Main Street Fort Pierce presents…

Souvenirs of Downtown

En Plein-Air Paint-Out

See story page 20…

Painting of Sunrise Theatre
by Ellen E. Fischer
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Main Street Fort Pierce Celebrates 20 Years: 1998 – 2008

We have experienced many changes over the last 20 years with the Main Street Program. Are there more to come? I venture to think that 20 years ago we could not begin to imagine the impact the Main Street Program could have in downtown, and today the program continues to make a difference in our historic city.

Well, as with any established successful program, learning and growth keeps one on their toes and challenges an organization to brainstorm new ideas rather than becoming static and ineffective. During the past 20 years, Main Street Fort Pierce has faced numerous opportunities and “firsts” by saving and restoring historic buildings like the 1925 Historic City Hall, 1923 Sunrise Theatre, 1895 Platts-Backus House and new construction of the Manatee Observation and Education Center in 1995.

When I began working in downtown Fort Pierce in 1993 and volunteering with Main Street, there were very few exciting physical, shopping, dining or entertainment attributes that contributed to the making of a vibrant, pedestrian-oriented downtown. About all downtown Fort Pierce had going for it was its architecture! There were no brick pavers, landscaping, roundabouts, waterfront plaza, decorative lighting, signage and new public or private buildings.

If you are a newcomer to the area, you won't know what I'm talking about. But if you were here in 1993, you will. With hard work and perseverance from the elected officials, citizens and community based groups, downtown now is an exciting, vibrant, cultural, shopping and dining venue — now with residential housing on the way!

Continued on page … 7
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Calendar

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

Friday, April 4: Friday Fest — 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Wednesday, April 9: DBA Artwalk — 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080, www.fortpierce-fl.com.

Friday, April 18: Coffee with the Mayor — 8:00 a.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Saturday, April 19: 3rd Annual Cowboy Golf Tournament; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Friday, April 25: Classic Car Cruise-In — 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080, www.fortpierce-fl.com.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Ft. Pierce Farmer's Market – Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

Arts and Crafts Show & Sale – Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north of downtown Fort Pierce Library, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Fort Pierce Bike Night – Thursdays, 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.; 2nd Street, Downtown Fort Pierce; Yellowfin Grill & Raw Bar, 468-7071.

Fort Pierce Jazz Jams – 7:00 p.m.; Fort Pierce Community Center; $2 Admission; Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5124.

RESTAURANT ENTERTAINMENT

The Original Tiki Bar – 461-0880; Music by "Barely Broken," Sundays, 3 to 7:00 p.m.


DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

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For information, please call 461-4775 or visit www.sunrisetheatre.com.

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

For information, please call 466-1600, ex: 3333 or visit www.manateecenter.com.

FORT PIERCE COMMUNITY CENTER

For information, please call 462-1792.

Turbo Workout Class: Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays 5:30 to 6 p.m.; musically choreographed exercise routines for men and women, incorporate Tae Bo and Pilates; $40 per four-week session; first class is free.

Floor Acrobatics and Tumbling Class: Beginner class for boys and girls 6 – 10; basic floor tumbling moves, improving strength, flexibility, coordination; Mondays 4 to 5 p.m.; $25 per month; first class is free.

Pre-teen/Teen Exercise & Tumbling Class: Children 11 years and up; exercise routines, basic floor tumbling techniques; Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m.; $25 a month; first class is free.

Tumbling for Tots: Children 3 – 4 years; basic tumbling techniques incorporated through the use of music and dance expression; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.; $20 a month; a free introductory session Tues., Feb. 26, 10 a.m.

HEATHCOTE BONTANICAL GARDENS

For information, please call 464-4672 or visit www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org.

BACKUS GALLERY & MUSEUM

For information, please call 465-0630 or visit www.backusmuseum.com.

March 18 to April 5: Villas to Vistas: Images of Provence — Many say that Provence is one of the most charming and romantic regions of France. It is a rustic paradise, peaceful and serene. Tiny villages, lush vineyards, beautiful villas and fields that are embroidered with trees and flowers have inspired artists for centuries. Susie Cassens, Chris Cozen, Sally Markell and Cathrina Sevos all have French-inspired pieces included in this show. A special retrospect of French impressionist paintings by Theresa Knowles will also be on view.

April 10 to April 12: The St. Lucie County High School Show — Sponsored by National City Bank and Fort Pierce Utilities Authority; this show presents the best artwork from the area's public and private high schools.

April 16 to May 3: The Eye of the Camera: Juried Photography Show & Seacoast Community Calendar Competition — Sponsored by Jiffy Photo, Seacoast National Bank & Canon; open to both amateur and professional photographers; applications are available at the museum or on our website at www.backusmuseum.com.
Save Energy And Money In The Kitchen!

The kitchen is the busiest room in the house, and a big energy-use area. You can lower your monthly energy bill and contribute to a cleaner environment by learning a few simple habits that will make your kitchen conservation-friendly.

*Here are a few simple tips that will help you save:*

- Each time the oven door is opened, the oven loses about ¼ of its heat; open only when necessary.
- A clean seal on your oven door provides better heat retention; check the seal for wear.
- Temperatures can be lowered about 25° when you use glass or ceramic pans in the oven and food will still cook in the same amount of time.
- Don’t preheat your oven unless cooking or baking instructions call for it.
- Covered pots and pans heat up faster, and clean range top burners and reflectors save energy.
- Prevent wasted heat by matching the size of your pots and pans to the size of the burner.

Heating elements stay hot long enough to finish cooking, even if you turn burners or oven off 1 to 2 minutes before completion time.

Clean dust from refrigerator’s condenser coils (on back or under) every few months to increase efficiency.

Know what you want before opening the refrigerator door. This keeps the cool air inside where it belongs.

A full freezer is more efficient; however, your refrigerator should have some room for air circulation.

Fort Pierce Utilities
www.fpua.com
466-1600
How did it happen? The City of Fort Pierce began an aggressive public improvement effort with new construction and infrastructure which caught the private sector’s interest in the City’s transformation after Main Street Fort Pierce partnered with the City for the downtown master plan charrette. We all were excited to see the positive, distinct changes in our City through the tireless efforts of many groups. That optimism grew and blossomed into what we have today.

In 2005, Main Street’s boundary expanded west along Orange Avenue to 7th Street, a major corridor that has witnessed the saving of a historic post office, the Arcade Building renovation and is now on the verge of new development with the planned construction of a United States Courthouse building. This is yet another opportunity for Main Street Fort Pierce to grow and meet the needs in our downtown area and build new business and retail activity westward from the waterfront.

It is and continues to be an exciting time in the City of Fort Pierce and through the efforts of Main Street Fort Pierce and volunteers, we will continue to add value and enhance our thriving downtown. I look forward to working with you all and I welcome your input and support to make all of our opportunities a reality in celebrating our 20th year.
Main Street Fort Pierce Kicks Off 20 Years as a Main Street Community with a Polynesian Experience at Friday Fest!

by Pam Gillette

“In 1989, with one keg of beer, Jimmy C’s Hot Dog Stand, a popcorn machine from the 5 & dime and 32 people, Friday Fest was born,” said Gene Sereg, Main Street Board Member. Tom Kindred, the first Main Street Manager, wanted the merchants and the community to know what Main Street was all about and what Main Street could do for the downtown. Well, 20 years later, Friday Fest has grown and continues to grow each month, along with our beautiful downtown.

No one remembers just how Friday Fest got its name, but the first Friday of each month was chosen because everyone got paid on that Friday and everyone wanted to get together. Since its start, Main Street has moved Friday Fest from its original location on Second Street to Marina Square and Melody Lane to accommodate the large crowds and increased vendors. Who knew back in 1989 how popular Friday Fest would become or how the locals would become addicted to the street festival.

Main Street Fort Pierce will begin celebrating 20 years as a Main Street Program in April. The organization has plans to celebrate all year long with various events to mark this great achievement. Did you know that the average Main Street Program will only last approximately 5 years? Now you can see why Main Street Fort Pierce is so proud of this accomplishment. What an appropriate way to launch a year of celebrations at the festival that started it all — Friday Fest.

On Friday, April 4, 2008, Main Street Fort Pierce and Kona (your liquid Aloha) Beer of Hawaii now distributed by Southern Eagle Distributing (your local Anheuser-Busch Distributor) will feature a special show you won’t want to miss. So gather your leis and grass skirts for a Polynesian evening of entertainment featuring Tama Leao’s Polynesian Dancers and Fire Dancer.

“Lanakilas” — A Polynesian Experience will perform 2 shows, 6:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on April 4, 2008 at Friday Fest located at Marina Square and Avenue A. Lanakilas (pronounced lah-na-key-las and is a Hawaiian word meaning conqueror) have been performing exclusively at the new Royal Pacific Resort, Loews Hotel at Universal Orlando. They are the only full-time company performing Polynesian music, hula dancing and male fire dancing on the entire east coast. For more information on “Lanakilas” — A Polynesian Experience go to: www.lanakilas.com

Also coming to Friday Fest is a local favorite and friend to Main Street Fort Pierce, Moonshadow. The musical group was formed in 1990 and consists of Treasure Coast residents Steve Chandler, Larry Chapman, Arleen Green, Steve Hansen, Bill Smith, and Dave Williams. Moonshadow brings a unique blend of acoustic and electric instrumentation with percussion.
provide by the rhythm guitar and bass, while concentrating on harmony.

Moonshadow has played numerous local venues including past Friday Fests, benefits, weddings, clubs, concerts, and have been the house band at Pineapple Joe’s for over 15 years. They play a variety of music, including songs from the 50s to the present, mixing in bluegrass, country, folk, light jazz, blues and rock. Moonshadow is a very listener-friendly group.

Jeff Brown, from Clear Channel Radio, will also be at Friday Fest entertaining the crowd.

As always, bring the kids to Friday Fest. Paragon Entertainment, www.paragoninflatables.com, has teamed up with Main Street Fort Pierce to provide children’s activities during Friday Fest. Children’s activities include a giant obstacle course, a 19-foot slide and a bounce-house in front of the library.

If shopping is your passion, Friday Fest has arts & crafts vendors lined up in front of the Indian River in Marina Square. And don’t forget to bring your appetite when you come to Friday Fest. The food variety includes Greek, Caribbean, barbeque ribs & chicken, seafood, Americana, and various snack items.

Admission is FREE and there is always plenty of food, music, and activities for all ages! So come down to Friday Fest, dine, shop and enjoy the beautiful historic downtown Fort Pierce and help Main Street Fort Pierce kick off our 20-Year Anniversary.

Friday Fest — April 4, 2008, 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. (special extended hours for April); Marina Square — Melody Lane and Avenue A, Fort Pierce. 2008 Yearly Sponsors of Friday Fest include: Boca Ven Land: Renaissance on the River, Budweiser, Coca-Cola, the Tribune, the Press Journal, Paragon Entertainment, Reliable Poly Johns, Clear Channel Communications — WAVE Country 92.7, OLDIES 103.7, and STAR 94.7.
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Most of us agree that downtown Fort Pierce is unique because of its beautiful waterfront. We are blessed to have the Indian River Lagoon, an “Estuary of National Significance,” right in our front yard. For thousands of years, people who live near the River have benefited from its “treasures” — the food it provides; its awesome recreational opportunities; and its peaceful environment.

Local writer and ecologist, Camille S. Yates, and landscape artist, Rick Kelly, have teamed up with the Indian River Community College (IRCC) Foundation to produce a book called Treasured Waters — the Indian River Lagoon. Kelly, who studied under Florida artist, A. E. Backus, has painted oil on canvas landscapes for the last 20 years. For the book, Kelly has painted over 80 new paintings of scenes that he and Yates discovered on their exploration of the habitat. Last year, Senate President Ken Pruitt awarded Kelly with the Florida Senate Medallion of Excellence for his outstanding cultural and artistic contributions to the State of Florida. “All of my

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paintings for the book show the unique habitats and wildlife of the Indian River watershed. I am honored that the President of the Florida Senate feels that my work contributes to an understanding of, not only art, but also of the importance of Florida’s Indian River Lagoon.”

To match the scenes depicted in the paintings, Yates describes the history and ecology of the 157-mile-long lagoon from New Smyrna Beach to Jupiter. Since she was a young girl, Camille S. Yates has immersed herself in nature. Following her love of the outdoors, she worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the (then) Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission. Later, she received a Master of Science in Ecology in 1997 from the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida. During her career as a biologist, Yates has published many scientific papers on birds and habitat management. She also helped write the Indian River Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan while employed by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Also, for the last two decades, Yates has studied the animals and habitats in the Indian River Lagoon. She has worked for the Smithsonian Marine Station, the Environmental Protection Agency and the St. Lucie County and Volusia County Mosquito Control Districts. Her passion for nature is felt throughout the book.

Pioneer River Press, managed by Indian River Community College’s Foundation, publishes scholarly works of intellectual distinction and significance. They seek out works that will contribute to improving the quality of higher education and works of general and regional interest and of lasting value. “Rick and I are very proud to have partnered with IRCC. It is good to see this two-year project come to fruition,” says Yates. Proceeds from the sale of the book will support scholarships at IRCC and Indian River Lagoon conservation and education efforts. The books can be purchased through IRCC or at local stores in downtown Fort Pierce and surrounding areas. For more information, visit www.treasuredwaters.com.
Third Annual Cowboy Golf Tournament

At Adams Ranch, Saturday, April 18

by Sue Dannabower

Cowboy Golf, for the 3rd year in a row, brings together “cowboys” and not so serious “golfers” for some good old fashion FUN!! Golfers represent a full spectrum of talent, from “Buckaroo Duffers” to “Ace-High Pros.”

Here’s what some of our past players are saying:

“The thing I love most about Cowboy Golf is that feeling when you first walk through the Hammock to the clearing and view the course. You realize that you don’t have to be a golf enthusiast or expert to compete. Heck, I came pretty close to getting a hole-in-one on the toilet bowl obstacle and I’ve never played anything but miniature golf.” — Joanne Davis Blandford

“As a member of the team that finished a distant last place for the past two years and who has been harassed into playing yet again this year, I would like to assure any potential teams that they need not fear being laughed at for any perceived lack of skills or abilities, with regard to the game of golf, as my team, the “City Slickers,” promise to provide enough embarrassment that will make even the dullest of duffers look like Arnold Palmer.” — Jon Ward

“The best round of golf I’ve ever had was at Adams Ranch during the Cowboy Golf. I don’t understand why I can’t play there every weekend! It was a wonderful experience on a beautiful course. Where else can you play golf while side-stepping cow patties?” — Ginger King

“People that know me will find this hard to believe, but my team was actually able to use one of my shots! I had so much fun playing Cowboy Golf that I took golf lessons at Indian Hills Golf Course.” — Pat Alley

“Cowboy Golf has been great. We’ve had both avid golfers and folks who never picked up a club before come out and have a ball. Just seeing how some groups dress the part can make the trip worthwhile, so come on out and see what all the talk is about — you’ll never look at a golf course the same way again!” — Britt Reynolds

“This is one of the most unique and fun charity events of the year. Having the opportunity to play Cowboy Golf on one of the most pristine ranches in Florida is something not to be missed, and the Bar-b-que lunch is always excellent.” — Pat Murphy

Continued on page … 15
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“Every hole presents its own challenge. I especially enjoyed teeing off the 5-foot high platform of hay bales.” — Gary Gillette

“Cowboy Golf is a blast! You get to play in a pristine back-country setting, the golf is easy and the food is great!” — Dan Dannahower

“If you have never teed off atop a pile of hay bales, a cow chip or chipped to an old iron skillet or toilet seat … you have never played Cowboy Golf: Forget about herding cats and grab a couple of clubs and come out and play. Bobby Knowles and Bucky Walters can be expected to put together a course on the ranch that could put Norman and Nicklaus into retirement. As the early morning mist lifts from the quiet land, and a whiff of fresh brewed coffee awakens your senses, the Adams Ranch will come alive. The cattle sense something different is about to happen, and so will you. You want to be there. Sign up now.” — Dave Miller

“The beautiful and unique setting of the ranch was just the right environment for anyone with a sense of humor as they tee off from a stack of cow pies. The creative and awesome course was a real challenge and made for a great, memorable day. The prizes were plentiful, food was yummy, volunteers and staff were well organized, and the weather was beautiful. The entire experience was tons of fun and we are looking forward to the event this year.” — Robert & Kitty March

Cowboy Golf combines two favorite American pastimes: taking long walks and hitting things with a stick.
Tommy Gore: An Important Part of Florida History

by John Culverhouse

Decades before the United States of America existed and even longer before Florida was part of the United States, Spain was the world leader. The Spanish Empire expanded from Europe to include most of South America, Central America, parts of the present-day United States, including Florida, and parts of Asia, including the Philippines, Guam and the Mariana Islands.

The seafaring Spanish transported a great amount of treasures between Spain and the Americas, and many ships were attacked by pirates or met their fate during encounters with hurricanes.

Steps away from present-day Downtown Fort Pierce, right off our shore, lay the remains of one of the worst shipping disasters in Spain’s history. In the summer of 1715, a fleet of eleven merchant convoy ships set sail from Havana, Cuba. The fleet was bound for Spain, but along the way they encountered a severe hurricane off our coast, from which they met their immediate demise. Our area was named the “Treasure Coast” because of this wreck.

Just over two hundred years later, the Urca de Lima was the first of the fleet to be recovered off the coast of Fort
Pierce, and people began to notice Spanish coins washing up on the beach. This inspired historians, divers and treasure hunters alike to search and recover treasures from the wreckage.

This is where Tommy Gore enters the picture. When Gore became interested in treasure hunting, he found it hard to obtain permits to treasure hunt. He took a job with the State of Florida as the first field agent for the Division of Historical Resources. For 36 years, he worked onboard vessels with treasure hunters who were licensed in the state of Florida, and not only witnessed remarkable treasure recoveries from historic shipwrecks, but made some great finds himself.

The Fort Pierce native has seen and done more than one can imagine and he’s lived to tell about it. His family ran a local shoe repair shop and he was the only one in town who repaired diving equipment, so many of the treasure hunters he would later dive with, he already knew. He has recovered Spanish treasures and artifacts, been chased by sharks and alligators and has even been threatened by treasure hunters.

Gore has written a book on his experiences, titled *The Rainbow Chasers in the Great Florida Treasure Hunt*. Many books have been written on the subject of treasure hunting, but Gore’s personal experiences set his book apart from others, as they tend to be repetitive and sometimes not entirely accurate, according to Gore. Feeling that the story needed to be told in more of a “correct and realistic way,” Gore wrote the book to share how treasure hunting really got started in Florida, especially in Fort Pierce, and some of the unbelievable things that occurred during treasure hunts.

When ships encountered severe weather and rough seas, they broke apart as they descended to the ocean floor, making it difficult for today’s historians and treasure hunters to pinpoint the location of sunken ships and their treasures. Gore had his share of these finds, and has also been a part of other remarkable discoveries, like the 1966 discovery of the second ship in the world that was ever recovered intact. Gore vividly remembers how deeply buried it was under the grass-covered sandy ocean bottom. Once they uncovered the ship, they found a considerable amount of treasures, but the artifacts were what caught their attention. The artifacts were preserved, as they were sheltered and protected so deeply within the sand for more than 200 years. The recoveries included a Bible, which disintegrated upon impact from the elements, tools, silver platters, gold coins, piles of silver coins and many other items made in the 1700s. Even the wood was in good condition. The value of the 1966 discovery was $1,500,000.

If chasing treasures doesn’t make someone interesting enough, add alligator chasing to the resume. When Florida’s
… continued from page 17

alligator population began to explode, Gore worked as an alligator control agent. He said it was fun at first, but working around the clock, gator calls became “too much like a job” after a while. And there were so many gator calls, that it became a family affair of sorts, as his wife began to wrestle a few gators, herself.

Gore saw gators live up to their fierce reputation on several occasions. One such occasion involved his crew in a wooden boat pursuing a 12.5-foot gator in Port St. Lucie. As they approached, and then tried to catch the gator, the gator fought by biting a hole through the bottom of their boat. If it weren't for patching up the hole with shirts they were wearing, the vessel would have sunk.

“We learned quickly never to use a wooden boat to catch alligators,” Gore recalled.

The largest gator Gore caught was nearly 14 feet and was captured off of Prima Vista Boulevard in Port St. Lucie, and several others he caught were over 12 feet, including a 12.5-foot gator that bit a Port St. Lucie man.

Gore was bitten, himself, on one call. As he carefully tried to catch the gator, he recalled that the gator “decided he was going to chew on my foot!” Gore has also been knocked down and rolled over while attempting to catch gators. While catching a large gator from a boat, the gator resisted, causing a rope to wrap around his leg, yanking him over the side of the boat and pulling him under water.
Gore has never been able to convince people that his job trapping gators was not as dangerous as his job regulating treasure hunters.

“You already know that an alligator is going to try to kill you,” he said. “But you don’t know how some people will react when they find gold, and as a state agent you are in the way of their fortune. Gold does strange things to people.”

It was a dangerous job for years. People resented the State of Florida for claiming titles to treasures that, up until the point of state regulation, had been deemed “finders, keepers.”

Despite the dangers, being threatened and being chased by sharks and alligators, Gore looks back on a successful career full of fun and exciting memories and finds.

“I don’t think that anybody could have enjoyed anything more in their life than I did,” Gore reminisced. “Being paid to treasure hunt and being paid to record Florida history is something that most people would pay to do themselves.”

A glimpse of the treasures (coins, pieces of wood and tools) that Gore recovered from shipwrecks found off South Florida, including the Treasure Coast.

*The Rainbow Chasers in the Great Florida Treasure Hunt*, by Tommy Gore, can be purchased locally, including through the St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc.’s Pineapple Patch Gift Shop, by calling 772-461-8020, or by logging onto: www.stluciehistoricalsociety.org.

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Before choosing a lawyer, ask for written information about the lawyer’s legal qualifications and experience.
April 24 through April 26, 2008, Main Street Fort Pierce will present an exciting new event that brings leading Florida’s landscape artists together to capture the character of downtown Fort Pierce in original art. Souvenirs of Downtown is a three-day “paint-out” — a gathering of artists painting outdoors. Artists will paint in various locations throughout the Main Street area from Citrus Avenue to Seaway Drive and from Seventh Street to the Indian River Lagoon. Best of all, visitors downtown those three days can watch the artists work and purchase the completed paintings.

Here’s how it works: Twenty-three noted Florida landscape artists were chosen to participate in the paint out. Each will select a spot (or spots) in the Main Street area to paint. The artists will paint for three days: April 24, 25 and 26. All paintings created during the paint out will be available to the public for sale, with forty percent of every sale going to benefit Main Street Fort Pierce and the restoration of the Platt’s/Backus House. The key is the artists will all work “en plein-air,” a French term meaning “in the open air.” In other words, these artists will be working outdoors, on location, painting from real life.

In the case of the Souvenirs of Downtown, our artists are literally taking it to the streets, bringing their easels, canvases, and paints to historic Fort Pierce to capture the beauty of our downtown. No photos, no memory, every work will be created on the spot.
And you will have an opportunity to buy any painting you see being created, fresh off the easel. Just let the artist know you are interested and arrangements will be made to complete the sale after the paint out.

Can’t get downtown to see the artists in action? No problem. All art will be framed and on display at the Souvenirs Bash, Saturday afternoon, April 26 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the newly renovated Platt’s/Backus house. Your $20.00 ticket includes appetizers, cocktails, and a chance to meet the artists and purchase the newly created artwork directly from them. You will also have a chance to tour the just completed Platt’s/Backus house before the Grand Opening.

Come celebrate Main Street Fort Pierce’s 20th Anniversary and the opening of the newly renovated Platt’s/Backus House with a totally new and unique art adventure, Souvenirs of Downtown En Plein-Air Paint-Out.

Souvenirs of Downtown En Plein-Air Paint-Out Schedule

Thursday, April 24:
Artists paint 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, April 25:
Artists paint 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 26:
Artists paint 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Souvenirs Bash 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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Fort Pierce Downtown Hero: Michael Goforth

by Camille S. Yates

Fourteen years ago, Tom O’Neil, then editor of the Fort Pierce Tribune, asked Michael Goforth to join his staff. Both men had worked together at a newspaper in North Carolina. Goforth, who was currently working in South Carolina, traveled to Fort Pierce to check things out. He admits that when he arrived in town he “came down Orange Avenue and almost turned around and left.” He kept coming east, though, and found the city marina. “I liked what I saw,” he says.

Shelby, North Carolina, was where Goforth first heard of the Main Street Program. He was a reporter and had worked with and reported on that city establishing a Main Street Program. “Shelby was one of the first Main Street cities,” Goforth says. “The Shelby Main Street Program became a model for the nation.”

“After arriving in Fort Pierce and getting to know the area, it felt more like home than anywhere I’d been since high school,” he says. Goforth, indeed has fit in very well with the community. His first event that he attended here was at the Fort Pierce Civic Center. It was an event that was sponsored by the Fort Pierce Tribune. “When they announced that the Tribune was a sponsor, people booed,” Goforth laments. “I wanted to find out why they booed, and then I set out to try to change the perception of the paper.” To change the way that people felt about the Tribune, Goforth felt that it was important to become a face in the paper that the community recognized in a positive light. “I have tried to make most of my stories positive and upbeat,” he says. “Even when I’ve had to write about something negative, I’ve tried to offer solutions.”

Goforth also wanted to become more involved as a volunteer in the community. He attended a workshop that former police officer, Eugene Sereg, gave on the laws about serving alcohol to the public. Goforth became certified and then wanted to volunteer his services to an organization in Fort Pierce. That’s when he became involved in volunteering for the Fort Pierce Main Street Program. Ever since, he has been in charge of the beer station at Main Street’s Friday Fest.

“I love Friday Fest,” Goforth says. “Even when I don’t feel good, it makes me feel better to be there.” That is probably why he has only missed one Friday Fest in the last five years! “I love meeting new people, and you get a lot that come to the beer station. There is such a great cross section of people there.” He admits that he works his week around Friday Fest so he can take off work early to volunteer his time getting the beer booth set up. “It’s a great way to start the weekend,” Goforth exclaims.

Through the years, Goforth has watched the city change. He remembers when Main Street moved Friday Fest from Second Street (the main street) to Melody Lane on the waterfront. “I was afraid that this move would lessen the attention to the downtown business owners. But that is not the case, because Friday Fest has become so large. There is so much spillover from the event itself, that, economically, it works.”

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... continued from page 23

He was also very glad to see the restored **Sunrise Theater** open. “For me, it was a dream-come-true,” he says. “One day, I may have the chance to get on that stage and look out at the people up at the balcony just like the performers do.”

When asked if he had a wish for Fort Pierce he says that he would want “people to be more understanding and supportive of one another, so we can all work together to create the kind of community that we all want it to be.”

Goforth explains that he wishes he could do more for Fort Pierce. “This is my little part that I can do to help **Main Street** and the community.” **Fort Pierce Main Street** sure is glad to have Michael Goforth as its Downtown Hero!
Downtown Heroes: Bob and Leslie Lafferandre

by Bob Swisher

He caught the garter, she caught the bouquet. Thus started the relationship between two very talented and creative people 35 years ago this May, Laff and Leslie Lafferandre, owners of Lafferandre Gallery on North 2nd Street in downtown Fort Pierce. Laff and Leslie have been sharing their artistic talents in Fort Pierce since 1993. Both accomplished artists in their own right, Laff and Leslie have been an integral part of the downtown community since 1999 when Lafferandre Gallery was opened.

Born and raised on Long Island, New York. Robert (Laff) worked in Manhattan as an architectural draftsman; Leslie worked as a social worker. In 1978 they left the concrete jungle of New York and moved to Florida. Hard working and committed to downtown Fort Pierce Laff and Leslie work tirelessly on Artwalk, which occurs the second Wednesday of every month. Artwalk brings many people to the downtown area to enjoy the fine shops and restaurants. Laff volunteers every Friday Fest in the beer tent to help Main Street. He and Leslie volunteer to help with the Downtown Business Association’s monthly Classic Car Cruise-In, which takes place on the last Friday of every month. Not only do they volunteer their time at these events, they put much time and effort behind the scenes as well.

Leslie, an accomplished graphic artist, photographer and calligrapher, does most of the photography and poster work for Artwalk and the Classic Car Cruise-In. Her work in calligraphy, a true passion for Leslie, has earned recognition from the Smithsonian Institute Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. Leslie is also an award-winning photographer with many of her pieces hanging in their gallery.

An accomplished and award-winning artist himself, Laff does etchings, many of which are in private collections internationally. Many of Laff’s pieces hang in the gallery as well. With this much talent in our midst, it is no wonder people come from all over Florida to visit the Lafferandre Gallery and Downtown Fort Pierce. Stop by and say “Hi” to Laff and Leslie and browse the beautiful artwork showcased in their gallery. Lafferandre Gallery is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.
Mike Brown, Sr. of National City Retires
by Carol Johnson

On Friday, March 7, 2008 a familiar figure in the Treasure Coast business and social circles, Mike Brown, Sr., officially retired from National City after 34 years in local banking. His title was “Chairman of the North Central Florida Region,” which extends from Martin County north to Volusia County and over to the central part of the state. Mike Brown Sr., a.k.a. Mike Sr., came to Fort Pierce in 1974 and it did not take him long to start becoming active in our community. He played a role in the beginning years of what was then known as First Federal of Fort Pierce, in the capacity of “Chief Financial Officer”. At that time there were two branches in Fort Pierce (one of them is still at its current downtown location), and a third was then under construction in Vero Beach. In the late 1970s First Federal of Fort Pierce became Harbor Federal Savings and Loan, then on December 1, 2006 it assumed the name National City, a banking corporation with headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio which purchased Harbor Federal earlier in the year as part of its plan for expansion in the South.

Through the years, no matter what the bank’s official name was, this Fort Pierce establishment has always been actively involved in our community and National City continues to carry on the tradition of being a good corporate citizen. National City has been, and continues to be, involved with organizations such as the Sunrise Theatre and Main Street Fort Pierce. Today National City has also created a fund to support local worthy causes such as restoration of the Backus House, the Avenue D. Boy’s Choir and multiple other worthy causes.

Mike Sr. states, “I am fortunate to have been a part of St. Lucie County’s growth, and especially in Fort Pierce.
With banking you are involved in many projects, and people always have opinions about how money is being spent. Therefore, some people have been critical of monies used on improvements in downtown Fort Pierce.” However, he feels that there always were, and continue to be, changes for the better in this community. Mike Sr. never understand past assumptions that downtown Fort Pierce was an undesirable place to visit, because over the years he has never seen any indication of a crime problem. He credits the police working in the downtown area for doing an excellent job and that their presence has been very helpful in dispelling any misconceptions about safety.

When asked what role Harbor Federal played in opening the Manatee Observation and Education Center, located at 480 North Indian River Drive, he stated that when the idea arose about having a local attraction where the public could go to learn about manatees and the Indian River Lagoon, several community leaders pulled together to make it a reality. Harbor Federal made a large monetary donation to help with construction because they saw the vision of tourists and locals having a place to go and see manatees in the wild, while also learning about area wildlife and conservation.

Mike Sr. also commented on a timely subject that will soon be affect downtown Fort Pierce. The decommissioning and demolition of the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority’s H.D. King Municipal Power Plant, located across from the Ft. Pierce City Marina on Indian River Drive. Mike Sr. believes that the power plant location has the potential to be very versatile; whatever ends up being built there, whether residential or commercial, will be extremely useful in attracting more visitors and residents to the area. Mike Sr. states that there is a need for additional stores in Downtown Fort Pierce. As more people are attracted to the area places such as the new Renaissance on the River development, a domino effect will occur by generating more interest in downtown Fort Pierce.

Now that he is retired, Mike Sr. wants to take it easy for a while and do some traveling. In May he is planning a trip to see his daughter and her family in Japan. However, don’t think we’ve seen the last of Mike Brown, Sr.’s community involvement. He put it best himself by saying, “This community has been good to me, so I want to remain involved in community activities so I can be there to watch it get better and better.”
St. Lucie Clerk of Court Building is Set for Open House

On Wednesday, April 9, 2008, the official grand opening ribbon will be cut on the new 57,000-square-foot St. Lucie County Clerk of Court Building in Downtown Fort Pierce, located on S. Indian River Drive across from the new Renaissance on the River development. The $12 million county facility will include the following divisions: Administration, Circuit Civil, Family Support, Felony Court, Probate, Misdemeanor, Guardianship, Recording/Office Records, small claims and other Clerk support staff offices.

The five-story Mediterranean-style building opened to the public mid-February, but the April 9th, 4 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will give the public an opportunity to tour the building, enjoy refreshments, entertainment and take part in Artwalk that evening from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Main Street Fort Pierce and the Downtown Business Association have partnered with St. Lucie County to make this downtown event a night that offers something for everyone to enjoy.

The Fort Pierce Trolley will operate from 3:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and can be picked up from the newly completed parking garage by City Hall on Orange Avenue for the evening’s events.

Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice Takes National Taste Test Honors

Cook’s Illustrated, the nation’s prestigious publication dedicated to evaluating cooking products, has completed a thorough taste test of five nationally recognized brands and one family-owned brand of orange juice against freshly squeezed juice made from oranges in its test kitchen. The results — Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice Company’s Gourmet Pasteurized Orange Juice beat the competition hands down and was rated the best tasting.

“We are very honored to be the producers of the only product that received the Highly Recommended rating from Cook’s Illustrated magazine,” said Marygrace Sexton, CEO, Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice Company. The magazine conducted taste tests and independent laboratory tests to judge the juice closest to fresh squeezed orange juice. “Tasters praised our juice for its sweet and fruity taste, nice bits of pulp, and strong floral smell. When compared to the cost of squeezing your own fresh fruit, our Gourmet Pasteurized Orange Juice was substantially more of a bargain,” added Sexton. Cook’s Illustrated testers calculated, buying and squeezing oranges at home made the cost 23 cents per ounce — about three times the price of the winning Orchid Island Juice Company’s juice.

The secret to Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice Company’s industry leading quality and superior taste is, “there is no secret,” said John Martinelli, Executive Vice President. “We take Florida oranges, grown in the tropics and known for their sweetness and quality all around the world, we squeeze daily for freshness and immediately package and deliver the juice to market.”

Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice Company is family-owned & operated and located at 330 North US Highway One, Fort Pierce, FL 34950. Orchid Island Juice Company is nestled along the Indian River in complete obscurity. For additional information visit www.oijc.com or contact David Cortez, Director of Logistics and Customer Service at (772) 465-1122. Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice Company products are available nationwide. If you don’t see Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice Company products in your favorite place to shop, ask for it!
In Memory of Charles Brinkman

Charles Brinkman, or “Charlie” as he was known to those of us downtown, passed away suddenly on January 1, 2008. Born and raised in Roseland, Illinois, after serving in the army, he settled in Beverly and then Frankfort, Illinois.

Charlie’s career started out in the family printing business. In 1972 he opened Kiwi printing center in Illinois. This later became a commercial printing operation, Brinkman Printing and Composite International. Specializing in short run four color printing, Charlie's clients included Jim Henson, The United States Navy, museums and numerous modeling agencies.

Charlie had come down to Fort Pierce after his parents passed away to close out their condo, fell in love with the area and stayed. Charlie and his longtime companion, Georgiann Spencer launched Java Charlies on Avenue A in historic downtown Fort Pierce in February of 2004.

Charlie loved people and he loved Fort Pierce. He was vice president of the Downtown Business Association of Fort Pierce and took and active interest in downtown events. He loved to debate current issues. Georgiann said he would sometimes take the opposite side of an issue just to get a debate going. Many knew Charlie through his letters to the editor as much as through the coffee shop. When not dishing up coffee and conversation at Java Charlies, Charlie and Georgiann would spend hours at the jetty just enjoying the ocean and watching the pelicans play.

Charlie leaves behind his beloved children, Lorne (Yukti), Jeanene, Paul, Christopher (Lillie), Andrea and two grandchildren. Charlie was a unique personality that will be missed. Georgiann is continuing with the legacy that she and Charlie created and is at Java Charlies dishing up great food as always. Stop in and see the “Charlie Wall” of pictures of Charlie that people have been bringing in as a remembrance.
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Entering this exotic, brilliantly decorated restaurant virtually transports you into another place and time. But it’s the high quality of food and the near perfect service that has kept me going back. I must confess, I ate there four times last week. Each time I introduced a new group of friends to my favorite new restaurant.

Japanese specials include an array of lunch boxes served with soup or salad. We tried the Sushi-Sashimi with Thai Curry. The sashimi; salmon, tuna and yellow tail, was “off the docks” fresh. The curry sauce was so good we virtually licked the plate (box) clean.

Thai lunch specials include stir fry dishes. We tried Stir-Fried Basil (zucchini, carrot, onion, sweet basil, bell peppers) and Stir-Fried Sweet & Sour Sauce (pineapple, carrot, onion, cucumber, water chestnuts, scallions, bell peppers). We were not disappointed. All stir fry dishes were served with choice of chicken, beef, pork, shrimp or scallops. Noodle dishes include Pad Thai served with chicken or shrimp — the best I’ve eaten.

Meals are accompanied by a crispy Thai Roll with sweet & sour sauce or a ginger dressed Thai salad. I love both. For an appetizer, some of my dining partners feasted on the Spicy Beef Salad and the Miso Soup (which was extremely tasty and chocked full of vegetables).

The special rolls were a hit: Spider Roll — soft-shell crab, asparagus, avocado, scallion and masago; Hee-Ma-Roll — shrimp tempura, eel, cucumber, avocado, asparagus, spicy mayo tipped with tuna takaki, tempura flakes & masago; Volcano Roll — California roll topped with spicy conch and crab. There are over 40 different rolls to choose from. I haven’t tried one I didn’t like.

Their six-page menu reads like a trencherman’s tour through Japan and Thailand, offering bold, crisp and authentic flavors. The chef’s specials on the dinner menu are unique and alluring. Choices include: Grilled Jumbo Shrimp — served on a bed of lettuce with your favorite sauce (garlic, ginger, basil or the house red bell

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Kindergarten Students Enjoy Sunrise Theatre Production

On February 20, the kindergarten classes at St. Anastasia Catholic School attended a free production of Peru Negro at the Sunrise Theatre for the Performing Arts. For some children, and even teachers and parents, this was the first time seeing the theatre since its renovation. The children certainly appreciated this performance and a wonderful time was had by all. The teachers, students and parents wish to send a special Thank You to the Sunrise Theatre staff — especially Ginger King and John Wilkes — the volunteers and the foundation for making this unique and memorable experience possible.

Pictured left to right: (standing) Bennett Suba, Xavier Correa, Terrelle Gordon, Kyle Trabolsy; (sitting) Addie Richardson, Sarah Richmond.

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pepper dressing); Bangkok Steak — N.Y. strip steak topped with stir fry onions, zucchini, carrots and topped with a basil sauce; Siam Duck — boneless duck served with stir fry vegetables topped with a dark ginger sauce; King of the Sea — Shrimp, scallops, calamari, crispy fish and mussels, crisp vegetables over clear noodles topped with a ginger sauce; Crispy Frog Legs or Grouper — served with the sauce of your choice.

For a truly unique experience dine at the Sushi Bar — that’s where the action is. I enjoy watching sushi chefs demonstrate their craft and it’s the best place to learn about sushi specials and which fish is the freshest that day.

The place is definitely hot (and I’m not just talking about the wasabi!). All it takes is one visit and you will be coming back for more.
Early St. Lucie County and The Seminole Nation

Louise Jones Gopher and Lucille Rieley Rights-Murtough will be the featured speakers at the Treasure Coast Genealogical Society’s program, “Early St. Lucie County and the Seminole Nation,” Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., at the Downtown Fort Pierce Branch of the St. Lucie County Library. Gopher will speak at 1:30 and Rights-Murtough will speak at approximately 2:30 p.m. This program is FREE and open to the public.

Louise Jones Gopher attended St. Lucie County’s Fairlawn Elementary, Dan McCarty High School and Indian River Community College before going on to graduate from Florida Atlantic University, the first female Seminole to earn her college degree. The Palm Beach Post recognized Gopher as one of 100 people in the 20th century who made a difference in people’s lives. Gopher worked at Brighton Seminole Reservation encouraging education among her native population. Florida State University gave her the Westcott Award and stated that she is a champion of education of all members of the Seminole Tribe and a true friend and staunch supporter of this (FSU) University. Gopher is known for her preservation of Seminole culture, for establishing a charter school at Brighton and for her help in developing the FSU college course on Seminoles and other southeastern Native Americans. She has been a continuing advocate for FSU’s use of the Seminole name and symbols. Her presentation will be about her early days in St. Lucie County, living in Seminole camps, extended families and attending local schools.

Lucille Rieley Rights-Murtough is a well known local historian and author. A graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she moved to this area in 1951. She is a founding officer of the Southeast Florida Archeological Society and is the principle author of A Portrait of St. Lucie County, which has just been reissued, as well as other works on St. Lucie County and the Treasure Coast. She is active in the Martin and St. Lucie Historical Societies and serves as an historical and archeological consultant for museums and local governments. Her presentation will center on the early days of St. Lucie County, particularly the Seminoles and the cattle and citrus industry.

The Treasure Coast Genealogical Society will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 15th at 10 a.m. at the Downtown Fort Pierce Branch of the St. Lucie County Library in the downstairs meeting room. The program will be “Black Sheep in the Family” and the public is welcome.

TCGS volunteers every Tuesday at the Downtown Fort Pierce Branch of the St. Lucie County Library in the reference department on the second floor to help patrons research their family history. Volunteers are usually there from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TCGS’s mission is to help you find your ancestors, preserve history and historical records, compile and make records available, and to study the history and social customs of all our ancestors.

For more information, please contact Pat Giordano, President, 772-465-1464, Linda Hudson at 772-467-1246, or email tgsociety@gmail.com or visit our website http://www.rootsweb.com/~fltcgs/index.html.
As Fort Pierce Main Street begins its 20th successful year, it is undertaking an aggressive Membership Drive. “The Next Big Thing” campaign took off in May, 2006. Please consider becoming a Main Street Member.

Membership in Main Street Fort Pierce is open to anyone interested in helping preserve our unique heritage. Our goal is to encourage and assist in keeping Downtown Fort Pierce a vibrant shopping and business district for future generations.

We invite you to share your expertise and contribute toward making Fort Pierce Main Street a success in historic preservation and revitalization. Donations to Fort Pierce Main Street, a 501(c)3 corporation, are tax deductible.

Membership Benefits:
- Subscriptions to Main Street Focus and Website Links to Focus On-Line
- Advance Notice and Invitation to Special Events
- Membership to St. Lucie County Preservation Association
- Listed on our On-Line Membership Page
  (Corporate & Private)
- Networking & Volunteer Opportunities

When residents support and appreciate the business district, the businesses flourish. When the businesses flourish, the residents in the neighborhood prosper as well. We are all neighbors investing in each other’s success.

Complete the form below and join our growing group of committed members. By joining Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., you are supporting the economic well being of the entire community.

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- Student ................................. $15.00
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I would like to become a Main Street volunteer.

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Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., a 501©3 not-for-profit corporation, has encouraged and participated in the revitalization efforts of downtown Fort Pierce for the past 20 years. The efforts of many have paid off. Downtown Fort Pierce is now recognized as one of the most desirable locations to live and work on the Treasure Coast, as well as, in the state of Florida.

The Main Street program was created by the National Trust of Historic Preservation in the early 1980s. The program was designed to revitalize the historic commercial districts that were threatened to extinction by urban sprawl. The four-step Main Street approach is used by over 1,600 communities across the United States and its model has been studied internationally.

The success of Main Street Fort Pierce over the past 19 years is due to the faithful commitment of current and past members of the Main Street board of directors, the City of Fort Pierce, local community organizations, local businesses, and general public support. Currently, the program consists of fourteen volunteer board members and two full-time employees. During its existence, Main Street Fort Pierce has held approximately twenty-six downtown promotional events each year, educated public school children about the history of the area, won numerous local, state, and national awards, restored historic buildings including the Sunrise Theatre, recruited businesses to the downtown area, held downtown charrettes to encourage the public participation in revitalization efforts, created outdoor art programs, and helped fund an award winning image campaign along with the Downtown Business Association, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and the City of Fort Pierce.
Rita Stikelether has been a CPA in Fort Pierce for over 20 years. She is the owner of Stikelether & Associates, PA. Stikelether & Associates, PA is located on the third floor of the SunTrust building, downtown Fort Pierce. Rita has 5 employees, specializing in every aspect of financial planning, tax preparation and consulting.

**QUESTION:** How much money am I getting back with the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 and when will I receive the money?

**ANSWER:** If you had an income tax liability in 2007 or had qualifying income of at least $3,000, you should receive a stimulus check. The amount you receive will be equal to the lesser of $600 or your net tax liability, but no less than $300. You will also receive up to $300 per qualifying child. There is a 5% phase-out rate for individuals with adjusted gross income (line 37 on form 1040) higher than $75,000 ($150,000 if you are filing a joint return). Distribution of the stimulus checks will begin in early May and should be completely distributed by the end of the summer.

No more stimulus checks will be distributed after December 31, 2008, so if you file an extension and wait until October 15, 2008 to file, you may not receive your stimulus credit until after filing your 2008 tax return. You must file a return, even if your do not usually do so, to receive a stimulus check.

**QUESTION:** What if I do not file an individual income tax return by April 15th; what are the consequences?

**ANSWER:** An extension is simply an allowance to extend the time period for filing your return. The extension has no effect on the time of payment. Therefore, if there is an estimated tax you owe on your federal income tax return and you filed an extension, you are subject to a late paying penalty. This is a common misconception among taxpayers, and the reason it is very important to file and pay in a timely manner.

**QUESTION:** Why is it important to keep all records of charitable contributions?

**ANSWER:** The tax law changed in 2008, which holds tax professionals legally responsible for all amounts their clients attest to under a “more likely than not” standard. This means the preparer is required to have reasonable belief that the attestation could be sustained on the merits provided. Therefore, this year better documentation is required for any charitable contributions made in a lump sum over $250.00, auto logs for determining the mileage, and most other deductions. It is more important now than ever before to keep good records validating what happened during the year.

Considering it is already the second quarter, New Year’s Resolutions are probably a figment of your imagination. However, Rita has a few questions you should be asking yourself before 2008 is over.

—Do you have a will?
—When was your will written, have you reviewed it lately?
—Does everything stated in your will still apply to you and your family?
—Do you have a life insurance policy?
—Have you reviewed your life insurance policy lately?
—Do you have umbrella coverage, or disability insurance?
—Have you started planning for and contributing towards retirement?
—Every person at every age should have a plan for retirement. The key is to start early
—What is your debt/income ratio?
—Are you implementing a debt reduction strategy?
—Do you have a 3-6 month emergency fund set up?
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As we slide into April and May, some of the nicest weather of the year will be upon us. Warm temperatures, sunny days, and light winds this time of year make for great boating and fishing conditions. The Fort Pierce City Marina has announced a busy summer schedule of fishing tournaments and events. Beginning May 2nd and running through the end of August, these events offer a variety of fishing and other activities for participants and observers alike. The tentative schedule follows. Remember all events are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. For more information contact the marina at 772-464-1245.

**May 2nd & 3rd**.......Hibiscus 4th Annual Offshore Big 3 Fishing Tournament
**May 2nd – 4th**.......Fort Pierce Boat Show
**May 16th & 17th**.....St Lucie Chamber of Commerce 12th Annual Fishing Frenzy
**May 23rd & 24th**.....Vero Exchange Club — 32nd Annual Blue Water Open Tournament
**June 6th & 7th**......Vero Beach Radiology “Catch for the Cure” Fishing Tournament
**June 27th & 28th**....FLW Kingfish Series
**August 29th & 30th**..St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Explorers 16th Annual Fishing Tournament

The weekend of May 2nd will be particularly busy with two big events running concurrently. The Hibiscus Tournament is a popular event that supports a very worthy cause. In fact, you should be aware that a large number of the fishing tournaments held at the marina each year directly support non-profit organizations that provide key services in our community. Last year’s Hibiscus Tournament raised over $45,000 for the Hibiscus Children’s Center which provides services to children and families in the fight against child abuse and neglect. Whether you’re a participant in one of these tournaments or just an observer buying a hot dog or t-shirt, the dollars you spend in support go to some very deserving causes. Check with the marina for more information and come on out for some fun!

The other big kick-off event beginning May 2nd is the Fort Pierce Boat Show. Multiple vendors, lots of boats and other special events are planned. Be sure to come down to the marina and check out the many new boat models that are available.

See you down by the Marina!
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