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July, 2022

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



Stars *Over* St. Lucie

4th of July Celebration

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARYANN KETCHAM

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer Fun in Downtown Fort Pierce

by Donna Sizemore



From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from parades, concerts and fireworks to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

During the month of July, Downtown Fort Pierce has several activities happening beginning with *Friday Fest* on July 1st. *Southern Eagle* will be introducing their new craft cocktails on tap and World Champion surfer Oliver Kurtz will be there promoting *Coast Tequila* in the margarita on tap. Refreshing and cold drinks are perfect for the July temperatures. Raffles will be sold to enter a chance to win a surfboard.

To celebrate America's independence, *Main Street Fort Pierce* and the *City of Fort Pierce* are sponsoring *Stars Over*

St. Lucie on the evening of the 4th. Bring the family and sit under the stars and enjoy the spectacular fireworks.

Downtown businesses will be celebrating *Christmas in July* on July 23rd. This event is a downtown shopping spree where you could win money. The current amount is \$1,830. As you shop, you take selfies in your Christmas shirt with store logos in the background and earn tickets to enter our downtown shopping spree giveaway.

Florida Main Street is dedicated to revitalizing communities across the state


At the end of the month, the Director of *Main Street*, Doris Tillman, and I will attend the State *Main Street* conference for three days of learning and networking opportunities.

Happy Birthday America! ❖



MICHELLE R. MILLER
CLERK & COMPTROLLER
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CORRECTION: The June story on the St. Lucie County "Property Fraud Alert," a free service offered by the St. Lucie Clerk's office, was misrepresented by an incorrect logo. St. Lucie Clerk & Comptroller, Michelle Miller, encourages readers to obtain more information by visiting www.stlucieclerk.com/fraudalert, or calling 772-462-6900.



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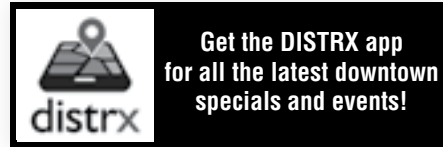
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Calendar

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



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

MONTHLY EVENTS

July 1, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by *Riverdaws*; 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.

July 4, Monday: DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE 4TH OF JULY EVENT — 6 to 9 p.m., on Melody Lane; Food Vendors, beverages, kid's activities; Fireworks at 9:00 p.m. over the Indian River Lagoon; Bring your own chair - No coolers.

July 8, Friday: ORIGINAL FLORIDA HIGHWAYMEN MUSEUM SITE COCKTAIL HOUR — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; 1234 Avenue D.



July 15, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

July 23, Saturday: CHRISTMAS IN JULY — Starting at 10 a.m. in Downtown Fort Pierce.

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

Wine Down Wednesday
Fort Social in the Galleria on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6 to 8 p.m.
TheFortSteakhouse.com

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facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company

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cobbs-landing.com

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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/*

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

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

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

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

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center
600 North Indian River Drive
772-489-6473 • *cityoffortpierce.com*

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*

JULY: INDEPENDENT RETAILER MONTH

JULY 3: AMERICAN REDNECK DAY

➔ JULY 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 4: SIDEWALK EGG FRYING DAY

JULY 6: NATIONAL FRIED CHICKEN DAY

JULY 7: WORLD CHOCOLATE DAY

JULY 11: NATIONAL 7-ELEVEN DAY
[NATIONAL FREE SLURPEE DAY]

JULY 12: COW APPRECIATION DAY

JULY 14: NATIONAL MAC AND CHEESE DAY

JULY 14: SHARK AWARENESS DAY

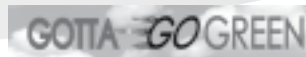
JULY 15: CELEBRATION OF THE HORSE DAY

JULY 17: NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY ➔

JULY 20: NATIONAL HOT DOG DAY

JULY 23: NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY

JULY 30: NATIONAL CHEESECAKE DAY



A City of Fort Pierce & Main Street Fort Pierce Event

Monday, July 4th at 6:00 p.m. (rain or shine)
Marina Square at Melody Lane
in Fort Pierce

Music performed by 21 to Burn

Food & Drinks

Massive American Flag display provided by the Fort Pierce Utility Authority

9:00 p.m. – Fireworks Over the Indian River Lagoon

Many thanks to the City of Fort Pierce and our local businesses for sponsoring the fireworks.

Bring chairs, but no coolers please
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Mayor's Message Honor Fort Pierce Police Officers

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



The Fort Pierce Police Department (FPPD) will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2023. Since then, four officers have lost their lives. Officer Willie B. Ellis was killed in July, 1986. In 2000, the Avenue D Substation was named in his honor.

Lieutenant Grover Cooper and Detective Jimmy Wouters were killed in January 1987 and in January 2012, the main police station was named in their honor. Sergeant Danny Parrish lost his life on January 18, 1991, in what was supposed to be a simple traffic stop.

You can help us honor Sergeant Parrish and all our fallen first responders with a park named in his honor. Located at 920 South U.S. Highway 1, Sergeant Danny Parrish Fallen First Responders Park will honor all first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their community. It will be a sacred place for our residents, visitors, and family members of our fallen first responders to visit and reflect on how much we all owe to our heroes.

In addition, a bronze statue will be placed in front of the FPPD main station, depicting a uniformed officer saluting, giving honor to the United States flag and the Sergeant Danny Parrish Fallen First Responders Park. The statue, titled "Hero," will represent all fallen first responders and will have pavers engraved with the names of memorial supporters and donors around the immediate area of the statue. Pavers are planned to be placed in the Memorial Park as well.

You can be a part of these momentous events honoring our heroes by purchasing brick paver(s) from the Fort Pierce Police Department Charitable Trust, a newly-formed, not-for-profit

501 (C) 3 organization, governed by a board made up of law enforcement and civilian members. Your purchase of a paver and/or any donations to the FPPD Charitable Trust will help complete the park and fund the statue. Your contribution will also help the FPPD fund equipment, programs, and community engagements that keep our officers safer and strengthen the relationship between the police department and our community.

Please show your love and support for all our first responders by making a tax-deductible purchase or donation. Our first responders are there when we need them; let's show them we appreciate the sacrifices they and their families make daily for us. Visit <https://polarengraving.com/fortpiercpd> or contact Sergeant John Fasanello at jfasanello@fppd.org.



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Cool off at Friday Fest with Craft Cocktails and Champion Surfer – Oliver Kurtz

This month's Friday Fest is going to be filled with fun and new surprises. Southern Eagle, longtime sponsor and local Budweiser distributor, is partnering with Main Street Fort Pierce, to introduce their "new big thing" — Craft Cocktails on Tap featuring products from alcohol beverage companies owned by Floridians. The Margarita is made with Costa Tequila Blanco which is the first ever hi/lo blend tequila brought into the United States. The owner of Costa Tequila is a Vero Beach resident Steve Gavula. There will also be Rum Runners on tap using a coconut rum and vodka lemonade using Hopetown Vodka.

As if the Craft Cocktails on Tap isn't enough excitement, Vero Beach native and champion surfer, Oliver Kurtz, will



be on hand at the Friday Fest booth to greet patrons. Oliver was around the age of 3 or 4 when he began surfing and around 8 years old when he began competing. At 15 he won his first competition at the Volcom World Championship in Newport Beach, California. His favorite surf spot is the pipeline in Oahu. While competing he traveled all over. He lived in California but has settled in Jupiter, Florida now. His favorite board to surf is JS Surfboards of Australia. Oliver and Southern Eagle will be raffling off a surfboard at the Craft Cocktails booth, so this is a Friday Fest you do not want to miss!

It may be hot but the sea breezes, shade trees and refreshing craft cocktails will cool you down!

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“Run Away With The Circus” Sunrise Theatre Foundation Summer Fundraiser

by Wendy Frieder, Vice Chair, Sunrise Theatre Foundation

The *Sunrise Theatre Foundation* is proud to host “Run Away With the Circus” on July 16th at the **Sunrise Black Box**.

The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. with circus snacks, awesome raffle items, a circus photo booth, fun animal hats, delicious **Cake Lady** cupcakes, an endless cash bar and friendships galore.

At 7:30 p.m. the featured band, *Professor Pennygood’s Mighty Flea Circus* will kick off their summer tour and have you dusting off your dancing shoes and swingin’ to their unique musical sounds.



All proceeds benefit the *Sunrise Theatre Foundation*, a 501(c)(3) charity, whose mission brings performing arts and cultural enrichment programs to our children in the Treasure Coast community and enhances our historic theatre.

Sponsors include Fort Pierce’s **Cake Lady**, **Vero Beach Auction**, and **Community Veterinary Clinic of Vero Beach**.

Tickets are available at the **Sunrise Theatre** box office on 2nd Street, Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Call 772-461-4775 or visit www.sunrisetheatre.com for tickets; presale \$35 or \$40 at the door.

Join us for “Run Away With the Circus” on July 16th for an evening of fun and surprises! ❖

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The Best Kept Secret in Downtown Fort Pierce

by Dale Vander Lugt

When making the choice for a fine dining steakhouse experience, hands down, the place to go in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce is **The Fort Steakhouse**. But did you know they have a sister restaurant, too? It's called **The Fort Social**. As the name infers, it's a place for social gathering, with



cocktails and casual food, but a great place for lunchtime, too! The same chefs that deliver you mouth-watering steaks and other delicious provisions at **The Fort Steakhouse** deliver tasty lunch and brunch dishes at **The Fort Social**. Casual fine dining for everyday budgets!

The Fort Social has an up-tempo vibe, serving up a creative spin on classic Americana for their lunchtime guests. Steak or chicken kabobs are a lunchtime favorite. But, if you're in a hurry, my go-to is their \$10 lunch special of a half turkey sandwich and a cup of savory soup. It's called the Boujee Tur-

key Sandwich and is served up on wheatberry toast, oven roasted sliced turkey, horseradish crème, arugula, pickled onions, and fresh tomato. A fresh salad is also a great choice. Try out the ever-popular Kale & Quinoa salad. It's a kale chiffonade and tomato mixture and is topped off with roasted red peppers

and shaved parmesan, complemented by a sherry shallot vinaigrette and is amazing. Best deal in town!

Looking for a place to enjoy lively conversation? The high-tops under the colorful umbrella design of the **Galleria** are a great choice. Or maybe you're looking for a quiet ambiance. Then settle in at the courtyard-adjacent nook in one of its comfortable green couches and catch up with an old friend while lingering over an espresso or an afternoon cocktail.

And yes, if you prefer outdoor dining, there is a gorgeous courtyard with a running fountain and lush greenery. People-watch under the green shade cloth and delight in the bistro atmosphere of **The Fort Social** courtyard.

Don't forget, many frequent **The Fort Social** for their brunch, served on Saturdays and Sundays, offering breakfast and lunch, too!

The best kept secret in Downtown Fort Pierce. **The Fort Social**. Give them a call at 772-882-9131 to order takeout. Visit them online at www.thefortsteakhouse.com. See you there! ❖

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Partnerships Make for Smoother Sailing

by Robynn Holland, Community Liaison, FPYC

No captain can pilot their boat to its maximum performance without the well-oiled assistance of the crew. Finding the right crew member to navigate, to crank a winch, or to raise a spinnaker is critical in performance sailing. It is much the same as one strives to improve performance in business. The **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** has as its mission to promote safe boating through boating education and activities, and to participate in community activities deemed to be of benefit to the community at large. How do we achieve those goals with a limited number of volunteer members and resources? It would not be possible without partnerships and collaboration with other community organizations, so the FPYC strives to create partnerships with those who can extend our reach and contribute critical skill sets to help us reach our goals. A few examples are:

COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: Several years ago, the FPYC created a “third Thursday” lecture series focused on environmental issues. After two years, there was a need to expand both the speakers and the audience FPYC could reach. This need evolved into a partnership with the **Manatee Education and Observation Foundation**. This program ran for two years prior to the onset of covid restrictions and is currently in the planning stages to resume in the fall. FPYC later extended

the partnership with the sponsorship of the *Save the Seagrass* campaign undertaken by **Manatee Center** and then the designation of FPYC as a future planting site for seagrass restoration.

COMMITMENT TO CLEAN WATERS: This goal led the FPYC to partner with **Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast’s (MIATC) Waterway Cleanup** on the Treasurer Coast in not only volunteering to help the cleanup effort, but also in offering resources to function as a distribution and collection center. The July 23, 2022 cleanup date will be our 15th year working with MIATC (www.TCWaterwayCleanup.com). Join us! And our partnership with **FAU Harbor Branch** has enabled the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation** to sponsor four summer research interns in various aspects of water-related research.

EXPANDING SAFE AND ENJOYABLE BOATING ACTIVITIES: This commitment led the FPYC back to MIATC to collaborate with them on the annual *Christmas Boat Parade*, serving as the local entity promoting participation. 2021 delivered the most boats participating in many years — a true example of working together!

BOATING EDUCATION: Boating education is paramount to safe enjoyment of the sport and while FPYC has many accomplished boaters, we had few educators and educational materials.





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

Stacy Consalvo, Manager, Paralegal
SConsalvo@TreasureCoastTitle.net

Jenny Fee, Business Development Manager
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A solution was to partner with **St. Lucie Power Squadron, US Sailing Foundation, Melbourne Yacht Club** and others over the past three years to bring 15 educational courses ranging from Racing Rules, weather, cruising locations, and women’s boating/racing skill courses to the Fort Pierce community. Watch for our fall schedule of courses!

MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY: To help support music in the community, the FPYC made a decision three years ago to lend the facility to **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** (jazzsociety.org) and as a result became their summer home. This partnership enables the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation** to earn money from the sale of beverages to fund a position of junior counselor and two students at *Wesley Island Eco Camp*. This partnership helps furthering play a role in inspiring young people to learn about our waters.

FORT PIERCE SUNRISE KIWANIS REBUILD THE KIDS PARK: The FPYC was excited to welcome Mike Pelitera, President of Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis (and Assistant Director of the Institute of Academic Excellence at IRSC) and Tom Perona, City Commissioner, District Two, to the June members’ meeting to discuss the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis community wide “Rebuild the Kids Park” initiative at Jaycee Park. FPYC is enthusiastic about supporting this initiative and looks forward to learning more about participating in the community rebuild effort in the fall. (KidsParkAtJayceePark.com)

None of these opportunities to serve the Sunrise Community would be achievable without the support network of, and partnerships with, those in our community who help us achieve our goals. We thank them. ❖



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Yes, Manatees have a Fossil History

by John D. Pinsof, Ph.D.

We all have seen a *Jurassic Park* movie or two so it is likely that everyone knows about dinosaurs and paleontologists, those scientists who study fossils and reconstruct the environments in which they lived. But did you know that Florida manatees have a fossil record that document how they changed from land-dwelling plant eaters to the marvelous marine mammals that we see today?

As a paleontologist who recently retired from a teaching career, I became interested in tracing the fossil origins of manatees once I started volunteering at the **Manatee Observation and Education Center**. I would often be asked by visitors to the Center questions like “How long have manatees existed?” and “What is the closest living relative to manatees?” Turns out, paleontologists have answered these questions and more.

Let’s set the stage. About 65 million years ago, a huge space rock smacked into our planet and caused the extinction of the dinosaurs and thousands of other animal and plant species. One group that survived the impact were our mammal ancestors, most of which were no bigger than a house cat. Over the millions of years after the impact, mammals grew larger and more diverse, stretching into a wide variety of body shapes and ecologic niches. For example, one group remained small in size and learned how to fly — this group became bats. Another group became large and ponderous plant eaters. About 47-50 million years ago, a group of South American plant eaters called proramphids began spending more and more time in shallow waterways and less on dry land.

What would have driven the proramphids to spend more time in the water? It is likely that there are several reasons, including an abundant supply of aquatic plants growing in shallow inlets and lagoons, the availability of fresh drinking water, and the absence of large aquatic predators, thereby providing a safe environment for their young. Whatever the reasons, these ancestors of manatees (and their cousins, the dugongs) completed the transition into a fully aquatic marine mammals over the next tens of millions of years with the change from front legs (walking) into flippers (swimming) and their tail into a whale-like fluke. As a group, manatees first appeared about 6.5 million years ago with the modern Florida manatee



Fossil manatee teeth, collected from Pasco County, Florida

(*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) appearing in the fossil record about 1.3 million years ago.

Several features of manatees ally them with elephants via a plant eating common ancestor that lived about 50 million years ago. Both groups have what are termed “marching molars”, in which their teeth move in conveyor belt fashion from the back of the jaw to the front, then get spit out once worn down and useless for chewing food. Another trait is that both manatees and elephants still have finger bones and fingernails on their front limbs. Have you ever heard the term “pachyderm” used for an elephant? The word means “thick skin,” a trait that manatees share with elephants.

Today, there are three species of manatees and one species of dugong, all of which descended from those ancient South American herbivores. It is only from the diligent work of paleontologists that this story has come to light and allows us to appreciate the fossil origins of Florida’s amazing manatees.

Florida manatees can be observed in St. Lucie County in and near marinas and inlets, in the Indian River Lagoon as well as in freshwater rivers and creeks. The **Manatee Observation and Education Center** (MOEC) is situated on Moore’s Creek where manatees find refuge and freshwater year-around. MOEC is located at 480 N. Indian River Drive in downtown Fort Pierce. Stop by to observe these amazing mammals or find us online at www.ManateeEducationCenter.org. ❖

Restoration Project at Moore’s Creek

June 2nd & 3rd

The long-awaited seagrass restoration project in *Moore’s Creek* was installed on Thursday, June 2nd and Friday, June 3rd, starting across from the **Manatee Center** manatee mural, at 480 N Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce, west until Moore’s Creek at 7th street.

Last year, the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** (MOEC) and **Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation** (TCMF) raised over \$75,000 to restore nearly one acre of seagrass in *Moore’s Creek* and educate local schools

and public about it. The restoration project will be led by **Sea & Shoreline**, a Florida-based restoration company who also led the successful seagrass restoration efforts in Crystal River. **Sea & Shoreline** will monitor progress for three years following installation. In Fall 2022, **Sea & Shoreline** will also install a seagrass enhancement and research project located at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** and funded by a grant from the *Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program*. ❖





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Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis Hosts Design & Reveal Day for New Jaycee Park Playground

Saturday, June 11th was a day of wonderful sunshine and excitement as the *Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis* hosted the *Design and Reveal Day to Rebuild the Kid's Park at Jaycee Park* launch party. Attended by hundreds supporting the initiative, children were treated to face painting, games and hotdogs while adults studied the architectural reveal for the *Rebuild the Kid's Park*. Members of the Boys and Girls Club of SLC, Children's Services Council of SLC, Fort Pierce Lions' Club, the Fort Pierce Yacht Club, and the Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Club, were all excited to be a part of the Rebuild effort. Jaycee

Park, located on Hutchinson Island is scheduled to be rebuilt during the week of October 11 to 16th. The entire community will be able to participate to build the park together!

The *Rebuild the Kid's Park at Jaycee Park* is an initiative of the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis, with the goal for the Kid's Park to be accessible to *all* children, regardless of individual challenges. The Rebuild is being driven by a steering committee comprised of community, business, and government leaders.

To learn more and to be a part of this community wide project go to KidsParkAtJayceePark.com. ❖




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121 Tapas On The Water: Profiling Chef Angela Acosta

by Chris Kestl

From the moment Chef Angela Acosta visited Fort Pierce several years ago, she said, “This town has a great vibe. I want to make it my home. It is beautiful and the people are so nice and friendly.”

At the time, Chef Angela was the Executive Chef in Coral Gables at The Gramercy. She was just given that role by owner

Roman Jones, son of famous rocker Mick Jones — guitarist of *Foreigner*. Prior, she was Sous Chef at another of Jones’s restaurants in Miami — Kiki On The River. She is very appreciative to Executive Chef Steve Rhee for teaching her so much. Also, what a coincidence? Kiki On the River to **121 Tapas On the Water**. Apparently, it was meant to be.

Chef Angela has an interesting story. She was born and raised in Modesto, California. She is proud to be a unique blend of Italian, Spanish, Filipino, SE Asian & American Indian — with a little English and Scottish tossed in. Her background inspires her cooking. She focuses on unique, outstanding flavors inspired from around the world. She does her very best to greet the patrons of **121 Tapas**. Often it is challenging to step out of the kitchen as the customers and food quality come first for her and for the team. Please ask for her!

By way of background, Chef Angela tried corporate America — companies like Pepsi, among others. She was not a good fit for a big company — too creative and free of spirit. Then she became a professional massage therapist where she excelled. Her

clients included Tommy Mottola, his wife Thalia, members of the Colts football team, singer Pharrell, and others, many who still remain her friends.

Her passion was always food. She paused her massage therapy career and enrolled in Le Cordon Bleu to follow her dream. She found her calling in cooking. Chef Angela returned to

California where she started her new career at the famed restaurant, The Slanted Door. After handling some personal items, she returned to Florida and joined Nobu on South Beach, followed by Kiki.

Chef Angela prides herself on having a wonderful team to work with her (thanks Tammy, Nelson and Paola). She is also training Nicole in the kitchen

and Nicole is doing a wonderful job.

Come visit **121 Tapas** to meet the team, including Chef Angela. You will enjoy the small plates, designed to be shared.

The plates come out to the table one at a time so you may chat, enjoy wine or beer, and catch up with your friends and those whom you enjoy. You will be guaranteed a friendly team, a top notch menu and wine list, and outstanding food, prepared fresh and with only the best ingredients. There are always new specials of the day where Chef Angela highlights her creativity.

Please also look for future events and fund raisers with *Main Street* such as wine education and tasting. The team will be working hand-in-hand with *Main Street* on these fun events. See you at **121 Tapas!** ❖



Harmony Music Lounge & Wine Bar is Now Open Downtown

Harmony Music Lounge & Wine Bar is a casual, live-music venue serving beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages and desserts. You can find uncommon live music shows and special events while checking out **Harmony Music Lounge & Wine Bar**. Priscilla Speicher, owner, said, “I started coming to Fort Pierce for live music shows and downtown events, and just really liked it. The look and feel of it, the size, the vibe and the energy, and the businesses that were here all appealed to me. I also wanted to have a business in an arts-minded area and community.” Priscilla had another music venue and wine bar before but ran into struggles due to the pandemic. From her experience she has learned valuable lessons for potential small business owners. “My advice for other entrepreneurs is to do a lot of research about your location and demographics and see who is around and who is frequenting similar businesses in your area of choice. Do your homework, in other words, before getting too excited about a certain location or business concept.

Anticipate the challenges, and never underestimate how difficult it is to get customers and business. Marketing is extremely important — it’s critical.”

Priscilla prides herself on having music for everyone including special events designed for specific groups such as *Youth Open Mic*, *Women’s Conversation Night*, and *Jazz Lovers Party*. There are several things that make **Harmony** unique besides their different music styles — they will have dancers, actors and comedians. They use “living room” décor to make it feel more comfortable and at home.

It’s a labor of love from someone who truly loves music, musicians and people, and wishes to bring joy and stress relief in a crazy, overrun world. It’s a chance to disconnect for a couple hours from technology, phones, jobs and worries, and experience wonderful music in a relaxing setting. The mission goes beyond just being a wine and beer bar and serving music and drinks. **Harmony** will be a sort of mini cultural center with community involvement, support of downtown events and initiatives, and activities that help and heal people. ❖



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Summer Fun in the Market

With summer upon us, the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** continues to draw amazing crowds to Marina Square every Saturday morning. Even though our winter visitors have left us, our local residents and vacationers are now enjoying their favorite Saturday morning hangout.

Weather is always an issue, heat being the foremost summertime concern. While some love it, most of us find a cool breeze most welcome. Then rain can put a real damper on everything, but the **Market** is rain or shine! Unless of course we're having hurricane force winds and driving rain — we'll never put our vendors or patrons in danger. Since this is Florida, it could be raining on the south end of the **Market** and perfectly sunny on the north end!

Speaking of the north end of the **Market**, there are several new vendors there offering diverse and tasty products. **Buen Provencho** showcases delicious ceviche and sauces. **Peppe's Gelato** makes the most scrumptious Italian gelato, so refreshing on these hot days. **Tessie's Teas** offers all natural crystallized teas and ginger products for home use.

Down in the south, end that is, look for **Waterfront Tacos and Bowls** with their authentic Mexican fare. The **Rolling Lobstah** prepares true New England lobster rolls and chowders. No one goes hungry in this **Market**!

Oops! A little sprinkle of rain! Most vendors don't mind having a few extra people stepping under their canopy for shelter. Who knows, it might end up as a new customer. And the shower passes so quickly the pavement hardly even shows the drops.

Though some of our vendors have departed, most all will be back in October. The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** has new vendors entering almost every week. It seems like this is the premier market in the area and vendors are seeking the best venue. Our patrons are delighted with the selections and variety found here.

The atmosphere at the **Market** is enhanced by the waterfront vista and all the natural sea life. Fresh air and sunshine is always

a boost. The live music contributes to the festive atmosphere. Each week a different band is showcased along with a variety of musical genres. Dancing is encouraged, even if not on the spacious dance area, the aisles of the **Market** are often impromptu dance floors. Some folks regularly dance every Saturday and have quite the moves.

Local non-profits are often found in the Manager's tent with displays of their missions. Located on the front sidewalk on Melody Lane, the Manager is available to answer any questions about vendors and community events, as well as happily sell the fabulous reusable everyday Market bag, just \$5 for a made-in-the-USA, machine washable tote bag.

After 25 years and many locations around the waterfront, the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** has definitely become a favorite destination in our historic city. Marina Square is one of the most beautiful venues on the east coast of Florida and patrons have shown their appreciation by continuing to vote us #1 in Florida. No wonder it's a Saturday morning tradition!

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and check out our webpage www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com. ❖



Love, JAZZ Community: Jazz Is Always on the Menu

by Don Bestor

Imagine if going to a restaurant meant eating whatever was put in front of you with no option or choice at all on the menu? It would certainly take the fun out of going out for a meal, wouldn't it? Just as there are an unlimited number of personalities in the world, there are also an unlimited number of likes and dislikes, habits and choices, and ways to make dreams come true. The same premise holds true for entertainment, and while we have lots of choices on the Treasure Coast, there is one group which consistently offers a wide variety of live music options for all of us to enjoy. Of course, I'm speaking of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, which offers an assortment of live music every single week throughout St. Lucie County.

Almost every other Wednesday, you can enjoy live music and have the opportunity to sit in with the pros and jam at the *Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens*, on Westmoreland Boulevard in port St. Lucie. The professional musicians from **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** will be on hand from 6:30 to 9:30 every other Wednesday throughout the summer and fall months. For just \$7 (\$6 if you're a member of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**), you can enjoy live music and maybe even grab the mic or take a seat at the keyboard or drums and impress the crowd with your own musical prowess. It's a fun evening twice each month, June 8th and 22nd, July 5th and 20th, August 10th and 24th, September 7th and 21st, and October 5th and 19th, and it's just one of the 'flavors' you can enjoy off **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society's** smorgasbord of musical choices.

Maybe you'd prefer to don your most nautical attire and enjoy an evening at **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, at 700 Indian River Drive, just at the base of the beautiful bridge that carries us over to Hutchinson Island? You don't have to be a member to enjoy great live music and a full bar every other Tuesday (almost) throughout the summer and fall. There's plenty of parking, and the sunsets are spectacular, so whether you enjoy

dancing by the water or sipping a glass of wine by the bar, your wish is our command Tuesdays June 14th and 28th, July 12th and 26th, August 9th and 23rd, September 13th and 27th, and October

11th and 25th from 7-9:30 p.m. Oh, and by the way, the cover charge is only \$10 (\$8 if you're a member), so it's a very reasonable price for live, professional music and ambiance that you simply can't find elsewhere.

Or maybe you get hungry and like to eat while you enjoy your music? We've got you covered there, too, with live music on the last Thursday of each month through October (that's July 28th, August 25th, September 29th, and October 27th) at **2nd Street Bistro Tap House and Eatery** in beautiful downtown Fort Pierce from 6:30 to 9 p.m., just the way you like your music — on the menu!

Finally, maybe you're not a night owl, and that's fine, too. On the first Saturday of each month beginning in October, 2022, **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** will be performing live to help keep you entertained while you browse and shop at the **Fort Pierce Jazz Market**, which is adjacent to the award-winning **Fort Pierce Farmers' Market**. That way, you can enjoy your music with your shopping downtown, along the Indian River waterfront, with a gentle breeze carrying that magical sound and bringing smiles to all faces.

You see, no matter how you like your music, **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** has you covered with a full menu of options and some of the finest musicians in the country, too. And if you're not already a member, why not consider joining us today? You can reach us by phone at 772.460.JAZZ (5299) or via email at info@jazzsociety.org. ❖



TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the Friday, July 21, 1922 edition of the Palm Beach Post

To Put \$150,000 Theatre Block in Fort Pierce

Koblegard and Minshall Brothers Back of Enterprise – Also 6 Stores and 8 Offices Investors See Great Future In St. Lucie County

A \$150,000 theatre and business block will be erected in Fort Pierce on Pine street (present day 2nd Street) on the site of the present Critchley building and the two lots south, by R.N. Koblegard of Washington, D.C. and E.R. Minshall of Tulsa, Oklahoma, to be ready for the formal opening on Thanksgiving Day, according to Goodwin and Baker, local real estate men through whom the deal was made, after only a week of negotiation.

The site has already been bought and Architect John R. Sherwood employed to draw up the plans and specifications. A rough outline of the building was accepted yesterday by the builders.

The building will have six store rooms and eight offices besides, one of the most modern and best equipped theatres in the state.

The theatre will have a seating capacity of twelve hundred or more. The entrance will be a twenty foot lobby, opening on Pine street. The interior will be artistically decorated in Pompian style with a three color indirect lighting system. An air washer

ventilation system will be installed which will be placed under the seats instead of overhead. The stage will be as large as any in the state and will have modern equipment and scenery in every way.

The stores will also face on Pine street, five being on the south side of the entrance lobby with the others on the north side. Five were leased as soon as the building of the theatre became known. The offices will be located on the second floor.

The builders of this up to-date business block and theatre are men well known in and around Ft. Pierce, because of their large interests in groves and other property here. Mr. Koblegard first came to Fort Pierce about twelve years ago and financed and developed what is now known as the Fort Pierce Farms, of which all of Fort Pierce is proud. He was also the principal developer in the Seminole Fruit Company, a concern that is one of the largest in the state. This company alone owns one of the finest orange groves of 150 acres in this section. Besides these two large enterprises he also owns other property in Fort Pierce.

According to Mr. Baker of the firm Goodwin and Baker, Mr. Koblegard has been watching the rapid growth of Fort Pierce and has been considering the erection of this building for the past two years; seeing great possibilities on the account of the opening of the inlet and opening up of 75,000 acres through the North St. Lucie River Drainage District...

25 years ago this month as reported by Drew Dixon in the Thursday, July 30, 1997 edition of The Stuart News

Business study to help FP growth

Preliminary data will be released

Efforts to revitalize business in downtown Fort Pierce will have some solid facts to keep the momentum going, say officials helping organize the push.

Halfway through a market analysis on the benefits of the downtown Fort Pierce business area, officials with Marketek of Atlanta will release preliminary data today at a meeting of downtown merchants.

In April, the Fort Pierce Main Street organization hired the company to conduct a detailed study.

The data will provide some tangible numbers at an opportune time for downtown merchants. The Fort Pierce Downtown Business Association was organized July 15.

The preliminary study's release "is perfect timing," said Lisa Horn, owner of the Beer Garden, 101 N. Second St., and a member of the association board of directors. "Anything like this helps."

Horn helped get more than 50 business owners to join the association at its first meeting and said the marketing analysis is more ammunition to promote a positive image of the area. The association "won't appear to be fly-by-night," Horn said.

"I've had people say 'I've seen (downtown organizations) come, I've seen 'em go.' Now maybe people will say this one's for real," she said.

Doris Tillman, manager of Main Street Fort Pierce, who is in charge of coordinating downtown revitalization efforts, said the marketing study will help build redevelopment momentum.

"It will give (businesses) information for themselves as to what things are needed downtown," Tillman said.

"It will let them know how they can increase their business. It will also allow them to know what kind of businesses to recruit," she said.

Horn agreed that recruiting new business is critical for downtown. "We have a lot of empty storefronts down here. That was kind of the purpose of forming the (Downtown Business) Association. I anticipate

looking at the information," she said.

That information will be distrusted at a meeting set for 7 a.m. today at the Old City Hall, 315 Avenue A.

Although this is a preliminary study, it's part of a larger survey that should be completed within three months, Tillman said.

"This study is the economic master plan. It will be the road map for the economic future of the city," she said.

Tillman and the Main Street organization coordinated the study, but the Fort Pierce Community Development Agency is paying the \$32,000 cost, she said.

Also at today's meeting, representatives from the Indian River Community College Business Development Center will be on hand to advise merchants on adjusting to a changing downtown climate.

"A part of any redevelopment is tied in with the folks that will staff a business. We're there to share information and explain customized training we can provide," said Richard Lyons, assistant dean of business and information technology at IRCC.

Many downtown merchants will need to restructure some of their business practices simply because the revitalization will bring more customers into many stores, he said. "In these kind of situations, it's critical to design increased customer relations skills for staff," he said.

All the information gathered at today's meeting will be shared by the board of directors of the Downtown Business Association. The board will present the data to its general membership at 8 a.m. Aug. 19, at the Beer Garden.

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In the world of small business ownership, learning never stops. The American consumer is changing all the time, and so is the nature of the small business marketplace. There are an endless number of topics to stay abreast of, from marketing trends to industry regulations. Today's worker has, by and large, embraced this fact. According to LinkedIn Learning's 5th Annual Workplace Learning Report, more than half of surveyed workers — Gen Z respondents, in particular — believe that learning is the key to success in their career.

The desire for continuous education is there. But with so much material available all the time, it can be difficult to navigate the information landscape. Luckily, the SBA has you covered with the **SBA Learning Platform**, an online forum that includes courses on various entrepreneurial topics. Summer school doesn't have to feel like a chore. Check out one of the many available resources on the **SBA Learning Platform**.

LEARNING CENTER: A comprehensive list of online lessons awaits at the **SBA Learning Center**. Find out how to conceptualize and develop your entrepreneurial ideas. Or, if you are past that stage, learn how to turn your business into a reality. The **Learning Center** is ideal for continuous education once you are up and running as well, offering courses on how to master day-to-day business operations, how to understand your competition, how to win new customers and funding opportunities, and much more.

ASCENT: A tool for women entrepreneurs created by women entrepreneurs: That is the power of **Ascent**. Divided into major topics called Journeys, **Ascent** helps users reach the pinnacle of their business goals. This free learning platform contains exercises — called excursions — In addition to tools, discussion guides, videos, key insights, self-assessments, and much more.



BOOTS TO BUSINESS (B2B): Learning starts at the fundamentals, and those are what B2B teaches to veterans, active-duty and transitioning service members, and military spouses and National Guard and Reserve members stationed around the globe. Through the U.S. Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP), B2B trains veteran entrepreneurs on business ownership online and in person. B2B Reboot brings the program directly into communities for veterans who may not have access to take courses on base.

T.H.R.I.V.E EMERGING LEADERS: Proven, executive-level leaders require multidimensional, next-level education. That is what the **T.H.R.I.V.E Emerging Leaders Reimagined** program offers. T.H.R.I.V.E stands for Train. Hope. Rise. Innovate. Venture. Elevate. This reinvented initiative delivers in each of these facets for eligible high-potential businesses across the country. Participants enjoy the benefits of mentoring, in-person coaching, self-paced instruction, and more.

Ambition and knowledge are the cornerstones of small business success. Let the SBA help you hone those traits with its virtual toolbox of resources. Take **Small Business Summer School** on your terms, and see what the **SBA Learning Platform** is all about. ❖

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"Big Chuck"

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



When in downtown Fort Pierce, you will eventually meet "Big Chuck." You will recognize him by the smiling hedgehog beaming from his side panels. A smiling hedgehog? Yup! For the past few years, one of my paintings of a hedgehog named "Spike" has been the unofficial mascot of the gallery. Since the purchase of "Big Chuck," the gallery's new high-top cargo van, Spike, much to his delight, has been christened the official mascot. Here is how this all came into play.

As I was painting what I thought at the time were BIG canvases, 48 x 60, I had the opportunity, at the request of another gallery, to paint in an even larger size. So, the shift was made to 60 x 60. What fun I must say! Then the request was 72 x 72 paintings. Now the whole art transport issue changed. A regular van was



no longer suitable, so Chuck appeared on the scene. What were the words I uttered just before this cascade of events? I spoke to myself in general, "go big, or go home!" I was encouraging myself to be open to expanding, whatever that may look like. And so, the unfolding began.

Although "Big Chuck" was initially acquired as an art delivery van, I find myself behind his wheel on my daily excursions more and more. He just feels like adventure and in my mind's eye I can see him traveling near and far, with comfort and space for any surprises that may present themselves. It's funny how one change opens the way for more and more changes.

Is expansion during this period of uncertainty a bit scary? Yes and no. In and of itself it is a bit intimidating. On the

other hand, feeling caged in by circumstances and not seeking a release feels even more scary. We were not born content to crawl and never walk. We seek out new foods, new friends, new hang outs and sometimes new vocations. If we get a bump or bruise, we carry on and if we find it difficult to push through, magically someone comes along to give us a gently buoying up. Contentment is one thing and complacency is another.

There is a multitude of twinkling stars hung in blackness for our inspiration. There are new sprouts of foliage all around us, growing and blooming by instinct, regardless of their circumstances. Whether clinging to a cliff throughout their existence

or tucked in tidy in a residential garden, the plants do their thing; shifting, adapting and making the most of themselves with what they have been provided. Our previous opportunities may have gone from garden to cliffside. The world has changed. Yet new elements have been added to the mix, as if new nutrients for the soil in which we are planted.

Many, over the past few years have become more open and authentic in connection with other humans. As a species, many have reevaluated priorities, connections and aspirations, to ways that are more focused on our global family. We have become acutely aware of the smallness of our earth and the interconnectedness of all events, even seeing the impact that attitudes and emotions have on this small space we all call home. This has caused many to say, "go big, or go home," as they actively seek out ways to progress even in the throes of uncertainty.

So, when you do see Spike smiling at you as "Big Chuck" passes by, allow him to coax a smile to your face and an assured lightness to your heart, as the world around you conspired to enliven you to go bigger. ❖

Free to Fish!

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

When the summer heat gets more intense, remember it's cool to fish! Our local waters are an angler's paradise so it's time to have some serious fun fishing. All ages enjoy the action of reeling in a nice catch that most likely will end up on the dinner table. That's what we call "gettin groceries!"

Mangroves, lanes, and muttuns are plentiful and great to target on the reefs in about 50–100 feet. Live bait is best for snapper fishing but frozen will work, too. Shrimp or live pilchards with 30-pound fluorocarbon and enough weight to keep your bait on the bottom will give best results. I also recommend snapper fishing at night right before a full moon for some great bites and an easy way to fish while staying out of the sun.

Offshore the mahi bite is going strong. Slow trolling with naked or skirted ballyhoo will increase your chances of hooking one of these colorful and acrobatic fish. Watch for weed lines and feeding birds and if you catch one, keep an eye out for others since they are a schooling fish.

The photo this month is my dad, Matt Samuel, and my cousin, Eddie Samuel, with a nice mahi from a recent trip. Another great day on the water!

This month is also the time for the highly anticipated lobster mini-season July 27th and 28th. Lobster divers will be here in full force hoping to catch some tasty spiny lobster. I can guarantee that lobster tails and fresh snapper are both fantastic on the grill.



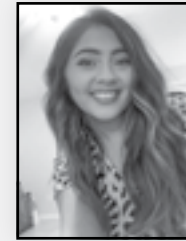
Little Jim Bait & Tackle can answer all your questions about rules and regulations plus get you hooked up with bait, tackle, food, and drinks. Come see me there and let's talk fishing. Wishing everyone a safe *Fourth of July* as we celebrate the freedom to keep *Pullin Drag!* ♦



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Favorite Recipes from Main Street Board Members



Summer days get hot in the Sunrise City! Nothing is better than a yummy smoothie to cool you down. I hope you enjoy!

Daniela Mendoza's Red, White and Blue Smoothie

Blue Layer

- 4 ounces pomegranate juice (½ cup)
- ½ frozen banana, sliced
- ½ cup frozen blueberries
- ½ cup ice
- 1 tablespoon honey

White Layer

- 2 ounces orange juice (or juice from 1 orange)
- ½ cup ice
- ½ cup yogurt, plain or vanilla
- 1 frozen banana, sliced

Red Layer

- 2 ounces pomegranate juice (¼ cup)
- 1 cup of frozen strawberries, halved
- ½ frozen banana, sliced
- ½ cup ice



For the blue layer: pour pomegranate juice into the blender and add the bananas, blueberries, ice, and honey until smooth. Pour into the bottom of four 8-ounce glasses and tap the glass lightly on the countertop to help even the layer. Freeze while prepping the next layer.

For the white layer: Rinse out the blender and pour in the orange juice and add the ice, yogurt, bananas, and blend until smooth. Pour the white layer on top of the blue layer in the glasses. Again tap the glass lightly on the countertop to help even the layer, and then return to the freezer.

For the red layer: Rinse the blender once more and pour in the pomegranate juice and add the strawberries, bananas, ice, and blend until smooth. Pour the red layer on top of the white layer. Keep in the freezer until ready to serve.



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