

# CITY MANAGER'S

REPORT

MARCH  
2026

Welcome Chief Smith

The Zora Experience  
Events

Great American  
Cleanup



THE SUNRISE CITY

**FORT PIERCE**  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE *Florida*

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**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

# MARCH

**KEEP FORT PIERCE  
BEAUTIFUL**

## **GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP**

**YOUR TEAM  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
YOUR CLEANUP**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026  
8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at ROTARY PARK**  
(Breakfast and Cleanup Supplies will be Available)



REGISTER ONLINE AT  
**CITYOFFORTPIERCE.COM**  
OR CALL **772-467-3794**



**THE ZORA EXPERIENCE**  
KICK OFF PRE-FESTIVAL EVENT

**BLUEBIRD**  
BISTRO & WINE BAR

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026**  
**BLUEBIRD BISTRO**  
809 DELAWARE AVENUE, FORT PIERCE, FL 34950

**6 PM**  
**LIVE JAZZ MUSIC!**  
*featuring*  
**HOBSON and the HUMAN CONDITION**

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**  
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE • FOOD FOR PURCHASE

**CASUAL ATTIRE**

EMAIL: [CONTACTUS@ZORAFFOUNDATIONMUSEUM.COM](mailto:CONTACTUS@ZORAFFOUNDATIONMUSEUM.COM)  
[ZORAFFOUNDATIONMUSEUM.COM](http://ZORAFFOUNDATIONMUSEUM.COM)

  **NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**COMMUNITY TREE EQUITY PLANTING**

Join us as we beautify our community!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH, 2026 • 9AM - 1PM**  
Meeting at Dust Tracks Museum • 809 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Help us promote tree equity and a greener future!  
Tools and refreshments provided.

MORE INFO: [CONTACTUS@ZORAFFOUNDATIONMUSEUM.COM](mailto:CONTACTUS@ZORAFFOUNDATIONMUSEUM.COM)



# FORT PIERCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CHIEF DAVID SMITH SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



Please join us in welcoming to the City of Fort Pierce Police Department, Chief David Smith. Chief Smith was sworn in during a special ceremony attended by family, community leaders, local, state, and federal partners.

This marks a new chapter for the Fort Pierce Police Department. We look forward to Chief Smith's leadership with a strong commitment to service, integrity, and goal of strengthening our community partnerships.

*Welcome to Fort Pierce!*



## CROSSING GUARD APPRECIATION DAY

On February 6, we recognized and thanked our Fort Pierce Police Department Crossing Guards on Crossing Guard Appreciation Day.

In all types of weather, in the morning and afternoon, they stand on the front lines of school safety—ensuring our children travel to and from school safely. Their dedication and commitment to our community does not go unnoticed.

Thank you for protecting what matters most and for being a trusted presence in our neighborhoods every day.

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Officer Jorge Goz on being named the School Resource Officer of the Year at the St. Lucie Public Schools Night of the Stars event.

His dedication to the safety and well-being of C.A. Moore students, along with the strong relationships he builds on campus, makes a meaningful difference each day.

We are proud of you, Officer Goz. Thank you for representing the Fort Pierce Police Department with excellence and heart.

## SLC CHAMBER BUSINESS & INDUSTRY AWARDS



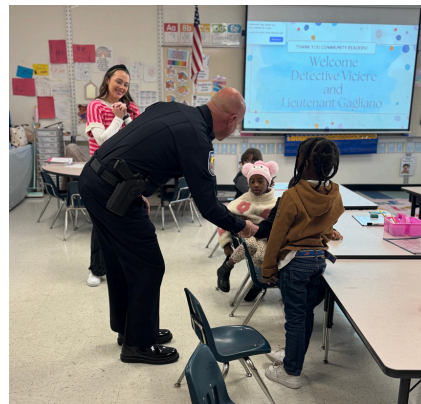
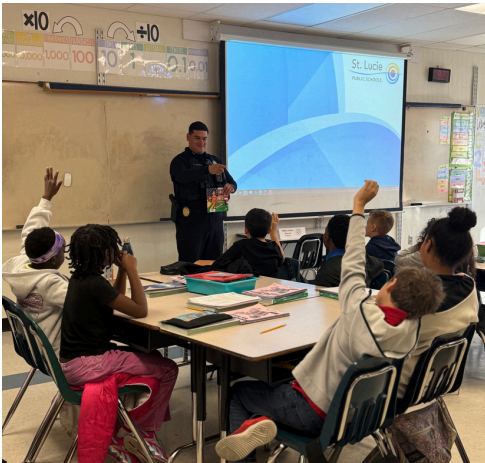
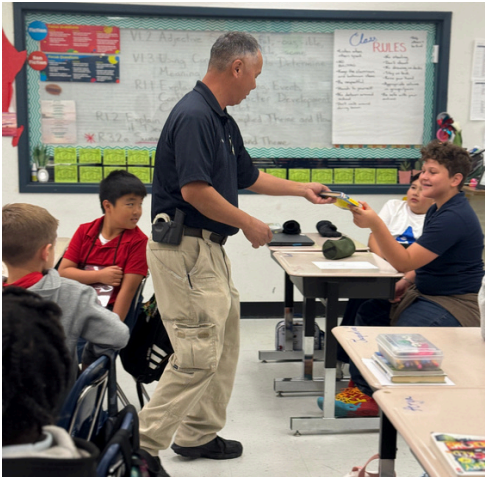
On February 17th, Detective Caleb Walters was honored as the Officer of the Year at the 40th Annual St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce Business and Industry Awards.

This recognition reflects his dedication, professionalism, and commitment to our community.

Thank you for representing the Fort Pierce Police Department and the City of Fort Pierce with excellence.

# ST. LUCIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS LITERACY WEEK

On January 30, FPPD officers participated in Literacy Week by reading with students at Fairlawn and Weatherbee Elementary Schools. Reinforcing the department's commitment to youth engagement and literacy in the community.



## FORT PIERCE YACHT CLUB – CHART YOUR COURSE

Thank you to the Fort Pierce Yacht Club for hosting another successful Chart Your Course: Maritime and Marine Career Expo for our local middle and high school students.

On February 19, students had the opportunity to explore a wide range of maritime careers and connect directly with industry professionals.



## Martial Arts Program

Our Martial Arts program continues to reflect strong discipline, measurable growth, and a high level of competitive readiness. Participants are preparing to proudly represent the City of Fort Pierce at two upcoming invitational tournaments this spring.



### Upcoming Competitions

#### **Shihan Byron's Martial Arts Invitational**

Saturday, March 14, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Joseph C. Carter Park Gym

1450 W. Sunrise Blvd.

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Spectator Entry: \$5 (Children 3 and under free)

#### **5th Coconut Creek Invitational**

Saturday, April 11, 2026 - 10:30 AM

The Township Community Center

2424 Lyons Road

Coconut Creek, FL 33063

Spectator Entry: \$5 (Children 3 and under free)



# Fort Pierce Firehawks Cheer Program

Conditioning is officially underway for our returning Firehawks Cheer athletes as we gear up for the upcoming season. These early sessions emphasize strength training, flexibility, endurance, and skill refinement—building a strong foundation to ensure our athletes are physically prepared, confident, and performance ready.

The enthusiasm and dedication demonstrated by our returning cheerleaders lay a strong foundation for another outstanding season filled with sideline spirit and competitive excellence.





## Championship Celebration

The Recreation Center was proud to host the 2025 Firehawks Championship Celebration, honoring our ACYAA Super Bowl Championship teams.

The event celebrated the dedication, resilience, and teamwork demonstrated by our athletes, coaches, and families throughout an outstanding season.

Commemorative “Super Bowl Champions” hoodies were presented to our players and coaches in recognition of their remarkable achievement.



10U White Division 1 Champion Matthew & Brittany Thompspon



12U Coaches and Team Parents

Hoodies were also presented to members of City leadership in appreciation of their continued support and commitment to youth athletics in the City of Fort Pierce.



Mayor Hudson, Commissioner Johnson & Commissioner Broderick



Commissioner Gaines, Commissioner Dzadovsky & City Manager Chess

## Special Appreciation

Bobby Lutjen, IT Media Specialist, who captured professional photos and videos throughout the event. Helping preserve these milestone moments for our families and the community.

Leticia Cruz, ERP Systems Administrator, who assisted with decorating the Recreation Center, serving dinner, and supporting post-event cleanup efforts to ensure the facility was fully restored and event-ready.

Their dedication and willingness to support cross-departmental initiatives exemplify the collaborative spirit that strengthens and enhances our City programs.

# ENGINEERING TASK

## Indian River Drive Corridor Improvements Project (Seaway Drive to Avenue A)

Full roadway and bridge reconstruction is underway on Indian River Drive between Seaway Drive and Avenue A. Improvements include on-street parking, curb and gutter with sidewalks, decorative streetlighting, utility upgrades, reconstruction of the Moore's Creek bridge, enhanced stormwater systems, landscaping, and ADA-compliant brick paver crosswalks.

Current construction activities include bridge pile and sheet pile installation, wall panel placement, storm drainage work, bridge demolition, and utility relocations. Final completion is anticipated in Spring 2027.



Demolition of the Moore's Creek Bridge



Temporary Support and Forcemain Relocation



Pilings and Wall Panels



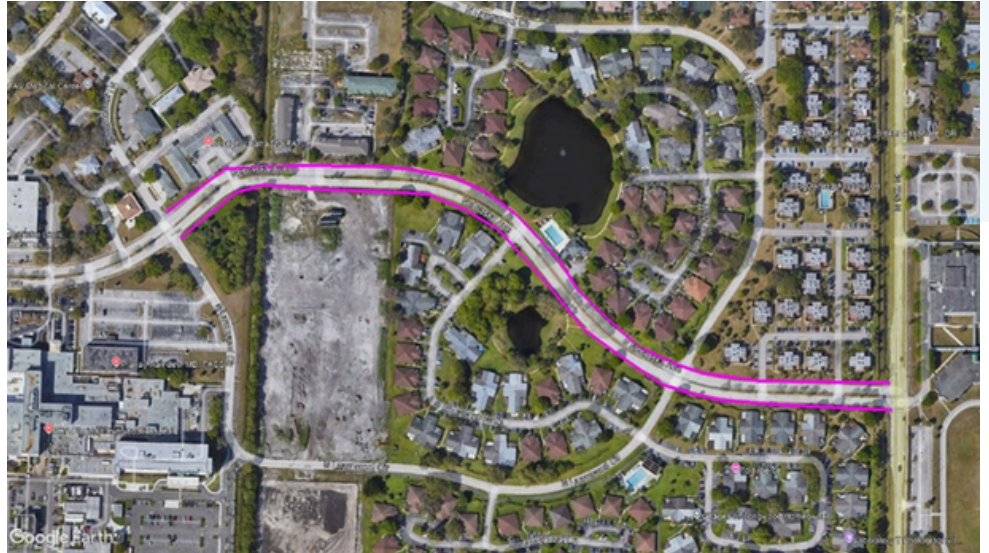
Storm Drainage Construction

## Nebraska Avenue Sidewalk (Lawnwood Circle)

### Phase I

Staff is coordinating efforts to finalize the contract and obtain City Commission approval.

A CEI (Construction Engineering and Inspection) will be required for this project.



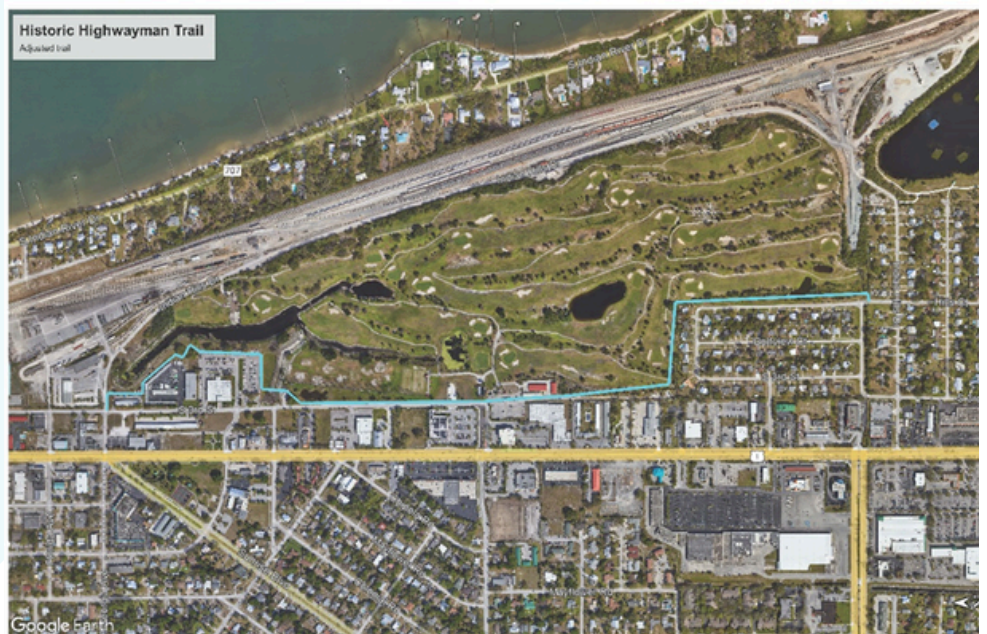
## 13th Street Phase II (Georgia Avenue to Orange Avenue)

Staff is coordinating with a consultant to secure a new Specific Authorization addressing comments received from FDOT. Limited redesign efforts may be required to minimize impacts to private property.

## SUN Trail Highwayman Trail Gap (Indian Hills Drive to Georgia Avenue)

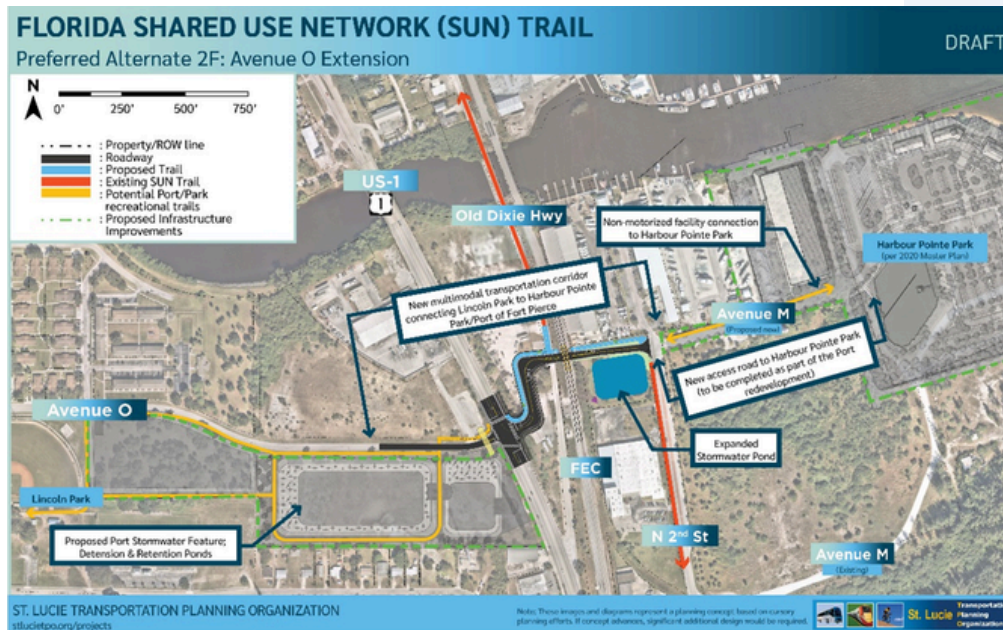
The City has received fully executed agreements for this project.

Final coordination is underway before the project can be advertised for construction.



## SUN Trail Port Overpass

The City has been selected to serve as Project Manager for the design and construction of this SUN Trail segment. We are awaiting funding agreements from FDOT to proceed with the design. Staff will begin preparing the RFP (Request for Proposal) documentation in coordination with the County, TPO (Transportation Planning Organization), and FDOT.



## Little Jim Fish Camp Septic to Sewer Conversion

Construction of the lift station, force main, and sewer service is complete, connecting the sanitary system to St. Lucie County Utilities at the Stan Blum Memorial Boat Launch. Final close-out documents and certifications are being prepared.

## Surfside Neighborhood Roadway Improvements Phase II

The Surfside Park roadway improvement project includes drainage upgrades on Melaleuca, Plover, Pelican, Walnut, Eucalyptus, Cypress, Sunset Isles, Mimosa, and Jacaranda. Work includes valley gutters, swale elimination, driveway replacement, milling and resurfacing, and FPUA water and sewer upgrades on three streets.

The contract was authorized for the mayor's signature on September 2, 2025. Contractor mobilization began October 27, 2025, and drainage work is currently underway on Plover Avenue, Pelican Drive, and Melaleuca Drive.

## **SUN Trail Historic Downtown Retrofit (Georgia Avenue to North AIA)**

The City has received a fully executed agreement for this project and has engaged a new consultant to continue the design work.



### **JC Penney Parking Lot**

Dumpster enclosures and final punch list items continue.

### **2025 Steet Resurfacing Program**

The 2025 resurfacing project is complete, and final invoicing is underway. The City will soon begin developing the 2026 resurfacing schedule.

### **Avenue B (13<sup>th</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Street) Reconstruction**

The City has identified the remaining work items with the contractor and will coordinate efforts to resume work.

### **Avenue D (29<sup>th</sup> Street to US I)**

A Pre-Construction meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2026.

# CITY PROJECTS UPDATES



## 2050 S US Highway 1

A demolition permit has been issued for the former fast-food restaurant located at the corner of US Highway 1 and Tennessee Avenue, across from Gateway Plaza. The site is being cleared to make way for Dutch Bros Coffee.

Construction permits have been submitted and are currently under review for what will be Dutch Bros' first location on the Treasure Coast.

## 2035 S US Highway 1

Construction is underway on an interior build-out and exterior renovation for Chipotle Mexican Grill, located next to the newly completed Starbucks in Gateway Plaza.

The project also includes a reconfiguration of the parking layout to create an outdoor dining area at the front of the restaurant. Initial inspections are currently in progress.



## 115 & 125 Kings Lane

Construction has begun on the first two townhomes in the Kings Landing Development. Building tie-beam and fill cell inspections for the concrete block walls have been completed. Roof trusses have been delivered, and preparations are underway for their placement and strapping.



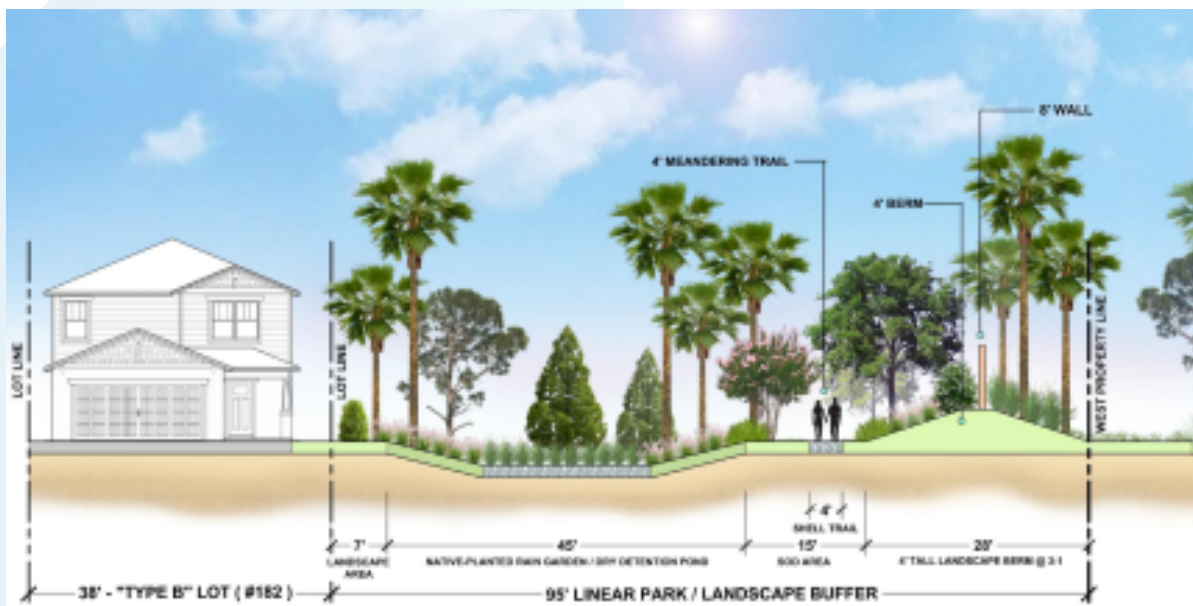
# PLANNING

## Cornerstone Residential

A Future Land Use amendment and Planned Development Master Site Plan have been submitted for the “Cornerstone” Development, a 250-unit single-family residential community featuring a variety of home sizes and designs. Planned amenities include a linear park connecting a recreational area to a pocket park, which will also provide an additional buffer between the neighborhood and I-95.

The linear park creatively integrates stormwater facilities by transforming them into landscaped bioswales and rain gardens, through which a meandering one-third-mile walking path will wind. Resting areas along the path will offer views of the naturalized landscape and surrounding lake vistas.

At the southwest corner of the property—marking the terminus of the linear park—a pocket park is planned to feature a sculptural art installation. Visible to travelers along I-95, the installation is intended to create a distinctive and welcoming sense of arrival into the City of Fort Pierce.



## Lawnwood Medical Center

The City Commission reviewed and approved a Major Site Plan for the construction of a new five-story parking garage at the Lawnwood Medical Center campus in Fort Pierce, Florida. The proposed garage is a key component of the hospital's strategic expansion plan, enhancing infrastructure and improving accessibility for patients, visitors, and staff.

The proposed five-level parking garage will provide a total of 591 parking spaces within a 50,432-square-foot footprint. The project also includes four ADA-compliant surface spaces and 10 dedicated electric vehicle (EV) charging spaces, supporting sustainability initiatives and anticipated future demand.

The project also includes 109 new surface parking spaces, complementing the structured garage and enhancing access across the medical center campus. The surface parking area covers 34,866 square feet.



	January	February
Golf Rounds	4,884	3,211
Golf Fees	\$159,732.36	\$100,164.66
Range Tokens	\$7,180.57	\$4,040.02
Membership Pass	\$12,353.43	\$3,380.29
Food & Beverage	\$10,637.62	\$6,664.60
Merchandise	\$6,096.54	\$4,439.26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$196,000.52</b>	<b>\$118,688.83</b>

### **Weather on the Green**

Despite poor weather through much of January, revenues are up more than \$50,000 and rounds have increased by 1,100 compared to the same four-month period last year.

Our turf specialist have played a key role in this progress, and with warmer weather ahead, turf growth will accelerate. The addition of our fertigation system has further strengthened our program, allowing us to apply liquid fertilizer in small, consistent doses nearly every day.

While there is still work to be done, course conditions show more healthy turf coverage than we’ve seen in years.

### **Fairway Forward**

We are exploring the option of sprigging select fairways with Celebration Bermuda grass in high-traffic areas—specifically on holes #2, #6, and #7 between the 100- and 150-yard markers, where wear is most evident. Celebration Bermuda is highly drought- and wear-tolerant and establishes aggressively, allowing it to spread over time and create healthier, more resilient turf coverage.

We’ve successfully used Celebration Bermuda in several in-house turf projects over the past two years, including expanded tee areas on holes #8, #11, #12, and #17 to accommodate increased play.

## **Grass Matters**

By maintaining our current agronomy programs, we anticipate achieving a nearly complete and healthy stand of turf across the course by the end of the coming summer. As turf density and overall health continue to improve, it will naturally outcompete and reduce many of the weeds that have been problematic in recent years.

## **Pickleball Pulse**

We take pride in delivering exceptional customer service while creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for every player. Our goal is to provide a fun, relaxed environment for golfers of all ages and skill levels. Our pace of play remains among the best in the area, with rounds consistently at—or even under—four hours, including on our busiest days.

## **Word of mouth is our best advertising!**

Word of mouth is our best advertising—so if you’ve enjoyed the improvements, please tell a friend or two! If there’s something we can do better, let us know so we can continue improving.

We’re grateful for the support of our members and guests and invite you to “Like” and “Follow” us on Facebook and Instagram for regular updates on the course and ongoing maintenance projects.

# BUILDING ACTIVITIES

## JANUARY 2026

### Applications Submitted

2026

320

2025

673

### Permits Issued

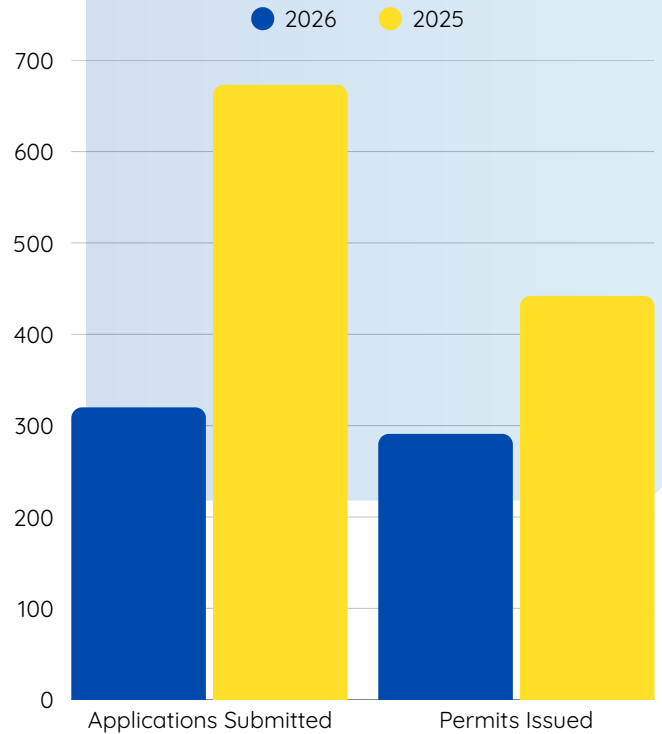
2026

291

2025

442

## PERMIT ACTIVITY



## INSPECTION ACTIVITY

### Requested

2026

1250

2025

1593

### Completed

2026

1202

2025

1423

### PPI

2026

193

2025

375

### PPI Audit

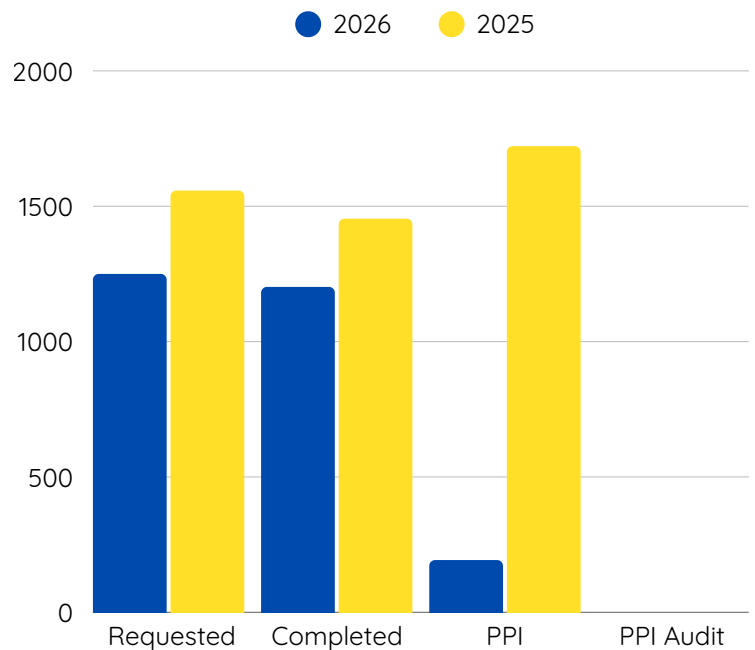
2026

0

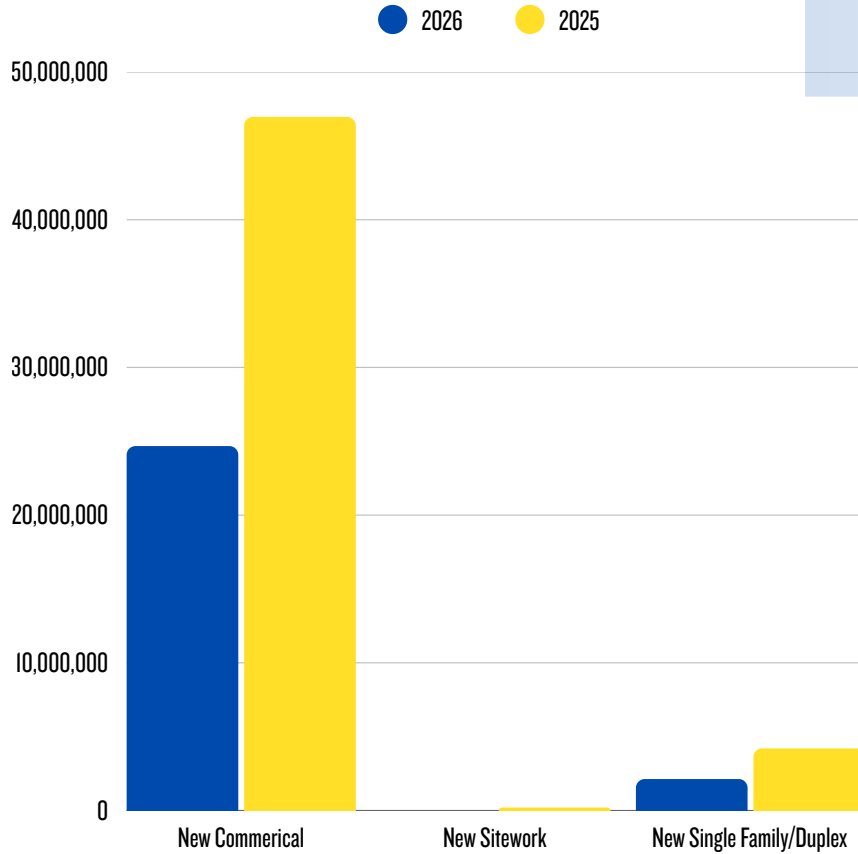
2025

0

Note: Private Provider Inspection (PPI)



# NEW CONSTRUCTION VALUES



## New Commercial



## New Sitework



## New Single Family/Duplex



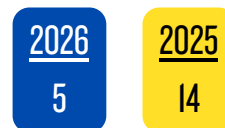
## New Commercial Permits



## New Sitework Permits



## New Single Family/Duplex Permits



# REVENUE REPORT

	November	December	January
Dockage Reservations	171	151	155
Monthly Dockage	\$ 196, 271.50	\$ 235, 680.21	\$ 232,492.13
Transient Dockage	\$ 90,424.00	\$ 111,304.80	\$ 111,293.11
Electricity	\$ 7,113.50	\$ 7,617.66	\$ 7,879.23
Retail	\$ 18,370.53	\$ 21,221.18	\$ 20,021.15
Gas Sales	\$ 56,745.90	\$ 49,505.72	\$ 43,345.36
Diesel Sales	\$ 117,424.83	\$ 82,312.94	\$ 84,360.93
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 486,350.26</b>	<b>\$ 507,642.51</b>	<b>\$ 499,391.91</b>

# RIVER WALK CENTER

## SALES REPORT

**Classes \$ 3,096.10**

**Park Permits \$ 3,700.00**

**Special Events \$ 3,451.25**

**Facility \$ 9,621.38**

**Special Events \$ 19,868.73**



# SPECIAL EVENTS



Treasure Coast Paddle Battle  
Jaycee Park

March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 am - 2:00 pm

Saint Patrick's Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

March 14<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Great American Clean Up  
Kid's Crossing - Rotary Park

March 14<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Feeding The Homeless  
Moore's Creek Linear Park

March 14<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

The Zora Experience Festival 2026  
809 N 9<sup>th</sup> Street

March 14<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Treasure Coast Triathlon  
Jaycee Park

March 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 am - 11:00 am

Manatee 5k  
480 N. Indian River Drive

March 21<sup>st</sup>  
7:50 am - 10:00 am

## Dancing in the Streets

N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

March 26<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

## Fool's Day 5k

Causeway Cove Marina

March 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am - 9:00 am

## Praise on the Marina

Marina Square

March 29<sup>th</sup>

5:0 pm - 8:00 pm

# MARINA SQUARE

Every Wednesday

Farmers Market

11:00 am - 7:00 pm

1st Friday of the month

Friday Fest

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Every Saturday

Jazz Market

8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Downtown Farmers Market

8:00 am - 12:00 pm



SUNRISE THEATRE  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

## From toe-tapping tunes to belly-aching laughs

It was a busy month at the Sunrise Theatre! Our lineup ranged from the playful *Menopause the Musical 2* and *A1A: The Official Jimmy Buffett Tribute* to the soulful performances of Keb' Mo' and Chris Botti, and the laugh-out-loud comedy of Jim Breuer and Henry Cho. The Sunrise Theatre continues to offer something for everyone.



## Let's Go Science!

This month, the Sunrise Theatre was blinded by science! Let's Go Science, an educational program designed to make STEM fun for young learners, brought roughly 400 students from across St. Lucie County to the Theatre. The program is fully inclusive, welcoming students with disabilities of all ages and giving them a safe, hands-on way to explore the wonders of science. Thanks to the Sunrise Theatre Foundation, all students attend free of charge!

Exciting news—the Sunrise Theatre Foundation has announced its annual gala! This special event supports the Theatre's mission to preserve a beloved piece of Floridian history while funding programs like the Sunrise Theatre Children's Summer Camp.

## Box Office New Look

The Sunrise Theatre continues to enhance both its facilities and offerings to better serve our patrons. We are proud to announce the replacement of the damaged box office windows, improving customer service and helping keep our downtown area beautiful.

Our initiative to utilize the Black Box Theatre while offering lower ticket prices has been a success. This month's Late Night Lounge drew a full house, selling 100 tickets at just \$16 each. The program provides locals with an affordable Friday night option featuring live music and a full bar open later than many venues.



## Connect with the Theatre

Looking for a summer spot for your little thespian? Look no further—sign-ups are now open on our website! Find out more there.

Next month at the Sunrise Theatre promises just as much excitement, featuring everything from cultural Irish dance to an edgy new voice in funk, and an acapella group that will delight both your ears and your heart. See the full list of shows [here!](#)



# NEW BUSINESSES

*Welcome Aboard*

THANK YOU FOR GROWING WITH US

- Fort Pierce Resorts LLC**
- All Above Acoustics & Insulation LLC**
- Ride On Auto Sales LLC**
- Freight House Express**
- Rainforest Distribution Corp**
- JW Liquors # 7**
- Welcome Home Club**
- CMTA**
- Dadan Law Firm**
- HCA Florida Fort Pierce Orthopedics**
- Treyway Epoxy Floors & More**
- Seaway Complete Wash, Inc.**
- Infinity Healthcare Fort Pierce LLC**
- Alvarez Premier Painting**
- Home2 Fort Pierce**
- Priscilla's Oasis on Orange**
- DJ & Tax Services**
- Bravo Supermarket at Fort Pierce**
- The Way to Health and Wellness**
- Positive Moments Health Services LLC**
- Gardenia Lawn Service and Maintenance, Inc.**



**Sun Enterprises & Distributor, Inc.**  
**Fairfield Inn & Suites**  
**Hampton Inn & Suites**  
**Jay's TC Stones Cabinets & Remodeling LLC**  
**Comfort Suites Fort Pierce**  
**Gee'z Lawn Care LLC**  
**Hawk Air & Mechanical LLC**  
**Okeechobee Outlet Store LLC**  
**Eddie's Exterior Cleaning LLC**  
**Days Inn Fort Pierce**  
**Studio Bella LLC**  
**The Refinery Lounge**  
**AnMel Remodeling, Inc.**  
**Mervil Multi Services**  
**F & H Contractors**  
**St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church**  
**Kidz World, Inc.**  
**Marr Express LLC**  
**Demystify HVAC EPA Institute**  
**La Placita Grocery**  
**Three O's Food Mart**  
**Incredible Rides LLC**  
**Nate Reighard Insurance Agency, Inc.**  
**Youth and Family Behavioral Health Center, Inc.**



[www.cityoffortpierce.com](http://www.cityoffortpierce.com) | 772.467.3000



## **CITY OF FORT PIERCE MISSION STATEMENT:**

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*"To provide community leadership, quality public service, and a safe environment for all citizens by an empowered team of employees motivated by pride in themselves and their work."*