



HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 2

August 2025

WELCOME TO THE TREASURE COAST SCENIC HIGHWAY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER.

We're thrilled to have you along for the ride as we explore the natural beauty, vibrant communities, and hidden gems that make the Treasure Coast a place like no other. Each Season, we'll bring you the latest updates, upcoming events, local spotlights, and ways you can get involved in preserving and celebrating this stunning stretch of Florida's coastline. Long-time residents, new neighbors, or visitors just passing through, there's always something new to discover along the Indian River Lagoon - Treasure Coast Scenic Highway.

Treasure Coast Scenic Highway

Member Spotlight

Meet Eileen M. Emery, a dedicated advocate for coastal preservation and community engagement along the Treasure Coast. A proud resident of Ocean Village since 1976, Eileen has spent decades serving her community through leadership roles on the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee, the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, and the Ocean Village POA Board. With a background in nursing and a deep-rooted love for the Indian River Lagoon, Eileen brings a wealth of experience, passion, and perspective to her work. In this interview, the Vice-Chair of the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway reflects on her journey, the unique qualities of the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway, and her commitment to preserving the natural and cultural beauty of Florida's coastline.



Eileen M. Emery, Vice-Chair,
Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee

Tell Us About Yourself: My name is Eileen Emery, I've been a proud property owner and resident of Ocean Village since 1976. I'm a widow with three living children, and seven grandchildren. I am looking forward to the arrival of my first great-grandchild this coming December. I graduated from St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing and earned my BSN from NYU, as well as an MBA from the University of Connecticut. Before retiring, I worked for Treasure Coast Hospice for 25 years.

When I moved to Ocean Village, I quickly became involved in community efforts related to our coastal environment. Along with several other residents, I joined the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and the South Beach Association.

(continued on page 2)



HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS



Pg. 2



Fort Pierce Inlet State Park - jetsetjansen.com

Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Member Spotlight

From there, I was introduced to the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway and Florida Scenic Highway Program (FSHP), and I've been actively involved ever since.

What interests you most about the Scenic Highway Program?

I'm drawn to the opportunities the program offers to explore and learn about both the natural environment and the cultural history of the area. The Scenic Highway aligns perfectly with my personal values around conservation, sustainability, and education.

What is your favorite stop along the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway?

As a beach lover, I'm especially fond of places like Sebastian Inlet State Park, Round Island Park, and Fort Pierce Inlet State Park. Each of these offers stunning views, access to nature, and educational opportunities about the local environment.

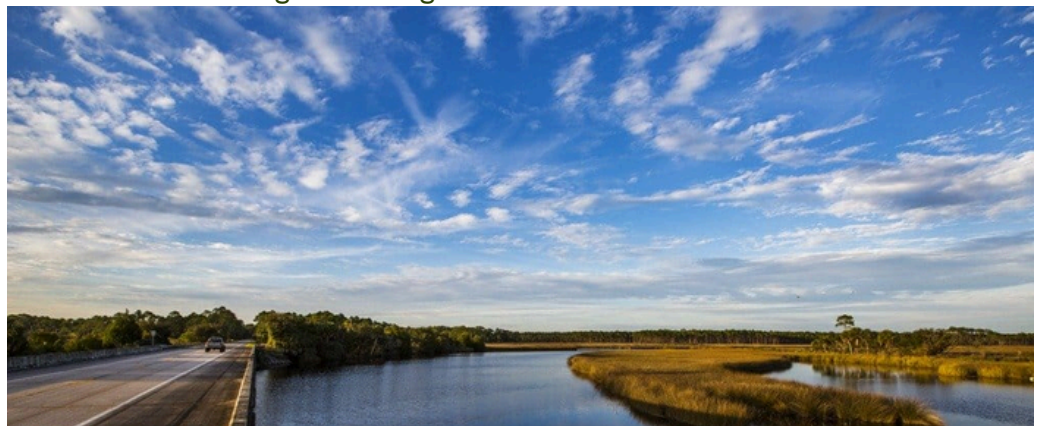
What makes the Indian River Lagoon - Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Unique? The Indian River Lagoon is a beautiful, biodiverse, ecosystem that supports an incredible variety of plant and animal life. It's richness; including manatees, dolphins, and countless bird species is unmatched. The lush coastal habitats, combined with recreational opportunities like kayaking, fishing and walking trails, make the lagoon not just scenic but enjoyable.

Which byway would you most like to visit (besides your own), and why?

I would love to visit the Big Bend Scenic Byway. It's one of the few places in Florida I haven't explored yet, and I've heard so many great things about the area. It sounds like a hidden gem waiting to be discovered.



Round Island Riverside Park -
floridahikes.com



Big Bend Scenic Highway - floridascenichighways.com

WWW.TREASURECOASTSCENICHIGHWAY.COM

ST. LUCIE TPO, 466 SW PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL. SUITE 111, PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL. 34953

Experience the Highway: What's Happening with Our Partners

The Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee is proud to support and spotlight events hosted by our dedicated partner organizations. These upcoming activities offer unique opportunities to engage with the treasures found along the scenic highway corridor. Be sure to mark your calendar and take part in the events that help make the Treasure Coast a vibrant and scenic destination!



Manatee Center 480 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34950

Coffee & Conservation - Friday, September 26th at 10:00am

The Manatee Center has officially rebranded from the Manatee Education and Observation Center and is now working to become a true Eco-Resource Hub. As part of this effort, they are offering a new outreach series called "**Coffee & Conservation**". A relaxed morning meet-up to connect, share updates, and enjoy light refreshments. The first gathering will be held on Friday, September 26, at 10am in the outdoor classroom. Visitors can enjoy coffee, breakfast bites, and great conversation under the shade of new misting fans. For more information contact: geraghty@fpua.com



Ocean Research Conservation Association (ORCA) 1235 16th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960

INTRO TO CITIZEN SCIENCE - October 7 at 10:00am

ORCA invites you to be part of the solution to one of our region's most pressing environmental challenges: the degradation of the Indian River Lagoon. Through ORCA's Citizen Science program, community members are educated and empowered to take action. Our scientists and educators train volunteers to collect meaningful data and participate in projects that identify pollution sources, monitor water quality, and support ecosystem restoration. Join us to learn more about our citizen science initiatives and how you can get involved in protecting the lagoon.

Register at www.teamorca.org

COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES - "Real-Time Insights: ORCA's Kilroy Water Monitoring Network" - October 14 at 3:00 PM

Join us for the first installment of our new monthly lecture series, Science, Solutions and Stewardship. This first talk, Real-Time Insights, will highlight how our Kilroy monitoring network delivers continuous water quality data in real-time and how that information supports science-based restoration strategies.

Register at www.teamorca.org

Open House at ORCA October 16 - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Join the Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA) as we celebrate 20 years of science-driven action to protect and restore the Indian River Lagoon. We're opening the doors to our laboratory and main facility for a behind-the-scenes look at the work powering our mission. 🧪 Tour the Lab 🗨 Meet the Team 📖 Explore Our History 🌊 Discover Current & Ongoing Projects

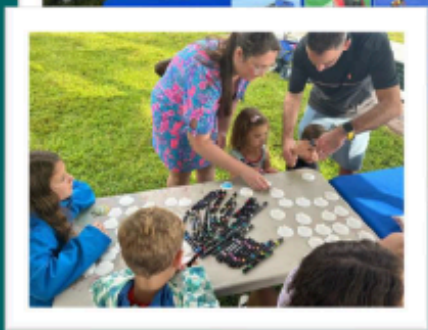
www.teamorca.org/calendar

Experience the Highway: What's Happening with Our Partners

Indian River Lagoon Science Festival Saturday, October 25, 2025, 10 am – 3 pm

600 North Indian River Drive,
Fort Pierce, Fl.

This FREE event offers something for everyone, with a focus on family-friendly STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) activities that inspire and engage. Get ready to meet live animals and learn all about the incredible diversity of life within the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem. It's a chance to connect with nature up close and personal! And don't miss the chance for your kids to win big with exciting raffles throughout the day! Save the date and join us for a day of discovery, laughter, and family fun at the Indian River Lagoon Science Festival. Whether you're a science enthusiast, nature lover, or simply looking for a great time, this event has something special in store for you. See you there!

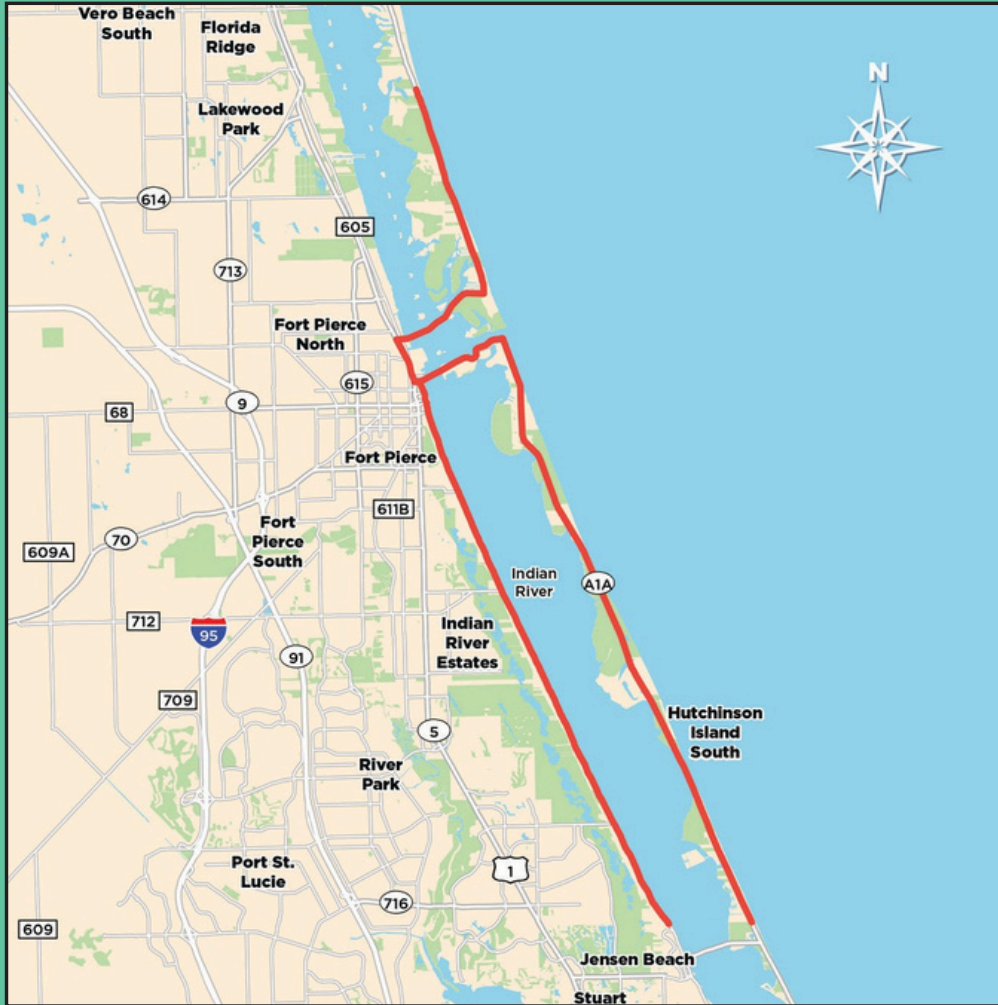


Smithsonian Marine Station 701 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce, Fl

A research center specializing in marine biodiversity and ecosystems of Florida. Research focuses on the Indian River Lagoon and the offshore waters of Florida's east central coast, with comparative studies throughout coastal Florida. Free public tours are available on the 3rd Thursday monthly with a reservation, which can be made by calling (772)462-6216.



Indian River Lagoon - Treasure Coast Scenic Highway



Great views of the Indian River Lagoon, the Atlantic Ocean can be enjoyed along this byway, which is filled with historical, cultural and environmental resources. World War II soldiers trained on Florida's beaches here in preparation for the Normandy invasion, and numerous artists and writers have been inspired by the beauty of the region.



Real Places. Real Stories.

Enhancing access and Connectivity: Key Construction Projects along the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway

Two major construction projects are currently underway along the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway, both aimed at improving safety, connectivity, and the overall visitor experience. The Fort Pierce North Bridge replacement project is looking to modernize aging infrastructure while maintaining access across the Indian River Lagoon. This effort is anticipated to be finished in Late 2027 and will result in a safer crossing for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. Meanwhile, the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) trail extension through the Savannas Preserve State Park is bringing new opportunities for outdoor recreation and alternative transportation. Once completed this Fall, this trail segment will offer a scenic protected route for walkers, runners, and cyclists further enhancing the natural and cultural experiences along the scenic highway corridor. For additional project information: www.d4fdot.com





HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

Pg. 6

We Want to Feature YOU! Share Your Scenic Story

Do you have a favorite memory, hidden gem, or community project along the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway? We're looking for inspiring stories, personal experiences, local spotlights, and photos to include in upcoming newsletters! Whether you're a resident, volunteer, business owner, or simply someone who loves the byway, we'd love to hear from you. Help us showcase the people and places that make the Treasure Coast so special. Submit your story or suggestion today to: stephanie.torres@stlucieco.gov

Committee Members Needed



Join Us in Preserving the Beauty of the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway!

Are you passionate about protecting Florida's natural beauty and cultural heritage? Do you want to make a meaningful impact in your community? The Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee is looking for enthusiastic new members to join our team! As a committee member, you'll have the opportunity to collaborate with local leaders, residents, and organizations to promote tourism, sustainability and community pride. If you're a long-time resident, a business owner, or simply someone who loves the charm of the Treasure Coast, we welcome your voice and vision. Contact Stephanie Torres, St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization at stephanie.torres@stlucieco.gov.



Follow us on
Instagram



@IRLTCSH



Jimmy Buffet Memorial Highway, Fort Pierce

WWW.TREASURECOASTSCENICHIGHWAY.COM

ST. LUCIE TPO, 466 SW PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL. SUITE 111, PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL. 34953