inlet and around the jetties. Pilchards, threadfins, and croakers are primary bait choices for landing one of these prized linesiders. Keep the drag set tight as these fighters are good at breaking off around pilings, docks, and other structures.

Offshore, the bite is heating up for kingfish, mahi, and some cobia. I find trolling ballyhoo with skirts is the best chance for hooking a high-flying and fighting mahi. Chumming with



some cut bait near the school of mahi will also increase your chances for bringing home one of the tastiest fish in the sea.

Two photos this month of Mike Stump's great crew, Owen and Parker, both with awesome snook. Owen's was caught on a brand new ZF Custom Rod by my good friend Zach Foltz. Now that's the way to break in a new rod!

I'm based out of **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** where you can find fishing rules and regulations, plenty of tackle, good food, and live music. If you're ready to celebrate the arrival of spring, then consider hopping on a charter with me for a salty time *Pullin Drag!* ❖



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# Fort Pierce Martial Arts Students Win Competitions

The *City of Fort Pierce Martial Arts Program* has been doing great things lately! Recently, the City's martial arts students, under the leadership of Sensei Michael House, participated in two tournaments in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The first tournament took place on November 10, 2022, and March 4, 2023. The group did an amazing job as several of our participants placed 1st in their age groups and a few tested out for the next degree-level belt. The *City of Fort Pierce* would like to recognize these amazing kids and congratulate them for a job well done! It is truly wonderful that the City's youth participated, represented, and thrived among their peers and other local organizations at these tournaments.

Currently, the *City of Fort Pierce Martial Arts Program* has thirty registered participants, ten of those who have been

a part of the program since it started in August 2019. It is a self-paced skill-based program for youth ages 4 to 18 years old, with evening classes on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. It currently runs year-round, and signup is available at the *Fort Pierce Recreation Center* located at 901 S. 21st Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34950.

Again, congratulations *City of Fort Pierce Martial Artists* and Sensei Michael House for all of your hard work, dedication, and recent accomplishments! Your efforts are truly appreciated.

For more information on the *City of Fort Pierce Martial Arts Program* or other youth programs, please visit the City's website a [www.cityoffortpierce.com](http://www.cityoffortpierce.com) or call the Fort Pierce Recreation Department at 772.882.9402. ❖

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