

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



**FALL IN DOWNTOWN
FORT PIERCE**

Shop Downtown Fort Pierce for the Holidays

See page 29

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Be a Part of the Success of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

by Donna Sizemore



The holidays are quickly approaching! Get a head start on your holiday shopping and visit the many merchants in downtown Fort Pierce. They have something for everyone!


I'd like to follow up on the September issue of the *Focus* and continue to talk about *Main Street's* approach to our community's revitalization using the four points of *The Main Street Approach: Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization*. In this article we will discuss *organization*.

Organization involves establishing and maintaining a group that works in partnership with the public and private sector to plan and implement a comprehensive downtown revitalization strategy.

Local Main Street programs work to engage government officials, business owners, residents, community institutions, schools, media, civic organizations, and many other groups and individuals in the revitalization process. The Main Street group also gathers input and builds consensus about what should happen in downtown, raises the funds, and implements projects, recruits, and retains a broad base of volunteers, communicates the work of the organization, and progress being made downtown, and ensures that the program has the resources it needs to realize the community's dreams for Main Street (<https://www.fmtn.org/246/Main-Street-Four-Point-Approach>).

This is all accomplished through the efforts of the *Main Street Fort Pierce* Board Members, the Director of *Main Street*, and the numerous community partnerships, sponsors and volunteers. All who have a dream for a better Main Street.

Main Street is a movement and can't be done without the community and organization. If you are interested in joining our movement and would like to volunteer, please go to *Main Street Fort Pierce* website <https://mainstreetfortpierce.org/> and click on the volunteer link. We appreciate your support! ❖



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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

November 4, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by *Riverdaws*; sponsored by Cobbs Landing and Little Jims restaurants; **Please remove all vehicles from the permitted Friday Fest road closure area (Marina Way & Melody Lane) by 2:00 p.m.;** Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

November 10, Thursday: PLEIN AIR OF THE TREASURE COAST ART SHOW — 5 to 8 p.m. at the Main Street Fort Pierce Office, 122 AE Backus Ave.

November 12, Saturday: PAWS N CLAWS 9TH ANNUAL PET PARADE — 3 to 7 p.m. at Marina Square in Downtown Ft. Pierce; Facebook—sandipawspetparade.

November 12, Saturday: CHIC & SHORE'S 9TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY — 205 N. 2nd Street; Facebook—chicandshorethings.

November 18, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; Sponsor — FPUA; Facebook—Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

November 18, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

November 26, Saturday: SHOP SMALL SATURDAY — See story page 5.

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

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

Sailfish Brewing Company
facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company

Pierced Cider
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Cobbs Landing
cobbs-landing.com

Bottom's Up Public House
facebook.com/bottomsuppublichouse

121 Tapas on the Water
facebook.com/121tapasonthewater

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772-461-4775 • sunrisetheatre.com

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

MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

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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

NOVEMBER: MANATEE AWARENESS MONTH

NOVEMBER 1: PRIME MERIDIAN DAY

NOVEMBER 2: LOOK FOR CIRCLES DAY

NOVEMBER 5: AMERICAN FOOTBALL DAY

NOVEMBER 6: NATIONAL SAXOPHONE DAY

NOVEMBER 9: GO TO AN ART MUSEUM DAY

NOVEMBER 10: MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

➔ NOVEMBER 11: VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 19: FAMILY VOLUNTEER DAY

NOVEMBER 21: NATIONAL GINGERBREAD COOKIE DAY

NOVEMBER 23: FIBONACCI DAY

NOVEMBER 24: THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 25: BLACK FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 26: NATIONAL CAKE DAY

NOVEMBER 26: SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Shop Small Saturday – November 26 in Downtown Fort Pierce

Shop Small Saturday is a national event held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year, if you visit downtown Fort Pierce on *Shop Small Saturday* you can enter a chance to win a downtown shopping spree worth over a \$1,000. 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. *Shop Small Saturday* is a great day to get most or all of your holiday shopping completed early while supporting your local merchants. ❖



Appreciation & Magnificence

Harmony Music Lounge at 116 Avenue A, along with the *Fort Pierce Art Club* is hosting the “Giving Thanks for Artists” event on Saturday, November 5th. Artists of all types are invited to come the VIP Party — Artists Only from 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. for free refreshments and to meet and greet.

The public is invited to join the artists from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. where there will be music, drink specials, art bingo with prizes, and fun.

The *Magnificent Miniature Masterpieces Silent Auction* will include renown artists on the Treasure Coast but also 90 students from Fort Pierce Central High, Lincoln Park Academy, and Westwood High School. The *Fort Pierce Art Club's 3rd Annual* event will be held on December 14th, 15th, and 16th and is hosted at the *St. Lucie County's Cultural Alliance's* new space at 111 Orange Avenue building. Information on these and other events can be found at www.fortpiercartclub.org. ❖



Call To All Artists & The Public

Saturday, Nov 5, 2:30–3:00 pm — All Artists Appreciation @ Harmony Music Lounge, 200 Ave A
3:00–5:00 pm, — Public meet the artists, Music, Art Bingo and Drink Specials

Dec 14–16 Magnificent Miniature Masterpieces Auction
Professional and local high schools display and sell their creations on 3"x3" canvas w/easel in **St. Lucie Cultural Alliance** Gallery, 111 Orange Avenue to raise funds for art scholarships

Go to www.fortpierclub.org for more info



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Plein Aire Painters of the Treasure Coast Art Show & Sale, November 10

Plein aire painters of the *Treasure Coast* is a group of artists that meet once a week at a park, preserve or recreational area around Ft. Pierce. While there, they spend a minimum of three hours painting scenes that appeal to them. They frequent these locations every season yet find a new piece of beauty to capture.

As part of the plein aire discipline, a painting should be near completion after one sitting. The exercise produces an explosion of spontaneity, expressed in form, color and light depicting the feel and depth of the landscape.

In this show, these paintings were done at fifteen different locations around Ft. Pierce. From ocean to river to lake, from savanna to pine barren to wetland, and from populated to remote. Maybe, you've seen them painting at your favorite place. The two plein aire artists featured at the November 10th Platts/Backus House art show & sale will be Diane Mesagno and Lori McNamara.

Diane Mesagno was born and raised in New York and graduated from 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.

Lori McNamara was born in Ft. Pierce and still lives in her old home on Indian River Drive. She loves to paint the natural beauty of Florida and going to all the wonderful parks and beaches of Fort Pierce. She is the leader of Plein Air Painters of the Treasure Coast and organizes their paint outs. Lori's work may be seen at <http://lorisart.blogspot.com/>.

The Plein Air Painters of the Treasure Coast may be seen on their Facebook group page: Plein Air Painters of the Treasure Coast.

This is an art show not to be missed. Come view and potentially own a piece of Florida captured forever on canvas by these talented artists. Join us on Thursday, November 10th, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Platts/Backus House (Main Street Fort Pierce Office) at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue in Fort Pierce. ❖



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Mayor's Message *Coffee With The Mayor* Never Disappoints

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



This one-hour-a-month event is the most positive hour you can spend in Fort Pierce. Hosted by *Main Street Fort Pierce*, whose mission is to preserve, promote and build on historic and natural treasures of our downtown waterfront community, is full of information you should know to get maximum enjoyment from our town. *Coffee With The Mayor (CWTM)* was the brainchild of former Mayor Eddie Enns, who envisioned the event to be one that would uplift the community and make us all proud to live here.

Located at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, it never disappoints in showcasing the waterfront and providing a welcoming venue for all who attend *CWTM*. Each month, sponsors have the opportunity to inform, educate and promote their products and services. *CWTM* sponsors include businesses, non-profits, faith and service organizations. If you would like to sponsor *CWTM*, contact *Main Street* at 772-466-3880.

Coffee is provided by local **First Wave Coffee Company**, and juice from locally-owned **Natalie's Orchid Island Juice**. *Main Street* provides the donuts.

Starting promptly at 8 a.m., lasting one hour, on the third Friday of the month, September through May, *CWTM* allows employees to attend and still go to work.

The **Gold Hammer Awards** are presented at *CWTM*. Sponsored by **East Coast Lumber**, these awards help feature new and rehabilitated construction. **Neighborhood Gems** are also awarded twice a year to recognize residents who have done an outstanding job in keeping their yards and homes beautiful. Volunteers are recognized every month at *CWTM*, most chosen by the sponsoring organization. City of Fort Pierce staff, including public works, public safety and others, are encouraged to attend and interact with the community in a social setting.

Coffee With The Mayor is where the community comes together to share the positive news about Fort Pierce. If the 8 a.m. start time is a challenge, watch *Coffee With The Mayor*, Live, on Facebook at *Main Street Fort Pierce*. ❖

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Anita Prentice and Zora Neal Hurston Travel Abroad

by Holly Theuns



Anita Prentice, local mosaic master artist, was invited to show the most recent piece in her *Zora Neale Hurston* portrait series at the Halpern Gallery in Kent, England. The show, 9–16 October 2022, was presented by a group of artists known as *Duende*. *Duende* is a Spanish term often associated with Flamenco Dance that means the mysterious power of art to move one’s soul. The show, *Hidden Women*, was *Duende’s* fourth exhibit as a group of women whose goal is to make known, empower, and celebrate remarkable woman, past and present, who have not received their rightful place in history.

Zora Neale Hurston is considered one of the most important twentieth century authors of African American literature, yet she never received the fame and financial rewards her work should have brought her. The largest royalty check she ever received was for \$943.75. At her death in 1960, at age 69, her Fort Pierce neighbors had to take up a collection to pay her funeral expenses. Neale Hurston was an author, anthropologist, folklorist and film maker who was denied her place in history during her lifetime — making Prentice’s piece a perfect fit for *Duende’s Hidden Women* show.

Hidden Women included artists from Finland, America, Chile and the Ukraine as well as UK artists. *Zora Neal Hurston’s*

Continued on page 10 ...



Michael R. Repoli, CPA, EA



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ANITA PRENTICE ... continued from page 9


amazing story is shared once again by Prentice exhibiting Zora, in Kent, England.

Prentice time spent time in London coincided with the week of mourning for Queen Elizabeth II and she saw the masses of floral tributes left at the gates of Buckingham Palace and the artful circular arrangements that volunteers created in the adjacent Green Park of individual flowers and drawings left by children. Prentice said the Green Park arrangements touched her heart the most because they were left for the people's much-loved mother or grandmother, not their monarch.

Her two-week European trip continued on to Paris and time at the Mucee d'Orsay to see the some of her favorite Impressionists and a trip to the over-the-top opulence of the Palace of Versailles. As a mosaic artist, the architect Antoni Gaudi's work in Barcelona has always been on Prentice's bucket list. His most famous work, the largest unfinished Catholic church in the world, *La Sagrada Familia*, is also his final resting place. *Park Guell* is one of Barcelona's most scenic spots, home to Gaudi's mosaic salamander and serpentine benches at the entrance, the park attracts millions of visitors a year. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared both *La Sagrada Familia* and *Park Guell* World Heritage Sites in 1984 because of their architectural and artistic significance. They are two of seven *Gaudi* sites to fall under this category.

Prentice has created ten mosaic portraits of Neal Hurston

over the last two decades. She and her European travel partner and friend, Lynn Moylan, scholar of African American Literature and the author of *Zora Neale Hurston's* Final Decade, are helping to bring the respect, attention and acclaim Neale Hurston did not receive in life to her posthumously. Prentice through her recent international exhibition of one of her *Zora Neal Hurston* mosaic portraits in Kent, England. ❖



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VERO BEACH - FORT PIERCE

Thank You Fort Pierce for 50 Years and Counting

by Ashley Levin

Sustainability Program Associate for **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA)** for 50 years and counting, **FPUA** has served as your local hometown, municipal utility provider. It has always been, and continues to be, our mission to provide affordable, reliable, and friendly service.

In addition to providing you with service, **FPUA's** staff are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in our community through volunteering, organized food pantry donations and so much more. During 2022, **FPUA** employees donated nearly 1,025 pounds of nonperishable food items through monthly food drives in their departments. These donations are coordinated with local churches and nonprofit organizations who assist with distribution to community members in need.

FPUA employees also volunteer every year for many local community events such as the *Treasure Coast Food Bank's Pack the House, Pack the Backpacks*, the *Great American Clean Up* and more. This year, employees volunteered over 620 hours of their personal time, collected over 1,400 pounds of trash from our streets and waterway, and engaged with over 25,500 community members at festivals and public events throughout our community. Don't forget to join us for the **34th Annual Main Street Fort Pierce Sights & Sounds Parade** on Sunday, December 4th!

Recently, **FPUA** and the **Manatee Observation and Education Center (MOEC)** were awarded a grant to expand



our one-acre of seagrass restoration within Moore's Creek, which was completed this past summer, to include an additional 0.5 acres within the Indian River Lagoon. The project, funded by the *Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program*, was funded alongside only four other projects which are all being led by Florida's top universities. While restoring 0.5 acres of seagrass, we'll also be researching the effectiveness of various seagrass restoration methods to determine which method is best-suited to our area of the Indian River Lagoon.

In the upcoming months, **FPUA** will begin construction at the site for the new sewer treatment plant. This long-awaited project is not only going to make Fort Pierce more resilient to storms, but will also bring in new opportunities for the 18.7-acre waterfront property that will boost economic growth, small business and entrepreneurship, and tourism. We're working hard to identify grant funding to help with this effort. Did you know that **FPUA** has submitted over \$33 million in grant funding requests to multiple agencies since June of this year? You can learn more about this important project at this month's *Coffee with the Mayor*, hosted by *Main Street Fort Pierce* at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** and sponsored by **FPUA**.

Many of our employees work and live in Fort Pierce. **FPUA** has a wide range of benefits including health, vision, and dental insurance, as well as sick and vacation leave. **FPUA** employees are also part of the City of Fort Pierce pension program, and are vested into it after only five years of employment. If you'd like to be a part of this community-based organization, **FPUA** currently has several job opportunities and would love for you to join our team. For a list of opportunities available, visit www.FPUA.com/careers.

This holiday season, we are grateful to you, and look forward to continuing to grow and change alongside our growing and changing City of Fort Pierce. ❖



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The Best of the Best Annual Juried Exhibition, through November 18

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery is pleased to present the **2022 Juried Art Exhibition, The Best of the Best**. Now in its fifth decade, the annual exhibition continues to spotlight the best artistic works in different media by amateurs and professional artists. Each year an independent jury panel of three judges finds and rewards excellence, technique, and presentation with cash prizes.

This year, the jury panel voted to accept 70 entries out of 237 submissions in four categories: Oil/Acrylics, Watercolor, Varied Techniques, and Three-Dimensional. A total of 29 awards were conferred to distinguished examples in each of the four entry categories.

Top among the 29 awards include the *2022 Best of Show Buckhead* (watercolor on paper) by Lisa Arnold Franklin, and the *Director's Choice Beach People* (acrylic on canvas) by Danielle Biglin. *First Place in Oil/Acrylic* is *Long Live Chessie Cat* by Carel Luis; *First Place in Watercolor* is *Branching Out* by Gale Poteat; *First Place in Varied Techniques* is *Pearl Earring* by Pete Azzopardi; and *First Place in Three-Dimensional* is *Gaia* by Mallory Wixson-Omalley / Jim Cohoe. A complete list of awards and all accepted works of art can be downloaded at <https://backusmuseum.org/juried-shows>.

As always, visitors to this year's *The Best of the Best* can have their own voices heard by participating in the *People's Choice* award during the exhibition. Visitors may vote once on the one work of art that is their favorite, and at the end of the exhibition the artist will receive this special award honor with cash prize.

The **Backus Museum's** roots as a community gallery run deep. Guided by "Bean" Backus's example of fostering artistic talent at all levels, two annual juried competitions are organized each year to celebrate and nurture established and up-and-coming artists. *The Best of the Best* continues this creative tradition, spotlighting the best artistic works in different media. Entries must be made within the past three years, and never been entered in the competition before. Each year the independent jury panel inspects and assesses each physical entry in person. Cash prizes are conferred to top awards and 1st–3rd place category awards.

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

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

Regular Hours: Wednesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 p.m. (closed Monday–Tuesday, and Thanksgiving). Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. Visitors are asked to follow the latest public health guidance for the safety and comfort of guests, staff, and volunteers. ❖

JUDGES FOR THE 2022 THE BEST OF THE BEST

Barbara (Bobbie) Mcmillan, Instructor of Art, Eastern Florida State College, Melbourne. Bobbie McMillan teaches Ceramics 1 and Ceramics 2, 3-Dimensional Design, and Art History at Eastern Florida State College where she has been teaching for 20+ years. In the community, Ms. McMillan has performed as juror for local art exhibits and art festivals, and served on The Brevard Cultural Alliance Art in Public Places Advisory Board which she chaired in 2010. McMillan has earned her BFA and three Master's degrees in Ceramic Arts, Education, and Humanities; she is currently pursuing a fourth in Art History.

Patrick Noze, Senior Gallery Curator, Crealdé School of Art, Winter Park. Born in the Haitian province of Jeremie 'City of Poets,' Patrick Noze comes from an eminent family of artists. At the age of 14, he emigrated to the U.S., later attending Pratt Institute's School of Art and Science where he majored in fine arts with a minor in education. In his own artistic practice, Noze currently specializes in subjects ranging from realism, surrealism, impressionism, abstraction, sculpture, and portraits. Presently he is very involved in his community and serves on the Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Council.

Anthony Record, Curator, Museum of Florida Art & Culture, South Florida State College, Avon Park. Anthony Record is an artist, curator, and educator, and he has been the Curator of the Museum of Florida Art & Culture since 2022. From 2018-2022 he was the Studio Programs Coordinator at the Tampa Museum of Art. From 2009-2018 he was a professor of art and art history, and his art has been exhibited internationally at galleries and museums in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Kanazawa, Vancouver, and elsewhere. He is also the co-founder of the artist cooperative gallery QUAID, which has been operating in Tampa since 2014.



2022 Best Of Show — "Buckhead" by Lisa Arnold Franklin, Watercolor



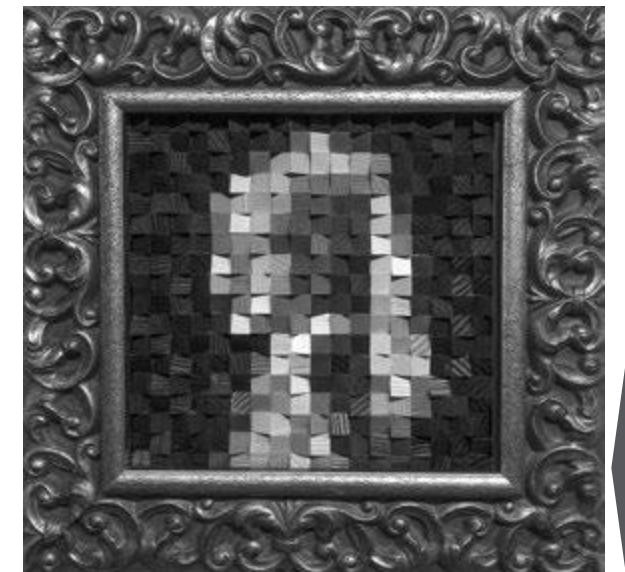
2022 1st Place — Oil-Acrylic "Long Live Chessie Cat" By Carel Luis



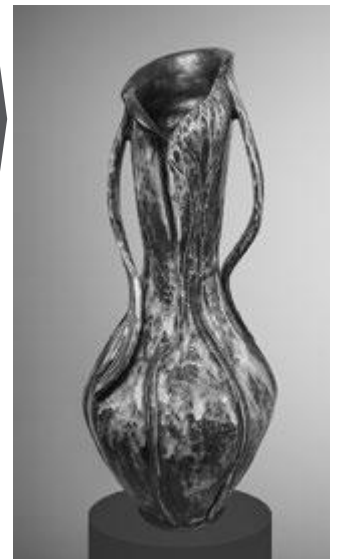
2022 1st Place — Watercolor
"Branching Out"
by Gale Poteat



2022 Director's Choice — "Beach People" by Danielle Biglin, Acrylic



2022 1st Place — Varied Techniques "Pearl Earring" By Pete Azzopardi



2022 1st Place — 3D
"Gaia" by Mallory
Wixson-Omalley
& Jim Cohoe

Manatees Need Action as Well as Love: *Manatee Awareness Month*

by Wren Underwood, Volunteer Program Coordinator, Manatee Center

The Florida manatee is our state's official marine mammal. They occur throughout the state in coastal waters and in rivers and springs. These creatures have occupied Florida waters for 1.3 million years and are prominent in our fossil record. The Florida manatee is a subspecies of the West Indian Manatee which occurs throughout the Caribbean, Central America and northern coast of South America.

Although considered a marine mammal, manatee physiology requires the intake of fresh water for hydration. Just like you and me, manatees can't survive without drinking fresh water. This fact, along with their lack of blubber, keeps manatees in coastal waters where they can easily access creeks and springs for drinking water and warmer (relative to the ocean) environments in wintertime.

Manatees are gentle, slow moving herbivores. They dine on aquatic vegetation like water hyacinth and seagrasses, and sometimes on plants growing on banks and shorelines. Manatees can consume up to 100 pounds of vegetation each day. No wonder they are sometimes called "sea cows."

With a legal status of "threatened" in the state, Florida manatees are protected by law. When observing them, please do so from a respectful distance. It is illegal to provide food or water to manatees as these can change their behavior, especially migratory habits important to their survival.

There are many natural and man-made threats to the manatee population. Natural mortalities arise from factors such as illness, perinatal events, and cold stunning. Manmade mortalities include things like boat strikes, entanglement, and habitat destruction (including seagrass die-offs due to poor water quality). Data from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) shows that the annual mortality rate (based on a statewide, 5-year average) is 573 individuals.

2021 was alarming when it comes to manatee mortality in Florida. According to FWC data, 946 manatees perished that year. That's a 65% increase compared to the average annual

mortality rate. Thus, biologists sounded the alarm, and rightly so. With a total estimated population of 8,800 (2015–16), the loss represents a significant percentage of the overall Florida manatee population. Manatee's low reproductive rate doesn't help matters. On average, a female manatee births only one calf every three to five years.

Unfortunately, things don't look great for 2022. FWC data shows 694 manatee deaths so far this year (as of September 16), with three months to go. While the exact cause of this ongoing mortality event is still unknown, a large number of the diseased animals showed signs of emaciation. This prompted the state to begin feeding programs lead by agencies in specific locations. (Please *do not* go out and feed manatees on your own.) Scientists are working to understand the complexity of the situation. We know it's not as simple as "not enough seagrass" because we've witnessed sea grass die-offs in the past that did not result in such a drastic mortality event for manatees. There are likely multiple factors involved and scientists are working hard to find answers.

The good news is that everyone can help. If enough of us take our awareness and put it into action, we can make a difference. Check out the tips below and share with your friends and neighbors.

How You Can Help Manatees; and They Need Your Help

◆ Refrain from feeding or providing fresh water to manatees unless you are taking part in an official, state sanctioned program.

◆ Please watch manatees from a respectful distance. Do not follow/chase them for that perfect pic.

◆ Reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizers on your yard and collect/mulch grass clippings (never blow or sweep them into a storm drain). Use a yard care company? Demand that they do the same.

◆ Put litter in its place ... both yours and other people's. You can do this on your own, every day, and/or join local clean-up efforts.

◆ Are you a boater? Watch carefully for manatees, wear polarized glasses, and respect all slow speed / no wake zones and manatee zones.

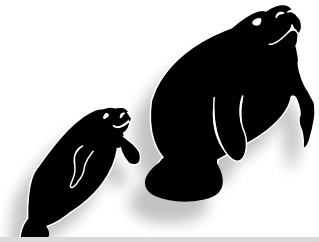
◆ Are you a fisher? Replace older monofilament regularly to prevent breakage. When lines do break, do your absolute best to collect all excess line from the water and discard properly.

◆ Live on a waterway? Plant a shoreline buffer zone. Learn more at <https://www.teamorca.org/buffered-shorelines.html>.

◆ Use your voice by voting for clean water projects such as stormwater treatment, natural area restoration and natural lands acquisition. Speak/write to local government officials about supporting these kinds of projects.

◆ Donate to the *Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation* (www.tcmfinc.org) or other conservation organization.

◆ Volunteer with us at the *Manatee Observation & Education Center* and help educate others. ❖



The Manatee Center September Events

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

Tuesday, November 1 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Homeschool Workshops

Learn all about fossils from a real paleontologist! Homeschool days are an opportunity for individual homeschoolers to experience hands-on learning at the **Manatee Center**. All classes are geared for students ages 6 to 12. Cost is \$5 per student. To enroll in this workshop, please call 772-429-6266 option 3. Registration is required. Our homeschool workshops will be hosted in our outdoor classroom.

Wednesday, November 9 Free Admission Day and Storytime at 11:00 a.m.

Nurture your child's natural curiosity about nature through this Mommy and Me style program. Each session will focus on a new nature theme and includes a story, craft, and more. Some classes feature live animals! Fun for preschoolers.

Friday, November 11 at 12:00 p.m.
Manatee Mystique

Lunch & Learn — In the past manatees have been mistaken for mermaids and even eaten by pioneers. Today the gentle manatee is loved by people far and wide. Join *Save the Manatee Club Educator*, Diane Morgan, for *Manatee Awareness Month* to hear some myths, legends and strange facts about Florida's beloved sea cows. This *Lunch & Learn* will be held at Fort Pierce Yacht Club. *Free Event*.

Saturday, November 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Moe's Birthday Party

For manatee awareness month, the Manatee Observation and Education Center will be hosting *Moe's Birthday Party*, a *Manatee Awareness Event*. This free public event will be totally manatee-focused and fun for the whole family!

Mondays, November 7, 14, 21, 28 at 9:30 a.m.
Guided Kayak Trip

Look for wildlife, get up close and personal with mangroves, learn about the Indian River Lagoon on an easy ninety-minute paddle led by a MOEC naturalist. Great for beginners and anyone who wants to learn more about the Lagoon. The fee for this program is \$30 per person and includes kayak, paddle and safety gear. Registration is required. Call 772-429-6266 option #3 or e-mail Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org for more information or to register.



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Fort Pierce Yacht Club Reaching Our Children

Fort Pierce Yacht Club, through *Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation*, partnered with *Stella Maris Environmental Research* this past summer to sponsor campers and counselors at their *Wesley Island Eco Summer Camp*. Ashley Britt Chelberg, founder and president of *Stella Maris*, spoke at the **FPYC** Members Meeting on October 4th to acquaint club members with the work of her organization. *Wesley Island Eco Camp* is one of a number of environmental events that this 501 (c)3 organization heads up. The camp caters to children from ages 8 to 15, offering water related environmental activities in four one-week segments. In addition to the *Fort Pierce Yacht Foundation's* sponsorship of two campers and financially creating a new junior counselor position, the camp is supported by *Variety Children's Charity of Orlando* and **Carefree Boat Club** that ferries the children to the island; **DeBrooks** that supplies the children with fishing poles and bait as well as donations from **Bass Pro** in St. Lucie County; **Motorized Kayak Adventures** with locals Billy and Kathy Gibson who welcomes the children for a day of touring the mangroves and support from *St. Lucie County Oxbow Eco Center*. The generosity of the community in helping to develop interest in our waters amongst our children is truly an amazing story! Take a look at their website for other services, including guided sea turtle night walks and marine turtle research, offered by this organization: <https://www.stellamarisenvironmentalresearch.org/>.

For *Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation*, we envision that these eco-campers will follow on with their interest in water-related environment issues and potentially be one of our future **FAU Harbor Branch** summer interns. **FPYCF** has sponsored an intern for the past four summers, raising funds through our annual *On the Water Poker Run*. Our sponsors and participants have a strong commitment to this program and enable

us to continue funding efforts. Watch for an announcement of our April 1, 2023 Poker Run!



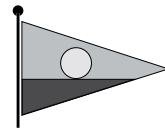
Ashley Chelberg presents at FPYC

“Chart Your Course,” a marine and maritime career expo being held on February 23, 2023 provides another link in reaching our children. The underlying theme of this event is to provide familiarization and education on the opportunities for employment in various aspects of the industries. St. Lucie School District is partnering with **FPYCF** to stage this event, busing 100 children to **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** and **Riverwalk Community Cen-**

ter to see demonstrations from marine industry leaders in diesel mechanics, marine air conditioning, canvas making, sailing instruction, charter boat captains, boat yard management, marina management and others. In addition, the students will hear short talks from sports writers who specialize in fishing, captains who run boat eco-tours, and others that patrol our waterways. These talks will be followed by break out sessions where students can learn more about what might be available to them in terms of future employment and how to prepare for participation in the industry segment. We are still filling both demo and speaker slots (our limit is 30) so if you are interested in participating and making a difference, please e-mail fpycfoundation@gmail.com. We are also looking for additional partnerships to assist in implementing the event and creating a foundation for its growth. This event is partially being funded by proceeds from *Sunset Soiree*, a musical event being held at **FPYC** on November 5th.

Of course, we are continuing our regular on-the-water and open-to-the-community activities of monthly sailboat races, two annual inter-club regattas, and two women-at-the-helm races. In addition, we host monthly Trivia and duplicate bridge, also open to the community.

Follow our event announcements on Facebook and join us! ❖



Love, JAZZ Community: Ring-a-Ding-Ding, Holiday Fling Indeed!

by Don Bestor

“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas.” Sure, you may think November is early to be thinking about Christmas, but we both know that the minute Halloween was over, the Christmas season decorations were in the stores before the ghosts and goblins had a chance to pack up their candy corn and flee. There are some battles not worth fighting, and if the world gets into the holiday spirit a month sooner, who am I to argue? After all, we all get a little kinder during November and December, the months when we focus on being grateful and giving to others, and we could all use a little kindness these days. And when it comes to gifts — well, *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society* has a very special one for you. After a couple of rough years, we’re all ready for a little fling, so why not join us for a *Ring-A-Ding-Ding-Big Band Swing-Holiday Fling*?

This crazy, fun party will take place at **Summer Crush Vineyard and Winery** on Johnston Road on Sunday, December 11th, and you’re welcome to grab friends and loved ones to celebrate with a ring-a-ding-ding and a little Big Band swing. Of course, our 17-piece big, swingin’ band will be providing the soundtrack for your afternoon of enjoying wine slushies and local wines, and of course, music, music, music! In case you get the munchies while you’re enjoying the music and dancing, there will be food trucks available to satisfy your hunger and make the afternoon even more fun. The party will start at high Noon, and the music won’t stop until 4 p.m., so you’ll have the whole afternoon to get into the holiday spirit. And after two years absence, our big band and our *Ring-A-Ding-Ding-Big Band Swing-Holiday Fling* are going to be epic!

Tickets can be purchased at the door on the day of the event, and the whole afternoon of making merry will only set you back \$12 if you’re a member and \$15 if you’re not. Students with a high school ID (must have that with you) will get in for free, and so will children under age ten.

If you still haven’t taken down your jack-o-lantern yet, please accept this gentle reminder from us that it might be just about time. And it’s always time to enjoy gratitude, gifts, and great music, so treat yourself to a special afternoon. And while you’re at it, 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. ❖



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TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, November 12, 1922 edition of the Tampa Tribune

Will Soon Start Work On Road To Okeechobee, FLA.

Work of dismantling the Critchley With a view to the early commencement of work on the Fort Pierce-Okeechobee Road. The eastern terminus of the Fort-Pierce-Tampa, cross state highway, the board of county commissioners is advertising for bids for the purchase of an excavator. The bids to be opened Dec. 5th.

The machine is to be equipped with caterpillar track and of three quarters of one yard capacity.

Purchase of such a machine will greatly increase the county's facilities for road work, giving it an almost complete equipment and enabling the Okeechobee Road work to be done with dispatch and economy.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Wednesday, November 5, 1947 edition of the Miami Herald

Capt. Gulbranson Dead – Navy's Wartime Chief at Fort Pierce Dies

Capt. Clarence Gulbranson, USN, who established and commanded the wartime Fort Pierce U.S. Naval Amphibious Training base, where 110,000 officers and men from all branches of military service were trained for amphibious warfare, died Sunday in Washington after a long illness, according to word reaching here Monday.

Capt. Gulbranson left here in February of 1946 to enter the U.S. Naval hospital at Bethesda, Md., and had been ill ever since. His illness was attributed to his strenuous wartime service. He never went on leave during all the long period that he served here.

Capt. Culbranson's naval career extended over a period of 37 years, most of it spent at sea. A 1912 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he took part in both world wars, assisting in troop-landing operations on North Africa prior to being commissioned by Adm. H.K. Hewitt, then commander of amphibious training, Atlantic fleet, to select a place on the east coast of Florida for the establishment of an amphibious training base. He chose the island opposite Fort Pierce and on Jan. 25, 1943, commissioned the base-then but a few tents, a few men and an expanse of scrub palmetto.

Men of all services from all parts of the nation were sent here for amphibious training and graduates of the local base took part in practically every amphibious operation of the war, many of them being killed or wounded in the Normandy landings and elsewhere.

In addition to serving as commanding officer and directing training operations of the base. Capt. Gulbranson also served as senior member of the Joint Army and Navy Experimental and Testing board here, which developed the technique and equipment for amphibious warfare.

Capt. Gulbranson had been decorated and cited on numerous occasions. He was held in high esteem by the people of Fort Pierce and the finest relations existed between the community and

base during his service here.

Mrs. Gulbranson died here in 1944 and is buried in the local cemetery

50 years ago this month as reported in the Thursday, November 2, 1972 edition of Florida Today

Dedication Heralds Bridge

Ground was broken for the new South Bridge Wednesday and the structure was billed as the gateway to South Beach development.

"It is the beginning of development on the South Beach, the likes of which we have never seen," said Mayor Dennis Summerlin. He was echoed by Chamber of Commerce President Bruce Abernethy who also forecast development would follow the completion of the bridge.

State Department of Transportation resident engineer John Saxon moderated the short groundbreaking ceremony. He said the bridge would be completed in 380 working days. When it's finished, he told a small group of trailer park residents, the roadway will be 75 feet above the river

25 years ago this month as reported by Scott Hovanyetz in the Wednesday, November 26, 1997 edition of the Fort Pierce Tribune

Main Street Fort Pierce was awarded \$2,500 from the St. Lucie County Commission to help advertise for the planned downtown farmer's market.



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Why Veterans Are Well-Suited to Become Business Owners—And the Lessons You Can Learn from Them

by Robert Irvine, Published on www.sba.gov



Anyone who served in any branch of the armed forces is already in possession of these lessons, but the good news for those who didn't serve is they're readily available to learn right now.

Entrepreneurship isn't for everyone.

The average worker bee might complain about their lousy boss or the inefficiency of their company and muse on how much better things would be if they were in charge, but the fact is few people have the rare combination of energy, guts, and determination to actually go out and create a business of their own. In short: most people would rather deal with a situation they hate than do what's necessary to become their own boss.

I understand why.

I've been my own boss for many years now, but the path to get here wasn't easy. For one thing, when I was starting out, I didn't know how to write a business plan. For another, managing a civilian staff is a far cry from managing other servicemen and women who must explicitly follow orders. And of course, when you're cooking on a military base or on a Navy warship, you're the only game in town. In the civilian world, folks who don't like your restaurant are welcome to eat elsewhere.

Nevertheless, my time in the British Royal Navy taught me plenty of valuable lessons that I was able to take with me into the civilian world and spin into a tale of success so broad that, quite honestly, I didn't see it coming all those years ago. In addition to the three restaurants that bear my name—including one at the Tropicana in Las Vegas and one within the walls of the Pentagon—I have a protein bar and snack company (FitCrunch), a prepared food line (Robert Irvine Foods), a live stage show (Robert Irvine Live), a digital magazine, four published books, plus partnerships in dozens of other exciting projects.

None of this would have been possible without three foundational lessons I learned in the military. Anyone who served in

any branch of the armed forces is already in possession of these lessons, but the good news for those who didn't serve is they're readily available to learn right now.

They are:

Work backward from the goal

Every soldier, sailor, and Marine approaches each mission with the same question, "What's the objective?" Once they have the answer to that, they can work backward on how to get there, create a mission plan, and follow it. But all of it starts with using the power of imagination to see a future success that is not yet real. You can do this, too. Begin by visualizing every aspect of what success looks like for you. If you're creating a brick-and-mortar space, imagine exactly what that looks like. Draw pictures or collect images from magazines or the Internet, and cut them out to make a little vision board for yourself. If it's an online business, picture your ideal website and how easy it would be to use. Write all this information down and every single morning, look at it. Constant reminders will guide your decision-making toward the desired outcome. And once you have that clear vision in your head, then creating the plans you need to get there become that much easier to do. Today's self-help experts typically refer to this as manifestation; in the military, it's simply how you set goals and execute them as a unit.

Control "mission creep"

This is military term used to describe a gradual broadening of the initial objective. For example, a brief security deployment that turns into a long-term commitment and requires more than double the manpower and resources originally thought. In the restaurant world, this can take the form of a brunch café suddenly offering dinner or otherwise bloating its menu and costs, and exponentially increasing the amount of inventory it's required to keep. Outside of the restaurant world, no business is immune to the pressures of increasing product offerings that fall outside the scope of their expertise. Have the discipline not to impulsively react to this pressure, and only expand the original mission if you have the requisite data—R&D, customer



feedback, market studies, and so forth—to back up the decision. When in doubt, remember that businesses that can do one thing exceptionally well often find a permanent place in the hearts of their customers.

Expect the unexpected

Adversity awaits every entrepreneur, but it comes in so many varieties that it's impossible to know exactly what form it will take. Unfortunately, the specific kind you'll face likely won't reveal itself until you're knee-deep in the launch process with tens of thousands of dollars already committed to R&D, breaking ground, or marketing. You may find out that you need to spend a lot more than anticipated to bring your building up to code, change a product's ingredients or manufacturing process in order to be accepted into a particular retail chain, or lose critical funding at the last minute. As I said, you can't prepare for the specifics. But maintaining the mindset that something is bound to go sideways allows you to avoid despair and instead greet setbacks with a smile and say, "Ah! There you are. I've been expecting you." Then you can roll up your sleeves and get to work on solving the problem. So much of success comes back to belief. If you have a great idea, are willing to work at it, and believe you're destined to make it no matter what you encounter, then there's nothing the world can throw at you to hold you back.

In parting, I would wish you good luck, but instead I'll just remind you that you make your own. And always remember the motto I live by: Nothing is impossible.

For information about SBA's resources for veterans, visit www.sba.gov/veterans. ❖

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Fishing is COOL!

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

Typically, November starts the fall migration that we've been waiting for! Cooler weather and cooler waters on the Treasure Coast mean more fish will be moving in. Sheepshead, snapper, jack, and pompano are more abundant and fun to catch so a good choice to target. You can find Golden or Florida Pompano, simply called pompano, in the shallow waters of the lagoon and off the beach. I use small jigs, sandfleas, or live shrimp for pompano fishing. Mahi can be found offshore more abundantly now as they are following the cooler water and migrating down from the Carolinas. Spanish mackerel also come around as the cold fronts pass through.

Offshore, bottom fishing is still going strong with sizable mangroves and mutton snappers being caught on live bait and cut-bait. Try the offshore reefs in 60-90 feet and remember to keep your bait on the bottom with enough weight. Mangroves and muttons can be caught year-round. There is a five per person limit in state waters for both. Kingfish are providing significant action also. Mullet, threadfins, or blue runners are your best bet to put kings on deck. Bag limit is two kings per day, per angler and minimum size is 24" to the fork.

The fish photo this month highlights a 28-pound bull dolphin!

November is also "Shop Small" month so choose your local bait and tackle shops like **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** and **Debrooks Fishing Corner** for all your fishing gear. Gift



certificates for fishing charters are always a great idea too! Local businesses will be thankful for your support. Wishing you all a happy Thanksgiving and feeling grateful to keep *Pullin Drag!*

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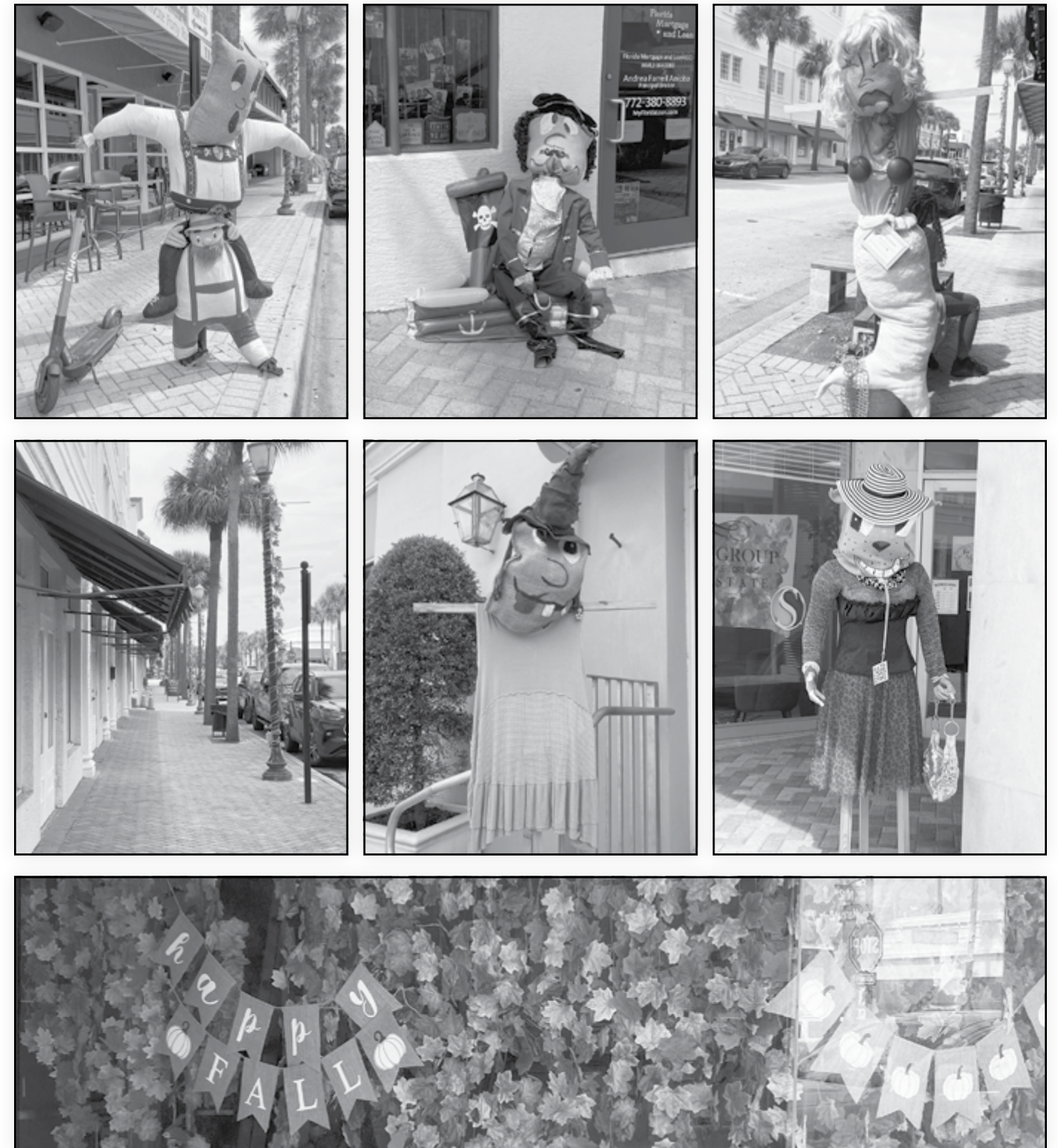
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