

# FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

## "Passport to Paradise" 26th Annual Reverse Raffle & Online Auction



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November 14  
for this  
One-of-a-Kind Event!**  
See page 10 for all the details

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

# Normal & New Normal Blending Beautifully in Historic Fort Pierce

by Sue Dannahower



I hope you plan to join us on November 14th for our **26th Annual Reverse Raffle – Virtually**. Tickets are \$100, with a potential of winning up to \$5,000. We also have some wonderful virtual auction items you can bid for on our website.

October was a busy month. We hosted our first “Pop Up” Friday Fest, a **Fall Golf Tournament**, a *Virtual Coffee with the Mayor* and our **Annual “Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past” Historic Walking Tours**.


I continue to volunteer at *Main Street* while homeschooling my grandson, Charlie. I work on curriculum in the morning, show up at *Main Street* late morning. Then at 5:00 p.m. I have a standing Zoom date with Charlie. See *Homeschooling Charlie* in this issue of the *Focus* magazine.

*Main Street* continues our commitment to downtown businesses and restaurants. We are promoting online shopping, posting hours of operations on our Facebook page and website.

*Please support our local businesses by shopping and dining in beautiful Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.* ❖

# Happy Thanksgiving





## MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

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Volume 16, No. 4 November 2020

Publisher	Main Street Fort Pierce Inc.
Editor	Joanne Blandford
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**Phone: 772.466.3880 • mainstreetfortpierce.org**

## Merchant Events & *Shop LOCAL for the Holidays* in Downtown Fort Pierce

The businesses of downtown Fort Pierce have your gift-buying needs covered for this holiday season. Shop downtown for the most personalized gifts for your friends and loved ones. Check out these fun holiday shopping opportunities:

**Jarvis Treasure Boutique's Open House** – November 14th  
www.jarvistreasures.com

101 N US Hwy 1, 127 – Historic Arcade Building

**Chic & Shore's 7th Annual Open House** – November 14th  
Facebook page – chicandshorethings  
205 N. 2nd Street

**Art Walk** – Friday, November 20th  
5 to 8 p.m.

Small Business Saturday – November 28th

**Small Business Saturday** is a national event held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year, if you visit downtown Fort Pierce on **Small Business Saturday** you can enter a chance to

win a downtown shopping spree. To enter this free drawing, participants need to pick up a downtown passport at **Chic and Shore Things** (205 N. 2nd Street) starting at 10:00 a.m.

Have your passports stamped by eight participating businesses and return the stamped passports to **Notions & Potions** (116 N. 2nd Street, #103) by 6:00 p.m.

The drawing will take place shortly on Facebook Live at 6:30 p.m. that evening, and the winner takes all. Participants need not be present to win but must be over 18 years old.

Some businesses will also have free SHOP SMALL canvas bags available, while they last, for **Small Business Saturday** shoppers.

**Small Business Saturday** is a great day to get most or all of your holiday shopping completed early while supporting your local merchants. ❖



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# Cora Stickney Harper Chapter, NSDAR, Recognizes Joanne Blandford with *Historic Preservation Award*


Fort Pierce's *Cora Stickney Harper Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution*, will award Mrs. Joanne Blandford with the **DAR Historic Preservation Award** during *Coffee with the Mayor* at 8 a.m. on Friday, November 20 at **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**. She has been committed to preserving Fort Pierce's rich and colorful history for two decades. Joanne has researched, written, conducted oral histories, and worked with others through *Main Street Fort Pierce* to ensure Fort Pierce history is well-documented. Specially, she researched and created the ever-popular **Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past** walking tours, Fort Pierce's "Florida Stories" app walking tours, and expanded the popular historic trolley tours. Joanne



was also involved in restoration of the **Sunrise Theatre** and **Platts/Backus House**.

The *National Society Daughters of the American Revolution* was founded in 1890 to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. Its members are descended from the patriots who won American independence during the Revolutionary War. With more than 185,000 members in approximately 3,000

chapters worldwide, **DAR** is one of the world's largest and most active service organizations. To learn more about the work of today's DAR, visit [www.DAR.org](http://www.DAR.org) or connect with DAR on social media at [facebook.com/TodaysDAR](https://facebook.com/TodaysDAR), [twitter.com/TodaysDAR](https://twitter.com/TodaysDAR) and [youtube.com/TodaysDAR](https://youtube.com/TodaysDAR). ❖




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# Mayor's Message **FPUA COVID-19 Response** **Community Proud**

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



The Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) has gone way beyond what any other utility has done in order to help customers struggling due to COVID-19. Early in the pandemic, FPUA closed its customer service lobby to protect customers and employees but kept the drive-up windows open and dedicated additional staff to the call center. Customers were not charged late fees or service charges, and offered payment plans at zero percent interest from March 18th to October 5th.

In August, in order to avoid or delay disconnects of service, FPUA extended its protection of customers and embarked on an intensive customer contact project to place every past due customer on a payment plan. While the FPUA had been mailing and calling to past due customers, many were not responding. The renewed effort included additional mailings and calls, and outreach through its website, four radio stations, social media and press releases.



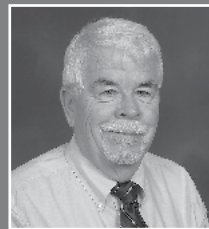
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) is a true hometown utility, participating in events such as Friday Fest, shown here in celebration of Public Power Week in Fort Pierce. FPUA also participates in the Weatherization Educational Outreach Program, Utility Box Decoration Initiation and Project CARE, a program to assist customers facing emergencies with utility bills.

Along with almost half a million dollars of waived fees, FPUA sponsored \$100,000 to **Mustard Seed** for utility payment vouchers for past due customers. **Mustard Seed** has an ongoing program of assistance for FPUA customers, but this new money was directed to COVID-19 associated past due customers. In addition, FPUA sponsored \$50,000 to the Agriculture and Labor Program, Inc. (ALPI) for assistance to past due customers. FPUA also began working with St. Lucie County to identify CARES Act money for citizens, up to \$4,000, which could include funding for utility bills.

As of October 6, a total of 2,625 residential customers and 162 commercial customers were placed on payment plans totaling \$2.7 million. Past due customers in jeopardy of disconnection are given a notice letter 21 days in advance, followed by a courtesy call. This was an outstanding and labor-intensive effort to ensure that disconnected customers would be kept to an absolute minimum. FPUA staff are Treasure Coast residents who care about Fort Pierce ratepayers and everyone put forth a great effort to protect and assist all customers.

As Mayor, I serve on the FPUA Board and am proud of the Board and staff for the sustained effort to serve our customers. For more information about FPUA, please visit the new website at <https://fpu.com/> or call 772-466-1600. We are Community Proud. ❖

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# Sunrise Theatre Prepares for its 15th Season with COVID-19 Precautions

When hit with COVID-19 in March 2020, the **Sunrise Theatre for the Performing Arts** in Fort Pierce suspended all scheduled performances and events on the Main Stage through August 31st. Ticket revenues that support programming and maintain operations of the historic 1,200-seat performing arts center were lost. Staff hours were cut to save money, the box office closed to reduce public contact, and rescheduled shows and refunds began. What we all thought was going to be a couple of weeks — maybe a month — continues.

During this “dark time” the **Sunrise Theatre** staff creatively provided activities to entertain patrons and the public as much as possible with coloring contests for children, live streaming concerts on the main stage, *Sunrise*

*Sessions* with local artists, signed guitar fundraising giveaways to virtual concert series. As they say, the show must go on and indeed it has and will for the 2020/21 Season!

*Comedy Corner* returned in June in the **Black Box**

with a smaller, table seating, 50% public capacity (less than 70 people) and the social distancing, masks and intensified cleaning to meet the CDC and locally recommended

guidelines. Folks loved returning to some sort of normalcy with the *Comedy Corner* shows and of course having a laugh or two didn’t hurt!

Looking toward the 15th season, your **Sunrise Theatre** Programming Team has been hard at work putting together an outstanding line-up of performances for the 2020/21 Season and beyond. In the main 1,200-seat theatre, CDC guidelines and precautions are being followed with intensified cleaning, limited seating, hand sanitizers, masks for entry and six feet social distancing for your safety.

We look forward to the future when we can again come together to be entertained, inspired, moved and awed by the talent and beauty that live performance brings to our lives and hearts. “We want to assure you that we will move forward for you, our community and our supporters, to continue to bring you the best in entertainment, cultural offerings and arts education programming for students of all ages,” states executive director Sharon Engle.

We need your help to do that, so we ask that you continue to support the **Sunrise Theatre** and *all* of our local arts organizations that depend so heavily on this support. Our culture that the music, dance, and theatre created and performed in each of our cities makes them unique and special places. We all exist for you but can only survive with your support. All of us at the **Sunrise Theatre** send wishes for good health and safety to you and your family and we look forward to a bright, 15th year Crystal Anniversary performance season. ❖





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

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**Friday, November 20 at 8:00 a.m.**  
**at Fort Pierce Yacht Club**  
 700 N. Indian River Drive  
 —and—  
**Main Street Fort Pierce**  
**on Facebook LIVE**  
[www.facebook.com/main.pierce/](http://www.facebook.com/main.pierce/)

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**Virtual**

# An Evening For Education Dinner

Starting November 7, 2020 through December 6, 2020

For over 20 years, the Education Foundation's biggest fundraising event has always been known as an "Evening for Education" featuring an elegant dinner celebrating public education. This year, for our 30th anniversary, we invite you to join us by enjoying an elegant dinner at your leisure and support the Education Foundation by participating in our **ONLINE AUCTION**.

Tickets are \$50.00 per person or \$45 for a teacher or School District employee.  
This will be a donation to the Education Foundation.

Tickets are valid from Nov 7 through Dec 6 with \$25 off any dinner at participating restaurants.\*

Select from one of the following:

12A Buoy, Fort Pierce • Kyle G's Prime Seafood, Jensen Beach • Pastaio Handmade Pasta-Pizza, Tradition



At your leisure enjoy your dinner and enter the ClickBid link anytime from November 7 to December 6 and shop for the holidays!

Contact Thom Jones at [thom.jones@efslc.org](mailto:thom.jones@efslc.org) or call 772 485-4790 for details.



\*Note: Donor presents ticket to the restaurant and the Education Foundation reimburses \$25 back to the restaurant.

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# Mayor Linda Hudson

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# Grab Your "Passport to Paradise" for the 26th Annual Reverse Raffle

by Donna Sizemore & Colleen Nash Becht

If a palm-fringed, white sandy beach is your idea of a party paradise, pull out your passport! *Main Street Fort Pierce* is home to the most unique **Reverse Raffle** parties and this year promises to be virtually world class! We are excited to announce this year's theme, "Passport to Paradise." No need to pack your suitcase to attend the **26th Annual Main Street Fort Pierce Reverse Raffle & Online Auction**.

The **Reverse Raffle** will take place virtually on Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m., crowd favorite and always a highlight of the evening, the **Reverse Raffle** kicks off. The **Reverse Raffle** starts with 250 numbers on the board. Depending on when a number is pulled determines if it wins money or not. There is a chance to win money 10 times up until the last 10 numbers. Each of the last 10 numbers drawn will win funds starting at \$100 and ending with the grand prize of \$2,000.

Starting November 7th, you'll be able to preview and bid on a variety of auction items online. Favorite returning items include: the *Adams Ranch Back Country Safari & Chuck Wagon Dinner* catered by **The Flavored Fork**; a Royal Poinciana mosaic by *Anita Prentice*; the *Enchanted Edgartown Evening* catered dinner and tour; and a painting by *Doretha Hair Truesdell* (wife of original, late highwaymen Alfred Hair). In addition to these items, there are some exciting new items that will be on the live auction this year including a *5-Star Surf & Turf Dinner* hosted by Art & Sande Allen, owners of **A & G Concrete Pools**; *Hydro Flight Lessons* provided by Britt Reynolds; and a *Watercolor & Wine Party* with *Colleen Nash Becht*.

Bid on an unforgettable dining experience, weekend vacation, and priceless artwork while supporting your local community. Don't forget to get tickets for a chance to win big with the lottery tree drawing — this year there are over \$300 in lottery tickets on the palm tree!



Tickets are available for purchase by phone, 772-466-3880, or on the *Main Street* website: [www.mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://www.mainstreetfortpierce.org)

The **Reverse Raffle** has been a major fundraiser for the projects and mission of *Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.* since 1994.

*Main Street* is extremely grateful to the local business sponsors that contribute to this event. When the need arises, please consider supporting these local businesses that support our local community:

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All proceeds benefit the projects of *Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.*, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. The *Main Street Program* was created by the *National Trust for Historic Preservation* in the late 1970s to revive downtown commerce and save historic properties nationwide. *Main Street Fort Pierce* restored the **Historic City Hall** building, the **Sunrise**

**Theatre**, and managed the grant to build the **Manatee Observation & Education Center**. *Main Street Fort Pierce's* most recent and current restoration project is the **Platts/Backus House**. Along with major restoration projects, *Main Street Fort Pierce* organizes over 30 community events each year to draw people to eat, shop and play in the beautiful, historic downtown Fort Pierce. ❖

## "Passport to Paradise" Sponsors

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People arrive at wealth in many different ways — some build thriving businesses; others simply work hard and manage their money wisely. Regardless of how you achieved financial success, it's important to take an approach to preserving it that's customized to your specific needs and vision for the future. At **Melville Wealth Management Group**, we never follow a "one-size-fits-all" approach to managing something as complex and personal as your wealth. Instead, we take the time to get to know you and your family as well as we know our business. We listen to your thoughts and ideas so we can formulate a plan centered on your unique objectives — providing a distinctive level of service and guidance that's focused solely on you. We're dedicated to providing comprehensive wealth management services to successful families, individuals, and business owners through lasting, personal relationships. In short, our mission is to manage the day-to-day details of wealth so you can focus on the business of life. To assist you in managing and preserving the rewards of your success, we follow the *Certified Financial Planner TM* (CFP®) Board of Standard's comprehensive planning process to help ensure our clients' needs are effectively addressed and their objectives thoroughly planned for.

Article provided by Erik Melville, CFP®, a Senior Vice President/Investments with **Stifel, Nicolaus & Company**, Incorporated, member SIPC & New York Stock Exchange, who can be contacted in the Fort Pierce office at (772) 672-5125.

### Law Firm of Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd

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workers' compensation, Social Security and Veterans' disability, and bankruptcy. Our attorneys and staff live and work here and continuously volunteer and contribute to numerous community events, and we have supported *Main Street Fort Pierce's Reverse Raffle* for years. The firm is led by senior partner Steve Hoskins, a fourth generation Fort Pierce resident and a Board-Certified Civil Trial Lawyer by the Florida Bar since 1989. Together with partners Louis Turco, Colin Lloyd, and Ian Lloyd, they have over 100 years of combined legal experience, successfully representing thousands of clients on the Treasure Coast. Because of our experience, we know how to handle just about any legal issue presented to us — no case is too complex. Whether you've been injured, are facing bankruptcy, or have been denied benefits you deserve, our legal team is here to help you. Call us at 866-460-1990 for a free review of your case.

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*Continued on page 13 ...*

# Manatee Awareness Month

by Vince Zalenski, Roving Naturalist

Look, look, there it is!” “I can see its nose!” “Awwww, how cute, how sweet!”

As a volunteer Roving Naturalist at the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** (MOEC) for the past four years, I never tire of hearing visitors’ reactions when they see a manatee. Some for the first time, some for the twentieth time. Locals and folks from all over the U.S. and



the world all react in basically the same way — surprise, joy, excitement, enthusiasm. Being a Roving Naturalist at MOEC is probably the best non-paying job I’ve ever had!

These beautiful (yes, they are!), docile creatures are a vital part of our local environment. Their presence in our local waters draws thousands of people to this area. These visitors not only come to the MOEC to learn about and see manatees, but then go on to spend time and money in our local businesses. Definitely a win all around.

November is a special time for our manatees since it is **Manatee Awareness Month** throughout the state. Manatees are returning from their wintering up north (they are classic snowbirds) and setting up home in the Lagoon. This is a critical time for us to be aware of them and make a special effort to watch out for them.

So, what can we do to protect our manatees? The most important thing we must do is *look for them* in the water. Manatees swim along coastal waters and rarely go deep (usually four to six feet below the surface) but they must surface to breathe about every six to ten minutes. It is when they come up to breathe that they are most vulnerable to their most dangerous man-made threat — being hit by a boat. It is up to us as boaters to watch for manatees in those coastal areas where they swim. Remember, manatees hear high-pitched sounds, not the low-pitched drone of a motor cruising along.

Manatees also have limited vision. They can’t see us, so it is up to us to see them. Polarized sunglasses are a must for seeing through the sun’s glare on the water. Watching for noses

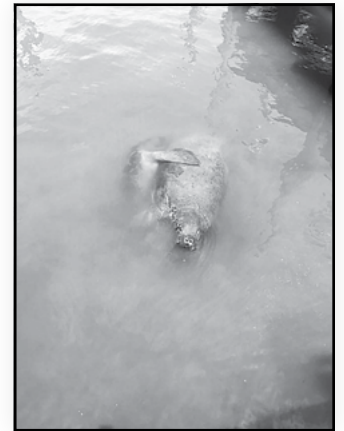
out of the water, a trail of flat spots on the surface, shadows right below the surface; all these things and more are warning signs that a manatee is near. There are numerous resources online to help you identify these tell-tale signs.

When you and the family are dockside just enjoying the weather and a manatee swims up to relax nearby, please do not give it water or

lettuce! Besides being against the law (there is a hefty fine), this can cause the manatee to lose its fear of humans and their environment. They are, and I know many don’t believe this, wild animals, and they need to live that way.

Manatees are a true treasure. They are a protected species, they are loved by all who see them. Help us celebrate **Manatee Awareness Month** by being double-aware of these beautiful mermaids. They will appreciate it.

As for me, after over four years as a MOEC Roving Naturalist, do I still enjoy spotting manatees and interacting with visitors about our manatees and our local area? Best job I never get paid for! ❖



In October, the **Manatee Center** installed retractable screen walls on its outdoor pavilion, creating a large, versatile outdoor classroom space for our education programs. This project began as a #GivingTuesday fundraiser in November 2019 and continued with the TCPalm *12 Days of Christmas* campaign. We are very grateful to our supporters and major donors for making this a possibility. With this new space, the **Manatee Center** can provide a private classroom and event space not only for our camps and education programs, but also for your special events. Thank you for making this possible.

## The Manatee Center November Events

**November 7th at 8 a.m.**

### *12th Annual Manatee Center 5K and One-Mile*

Challenge yourself and support nature's gentlest giants. Registration is \$35 for the 5K and \$20 for the one-mile. Kids 15 and under are only \$15 for all routes. Register online at [www.RunSignup.com](http://www.RunSignup.com). For more information search Manatee Center 5K or call (772) 429-8597. Registration required.

**Friday, November 13th at 12:00 p.m.**

### *Manatee Mystique!*

*Lunch & Learn* — November is Manatee Appreciation Month.

Join Diane Morgan of Indian River State College and Save the Manatee Club, for a Facebook Live Lunch & Learn presentation at noon on Friday, November 13th at 12 p.m. Grab your lunch, turn on your computer, and join us on [Facebook.com/ManateeCenter](https://www.facebook.com/ManateeCenter) for this special Facebook LIVE presentation

**Thursday, November 19th**

### *Drive-in Movie Fundraiser at Causeway Cove Marina!*

Celebrate *Manatee Appreciation Month* with a drive-in movie at **Causeway Cove Marina**. On Thursday, November 19th, ticket sales support the *Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation* and the **Manatee Center**.

**Saturdays, November 14 and 28**

### *Guided Kayak Trip*

Look for wildlife, get up close and personal with mangroves, learn about the Indian River Lagoon on an easy ninety-minute paddle led by a MOEC naturalist. Great for beginners and anyone who wants to learn more about the Lagoon. Tours start at Fort Pierce Inlet State Park. The fee for this program is \$30 per person and includes kayak, paddle and safety gear (state park entrance fee of \$4-\$6 per car not included). *Registration is required.* Call (772) 466-1600 ext.3337 or e-mail [Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org](mailto:Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org) for more information or to register



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## SPONSORS ... continued from page 11

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# Homeschooling Charlie

by Grandma Sue Dannahower



COVID-19 has been both a curse and a blessing. My greatest blessing by far has been spending quality time (via Zoom) with my grandson, Charlie, who lives in Austin, Texas. With school abruptly cancelled the end of March 2020, my daughter, Kristen, asked if I would work with him on English and writing. I taught adults for over 30 years, so I was up for the challenge. How hard could it be to teach a 4th grader?

I spent a lot of time online researching English (now called Language Arts.) We started with synonyms and antonyms which I am familiar with. I found a 4th grade worksheet on finishing a story to practice his writing and created PowerPoints to teach him computer basics.



In May, I came across the *Wishbone* series. This is a live-action children's show produced in mid-1990s. Wishbone lives with his owner Joe in the fictional town in Texas. He daydreams about being the lead character of stories from classic literature. The series includes *Robin Hood*, *Back to the Future*, *The Legends of Sleepy Hollow* and many, many more. This is our special time that we save for the end of each homeschooling session, watching 10 to 15 minute segments on YouTube.

In August, when the SpaceX shuttle launched, we watched it together on YouTube. He was hooked on space, so we spent almost two months watching space videos from the 1960s Apollo programs to present day SpaceX and beyond. We watched landings on the moon, how the astronauts live and work on the International Space Station and more! Did you know there are only three places in the U.S. to land the Space Shuttle?

I wanted to teach him other subjects. I signed up for an online teacher group in Austin, Texas to find appropriate subjects

to cover. Subjects like *Descriptive Investigations*, *Renewable & Nonrenewable Resources*, *Electrical Circuits*, *Magnetism*, *Evolution* and *Genetics* were on the list.

The *Study Jams* website is where we learn about these topics and more. This website is a place for kids to learn, review, and practice science and math topics. Engaging videos, songs, slide shows, karaoke songs, and quizzes cover a range of science and math skills. This is a great resource for learning and reviewing key math and science concepts.



In September, we spent a week in Panama City Beach, Florida. We explored *Descriptive Investigation* by germinating seeds in different climates, light, and restrictions. We predicted the outcomes and waited days for the seeds to sprout. We also worked on a mold project to predict if salt or sugar had any effect on mold growth. We learned why the Gulf of Mexico has only one tide cycle and how to make fluffy microwave cheesy eggs in a coffee mug.



*Mr. DeMaio* (YouTube) is another great source of information. Elementary teacher Mike DeMaio leads a team of educators to produce customized videos to help children learn concepts in math, science, and social studies. They use music, animation, voice-overs, puppets, and other entertaining approaches to create appealing and memorable content to



support their learners. We learned about the planets, the Statue of Liberty, thunder and lightning, snakes, spiders and the likes.

On holidays, like Memorial and Labor Days, we learned their true meaning. On 9-11 we watched a children's version of what hap-

pened. All found on YouTube.

We learn Spanish with *Paco* and friends. I also came up with a dialog sheet to practice conversational Spanish.

In September, we learned about electric circuits. I sent him a kit that allowed him to make at home what we had learned on videos. Kristen also discovered great books through *The Critical Thinking Company*. She purchased the Math and Language books. I teach language, she and my son-in-law, Victor, are teaching math. Thank goodness, because math is not my strength.

It's a lot of work, but so worth it. The first months' worth of coursework was extremely time consuming, but I finally found a routine that works. It's been an 8-month journey that I wouldn't trade for anything. We're up to an hour a day to cover five subjects. I'm able to see and spend time with Charlie Monday through Friday for an hour. He has homework on weeknights with a reprieve on the weekend.

*Love you Charlie – Grandma!* ❖

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# Give Unique Holiday Gifts & Support Local Artists at the 12th Annual Reflections Art Show

The 12th Annual Reflections Art Show is all about bringing a community of artists together for an extraordinary show. Celebrated artist, Anita Prentice, along with Main Street Fort Pierce, hosts this event annually at the Platts Backus House. Anita has created numerous public monumental works, including a tribute to the Highwaymen on Fort Pierce Intermodal Bus Station, grave markers for several Highwaymen Artists, the Butterfly Mosaic at Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden, The Arch at Fort Pierce's Melody Lane Fishing Pier, 170 bus stop benches throughout St. Lucie County, the historic Immokolee Above Ground Pool, the sea-wall at the former home of Jimmy Buffet in Key West and so much more. This year, look for birds, fishes and flowers.

Each year, Reflections tries to present lesser-seen or newly-emerging artists from the Treasure Coast. This year, along with Anita and Ginny Piech Street, Reflections is honoring Diane Mesagno and Blue Hands Studio, comprised of Perlie Petrillo, Valerie Johnson, and Kim Laffont.

With Anita, "It all started with a fish mount in a dumpster..."

There aren't a lot of people who could look at an old taxidermic fish in a dumpster and envision a beautiful second life, but that is exactly what Anita did. She took bits of colorful glass and adorned the fish into a beautiful work of art. From there the sky was the limit, from 150+ benches throughout the treasure coast, to adorned grave markers, to hundreds of gorgeous framed pieces. As Anita would say "Like Diego, Pablo and Salvador, I fully intend to paint the town."

While Anita can create a variety of art mediums, she is best known for her painted mosaics. Her creations encompass real life subjects, abstracts, to the plain fun and funky. Anita prepares her glass like a pallet, using each piece of carefully crafted stained

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glass like a drop of paint, giving the viewer the impression that Anita truly is creating the antiquities of tomorrow.

Ginny Piech Street has been around the Treasure Coast for almost 30 years. While trained as a printmaker, Ginny has always been drawn to 3D art. When re-introduced to clay almost 10 years ago, she found it too compelling to resist. Since then, Ginny has been involved in co-creating two clay studios on the Treasure Coast. The first is in Fort Pierce, **Peacock Clay Collaborative**, and the second, **Indian River Clay** in Vero Beach is a non-profit. And while her mouth waters at a table full of hand-painted paper scraps, she is continuously pushing her clay boundaries. Look for both sculptural and functional clay pieces from Ginny this *Reflections 2020* exhibit. Ginny will also have her annual Christmas ornament edition for those who collect.

*Continued on page 18 ...*

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**REFLECTIONS ... continued from page 17****Blue Hands Studio**

**Blue Hands Studio** was formed in the spring of 2020 when Perlie Petrillo, Valerie Johnson, and Kim Laffont scheduled an impromptu playdate to experiment with Japanese indigo Shibori fabric dyeing. The process was so much fun, they met the following week to try their hands at dyeing Ice Blooms. The meetings turned into a regular date where they set to learning hot and cold fabric dyeing, tie-dyeing, fabric painting, stenciling, and discharging. As they tried each technique they took notes, researched, studied, and tried to absorb as much as possible from the day. Powders and potions were cooked up, sheets were ripped and dipped, and string, rubber bands, and wire were put to use to twist and manipulate fabric. It got messy; it got hot, but they persisted. They fed off each other, trying to outdo each other's "wow" moments. The name came naturally after a particularly intense day of dyeing when they had shed their gloves in their haste to unravel the treasures, and they all ended up with blue hands. The weekly meetings have become part of their creative routine.


Although they work together to create the canvases for their work, each of them works in different directions. Valerie uses the hand-dyed fabric to make wearable art such as necklaces and earrings and incorporates pieces into her jackets and purses. Perlie, president of SAQA (Studio Art Quilt Associates) pod 8, likes working with Asian techniques with stitching and stencils. Kim creates imaginative work waiting and watching for the fabric to speak to her with a focus on folk art and fantasy. She makes miniature quilts, like her pocket love quilts she will be showing.

No matter the technique, it's all about learning with, and from, each other, and most importantly it's about having fun. They support each other's creative vision and projects. They are happy to share their art, jewelry, and love quilts with you and hope you get as much enjoyment from them as they have.

Diane Mesagno, born and raised in New York, graduated The New York Institute of Technology with a degree in Architecture. Before starting her career in architecture, she studied sculpture in Austria. Since moving to Florida, she devotes her time and energy to the disciplines of Fine Art; oil and acrylic painting, sculpture and murals. Her recent work depicts Florida land and seascapes painted plein aire.

With the concerns regarding COVID, they are implementing docents at the door, limited persons viewing at one time, safe, outdoor socializing and refreshments. And now that masks are the "new accessory", please wear your most creative and wild mask. You won't want to miss this pre-holiday show, always a great opportunity to get those special gifts. If you can't come to the Exhibit's reception on Thursday night, November 19, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., there will be a second opportunity to see the art on Friday, November 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Wednesday, November 18, they will post a live preview of the exhibit on *Main Street's* FaceBook page. This exhibit is free to the public and will be held at the **Platts/Backus House** located at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. For more information call *Main Street Fort Pierce* at (772) 466-3880. ❖





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## Marine Science Takes Center Stage at St. Andrew's

Being located on the Indian River Lagoon has provided **St. Andrew's** students an opportunity for extraordinary hands-on science instruction and discovery. In the COVID-19 era, it was vital that this continue for students who are on campus and for those who were learning from home.

Science learning at the Academy takes full advantage of its riverfront campus. It is common to see students seining in the lagoon and studying the marine life within it. Their research continues in the science lab where they can collaborate with their classmates learning from home. "Thanks to technology, our *Blended Learning* students can study the biology of a starfish in real-time" says Brandy Nelson, Lead Science Instructor. "Our goal is to offer a high-quality learning experience with a strong interactive component," she states.

Enhancing the instruction, **St. Andrew's** 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-grade students safely traveled to the Keys and visited the *Dolphin Research Center* (DRC) in Marathon. The facility promotes conservation and awareness of marine mammals through education, research and rescue. Students observed dolphin training exercises which are utilized by DRC staff to ensure dolphins are comfortable with medical examinations and administration of medication if necessary. Mrs. Nelson also held a special lesson via *Zoom* for Academy 3rd graders.

Unfortunately, the *Dolphin Research Center* has been impacted by hurricanes and the pandemic. Understanding the need, Academy students, families and staff did a donation drive and were able to provide a gift of over \$600 to support their education programs.

Students then made their way to *Aquarium Encounters* where they fed sharks and rays underwater. They toured the facility to observe lagoon fishes and handle crustaceans, rays, and echinoderms. Both facilities provide extraordinary Marine Science learning and instill the importance of conservation.

Academy students will be returning to the Keys in the Spring of 2021 to continue their science, environmental and leadership learning. For more information about **St. Andrew's Episcopal Academy**, visit [staacademy.org](http://staacademy.org). ❖



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# Love, JAZZ Community: Jazz – History, Community, and Gratitude

by Don Bestor

Every month, I share a little bit of information about the wonderful concerts, professional jazz jams, and live music events and opportunities available throughout St. Lucie County courtesy of the incredibly talented professional musicians who comprise the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**. When I sat down to begin writing this month's column, I started thinking about how November is a month that is steeped in heritage, history, and gratitude. The more I mulled it over, the more I realized that lots of people probably think of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** as a group that just gets together and plays music. While we do eat, sleep, and breathe music, our group is a whole lot more than that, and it seemed to me that now would be a really good time to share with you a little bit of the history of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**.

The Society began in 1996, but for the sake of brevity, I'm going to focus on just the past twelve years and share just a few of the highlights of the last dozen years. The **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** is an all-volunteer, 501©3 organization, which means we are a nonprofit organization all the way. **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** gives away \$10,000 – \$15,000 each yearly in single \$1,000 scholarships to primarily St. Lucie County students who plan to study music or music education beyond the high school level. Other counties, including Indian River, Martin, and Okeechobee Counties also participate in our program.

As they say in the commercials, but that's not all. At a really affordable rate, the Society provides two different summer camps with great, experienced, and professional instructors for young students. We also provide programs which augment school music programs in middle and high schools in the form of free hands-on coaching for all those who seek music



instruction help in the four counties, and we do this at *no cost to the school*. We provide private instruction at no cost to the student or his/her family through our *Eye to Eye Program* too. This

program includes up to six free lessons on a one to one basis. The *Eye to Eye Program* is designed for recommended music students who don't have financial resources.

We also provide weekly music events, (jams), which offer jazz/blues and all types of music to the public at little or no cost to them, and they're not just a musical performance either. We offer the very camaraderie amongst the local community during these weekly events that we are known for. But wait, there's more — we also provide special musical events at an affordable cost at the **Black Box, Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, the Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, and other venues, too.

There is a very long list of accomplishment that make up the DNA of the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, and we are very proud of our achievements over the years. I hope you won't consider this a 'humblebrag,' but we are, probably, one of the most community-minded organizations on the Treasure Coast, and all of us who are members, be they musicians or just music-lovers, are committed to keeping it that way. The reason is simple — we love living here, and we are so grateful to the community for its constant love and support that we show our gratitude in the only way we know how — we provide fabulous, live music to help make you smile, take you back to a special memory, or create a host of new friends and memories to take with you moving forward. That's what we're all about, and we're delighted to serve this community.

If you'd like to learn more about **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, want to know how to join (to get super discounts on upcoming events and activities), volunteer, share a gift membership for someone special, or snag a copy of our newsletter, *Milestones*, or our schedule, call 772.460.JAZZ (5299), or visit us online at [www.jazzsociety.org](http://www.jazzsociety.org). *Happy Thanksgiving* from all of us at **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, and thank you for keeping the music alive with your support. ❖



## Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market – *Autumn is Upon Us!*

**A**utumn is upon us! The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** welcomes the transition from summer to winter with slightly cooler and less humid days. Though not as spectacular as northern states, Florida has subtle changes with the onset of fall.

Having made it through the dog days of summer, the Market has also continued through the demands and rigors of social distancing and safe practices of Covid-19 prevention. Live bands have resumed entertaining every Saturday and the crowds of visitors to the Market have respected the guidelines set forth by the CDC, City of Fort Pierce, and the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market**. While enjoying the music, customers still dance through the aisles and down the seawall while singing along with their favorite songs.

Now is the time for all to enjoy the benefits of shopping locally and supporting the small businesses. The **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** offers the best of the best in locally grown and produced products available in our area. Treasure Coast residents continue to return week after week to check out their old favorites and see what new vendors and products are offered. While summer is the time for vacations and relaxation, most vendors continue sales each week.

‘Season’ begins around the first of October and with that the Market season returns. Snowbirds are beginning to come back and year-round residents have finished their summer vacations. School has begun, whether virtual or face-to-face, and life has continued on despite whatever else is going on. Seasonal vendors are delighted to see old customers, and new vendors are clamoring to get into the swing of the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market**.

Several new vendors since last year have found a home at the Market and many more are on the threshold to debut their products. Regular vendors at the Market are delighted to see the addition of new vendors with more variety and availability in products for the discerning customer.

American Farmland Trust’s annual favorite farmers’ market contest has determined that the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** remained one of the best in the nation, but we already know that. Come see what they’re all talking about — the chatter is real! Fresh produce, fresh organics, locally made elderberry products, fresh seafood, fresh coffee, fresh artisanal pastries and breads, fresh smoked fish dip, fresh live plants — fresh, fresh, fresh! Clean air, sunshine, friendly folks.

The quaint charm of historic downtown Fort Pierce is the basis for the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** and the fabulous people who make up the patronage along with the delightfully diverse vendors create the success of this unique waterfront destination.

Open every Saturday morning, rain or shine, from 8 to 12, the **Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market** is the place to be. *A Saturday morning tradition since 1997!* Be sure to check out our website [www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com](http://www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com) and follow us on facebook and twitter. ❖



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# Microsoft Tips & Tricks

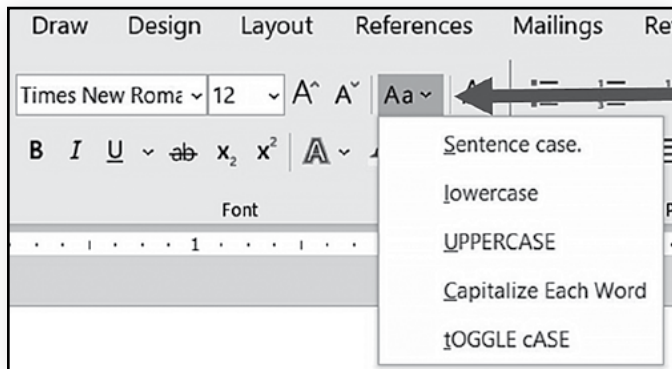
by Sue Dannahower



## CHANGE CASE

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To change the case of selected text in a document, do the following:



Select the text for which you want to change the case.

Go to **Home > Change case**. Choose how you want your text formatted. To capitalize the first letter of a sentence and leave all other letters as lowercase, select **Sentence case**.

To exclude capital letters from your text, select **lowercase**.

To capitalize all of the letters, select **UPPERCASE**. To capitalize the first letter of each word and leave the other letters lowercase, select **Capitalize Each Word**. To shift between two case views (for example, to shift between **Capitalize Each Word** and the opposite, **capitalizE eACH wORD**, select **tOGGLE cASE**.

*Happy computing!* ❖

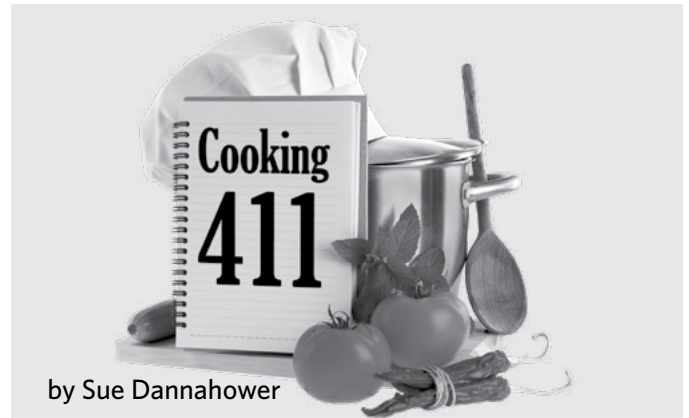


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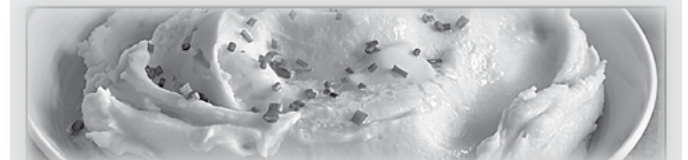
26 yr Navy Veteran, 18 yr Home Inspector  
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by Sue Dannahower

## Make the Ultimate Mashed Potatoes for Thanksgiving

- 1. Choose the right potato(es):** Starchy potatoes like Russets are the classic and best choice for mashed potatoes. Their high starch content guarantees a light, fluffy result that easily soaks up butter and cream. However, Russets tend to be milder in flavor than some other varieties. Combining Russets with a flavorful potato, such as Yukon Golds makes for a richer, more buttery-tasting mash.
- 2. Cut the potatoes evenly:** Peeling potatoes, cut into even chunks and hold in water to keep them from browning and to rinse off some excess starch.
- 3. Boil potatoes starting with cold water:** Drain the chopped potatoes and then transfer to a large pot and cover them with fresh cold water. Bringing your potatoes to a boil with the water rather than adding them to already boiling water will ensure they cook evenly.
- 4. Rice the potatoes:** A potato ricer is the best way to make mashed potatoes. it's the best way to limit lumps, prevents you from overworking the potatoes, and makes things go along more quickly than using other methods.
- 5. Add butter and milk or cream:** Reach for high-quality butter, and whole milk or real cream. Let the butter soften to room temperature—if you melt it, you'll lose the emulsion resulting in potatoes that are less creamy. Heat the milk or cream until it's hot to the touch. You can toss in a few fresh thyme sprigs, garlic cloves, or bay leaves to infuse the milk while it warms up—just be sure to leave them behind in the pot when you pour the milk into the potatoes.



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# Keep Your Business Safe from Cybersecurity Threats

by Keith A. Bluestein, Chief Information Officer, published on [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)



According to the *National Cybersecurity Alliance*, many small to medium-sized businesses (SMBs) have the misconception that their data is not valuable and that, in turn, they are unlikely to be the target of a cyberattack. However, 28% of cyberattacks involve small business victims. In short, all data is valuable – and there are simple steps that small business

owners can take to protect theirs. This *Cybersecurity Awareness Month*, we encourage you to leverage the following tips and resources to ramp up your cybersecurity safeguards.

## UNDERSTAND THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF CYBERATTACKS

To effectively prevent cyberattacks, you must first understand some of the ways these threats can present themselves. The most common types of cyberattacks include:

**Phishing:** Phishing is when cybercriminals send an email or text that appears to be from a legitimate organization or known individual. These emails often entice users to click on a link or open an attachment containing malicious code. After the code runs, your computer may become infected with malware (i.e. software intentionally designed to cause damage to a computer, server, client, or computer network).

**Viruses:** Viruses, a type of malware, are harmful programs that spread from computer to computer, giving cyber criminals access to systems.

**Ransomware:** Ransomware is a type of malware that restricts access to a computer until a ransom is paid.

## ASSESS YOUR CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES

Once you understand what cyberattacks can look like, the next step is to evaluate your own operation's cybersecurity risks. A cybersecurity risk assessment can identify where a business is vulnerable and help you create a plan of action, which should include employee training, a strategy for securing email platforms, and a path forward to protect your business's information assets.

Here are a few government tools you can use for your cybersecurity risk assessment:

**Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Planning**

**Tool:** The FCC offers a cybersecurity planning tool to help you build a strategy based on your unique business needs.

**Cyber Resilience Review:** The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cyber Resilience Review is a non-technical assessment to evaluate operational resilience and cybersecurity practices.

**Cyber Hygiene Vulnerability Scanning:** DHS also offers free cyber hygiene vulnerability scanning for small businesses.

**Cyber Essentials:** Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Cyber Essentials is a guide for leaders of small businesses as well as leaders of small and local government agencies to develop an actionable understanding of where to start implementing organizational cybersecurity practices.

## IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES

While your risk assessment will help you develop tailored cybersecurity plans based on your unique needs, there are also general best practices that all businesses can adopt to reduce vulnerability to a cyberattack. These include:

**Beefing up existing cybersecurity protections:** Simple acts like changing passwords with stronger ones made up of random letters, numbers, and special characters can help prevent cybercriminals from gaining access to your data. Using multifactor authentication for your accounts and services. Additionally, update anti-virus software and secure your Wi-Fi networks.

**Training employees:** Cybersecurity is a team effort. Make sure your employees know their roles and responsibilities in preventing breaches, too.

**Protecting sensitive data and backing up the rest:** While firewalls and other tech protections are important to warding off cyberattacks, physical protections can be just as essential. For example, lock up company laptops when they are not being used to prevent unauthorized access. Additionally, make sure that your files are backed up regularly to reduce your business's susceptibility to ransomware attacks.

Being a small business owner is all consuming, and it can be difficult to find a spare moment. However, making cybersecurity a priority can save you time and money down the line. Visit [sba.gov/cybersecurity](http://sba.gov/cybersecurity), along with the Cybersecurity Awareness Month site, for more valuable tips and tools. ❖

# The Magic of Memories

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



In this “interesting” world climate it is a bit hard for me to decide what to write about. All our minds are still a bit muddled perhaps. Sometimes glimpses from the past are just what we need to clear our heads. With this in mind, I have decided to tell you about two of my favorite childhood memories and then I will tell you why they stand out so vividly amongst all the past visions in my head.

I grew up in a small factory town in Connecticut; New Britain to be exact. My bedroom was on the second floor of the house and overlooked a lovely neighborhood. This was years ago, and it was the type of neighborhood with swing sets and clotheslines in the yards, which consisted of wonderful expanses of sweet green grass.

Now that I have set the stage, the mind movie snippet will unfold. A wonderful dinner of baked chicken, potatoes, veggies and fresh milk had been eaten. A long warm bath followed and then slipping between sheets that had just finished being caressed by the sun and breeze to dry completed the evening. Several neighbors had just finished mowing their lawns as the sun said goodbye for the day. All of me was satisfied. My tummy was full, the bath washed off the summer play day, the sheets were honestly pure heaven and the intoxicating scent of fresh cut grass tickled my nose. Can you picture it?

Now for one of my other favorite childhood memories, this takes place at my grandfather’s country lakeside cottage. This was a simple little cottage actually built by a man named Jack. He always

left a copy of the book *The House that Jack Built* in each home he built. The cottage had the wonderful smell of old cedar and yes, a bit of lake moisture which I loved as a kid (odd kid, I know.)

I come from a big family and to my parents, sleep time was sacred, so no one was allowed to make a peep until the parents were up. As an early bird, this provided plenty of time for pondering as I awaited the awakening of the rest of the household. Early mornings on the lake were literally a spiritual experience to me. From my top bunk in the cozy bedroom packed with my siblings, all who had adapted and slept in, I experienced the magic unfold in undistracted solo.

There was always a heavy mist on the lake as the sun peeked up. At just the right time of the year, momma mallards would proudly promenade their delightful fluffy little brood around the lake, I was sure at that time, for the enjoyment of the early risers. The intoxicating cottage scents, the mist, the peeking sun and the peaceful paddling of the duck families filled me with joy.

So, why am I relaying these experiences to you now? Good question. To many, these experiences may seem insignificant and even mundane. Yet upon closer view one can see the rich tapestry of such simple daily or nightly unfoldings. As beings that find comfort, delight, excitement and motivation (and the list goes on and on) from experiences, the nuances of these memories are quite outstanding.

A tummy full of good food, the feel of neighbors mowing their little lawns just like my family and the delicious scent that follows, and then tucked in cozy with clean body and sheets all cocoon a young child’s heart. A cozy cottage packed with siblings and visited by duck families is the stuff old well-loved TV shows are made of, surely warming the heart as well.

Some may have to look harder than others; but are there moments woven into your life that truly stir and uplift your spirit? Can we all find at least one or two simple memories that draw us closer to humans and remind us of the stunning beauty of our earthly home? I think I will take a moment before bed now, each night this month, to bring to mind a positive memory and then another positive memory until I have rerun a full 30 of them. Yes, they may be simple and yet I will relive the richness felt in my child’s mind and heart as an antidote to our “interesting” times. ❖



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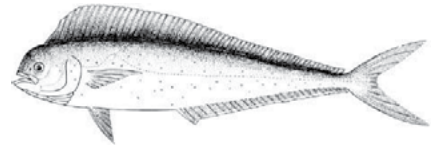
# Fall Fishing Report



by Captain Bo Samuel

**B**elieve it or not, we are into our fall fishing season. That means local waters start to cool bringing more fish into the area for an even better chance to put fish on the table! Sheepshead, snapper, snook, trout, and pompano are great fish to target. Pompano can be found off the beach and in the shallow waters of the lagoon using live shrimp. Snapper and sheepshead are plentiful around channel markers with live bait as your best choice. Try incoming and outgoing tides since the fish like a moving current. The best time to fish for sheepshead is early in the morning when the sun comes up. Catching sheepshead guarantees a tasty fish dinner.




Snook are still in season and being caught on live mullet, pilchards, and pinfish especially around bridges and the inlet. These elusive linesiders are highly prized for their great fight and great taste. Remember snook must be within the “slot,” no less than 28 inches and no more than 32 inches, to be legally kept. Mahi are found offshore as they follow the cooler waters. Trolling skirted ballyhoo is your best choice for mahi but they will hit artificials, feathers, and live bait, too.

Check with your local bait and tackle shop like **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** for all rules, regulations and fishing licenses. Also, visit **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** to “Shop Small” this month for the favorite angler on your Christmas list. Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and feeling grateful to keep *Pullin Drag!* ❖




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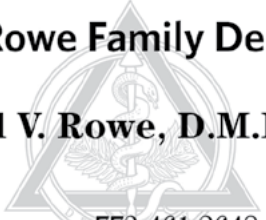
   

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## Recipe Corner

by Sue Dannahower

### Thanksgiving Gratins

#### Butternut Squash Gratin

- 1/2 cup coarse dry breadcrumbs
- 1 cup shredded white sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 small onion, sliced
- Coarse salt and freshly-ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme, divided
- 1 clove garlic minced
- 3 cups butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut into 1/4-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup chicken broth or white wine (your choice)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly butter a 1 quart baking dish. Prepare Topping: In a small bowl, combine bread crumbs, cheddar cheese, and melted butter; set aside.

In a medium-size frying pan over medium-low heat, add olive oil and saute sliced onions, salt, pepper, and 1 teaspoon thyme until onions are lightly browned, approximately 15 minutes. Stir in garlic and cook another minute or so. Remove from heat. Spread onion mixture evenly over the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Set aside the frying pan for later use.

In a large bowl, toss butternut squash cubes with the flour, parmesan cheese, and remaining 1 teaspoon thyme (or to taste) to evenly coat the squash cubes. Note: I like to add some additional black pepper at this point. Spread squash mixture evenly over the top of the onions; set aside.

Place frying pan (that you cooked the onions in) over low heat. Add chicken broth or white wine to deglaze, scraping down brown bits from the bottom and sides of the pan, and let simmer approximately 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat and pour over the top of the squash mixture.

Spread prepared cheese topping over the top of the gratin. Bake for approximately 50 to 60 minutes until the squash is soft and the topping is lightly brown. If you find your topping is browning to fast, cover the dish with some aluminum foil.

Remove from oven and let rest for 10 minutes before serving. *Serves 6 to 8.*

#### Cauliflower Gratin

- 1 (3-pound) head cauliflower, cut into large florets
- Kosher salt
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, divided
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups hot milk
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg
- 3/4 cup freshly grated Gruyere, divided
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan
- 1/4 cup fresh breadcrumbs

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Cook the cauliflower florets in a large pot of boiling salted water for 5 to 6 minutes, until tender but still firm. Drain.

Meanwhile, melt 2 tablespoons of the butter in a medium saucepan over low heat. Add the flour, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon for two minutes. Pour the hot milk into the butter-flour mixture and stir until it comes to a boil. Boil, whisking constantly, for one minute, or until thickened. Off the heat, add 1 teaspoon of salt, the pepper, nutmeg, 1/2-cup of the Gruyere, and the Parmesan.

Pour 1/3 of the sauce on the bottom of an 8 x 11 x 2-inch baking dish. Place the drained cauliflower on top and then spread the rest of the sauce evenly on top. Combine the breadcrumbs with the remaining 1/4-cup of Gruyere and sprinkle on top. Melt the remaining two tablespoons of butter and drizzle over the gratin. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, until the top is browned. Serve hot or at room temperature. *Serves 6 to 8.*



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