



Volume 17, No. 5 December, 2021

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

POINSETTIAS AND PALM TREES

33RD ANNUAL SIGHTS & SOUNDS FESTIVAL,
PARADE & TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021



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



Coffee WITH THE MAYOR

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

Friday, December 17, at 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club
700 N. Indian River Drive

Sponsored by

Fort Pierce Yacht Club



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.




FRIDAY FEST
food • fun • friends

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 December 3rd with Live Music



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Downtown Fort Pierce

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Give the Gift of Downtown for the Holidays

by Britt Reynolds



The holiday season is here! *Main Street Fort Pierce* is excited to once again partner with the **City of Fort Pierce** and the **Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis Club** to bring back the annual *Sights & Sounds on Second Festival and Parade*. This event has been a local tradition since 1988. It is always held on the first Sunday in December and one you do not want to miss.

The festival features music from the *Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society* and presentations from local troupes. It is a great day to shop for the holidays with local merchants and arts & crafts vendors. A highlight of the afternoon for children and families is when Santa arrives by fire truck and settles at his booth for holiday photos.

Then the anticipation gathers for the parade which begins at 4:00 p.m. Local businesses, organizations, youth groups,


and more unite to put on a wonderful parade, organized by the **Sunrise Kiwanis Club**. Come early and get your spot!

Immediately following the parade, Mayor Linda Hudson will announce the annual community tree lighting ceremony which is followed by the kickoff of the *Holiday Lights Spectacular*. This synchronized light show is in **Marina Square** and will continue nightly from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. until January.

Mark your calendars to join us for this wonderful event and check out the *Sip & Shop* retail shopping event that happens every Thursday evening between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Every receipt from a participating merchant is entered in a drawing to win a *Holiday Basket of Cheer*.

Remember all the amazing gifts that the small business owners in downtown Fort Pierce have to offer when you are shopping this holiday season. By supporting our local merchants, we support our community in addition to giving unique, personalized items to those we love.

One last thing — The City of Fort Pierce has partnered with *Main Street Fort Pierce* to bring fireworks on New Years Eve. Make your dinner reservations and plan on being downtown at 9:00 p.m. when the show begins. ❖

Volume 17, No. 5 December 2021

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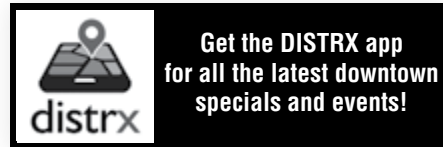
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Phone: 772.466.3880 • mainstreetfortpiece.org

Calendar

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



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

MONTHLY EVENTS

December 2, 9, 16, 23, Thursdays: *DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE SIP & SHOP* — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Each receipts from participating merchants = 1 entry to win *Downtown Basket of Cheer*.

December 3, Friday: *FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE* — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music; FPUA displays; 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.;** Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

December 5, Sunday: *33RD ANNUAL SIGHTS & SOUNDS ON SECOND FESTIVAL & PARADE with Annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony & start of Holiday Lights Spectacular show on Melody Lane* — Festival 1 to 4 p.m.; Santa arrives 1:30 p.m.; parade starts 4:00 p.m.; 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

December 9, Thursday: *COLLEEN NASH BECHT ART SHOW* — 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Main Street Fort Pierce office @ the **Platts/Backus House**; 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

December 17, 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*; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

December 24, Friday: *DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE* — 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.; Riverfront behind Backus Museum; Candlelight service hosted by **First Church Fort Pierce**.

December 31, Friday: *DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE NEW YEARS EVE FIREWORK SHOW* — 9:00 p.m.; Sponsored by the City of Fort Pierce & organized by Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.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.

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

LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN

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

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

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

462-2787 • www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/
Page to Screen Book & Film Discussion Group for adults; e-mail johnsonjen@stlucieco.org for more information.

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

Current service times may be effective by Covid-19 please call or lookup online for current information.

Common Ground Vineyard Church; 460-5414, commongroundvineyard.com.

First Church; 464-0440, firstchurchfp.org.

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

Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church; 466-9617, notredamecc.com.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (*founded 1893*); 461-5009 mystandrews.org.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Opening days/hours may be altered due to Covid-19 restrictions. Please call or check online for current 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

Downtown Fort Pierce Library
772-462-2787 • st-lucie.lib.fl.us

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

Fort Pierce Police Athletic League
772-370-6162 • fortpiercepil.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 • ManateeEducationCenter.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

DECEMBER 4: NATIONAL COOKIE DAY
DECEMBER 7: NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR DAY
OF REMEMBRANCE
DECEMBER 12: GINGERBREAD HOUSE DAY
DECEMBER 13: U.S. NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY
DECEMBER 17: NATIONAL UGLY SWEATER DAY
DECEMBER 18: NAT'L WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY
DECEMBER 23: NATIONAL PFEFFERNUSSE DAY
DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 26: KWANZAA
DECEMBER 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE



Merry Grinch-mas!



Hee's baaack and making more mischief than before. You can find the Grinch misbehaving in downtown Fort Pierce this Christmas season, sponsored by **The Cake Lady Custom Cakes**.

He will be wandering the streets of downtown, causing chaos at the *Holiday Light Spectacular*, and setting up camp in front of the bakery for a fun photo opportunity for kids of all ages. Come join us for a mischievous good time on: December 2 and 3, 7–8:30 p.m.; December 9 and 10, 7–8:30 p.m.; December 16 and 17 7–8:30 p.m.; December 23, 7–8:30 p.m.; and Causeway Cove, December 11, time to be determined (Toy Drive). ❖



7th Annual LeGit's Downtown Toy Drive Wraps up on December 11th During Enchanted Christmas Event

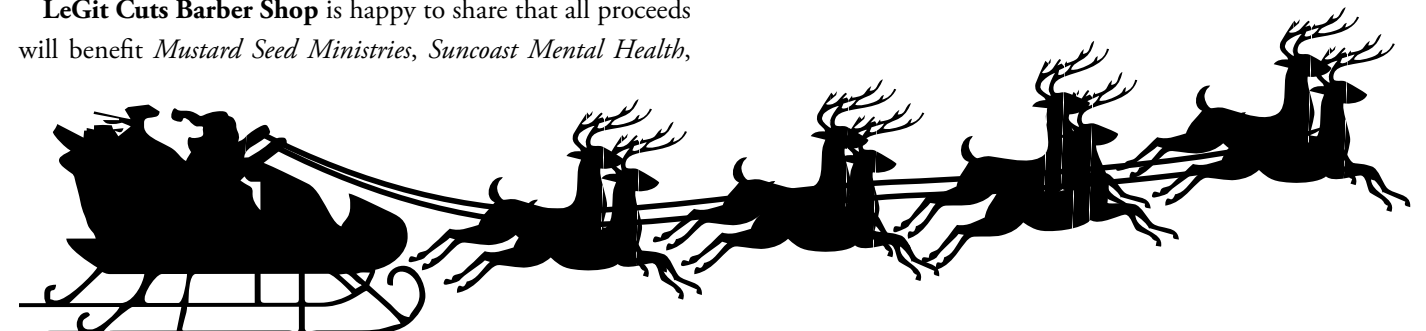
LeGit's Barber Shop needs help from friends like you to provide Christmas toys to children living in poverty this holiday season. They host a toy drive and block party each year. Due to COVID, we have individual family wish lists to share. Let us know if you can help!

In 2021, *LeGit's Downtown Toy Drive* will be happening from November 8th until December 11th. During that time, please drop off toys, gift cards, wish list items, and more at the Barber Shop. On the evening of December 11 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the *LeGit's Downtown Toy Drive* will be beneficiaries of the *Causeway Cove Marina Event, Enchanted Christmas* — which includes *snow*, pictures with Santa, the *Boat Parade* finale, food trucks and sponsors, and more!

LeGit Cuts Barber Shop is happy to share that all proceeds will benefit *Mustard Seed Ministries, Suncoast Mental Health,*

and *New Horizons*. These organizations have a huge impact on our community. They work with area families and kids living in poverty and unstable homes. Through this annual event, many organizations and individuals come together as a team to help these families enjoy a wonderful Christmas. The objective is to raise enough toys to bring back hope to these children's lives. Everyone involved in this epic event is a firm believer in strengthening our youth to develop a better future.

This event, created and organized by Jose Ruiz of **LeGit Cuts Barber Shop**, has collected and distributed thousands of toys to Treasure Coast families in need of assistance during the holiday season over the past 6 years. For more information visit the Legit's Downtown Toy Drive Facebook page. ❖



Mayor's Message **Fort Pierce Gift to Citizens: Open Government Portal**

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Fort Pierce has become one of the most transparent governments on the Treasure Coast, thanks to changes in our City of Fort Pierce website.

Our commission meetings, as well as many boards or committee meetings, have been televised for many years, and are available on Channel 27, live streaming, or after the meeting on the website. Click on "Meetings and Agendas" on the front page of our website. Search agendas, meetings and minutes also, back to January 2014.

On our new Open Government page, you can request records by clicking the Public Records Requests bar. You can choose to make an anonymous request, because Florida law requires governments to have that option. All requests are given a number, so you can track the progress of your request. Several other bars under this category include Lien, Building, Status, and Police (which must be submitted to the Fort Pierce Police Department). There's a bar for Reports, which gives you a history of requests and the time it took to fulfill the request. What a treat that is to see the very timely and prompt responses we have given to our public.

Other bars under Open Government provide information for a variety of requesters. You can see Frequently Requested Records, Building Permits, Bid Postings, and Business Tax Receipts. You can also access SeeClickFix (a way to report a non-emergency problem), our Code of Ordinances and Comprehensive Plan, and financial records. You can look for zoning and property information and find Meetings and Agendas.

While you can still request information the old-fashioned way, via phone, access Open Government here: <https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/989/Open-Government>. This is our gift to our citizens: Our Open Government portal with a wealth of information at your fingertips. Enjoy. ❖

Open Government

The City's Open Data Portal is intended for a variety of uses. First and foremost, this collection of resources is directed at providing more straightforward ways to communicate information to our customers, residents, and civic partners within the community.

PUBLIC RECORD REQUESTS	POLICE RECORDS
FREQUENTLY REQUESTED PUBLIC RECORDS	ZONING/PROPERTY SEARCH
BUILDING PERMIT SEARCH	FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY PORTAL
BID POSTINGS	BUSINESS TAX RECEIPT SEARCH
REPORT AN ISSUE	MEETINGS AND AGENDAS
CODE OF ORDINANCES AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	

Rain or Shine — Our Focus is Quality.

- On-Site or Off-Site Prescriptions Welcome
- Eye Examinations by Optometric Physicians:
Shannon Leitenbauer, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Jessica Lund, O.D.
- Contact Lens Services
& Surgical Consultations Available

CR LAIT OPTICAL
FAMILY EYE CARE

772-465-6616
2305 Oleander Blvd. Fort Pierce, 34982
(Corner of Virginia and Oleander)
www.CRLaitoptical.com

You're Invited! Community Design-and-Build Comes to the Kid's Park at Jaycee Park

Just across the waterway, Jaycee Park of Fort Pierce sits on the west-side shore of South Hutchinson Island, facing Downtown Fort Pierce. It is a prominent playground for downtown schools and education facilities like the Manatee Center who bring their students and campers to the site for outdoor field trips. The park is a staple not only for island residents but downtown residents and visitors looking to enjoy our incredible Treasure Coast weather in the great outdoors. In fact, did you know that you can reach Jaycee Park from Marina Square in downtown



Fort Pierce without ever having to cross a major road? It's also one of Fort Pierce's waterway public access points; you can reach it by water from downtown. The Kid's Park at Jaycee Park is over 15 years old, and due to its proximity to the Indian

River and Atlantic Ocean, corrosion and sun damage has rendered parts of the playground unusable. A committee of community leaders and volunteers has taken up the task of bringing a community-designed-and-built fully-accessible playground within minutes of our downtown. With a visitorship of over 200,000 people each year, and only one other fully-accessible playground in St. Lucie County, the new kid's park will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make your mark for generations to come. Learn more about opportunities to donate, provide design input, or volunteer at www.KidsParkAtJayceePark.com.

The committee and this project are backed by the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis Club with preliminary support from the City of Fort Pierce, who supervises and maintains the park. ❖

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- Surrogates
- POA
- Quit Claim Deeds
- Immigration
- Bankruptcy
- and more

33rd Annual Sights & Sounds Festival, Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony

“Poinsettias and Palm Trees”

Sunday, December 5, 2021

❄️ Sights & Sounds on 2nd Festival ❄️

Stage 1 – Orange Ave. & 2nd Street

- 1:00 p.m. – *Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society* performs
- 1:30 p.m. – Santa arrives in fire truck
- 1:45 p.m. – *True Crew Dance* group performs
- 2:30 p.m. – *Dance 4 Life Academy* group performs
- 3:15 p.m. – *Borras Dance Company* performs

Stage 2 – North 2nd Street near **2nd Street Bistro**

1:45–3:00 p.m. – *Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society* performs
 Santa will be at the *Sights and Sounds Festival* to take requests and photos with children. Other children’s activities include: free children’s activity booths from area nonprofits, a “Build a downtown” Lego brick area, face painting, and entertainment from local dance groups & musicians.

❄️ Sights & Sounds on 2nd Parade ❄️

Organized & sponsored by the Sunrise Kiwanis

Grand Marshal – **Fort Pierce Utility Authority**

The *Sights & Sounds Parade* starts at Tickle Tummy Hill on Second Street at 4:00 p.m. It will travel south to Orange Avenue; turn east on Orange, and north on Indian River Drive concluding at the **River Walk Center**.



❄️ Sights & Sounds on 2nd Tree Lighting Ceremony ❄️

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

After the tree lighting, stay around for the “The Holiday Lights Spectacular” in Marina Square on Melody Lane. “The Holiday Lights Spectacular” is presented by the City of Fort Pierce. The light show consists of over 100,000 lights synchronized to holiday music and is a must see for both locals and out of town guests. The lights and music will run from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. daily until January, 2022.



For 33 years, *Sights & Sounds on 2nd* has brought residents and visitors together to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season in Fort Pierce.



For more information call *Main Street Fort Pierce* at 772-466-3880 or www.mainstreetfortpiece.org

Free parking: City Parking Garage at Orange Avenue and Depot Drive; County Parking Garage at 2nd Street and Boston Avenue; parking lot on South Indian River Drive between Orange Avenue and Avenue A; parking lot on North Indian River Drive between AE Backus Avenue and Avenue D. ❖

Candlelight Christmas Eve at the Riverfront
 on the lawn behind the Backus Museum at 5:15 p.m.



FIRST CHURCH FORT PIERCE
 Loving God and Loving People

www.firstchurchfp.org

Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m.
 Parking at 515 Avenue A

Original Artwork!!

2nd Annual Magnificent Mini Masterpiece Show and Auction

FORT PIERCE ART CLUB

MAGNIFICENT MINIATURE MASTERPIECES Show and Auction to benefit scholarship fund

Preview * Thursday *
 December 16, 2021
 From 11:00 am until 4:00pm

Silent Auction * Friday *
 December 17, 2021
 Auction from 8:00pm until 7:00 pm
 Show is 8:00pm until 8:00pm

Award Presentation will be at 6:30 PM

Location: SLC Cultural Alliance
 111 Orange Avenue, Fort Pierce

For information call:
 Kristen Schirard 772-201-2745
 Rodger Stone 518-378-6546

“200 Canvases created by artists in our area! All original artwork!! Just in time for seasonal shopping!”

Give the Perfect Gift this Holiday Season by Shopping Local in Downtown Fort Pierce

Need gift ideas? Look no further than your friendly downtown merchants. Unique art pieces, dining gift cards, home furnishings, clothing, personal services, entertainment, and more personalized gifts can be found within a few block radius in downtown Fort Pierce.

To help you get started, here is a list of downtown merchants:

ARTS/ ENTERTAINMENT

Sunrise Theater

117 S 2nd St.
(772) 461-4884

Last Dragon Tattoo

212 N 2nd St.
(772) 801-5914

2nd Street Art

131-B N 2nd St.
(772) 519-3760

Sailfish Brewing Company

130 N 2nd St.
(772) 577-4382

Bottoms Up Public House

Live Music, Beer, Wine & Spirits
208 Avenue A
(772) 828-6105

Whirled Ink Gallery

129 S 2nd St.
(772) 696-2105

Pierced Ciderworks

Hand Crafted Hard Cider with an Edge
411 N 2nd St.
(772) 302-3863

Art Collector's Gallery

100 S 2nd St. #204
(772) 801-5729

Rizzo's Tobacco Emporium

Retail Fine Cigars and Tobacco with outdoor bar and courtyard
223 Orange Avenue
(772) 461-0655

Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery

111 Orange Avenue, 2nd Floor
(772) 361-9488

Hard Axe Lounge

Axe throwing venue
200 N 2nd St.
(772) 448-8118

BEAUTY/BARBER

Blush Bar Studio

100 S 2nd St., #205

IGLAM Lash

100 S 2nd St., #206

Legit Cuts Barber Shop

Full Service
206 N 2nd St.
(772) 409-3650

Sunrise Beauty Bar

209 Orange Avenue
(772) 708-6563

Meraki Hair Artistry

210 N 2nd St.
(772) 607-2665

Tee's Beauty Trap

101 N US Hwy. 1, #113

Paws Required

Pet Grooming, Doggie Day Care & Boarding Services
210-A N 2nd St.
(772) 353-1457

Derma Tech Day Spa

Skin/Nail Specialist
210 Orange Avenue
(772) 467-0607

Salon Bangz

100 Avenue A
(772) 489-0910

Ya Yoni Spa

100 S 2nd St.
(772) 237-0153

2nd St. Barber Shop

100 S 2nd St., #201
(772) 242-1841

The Pink Door

133 N 2nd St.
(772) 468-3005

Gina Campala LMT

101 N US Hwy. 1, #117
(772) 618-0429

Skinplicity

101 N US Hwy. 1, #115
(772) 465-3223

SHOPPING

Rosslow's

Women's Clothing Store
105 S 2nd St.
(772) 461-1222

Taylor Creek Optical

104 N 2nd St.
(772) 468-0008

Notions & Potions

Your Local Artisan Boutique
116 N 2nd St.
(772) 240-5645

Chaney's House o' Flowers

Florist
139 N 2nd St.

(772) 461-4100

Chic & Shore Things

205 N 2nd St.
(772) 342-7505

Varsity Sports Shop

211 Orange Avenue
(772) 465-1396

Affordable Flooring

Carpet, Tile, Wood
214 Orange Avenue
(772) 409-4117

Sweet's Jewelers

Fine Jewelry since 1926
209 Avenue A
(772) 461-4686

The Vanishing Mermaid

Gift Shop located at the Manatee Center
480 N Indian River Dr.
(772) 429-6267

Scented Dragon

127 N 2nd St.
(772) 302-3814

Florida Hemp Collective

203 N 2nd St.
(772) 448-8453

Joanne's Nutrition World

101 N US Hwy. 1, #118
(772) 464-3598

Randans Crafts

101 N US Hwy. 1, #111

The Clock Shop

101 N US Hwy. 1, #123
(772) 465-2768



Jarvis Treasure Boutique

101 N US Hwy. 1, Suite 110
(772) 672-4579

African Art Antiques & Gifts

101 N Hwy. 1, #125

Carol's Place

101 N US Hwy. 1, #119

Madison Estate Gallery

Affordable Furnishings & Décor
200 N U.S. Hwy. 1
(772) 834-0613

Fort Pierce City Marina

Gift Shop
1 Avenue A
(772) 467-4103

Galleria of Pierce Harbor

100 S 2nd St.

The Pop Up

Purses, Bags, & Accessories
(772) 801-5729

Honey & Company

At the Fort Southern Boutique
100 S 2nd St., #119
(706) 266-8449

Loop De Loop

Clothing Boutique
217 Avenue A
(772) 631-3038



Jo Jo & Co

Clothing Boutique
223 Avenue A
(772) 448-8522

DINING/CAFÉ

Crabby's Dockside

1 Avenue A
(772) 252-5672

Importico's

Bakery Café
134 S Indian River Dr.
(772) 429-3435

Casa Azteca

101 N 2nd St.
(772) 302-3866

Thirsty Turtle Seagrill

108 2nd St.
(772) 465-4696

Subway

116 N 2nd St.
(772) 577-4070

2nd Street Bistro

122 N 2nd St.
(772) 293-9191

Taco Dive

208 N 2nd St.
(772) 242-8635



The Cake Lady

Cupcakes, Wedding Cakes, Custom Cakes
205 Orange Avenue
(772) 242-8128

Wasabi Thai Sushi

217 Orange Avenue
(772) 242-1310

Fort Pierce Traders Market

Local, Organic, & Healthy
111 Orange Avenue
(772) 241-5112

Pickled Southern Cuisine

201 N 2nd St.
(772) 448-4239

Old Florida Coffee Col.

Coffee Shop
100 Avenue A, Suite C
(772) 618-1771

Beach Bowls

Juice bar and smoothies
217 Avenue A
(772) 448-4097

Pot Belli Deli

Sandwich & Sub
101 N US Hwy. 1, #116
(772) 465-4888



Sunrise City Café

204 Orange Avenue
(772) 242-1833

Lorenzo's

Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
222 Orange Avenue
(772) 460-5445

Thai Pepper Restaurant

Authentic Asian Cuisine
224 Orange Avenue
(772) 577-6989

Crazy Fish

Thai & Sushi
211 Avenue A
(772) 595-3566

Cobb's Landing

200 N Indian River Dr.
(772) 460-9014

The Fort Steak House

Fine Dining Steak House
100 S 2nd St.
(772) 882-9786

Havana George

Authentic Cuban cuisine
(772) 607-8180

Sushi Go

100 S 2nd St.
(772) 301-4500

Jewelry and Watch Repair

Sweet's Jewelers *Since 1926*

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Phone (772) 461-4686
209 Avenue A ~ Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

THE CLOCK SHOP
of Fort Pierce

Now Located in
the Arcade Building

101 N. US 1, Suite #123
Historic Downtown Fort Pierce
772-465-2768

Antique
Restoration
and Clock Repair

What is So Important About Traditions?

by Meredith Bennett, Retailer and Marketer for the Manatee Center's Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop



The holiday season is full of traditions. I think dressing up the kids for trick-or-treating kicks off my family's holiday season. Some traditions are religious, some

cultural and some are just plain silly fun. Do you have an elf on a shelf at your house? There may be certain dishes we prepare; my son and I enjoy lox and bagels on Thanksgiving morning, something easy before we get busy with the rest of the day's menu. You might get involved with a certain festivity each year. Have you ever ridden on a Christmas float in the *Main Street* parade? Of course, many families attend a midnight mass or candle lighting ceremony. But why do we keep traditions?

I'm not an anthropologist or phycologist but I think I know why a lot of people follow traditions. They help us connect; they make us feel like we belong, that we are part of something bigger. Another important aspect of upholding traditions is they create happy memories. I just asked my grown son what traditions he remembered from his



Varvara Nikitina as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Pavel Gerdt as the Cavalier, in a later performance in the original run of *The Nutcracker*, 1892.

childhood and his whole face lit up as he shared his favorites.

Some traditions may evolve, your sister may add different ingredients to grandma's fruitcake, or your family decides to attend *Nutcracker on the Indian River* instead of the traditional version. Sometimes different circumstances can cause a change. When one of my sisters married a man with an Italian heritage, lasagna became a new favorite to serve at Christmas. The important thing is spending time with your family and friends.

For years my son and I would help adults with disabilities create their own Christmas decorations. Creating happiness is always a good tradition. A tradition that we added a few years ago is picking up litter as we walk along the beach on New Year's Day.

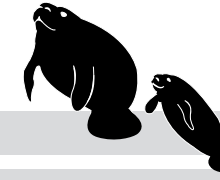
I don't know if you would call it a tradition or a custom, but I always look forward to helping others find just the right gifts for their family and friends. Of course, I have a favorite store to shop in. One that puts an emphasis on conservation and helps a good cause! Have you ever visited the **Vanishing Mermaid**? Were you aware that the gift shop profits support the **Manatee Center** and its education programs?

If your family has long-held traditions passed down through the generations or you just made one up, I urge you to keep your traditions alive; spend time doing something with your family without the cell phones. Looking for a new tradition? Bring them to the **Manatee Center** — they will thank you! ❖

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The Manatee Center December Events

MOEC is open Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
and Sunday 12 p.m.–4 p.m.

Saturdays, December 4th, 11th, and 18th at 9 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 intermediate kayakers who want to learn more about the Indian River Lagoon. The fee for this program is \$30 per person and includes kayak, paddle & safety gear. *Registration is required.* Call 772-429-6266 option #3 or e-mail Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org for more information or to register.

Tuesday, December 7th at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Homeschool Workshop: Adaptation Investigation

For just \$4 per child, you can bring your homeschooler for some hands-on education programming led by MOEC's Education Coordinator, Candy Wickham. Registration is required; these programs fill up. Call 772-429-6266 option #3 or e-mail Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org for more information or to register.

Wednesday, December 8th at 11 a.m.
ManaTales Storytime and Crafts

Free with admission and led by the Manatee Center Educator.

Friday, December 10th at 12 p.m.
Christmas Bird Count – 121 Years and Counting

Lunch & Learn — led by Dr. Kate Wells of the Space Coast Audubon Society. What better way to kick off the holidays than by learning all about this citizen science holiday tradition! Bring your lunch and bring a friend; in the Manatee Center's outdoor classroom. *Free Event.*

One Restaurant Two Vibes – The Fort Restaurant Group

by Dale van der Lugt

There's a buzz going on around downtown about a certain restaurant reopening for season and we can now confirm it's true! **The Fort Steakhouse** is now accepting reservations for their December 9th opening. **The Fort Steakhouse** is a modern steakhouse with a big city feel and seductive atmosphere. It's the place where taste makers and influencers, family and friends, come together to celebrate and share their trademark combination of classic cocktails, a cordial and hospitable wait-staff that never forgets a name, and the best prime beef from only the finest ranches.

And that's not all. There's no longer the need to choose between a fine dining experience that's top caliber or an up-tempo social hub for those in-the-know. Allow **The Fort Steakhouse** to redefine your dining experience! Now introducing **The Fort Social**. Casual meets sophisticated, a contemporary meet-greet where everyone is treated like a VIP. Trendy, vibrant, and smart, a place with an electric atmosphere and buzz with a great drink selection and small plates à la carte with full table service.

Voted *Best Restaurant on the Treasure Coast 2021*, **The Fort Steakhouse** is back and ready to sizzle.

What's your mood? ❖

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Colleen Nash Becht Art Show – December 9th



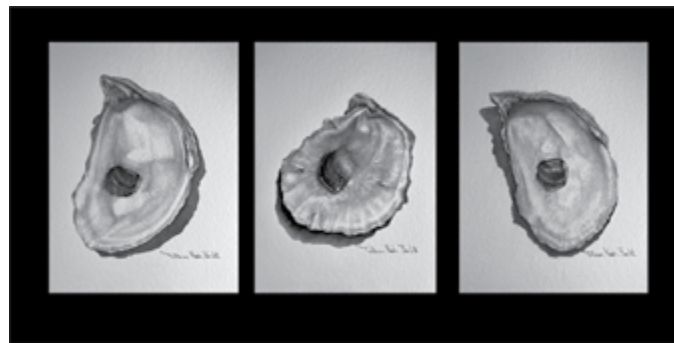
Join us on Thursday, December 9, 2021 for a special art show featuring the works of Colleen Nash Becht. This holiday shopping event will feature original artwork and a raffle drawing for a Colleen Nash Becht original framed watercolor.

Raffle Tickets for an original work of art are on sale today! Renowned water colorist Colleen Nash Becht has graciously donated the framed watercolor, *Oyster Trio*, to *Main Street Fort Pierce*. Tickets are \$12 each with only 1,000 being sold. The drawing will be held at 7:00 p.m. during the art show.

Original framed watercolor paintings along with limited edition giclee prints will be available while they last. Colleen has a variety of unusual ceramic, porcelain and glass gifts for the holiday shopper.

Join us for an evening of holiday shopping with fabulous food, merriment, and holiday cheer. The show will be held on Thursday, December 9th from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. at *Main Street Fort Pierce*, 122 A.E Backus Avenue in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

Raffle tickets will be on sale until the drawing takes place. Tickets are \$12 each or three for \$30. Tickets may be purchased by calling *Main Street Fort Pierce* at (772) 466-3880. ❖



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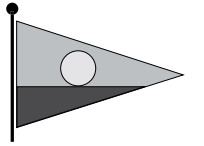
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VERO BEACH - FORT PIERCE

Fort Pierce Yacht Club – 'Tis the Season!



by Diane Korbey, [Almost Past] Commodore



Our community snowbirds are back, and everyone is hustling around making plans for the first season we all feel comfortable being merry together!

Fort Pierce Yacht Club kicked off the season with an interclub offshore sailing regatta held November 13–14th under light winds, clear skies, and comfortable temperatures. We ran 3 races in 2 days — the first time in a long time we have had weather in which that were possible, and we view it as an omen of good things to come! *Melbourne Yacht Club* boats and a Fort Pierce community sailor joined us for what a Melbourne competitor called a “10+ super weekend” and signed up for Spring Regatta! Oh — by the way — they took home the 1st place trophy. These two regattas annually, and two women’s races, are a great way to show off our City to those of Melbourne, Canaveral, and St. Lucie! On Saturday the entire club joined the festivities with a *Homecoming Luau*

attended by 85 members and guests. The attendance alone heralded “we are back in FPYC spirit.” And so happy to be so. Take a look at our Facebook page to “join the party.”

December 11th is the **St. Lucie Christmas Boat Parade!** Be-decked and be-lighted boats will start at 6:30 p.m. in the turning basin for the parade. The route map is included in this article; restaurants along the route are planning viewing parties. December 10th is the captain’s meeting at **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** at 5:30 PM. Register your boat at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eip5hqmjefcf6428&llr=8boqakuab>. Come on out and help us make this parade a spectacular event! We need boats; we need sponsors; we need prizes; we need you! And then join us at **Causeway Cove Marina** for the awards ceremony; **Legit’s** and **Main Street Downtown Toy Drive** will be going on there as well, along with a *Winter Wonderland* of events. Perfect way to launch your holiday season!

We are proud to announce that we are the sponsors of the December 17th *Main Street Coffee with the Mayor*. We look forward to greeting you that day and wishing you the merriest holiday season and the happiest of New Years.



In 2022 you will see a new author of these articles and a new figurehead of the Club — I am completing my elongated term; the pleasure has been all mine to engage with you monthly. I wish you all the best and thank you for reading my contributions over the last five years. ❖

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ATTACH PROPERLY: Make sure outdoor lights are securely attached to trees, walls or other structures to protect from damage.

TURN OFF: Before you go to bed or leave the house, always turn off the lights on trees and other decorations.

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Vendor Profile: Gary Abel

by Henry Szmyt

The **Jazz, Crafts and Arts Market** is thriving again. After a tenuous Covid start, the crowds are back and tents are up. It cannot be overstated how important the market is to the vendors and the artists. This is their downtown storefront without the glass and the rent. If you are walking through and are drawn to the sound of native celebration you are getting close to Gary Abel's tent and his impressive display of **Native American Style Flutes**.

Gary is one of the veterans; in November he will be celebrating eight years exhibiting in the Market. The more I spoke with Gary, the more intrigued I became about that instrument, its unique properties, and about the performers who play it, and artisans, like Gary, who produce it. Not only is it one of the oldest instruments made by man (more than 40,000 years in the past), it has a rich history and many followers. Check out this website and you'll be amazed: <https://www.flutopedia.com/>.

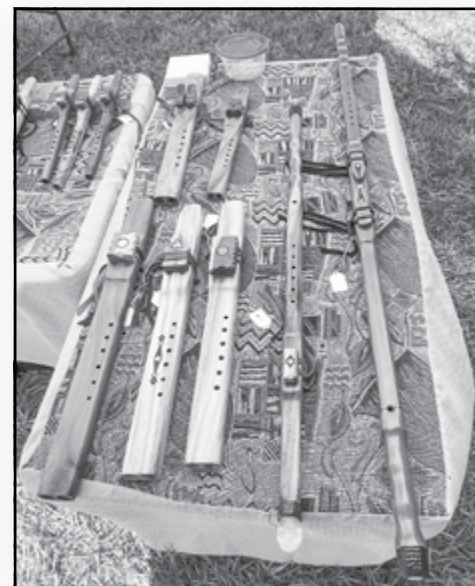
Gary makes two types of flutes — single and drones. A drone flute is basically two flutes in one: one side with multiple holes to produce melody and the other with a single hole producing single note, usually tonic of the scale of the flute. Drone flutes

are produced in the “walking stick” style or in a side-by-side arrangement. Some drones are produced with three side-by-side chambers (two drones). The nomenclature of drone harkens back to the bagpipes. Most of us have seen bagpipes ... it is difficult to ignore them passing by.

Bagpipes have basically three components: the inflatable air chamber, the chanter which the bagpiper plays and three drones: bass drone, two octaves lower than the low-A of the chanter and two tenor drones, one octave lower than the low-A of the chanter. It's the drones that you hear first as the bag is being inflated.

I asked Gary how he got into this business. He said that he saw the flute, liked its looks, and according to the clerk and the instructions provided anyone could master it without a musical background. Apparently, it was true. He was playing little tunes within couple of days. This was in 2003 and he added about a thousand flutes since then. He can produce one in about half a day, although in the beginning it took days to make one.

Curious, I checked the Flutopedia pdf on how to do it (https://www.flutopedia.com/refs/Shands_2010_HowToBuildASimple



[NorthAmericanStyleFlute_2010_03_01.pdf](#)). With 71 pages of scary stuff and procedures, it's no wonder it takes days. Gary has a shop in Fort Pierce and uses a combination of tools and handiwork. From this point, on it's the mastery of the craftsmen to turn this wood into functioning and beautiful instrument.

So, what was I intrigued by? In spite of its ancient ancestry, it's a thoroughly modern instrument. Aside from the massive website I mention it is also promoted and supported by INAFA (International Native American Flute Association), and the World Flute Society. On the technical side, the most common tuning is in the key of G; it's a nice size flute. As expected, they get smaller going up on the scale and larger going down. It



has six or five fingering holes to produce the pentatonic minor scale with scale steps of 3-2-2-3-2.

Advanced players can produce countless other modes with advanced techniques. Below are the fingerings for the diatonic major scale with scale steps of 2-2-1-2-2-2-1. Notice that the last note is overblown and played in the second register.

There are 2,146 scales based on 293 temperaments. Although it looks deceptively simple, there is a lot of technology making these flutes and skills to play them to full potential. Pros bend the notes, partially cover the finger holes and even utilize different mouth-pieces requiring embouchure. Trumpet players know that well.

As with any product, there is a range of possibilities. Gary Able certainly produces very fine instruments which one can purchase for a reasonable price. But at the other end of the spectrum there are flutes that one wonders are crafted for playing or for “investment” and display only. I spotted as triple drone with mother of pearl inserts, exotic woods and carvings, on a stag horn display stand. Incidentally when I checked the stock, none were available.

If you want to hear a Native American Flute, beautifully played check this video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b00nHjdAPpk>. ❖

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Love, JAZZ Community: ...with Apologies to Clement Clarke Moore

by Don Bestor

'Twas the Week Before Christmas

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the Fort,
Time for holiday shopping was sure running short.
The shoppers were hoping to find perfect buys,
That would fit their loved ones and be just the right size.

The children were happy and gathered around
Enjoying that seasonal fave 'Sights and Sounds.'
Mamma had a latté, Dad swigged a craft beer
While everyone basked in the holiday cheer.

When suddenly Melody Lane started hopping,
And bright, jazzy horns started boppity boppin'.
Everyone came a 'runnin' as the horns they did blow,
'Cause everyone wanted to see the jazz show.

The streets, they were filled with a big, happy crowd,
'Cause music is part of what makes Fort Pierce proud.
When what to our wondering ears did appear,
Than a piano, some drums, and a sound engineer.

With a dude on a horn who looked cool and serene,
There was no doubt at all that it must be Mark Green.
His fingers were flying, his toes were a tappin'.
The music was great, and the crowd started clapping.

"Oh, Don, get us started," Mark said, "If you please,
Let's hear you make magic with 88 keys.
And Claudio, please, could you help keep the beat,
So we can play music as hot as it's sweet?"

Gene Bruno then started to play on his sax,
While at the sound board switching dials was Max.
"Let's play some great music, like we do through the year,
For the folks in St. Lucie that we hold so dear."

And when someone requested a tune from the past,
Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues' guys came up with one fast.
For playing great music is just what they do,
To elicit big smiles from me and from you.

With its Jazz Jams, free concerts, and Waterside Blues,
We're all dancing so much that we wear out our shoes.
These cool cats donate talent, their time, and a song,
And raise funds for scholarships all the year long.

They offer young students a great chance to learn,
How to play with the pros, and a living to earn.
They play on their trumpets, their drums, and guitars,
And help young musicians who long to be stars,

And the audience smiles as they're tapping their toes,
To this music whose fan base continues to grow.
On Tuesdays and Wednesdays they meet and they play,
And Saturday mornings to help start the day.

They do it for love, and often for free,
And they'll do it for you as they do it for me.
They love to make music and help you recall
Those days that you think were the best of them all.


If you like them a lot, then why not join the band?
Your annual membership helps lend a hand.
You don't have to play sax, and you don't have to sing,
But supporting this group is a laudable thing.

So become a member, or sign up a crony,
Less expensive and way less a mess than a pony,
Your dues help create music's next generation,
And may even fund the next singing sensation.

So before we say 'cut' and pinch finger to thumb,
To signal that our little poem is done,
We wanted to send you all love and good cheer,
From Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues to the town we hold dear.

We hope that you'll join us in 2022,
And we hope that the fates will take good care of you.
With our jazziest sound and the tempo just right,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

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TREASURES OF THE PAST

75 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, December 1, 1946 edition of the Miami Herald

Welfare Home Fund is Set at \$10,000

The sum of \$10,000 will be sought by the St. Lucie County Welfare association for payment of the balance due on the welfare home and to recondition the home, according to announcement of Jimmy Barry, association president.

The association will seek to raise that amount by public subscription and letters making subscription and letters making the appeal are being mailed to member organizations and other organizations and individuals.

The welfare home is located on a large corner lot at northeast Avenue C and Second St. It was purchased last year to provide living quarters for aged and needy clients of the association who have no home or living accommodations on their own.

The association hopes not only to pay the balance due on the property but to have sufficient additional funds to completely recondition the building, it was stated.

[This structure is the current Main Street office. It was built by the Platts family in 1895-1896 and was purchased by A.E. Backus in 1960 for use as his residence and studio.]

75 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, December 6, 1946 edition of the Miami News

\$10,127 is Raised for New Library

Subscriptions to the \$50,000 public library fund now being raised totaled \$10,127 up to Friday ; with some workers still to report, committeemen in charge of the drive said.

The money is sought for the construction and equipping of a new library, site for which has been donated by the city, located at Indian River Dr. and Atlantic Ave., close in to the business section.

50 years ago this month as reported in the Friday, December 17, 1971 edition of the Miami Herald

I-95 Hearing Set Dec. 28 in Ft. Pierce

A public meeting on Interstate-95 will be held in Fort Pierce the evening of Dec. 28, according to St. Lucie County Rep. Charles Nergard.

Nergard, in Tallahassee Thursday for committee meetings, said that the hearing had been set up by Ed Mueller, Secretary of Transportation, to bring citizens of St. Lucie, Martin, and Indian River counties up to date on the status of the controversial extension.

Nergard said that Arnold Ramos, DOT district engineer, will be here for the meeting and the time and place will be announced later.

A county delegation returning from Tallahassee Wednesday night said federal approval is apparently anticipated for extending I-95 from Indian River County through to Okeechobee Road (SR 70).

The stretch from Indian River County to Indrio is scheduled for construction in 1972-1973, and the stretch from Indrio to Okeechobee Road to following year.

25 years ago as reported by Susannah Nesmith in the Tuesday, December 10, 1996 edition of the Palm Beach Post

Damage from Fort Pierce Blaze Limited to 2 Downtown Buildings

Deputy Fire Chief Barry Irwin said Monday he was glad Sunday night's fire that gutted two downtown buildings wasn't more serious, given the wind and the proximity of all the buildings on the block.

"We limited the damage to the two buildings," he said. "It did not extend to the other historically valuable buildings. I'm very pleased with that."



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The buildings that burned are two blocks north of the St. Lucie County Courthouse.

Fire officials and police detectives spent all day Monday at the scene, searching for a cause.

The fire started about 9:30 p.m. in the former Rubin's department store, now a vacant one-story building. Firefighters thought they had the fire under control around 10:30 p.m. and were working to keep it from spreading to the adjacent Coke's Stationers when the tar-paper roof caught fire, and flames spread to the second story of the Coke's building.

Richard Coke, watched the fire ravage his business Sunday night, but he had little to say. The business has been there for 21 years.

The building directly north of Coke's was not damaged (Raulerson Building).

The Rubin's building has been vacant since the former Health and Rehabilitative Services – now the Department of Children and Families – moved its offices into a permanent building on U.S. 1 a little more than a year ago.

Rubin's Department Store, once the only retailer in town that sold Boy Scout Uniforms and children's school clothes, had been closed for several years.

The Raulerson building, also owned by Coke, had the best preserved architecture on the block and the side of the building was stained with soot. A business owner who went inside after the fire was mostly out said the interior appeared to be free of smoke damage.

The Raulerson building is separated from the Coke building by a narrow alley.

"Thank God for that alley," said Sandy Stebbins, owner of a hair salon on the first floor of the Raulerson Building, as she watched the roof on the Coke building collapse.

"We were really lucky," she said. Stebbins and her partner, Wyatt Blankenbaker, opened the salon four months ago.

"There's so much being done downtown now, fixing it up and everything," Stebbins said. "It's such a shame to see a business go like this."



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17th Annual Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Walking Tours

Wednesday, October 27th & Thursday, October 28th

Main Street Fort Pierce wishes to thank all the volunteer “ghosts” and guides that participated in the annual *Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Walking Tours*. This event would not be possible without the generous donation of these folk’s time.

Part of *Main Street Fort Pierce’s* mission is to preserve the historic architecture, charm and stories that make Fort Pierce’s downtown unique. We strive to bring new stories and characters alive each October and early spring with our *Downtown Trolley Tours*. If you are new to the area or want a refresher on local history make sure to check our Facebook page for these events or call the *Main Street Fort Pierce* office at 466-3880.

Thank you also to the law firms of **Fee, Yates & Fee** and **Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd** who sponsor this event year after year. Both of these firms have historic ties to Fort Pierce. ❖



Tucked in Cozy

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



Sometimes in life, things cannot be unseen. I have, through media exposure and through personal experience seen lots I would wish to unsee. I am truly saddened at the level of inhumanity the human race is capable of, on a very intimate family level to the global arena. Dark memories and awareness do seep to the surface unexpectedly and I am conscious to “change the channel,” as there is no need to see them again. I endeavor not to dwell on the unsettling and to instead seek out the lovely. Parts of life are just that, lovely. The first morning smell of coffee, doggie snuggles wrapped in toasty ruffled covers, belly laughing at a good joke, all so very lovely. I am now, much to my delight, swirling in a cascade of lovely as I settle into my new home.

It is true, profoundly unsettling life experiences have, at times, left me exhausted and fragile. Here comes the tucked in cozy part. Through the love and support of many, by the grace of God, and with my tenacious spirit, which I proudly inherited from my mom, I have landed in a cozy spot, here in Fort Pierce. The flowers in my yard are nodding in approval of their new setting. My fresh walls are happily hung in painting after painting — serene landscape to cheery floral to a large red and black rabbit. My furniture stands carefully arranged, and ready to host whoever comes to enjoy. There is a deep contentment I feel as I settle in and unwind.

Never did I think these words would pass my lips, but right now, there is no place like home. I revel in the routine, the predictability, the sameness around me. As my body settles

into the space, my spirit soars and, much to my delight, so does my creativity! It amazes me how, when some concerns or areas of necessary activity, like moving yearly in the past, are removed, that my mind chooses to fill the void with wonderful new things. Horses and more horses, much different than my usual subject matter, are galloping through my mind and, with splashes of color, are trotting from the brush and palette knife onto the canvas. Cats, fluffy to sleek, calico to tabby, coax me to draw up their vision then capture it through paint. Moose, deer and elk ask to be portrayed. This is a lovely turn of events to have the uncertain replaced with more certainly and to have the extra energy ask to be used in a creative fashion.

I do realize, throughout all this process, that it is partially circumstances but also, to a large degree, mindset that brings on this shift. I should still have plenty to worry about at the moment. This is uncertain times for everyone. This has been very challenging times for an artist, an “unnecessary” business. Health concerns still loom, prices are up, and supplies may be slimmer; yet, in my new nest, amongst my eclectic possessions, with my now old dog, I feel contentment, security and blessed beyond comprehension. My body has a familiar place to call home, unwind and get cozy in. My heart has appreciation for the path getting here and my mind rejoices at the extra place for expanded creativity.

It’s with welcome arms, that I greet the coming fall, winter and spring and all the visitors to Fort Pierce that this will bring. Business wise the gallery loves it and human wise I love it as well. I will meet people from all over the globe, engage in conversations, some just fun and light and I will engage in conversations of great significance. I will hear about someone’s victory over addiction and will help them choose a piece of art to commemorate this milestone. Someone will commission me to do a piece for a wedding or anniversary present and someone will come in to show me their beautiful new child that was just a belly bump last time we saw each other. What a wonderful gift of a sense of being tucked in cozy before the start of season. With a feeling of being rested and of renewed exuberance I feel creatively and emotionally ready, willing and able to embark on the next flurry of activity. So, please do come by the gallery, share experiences, play with art and spread the lovely cozy feeling throughout our town and beyond. ❖

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Fishing Makes the Wishlist!

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

Our local waters provide amazing opportunities to enjoy fishing...and catching your own fresh fish dinner. This time of year the waters are getting cooler and the fishing is getting hotter! Cobia, tripletail, mackerel, and pompano are great fish to target in December and winter months.

The Atlantic Tripletail is a pelagic fish that many anglers love to catch and some even say they are the best tasting fish in the ocean. These aggressive feeding and fighting fish are recognized by the closeness of their dorsal, caudal, and anal fins which appear to look like three tails. Look for them inshore and offshore around floating debris, channel markers, weed lines, buoys, and crab trap markers. Although they will go for small baitfish and artificial lures, their favorite bait is shrimp and crab.

Cobia are also highly attracted to buoys, wrecks, and floating objects. These powerful, pelagic fish will take most any bait, live or artificial, and eat anything from shrimp and crab to mullet. You will need to use medium to heavy tackle to land a cobia and have a gaff ready since they can get up to 100 pounds. The limit in Atlantic waters is one cobia per angler or six per vessel whichever is less. They must be at least 33 inches to the fork to be a keeper.

The Golden or Florida Pompano are a popular target for their great fight and delicious mild taste. Small jigs, live shrimp or sandfleas are best choices for pompano success. Daily limit of Florida Pompano is six per angler per day.



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Our fish photo this month is Matt Dial with a real nice cobia!

So put some fishing on your wish list for Christmas and meet me at Little Jim Bait & Tackle. They have all your bait and tackle needs, plus live music, great food and even greater staff! My wish this year? To keep *Pullin Drag!* ❖



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Roots and Recipes IV

Amber Gonzales – Empanadas



Home to me is Mexico even though I was born in the United States. I feel a different connection when in Mexico; it is where most of my family lives. My dad immigrated here when he was 17 to build a good life for him and our family. Home tastes like Mexican food to me. Whether it is my mom, grandma or someone else's mom, it feels as though it is made with love specifically for you.

I felt most connected to my roots when I was in Mexico at my grandmother's. She didn't have a stove, so they put together concrete blocks leaving a shallow hole in the middle and lit a fire. They lined it with aluminum foil on the blocks and set the pot with the food in between two blocks to heat the pot. It was a very cool experience and amazing how creative everyone was. It was very different from how we live in the United States.

The food I identify with the most is empanadas. It was the first dish I learned to make. My specific memory was when I was 10. My

mom showed me how to make the empanadas in our kitchen and I was so excited to finally be able to help make something for everyone to eat.

Recipe for Empanadas

- Bag of mesa
- Add water
- Add salt
- Choose type of meat
- Potatoes
- Sour cream
- Queso fresco
- Lettuce

Mix mesa with water and salt until consistency is moist. Roll the mesa into balls, put wax paper on tortilla press and place mesa flat, but not too thin.

Prepare and cook the meat and potatoes. Add filling to flattened mesa, but not too full. Gently fold it over evenly, connecting it with the other side, and use your fingers or a fork to press the edges to seal it.

Heat oil in pan and put empanada in to fry until a golden brown then remove. Let them cool a little and top them with sour cream, queso fresco and lettuce. Serve with rice and beans and enjoy!



Recipe from My Roots is a collaboration with the St. Lucie County Public School's Career and Technical Education Program. Each month, Recipe from My Roots will feature a recipe from a student in the program and will highlight the significance of the recipe to that student.

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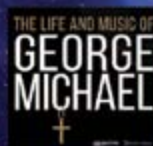
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