14th Annual “Reverse Raffle” and Silent Auction

See Story & Photos on page 20 …
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1902 2007
Main Street Makes it a “Hotter” Summer in Ft. Pierce

It may be the hot days of summer, but for Main Street Fort Pierce summer represents a steady calendar of events. From the monthly Friday Fest, wine-tastings, 4th of July concert to the Annual Reverse Raffle, Main Street offers something for everyone.

On Saturday, August 18th at the Pelican Yacht Club, Main Street will host their 14th Annual Reverse Raffle which will benefit the restoration of the Platts/Backus House a.k.a., Main Street office. Being a ‘lifer volunteer’ with Main Street I remember the very first planning meeting for this fun action-packed event. Doris Tillman, Main Street Manager was describing the process for drawing the 300 numbers and how the last tickets drawn are the big winners. Needless to say, the committee all looked blank and thought that this whole selection process was weird and who in the world has ever heard of a reverse raffle?

The first event, a Roaring 20s theme, was held on South Second Street in front of the Sunrise Theatre and included a Bath-tub Gin, raccoon coats, and flapper dresses. The first event was a success and has had a strong following each year afterward. With volunteers like Pat Alley and Tom Kindred calling out the numbers and participating with their ongoing commentary, the night only gets better with the countdown to the lucky big winners of the raffle. In addition to the raffle there is a large silent auction that guests have the opportunity to bid on. The items range from trips, gift certificates to local businesses, restaurants and artwork along with many physical items that are on site. There is also live music to entertain guests.

This year’s theme is Tourist Season and, yes, it is casual since we live in Florida. Iron up your Bermuda shorts, Hawaiian shirts and sundresses and come and enjoy the evening for a great cause. I’ll see you there!
As Fort Pierce Main Street begins its 18th 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.

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.

Main Street Membership Levels

Private:
- Student $15.00
- Friend $25.00
- Family $50.00

Corporate:
- Small Business (less than 10 employees) $100.00
- Medium Business (11 - 50 employees) $250.00
- Large Business (51 or more employees) $500.00
- Patron (all others) $500.00
- Sponsor $1,000.00

I would like to become a Main Street volunteer.

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. • 122 AE Backus Ave., Fort Pierce, FL 34950
For information call 772-466-3880 • www.mainstreetfortpierce.org

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 18 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 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 18 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 twelve 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.

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.
Main Street Focus Celebrates Second Year

by Ginger King

It seems like yesterday when Main Street Focus published its first edition but it has been two years since the first issue hit the streets in August 2005. In the blink of an eye the publication has grown from a circulation of 1,446 to 2,334 readers. Area businesses are aware of the loyal readership the Main Street Focus provides as there has been a 50% increase in advertising since its inception.

In addition to the readership increasing and advertising increases, the editorial staff has more than doubled! Sixteen writers now devote their time to writing fascinating articles for Main Street Focus every month. Twelve feature stories are written each month along with support stories covering everything from new businesses and restaurants to outstanding individuals who make a difference in our area to local fishing reports. There is something in the Main Street Focus for everyone. Pick up your issue today!
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And the Survey Says: Fort Pierce is a Great Place to Live!

*by Fort Pierce Mayor Bob Benton*

A survey by PMG Associates, Inc. was sent to 400 residents within the city of Fort Pierce. Homeowners totaled 328 of the 400 polled. Seventy-five percent have been residents for more than five years. The overall response from the residents came back positive. Seventy-eight percent of our Fort Pierce residents are well informed with the continuing improvement projects happening within the city.

The following are additional results that prove Fort Pierce is the *Jewel of the Treasure Coast!* Ninety-eight percent of residents are happy to live in Fort Pierce and would recommend moving to the city to anyone interested! As an older City, Fort Pierce has a fascinating history along with a solid foundation of its quaint downtown. Fort Pierce is filled with neighborhoods to fit everyone’s lifestyle, and it boasts a great waterfront location that is accessible to the public. When searching for that community to call home I urge you to explore the Fort Pierce area. Ninety-seven percent of the residents polled stated they feel safe and secure living in Fort Pierce. Seventy-three percent feel Fort Pierce’s image is positive. Our historic neighborhoods with active homeowner groups or new neighborhood associations are making an impact. Eighty-seven percent agreed that Fort Pierce is a good place to raise a family. Some fifth generation families and founders of Fort Pierce are currently raising their own families in this great community. Ninety-eight percent are proud to live in Fort Pierce. Fort Pierce pride can be witnessed every day, whether it is at the *Saturday Farmer’s Market* or *Friday Fest*, residents are having fun and enjoying life in Fort Pierce. Ninety-four percent feel the city spends tax dollars wisely. Seventy-eight percent feel the city provides enough services to the citizens. In periods of prosperity or in periods of fiscal decline, such as the impending budget crunch, know that I am continuing to watch out for your pocketbook and will ensure that you will continue to receive quality services for the best price!

The survey taken annually over the past five years includes residents located from various neighborhoods within the city limits. Each year the results become more positive. An impressive 287 of the 400 residents say that Fort Pierce’s biggest strength is the residents themselves. This reassures us that the improvements and continued progress happening around Fort Pierce is supported by the residents that call this beautiful city home.
FPUA is “Storm Tested – Storm Ready”

by Camille S. Yates

Hurricane Season began on June 1, 2007 and your hometown utility is once again prepared to face threatening weather. Since May 1st, all Fort Pierce Utilities (FPUA) employees have pulled out their several inches thick FPUA Storm Manual and have been completing the actions necessary in preparation for hurricane season.

“Our storm plan is very comprehensive,” explains Bill Thiess, Director of Utilities. “Every year, we make updates and improvements to the plan. Our staff is well prepared for hurricanes, especially since most of them have been through 3 major hurricanes in the last 3 years.”

FPUA has a Storm Tested — Storm Ready pamphlet that explains what FPUA does to prepare for storms. The electric transmission and distribution staff inspects transmission poles every year and electric hardware is inspected every three years. Substations are inspected twice a year using infrared technology to find and repair potential problems before an outage occurs. We recently started using this technology on the main parts of our overhead distribution circuits. Last year we inspected 15 of our 30 main overhead distribution circuits. Over 90 potential problems were identified and corrected, thereby preventing service interruptions to our customers. Our future plan is to maintain a three-year inspection cycle on these circuits. FPUA regularly trims trees that might interfere with overhead electric lines. In addition, the electric system is continuously being upgraded with tougher line installations that exceed
the National Electric Safety Code requirements. We purchase extra supplies of materials used in storm restoration, and we have mutual aid agreements with other utility companies in Florida and the eastern US that provide for extra crews to assist with restoration.

City code requires us to place utilities underground for all new construction. Having electric cable underground, rather than overhead on poles, has both advantages and disadvantages. Under normal conditions, by not having poles and wires visible, the aesthetics and the view are enhanced. During storms, the underground cable is less prone to wind damage. But in areas such as the coastal barrier island, the underground cable and associated equipment is subject to lightening and flood damage. Regardless of the cause of the problem, repairing faults on an underground system is much more time consuming and costs considerably more when compared to faults on an overhead system.

FPUA is ready for storms and we hope that our customers are too. We always offer hurricane tips for our customers to enlighten people about what they can do to prepare their electrical, water, and sewage systems for storms. Natural gas is one of the more reliable utility systems and we rarely have problems with losing any part of the system during a storm. We may take precautionary measures and shut off natural gas service to mobile home parks for safety reasons, but we restore gas service to these areas as soon as possible following the storm.

Having been through 3 recent hurricanes, many residents are installing natural gas powered generators. These units can keep power on in an entire house, including the air conditioner. If there is gas available in your neighborhood, FPUA natural gas crews have the expertise to install these generators. Give them a call for an estimate.

One way that residents can help FPUA during a storm, is to refrain from flushing the toilet, even if water is available. During a storm, some of the lift stations that move the sewage from homes or businesses to the water reclamation facility might lose power. In the event that a lift station loses power, the sewage could potentially back up until mobile generators are placed on-site to power up the lift station.

It is also important for residents to know that FPUA is responsible for equipment such as poles and lines leading up to buildings, but certain equipment, like weatherheads (or service risers) and meter cans, are the customer’s responsibility. If this equipment is damaged, the building owner should contact an electrician to make the repairs. After repairs are made, the City of Fort Pierce requires an inspection before FPUA can turn the service back on.

Be assured that you can continue to expect quality service from your hometown utility. FPUA is dedicated to restoring utility services to this community as soon as possible after an emergency such as a hurricane. For more information, visit our storm center at www.fpua.com or call to speak with us at 466-1600, Ext. 3900.
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Go On An Eco-Safari In Fort Pierce This Summer

by Carol Johnson

As the dog days of summer are upon us, local residents and international visitors alike start looking for ways to fill their days and keep the kids from making that inevitable and age-old statement, “I’m bored.” So, strap on your fanny pack, grab your camera and head on out to some local attractions that are sure to make young and old alike glad they’re in Ft. Pierce. This area is “smack full” (that’s a local term) of ecological attractions to visit. They each heavily emphasize educating the public on the beauty of the Indian River Lagoon and its ecosystems, and each one is unique in its approach.

The first stop on our Eco-Safari will be none other than the Manatee Observation and Education Center, located at 480 North Indian River Drive. At its beautiful location on Moore’s Creek and the Indian River Lagoon, you’ll find many interactive displays, such as a touch tank containing live sea creatures that you can hold; several salt water aquaria depicting various aquatic settings, including one that is 800 gallons; a video on manatees and much more. Outside on the observation deck, you might spot endangered manatees as they frolic in Moore’s Creek. You can sit in the Fred Brock Memorial Butterfly Garden and watch beautiful butterflies as they flitter among the native plants and flowers. All of this can be seen for a $1.00 entry fee for visitors aged 6 and up, children under 6 are free. Summer hours at the Manatee Observation and Education Center are Thursday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. While there, be sure and visit the Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop for nature related books and gifts. Purchase a ticket for the Wildlife Boat Tour that the Manatee Center offers at 1:00 p.m. This fascinating and educational ride in the comfort of a covered pontoon boat lasts an hour and a half and offers a look at the beautiful flora and fauna along the Indian River Lagoon. The boat captain is very knowledgeable about the area and has located several good viewing areas where you might catch a glimpse of manatees or dolphins as they surface in the shimmering lagoon. This boat tour is a great deal: adults are $19, children aged 3-12 are $12 and senior citizens receive a 10% discount making their cost $17.10. For more information, visit the website at www.manateecenter.com, or call the Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop at (772) 460-6445.

The next stop on our Eco-Safari is the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit, located in the St. Lucie County Marine Center at 420 Seaway Drive, right on the Ft. Pierce Inlet next to Museum Pointe Park. As a facility of the National Museum of Natural History, which is a part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., it serves as a field station and each year draws scientist and students from the Smithsonian and collaborating institutions around the world. The exhibit houses six model ecosystems representing local Indian River Lagoon and ocean habitats. There are also several small aquaria, interactive displays and a touch tank where you can hold a sea star or even get a manicure from peppermint shrimp! The Smithsonian’s hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. They are closed

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Mondays. Admission is $2.00 for adults, $1.00 for children, and seniors pay $1.50. Admission is free every Tuesday. Guided tours are offered every Tuesday and Saturday at 2:00 p.m., with daily tank feedings at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 772-465-3271 or visit their website at www.sms.si.edu/SMEE.

While you’re in the vicinity of the bridge leading to South Hutchinson Island (known as “South Bridge” to locals), check out Florida Dolphin Watch (FDW), located at the South Bridge Marina, 125 Fisherman’s Wharf. Owner, Captain Mike Burley, offers boating fun for everyone! As recipient of the May 2006 “Tourist Friendly Business” Award of Distinction, by the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, you’re sure to get a friendly Ft. Pierce welcome! His 17 years of experience in Florida’s waterways more than qualify him as an expert in locating the best places to look for dolphin, manatees and various other local wildlife. From kayaking to camping, FDW has several boating options to choose from to make your day — or days — on the water something to remember. Captain
Mike offers boat rentals for the adventurous visitor on either cruising or fishing pontoon boats. You can go out for a half day, full day or on an overnight camping excursion to a tropical island located in the Indian River Lagoon. They also have center console fishing boats and kayaks available upon request. Or, if you prefer, you can take one of their guided charter fishing trips that includes gear, bait and licenses. This is a custom trip for up to 4 passengers and is for either nearshore or inshore fishing and last 4 hours. If a more leisurely, personalized trip is your style, then you'll love the Dolphin Watch Boat Tour. This trip is an intimate 2-hour, 15-mile private charter for up to 6 people that starts with a tour of the Ft. Pierce Inlet. As you watch for wildlife, your guide will share information about the history of Ft. Pierce and the inlet, as well as the ecological importance of the Indian River Lagoon. The tour will continue on through the Inlet State Recreation Area and Jack Island State Preserve where you'll have an opportunity to view a variety of birds as you wind through the secluded mangroves. To view the boats or find out more information and prices go on the internet to www.floridadolphinwatch.com, or they can be reached at (772) 466-4660.

No Eco-Safari would be complete without a trip to a local botanical garden. So, Ft. Pierce’s own Heathcote Botanical Garden is just the place to visit. Located at 210 Savannah Road, just off of US 1 in Fort Pierce, they offer a variety of beautiful plants that will surround you as you take a leisurely stroll through a Japanese Garden, Reflection Garden, Herb Garden and Native Plant Garden. Afterwards, you can meander on the Palm and Cycad Walk then stop to view Heathcote’s Rainforest Display. These areas are designed to convey an atmosphere of individual garden rooms and you'll sense the intimacy of this unique botanical garden. Gracing the areas between these specialty gardens are borders of flowering shrubs, bulbs, trees, vines and other assorted herbaceous plants. Niches found throughout the garden provide varied microclimates, which allow the use of a wide variety of plants ranging from those found in Mediterranean climates to the Tropics. Besides providing visitors with a treat for the eyes, Heathcote Botanical Gardens also provides a service to local gardeners. They have labeled plant collections, some grouped in specific areas in the Garden and others dispersed throughout the Garden. Labeling helps the local Garden visitor determine what plants they have in their own Florida home landscapes or what plants they may want to add. Visitors from all over the United States and the world find the information on the labeled plants interesting and helpful. And, as if these displays weren't enough, exciting plans are in the making for future growth of Heathcote Botanical Gardens! They have entered into an inter-local agreement with the City of Ft. Pierce and St. Lucie County. The agreement will put an additional 64 acres of land under Heathcote’s management and include construction of hiking trails which will tie into the Savannah’s greenways system, picnic areas, a fitness trail, and a canoe launch into a 21 acre lake on the property, as well as expanded botanical gardens. How exciting it will be to take another Eco-Safari in the near future and view the changes occurring there! Heathcote Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. It is open on Sundays, from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. from November through April. They are closed on Mondays and major holidays. For admission prices and driving directions please visit their website, www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org or you can call them at 772-464-4672.

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After you’ve touched sea creatures and viewed the area’s diverse wildlife, had the wind blow through your hair on exciting boat rides and feasted your eyes on beautiful flowers and plants, it will be time to test your new knowledge while on a kayaking excursion on the Indian River Lagoon. Several guided kayaking tours are offered by the Manatee Observation and Education Center each month. Whether it’s the thrill of kayaking to locations where you might see manatees or the romance of a moonlit dinner served to you on a tropical island, the Manatee Center offers these and more. And the best part of all is that you don’t even have to know how to kayak or bring your own gear! Experienced Kayaking guides will provide you with instruction, kayak, paddle, and even a snack or dinner (depending on the excursion you choose) and they’ll take you on the tour of a lifetime! Coming in September, a new excursion will be offered on an authentic “Trader Canoe.” It will be available to accommodate large groups (10-15 people), families with small children, and those who don’t want to, or are unable to, paddle a kayak. For more information on kayaking, the Trader Canoe or for reservations, call 1-888-652-9257.

As our Eco-Safari draws to a close, think about the beauty you’ve experienced without even leaving Ft. Pierce! Get your pictures developed and pull them out every now and then to relive this time of fun and education. Then, next summer when the kids say “I’m bored” lo and behold you’ll know just what to do! Just strap on your fanny pack and head out again, because the great thing about an Eco-Safari is that no two are ever alike!

Fort Pierce Yacht Club

Working With the Spoil Island Project To Keep Our Islands Clean
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... continued from page 13
Downtown Hero: Mayor Robert Benton III

by John Culverhouse

Everyone living in Fort Pierce has a vested interest in its progress. Many enjoy the improvements that are taking place, and some participate and make things happen. For nearly the past two decades, Bob Benton has made it his mission to make Fort Pierce a better place to live and enjoy. He has worked hard to make downtown a thriving destination through his efforts to bring a Federal Courthouse, fishing tournaments, and countless ideas that translate into success.

For these reasons, Mayor Bob Benton is this month’s Downtown Hero.

Bob Benton commenced his public stewardship by serving on Fort Pierce’s Planning and Zoning Board and other city and county advisory boards. He was elected to serve two terms on the Fort Pierce City Commission subsequent to his advisory service, and he is currently mayor of the City of Fort Pierce.

For years, he has worked with city and county leaders to have a Federal Courthouse located in Fort Pierce. Efforts paid off, and several years ago Washington announced that they would build a Federal Courthouse here. Then, federal budget cuts and a sky-high national debt put our Courthouse on the back burner. With persistence and visits to Washington, the hard work of Mayors Dannahower, Enns, and Benton, and several City Commissions paid off. Our Federal Building and United States Courthouse will soon be a reality. The groundbreaking, expected no later than October, will symbolize a new beginning in Fort Pierce, spurring new development in the western section of downtown.

To increase downtown success, Benton has supported initiatives for retail-only first floors in the downtown area. Benton cites market studies conducted by Main Street and other groups that say retail-only bottom floors make for successful downtowns. Benton’s position is that offices should be on higher floors because restaurants, stores, and window-shopping promote foot traffic well after the close of the business day, preventing a ghost town after five o’clock.

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Since his mayoral election, one of Benton’s goals has been to create more opportunities for our area’s youth. One such concept, a youth executive roundtable — the Fort Pierce Youth Council — will consist of nine to fifteen high school students in tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades. The Mayor feels that such youth involvement will give them a vested interest in the city, and perhaps attract them to come back to Fort Pierce after they finish college. This board will discuss various youth issues and find ways to solve them, and perhaps come up with fun downtown activities.

“The Sunrise Theatre could be used to put on a talent show, battle of the bands event, or there could be a concert in the park at the amphitheatre,” suggested Benton. “Events like this would give our young people things to do in the summer, and would make good use of these venues instead of letting them sit empty on days they are not in use.”

To supplement the desire of attracting young people to Fort Pierce, Benton has worked tirelessly with local officials to locate Florida colleges and universities here. Fort Pierce’s “Research Park” concept includes universities such as the University of Florida, Florida State University, Florida Atlantic University, and of course Indian River Community College partnering together, with the Saint Lucie County School District, and with local businesses to create research facilities like none other in the state of Florida.

Research Park is already becoming a reality. Students may now earn four-year Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Florida at Fort Pierce’s Indian River Research and Education Center, adjacent to the USDA lab off of Kings Highway. Four-year degrees may also be earned at the joint Indian River Community College and Florida Atlantic University’s Port Saint Lucie Campus located in Saint Lucie West.

Benton credits Florida Senate President Ken Pruitt (Port Saint Lucie) and former State Representative Rick Minton (Fort Pierce) for their help from the state legislature in making this a reality. Minton not only lead the advisory board for the Research Park project, but sponsored bills to help build new education facilities at the University of Florida’s Fort Pierce location, and for IRCC funding enhancements.
Mayor Benton wants to see “Indian River University” become a reality, offering a wide variety of degrees and research opportunities, creating more job opportunities and scholarly discourse and action right here on the Treasure Coast.

Despite three hurricanes, taxes have been cut each year since the storms with the help of Saint Lucie County Property Appraiser Jeff Furst. More shopping in Fort Pierce would help lower the millage rate even further, as a result of a broadened tax base. One of Benton’s goals is to rejuvenate the Orange Blossom Mall, in addition to attracting major anchors to locate in Fort Pierce.

Benton wants to continue the city’s surge forward, keeping in mind the fragile state of the environment and how it is affected when droves of people move into South Florida each day. “We only have so much water,” he said, reflecting on the drying of the Everglades and the record-low Lake Okeechobee water level. He wants to pursue “green growth” and environmentally sensitive growth when areas like the port property are developed.

The mayor is proud of the city and all of downtown’s accomplishments. All of the major projects downtown are evidence that investments in Fort Pierce’s infrastructure are paying off. He is proud of the City for its part in turning around public perception of the city from outside and within. The City of Fort Pierce conducts a survey every few years to measure the perception of the city. The first survey conducted in 1998 found that only 18 percent of respondents thought that Fort Pierce had a positive image. In 2006, 71 percent of respondents found that Fort Pierce has a positive image. As to whether or not they would recommend a friend move to Fort Pierce: in 1998, 42 percent indicated favorably, and in 2006, 98 percent indicated favorably.

Benton and his wife, Donna, have two sons, Kori and Kadri. The whole family attends city events and supports the community any way that they can.

“This has been a very rewarding experience,” Benton said from City Hall. “I love my job, and I have met and worked with a lot of interesting people. I am very happy to have seen Fort Pierce accomplish so many positive things.”

The City of Fort Pierce earned the “City of Excellence Award” from the Florida League of Cities in 2005. Fort Pierce competed with all cities in the state of Florida, and was found to be the best-run city with an assembly of competent and competitive employees, staff, and administration.
In April of 2006, county and city commissioners donned hard hats and pushed shovels into a mount of dirt, officially breaking ground on the $12 million St. Lucie County Clerk of the Court Building at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Indian River Drive. In less than six months, the 57,000-square-foot building will be open to the Clerk of the Court staff and general public.

“As you can see, the east and north sides are complete, but we still have some work to do on the inside,” said Greg White, project manager with St. Lucie County’s Central Services Department.

White says the project is moving along — on time and on budget thanks to the cooperation of David Brooks Enterprises of Palm Beach Gardens, contractor for the project, as well as assistance from the City of Fort Pierce and Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. Barring any setbacks this summer from Mother Nature, White says the project should be complete and open this November.

Designed by Edlund-Dritenbas-Binkley (EDB), Architects from Vero Beach, this new facility will house the more than 120 Clerk of the Court employees that have been displaced in various locations all over St. Lucie County since the 2004 hurricanes. The new facility will house employees in a number of departments, including...
Records & Recording, Family Relations, Domestic Violence, Child Support, Finance, Probate, Felony Court Administration and Traffic & Misdemeanor division.

“Everyone in my office is eagerly looking forward to the completion of the new building,” said Clerk of the Court Ed Fry, adding that his staff has been jammed into “every nook and cranny” that they can find.

The five-story building will also include nearly 3,000 square feet of restaurant space. The county is currently in negotiations with local and national businesses about operating a restaurant and/or coffee shop on the first floor of the building.

Funding for the Clerk’s new facility comes from Impact Fees, Sales Tax Bond, FDOT Intermodal Grant, 2004 General Fund, 2004 Capital Budget 316 and FEMA.
History of Main Street Fort Pierce’s Reverse Raffle Fundraiser

By Pam Gillette

Take yourself back to the days of the “Roaring 20s,” dancing the Charleston down on Second Street and drinking bathtub gin out of an old bathtub. Next, honor our soldiers with a “USO Show,” do the sock hop on “50s Night,” take your special sweetheart to “Prom Night,” walk with the movie stars as the “Stars Come Out” or join us for an “All Stars Sporting Event.” Well, we just wrapped up the Reverse Raffle themes of the 90s.

Now bring on the polyester shirts, leisure suits and disco balls as we lead off the next century with “Saturday Night Fever,” “Survivor Island,” “All That Glitters,” “Star Spangled Spectacular,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “Pearls & Boots,” and riding the waves with “Surf’s Up” to catch us up to date on the many themes Main Street Fort Pierce has had for the Reverse Raffle.

It is Main Street’s philosophy that if it works for another Main Street, borrow or steal it. That is exactly what Main Street Fort Pierce Manager, Doris Tillman, did back in 1993, when she heard that Downtown Dade City Main Street was holding their first Reverse Raffle Party. After speaking with Dade City, she thought the idea was so creative and different that she brought the raffle to Fort Pierce and that is how the Reverse Raffle began.

In 1994 and 1995, the Reverse Raffle was held on Second Street in front of the Sunrise Theatre, with a “Roaring 20s” and a “USO” theme. The street was blocked off, tents were set up and numbers were called from a flat bed trailer. Then in 1996, the Reverse Raffle was move to Historic City Hall. The raffle was increasing in popularity and more room was needed to hold the event. Main Street held the raffle in the lobby, while the dancing and the silent auction were held upstairs. The food was served under a tent in the parking area and was donated by the Downtown merchants.

In 2002, after we all survived the “Survivor Theme” of 2001 in the blazing heat, Main Street held the Reverse Raffle in the lobby, while the dancing and the silent auction were held upstairs.

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The Original Family Stone

rocks Main Street’s Annual Stars Over Saint Lucie Independence Day Celebration

The band, featuring three of the original members of Sly and the Family Stone, reprised the hits that put the original band in the ‘Rock and Roll Hall of Fame’ and landed them a spot at number 43 on Rolling Stone Magazine’s ‘100 Greatest Artists of All Time’.

More photos page 23 …
August heat, *Main Street* decided to move the event to the *Pelican Yacht Club* with “All That Glitters.” The *Pelican Yacht Club* offered the raffle more room to grow — and air conditioning.

The *Reverse Raffle* has become *Main Street’s* biggest event of the year. It has grown to capacity and is one of the most anticipated events on the calendar. The event has changed much over the 13 years but one thing remains the same and that is the raffle itself. Only 300 tickets are sold. Each ticket entitles the bearer to one number, admission for two people, light hors devours, 2 free drinks, live music, dancing, and a fabulous silent auction. *Main Street’s Reverse Raffle* begins with 300 numbers. The first number and every 50th number called, up to 250, wins $100.00. The last 10 numbers range from $250.00 to the grand prize of $2,000.00.

The raffle is not the only thing that has remained the same over the years. Pat Alley has traditionally been the fabulous number puller and Tom Kindred, Jr. has always been the number caller. Where would the *Reverse Raffle* be without Pat and Tom running the show?

Don’t forget to wish Doris a happy birthday during the event, which always seems to fall somewhere close to the *Reverse Raffle* date. Rumor has it that she planned it that way to ensure that she gets a great birthday party each year.

The *Reverse Raffle* is the main fundraiser for projects and goals of *Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.* The revenues from the raffle will benefit *Main Street’s* newest project, the restoration of the Platts/Backus House and the continuous revitalization of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

Join us for the fun and excitement as *Main Street Fort Pierce* presents the 14th Annual *Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction* with the theme of “Tourist Season,” on Saturday, August 18, 2007 at the *Pelican Yacht Club*. Casual dress is mandatory. Tickets are limited to 300 so don’t delay. Obtain your tickets today and become part of the history.

For more information or to purchase a ticket, please call *Main Street* at (772) 466-3880.
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Fred Fee (1888-1939) • Frank Fee (1913-1983)
Work Begins on Sunrise Park: Regional Park and Cultural Complex to Bridge from Savannas to Downtown

by Thondra Lanese

Can you imagine a 150-acre park extending along eastern St. Lucie County? Imagine a park with everything from playgrounds and recreational trails to environmental preserves and botanical gardens to unique restaurants and museums? Well, get ready because it’s coming soon to Fort Pierce.

This spring, city and county officials reached an agreement with Heathcote Botanical Gardens to start work on Phase I of Sunrise Park. The ambitious venture will ultimately encompass the existing gardens; connect environmental and recreational areas to the Indian Hills Golf Course and downtown Fort Pierce; and feature a public meeting center, educational center, and a lakefront recreational facility as well as space for museums, restaurants, and a hotel.

“This is a phenomenal opportunity for economic development, urban revitalization, and an enhanced cultural and natural environment,” said Cris Adams, Heathcote Board President. “Sunrise Park will be a regional destination attracting visitors, investors and new members to this community.” Among the anticipated immediate benefits are economic stimulation and neighborhood revitalization along the U.S. 1/Indian River corridor.

Ultimately the park would connect with existing recreational and environmental areas to create an 842-acre greenway spanning the eastern part of the county from the Savannas Recreation Area to the Indian Hills Golf Course — a cultural, recreation and conservation area the size of New York City’s Central Park.

“This isn’t just about expanding Heathcote Botanical Gardens,” said Ed Hayslip, owner of Hayslip Landscape. “This is an opportunity to create a legacy right here in our backyard.”

An expanded Heathcote Botanical Gardens will occupy 15 acres of Sunrise Park.

A planned pier at Sand Mine Lake will increase recreational opportunities in the area.

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What Does Phase I Include?

Heathcote has three years to complete Phase I of the project, which will include a 67-acre section along Savannah Road in Fort Pierce from U.S. 1 to Indian River Drive.

Phase I includes free access to:
- Trail Development between the Savannas and Sunrise Park
- A Picnic Pavilion and Playground
- An Educational Center
- A Pier at Sand Mine Lake
- Fitness Trails

The existing gardens at Heathcote Botanical Gardens will also be expanded to 15 acres. A nine-member planning committee consisting of three representatives each from the city, the county, and the gardens will oversee the project.

New patients always welcome!

Norman D. Knowles, DMD
1511-B South 25th Street • Fort Pierce • 772-464-7214
The Sunrise Theatre Needs Your Help!

We are in search of a catchy slogan to identify the Sunrise Theatre (think “American Express — don’t leave home without it”). Please fill out the entry form below and return to the Sunrise Theatre, Attention: Ginger King, 117 South Second Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34950. Deadline for entry is August 17, 2007. The winning entry will be announced on Thursday, September 6, 2007.

Sunrise Theatre Slogan Contest

Name: ___________________________________________________________________
(print first/middle/last name)
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: ___________________________________________________________________
Phone: __________________ Email: _______________________________________

Sunrise Theatre Slogan: _______________________________________________

The newly renovated 1,200-seat Sunrise Theatre blends new construction and restoration into a multi-functional, state-of-the-art facility. The theatre presents local and national touring musical performances, including pop, jazz, blues, country, rock and gospel, as well as dance troupes and theatrical productions. The vision of the Sunrise is to fill an important niche in the cultural landscape by bringing world class entertainment to the Treasure Coast. The Sunrise Theatre is owned and operated by the City of Fort Pierce.
Sunrise Theatre Volunteer Usher Program

Ushering is a fun and easy way to get more involved with arts and culture in the Treasure Coast area and to see theatre shows for free! The Sunrise Theatre is looking for volunteers who are interested in assisting the theatre staff during performances. Volunteers serve functions such as greeting patrons, ticket tearing, guiding patrons to their seats, assisting guests with special needs, answering questions, monitoring the audience during performances, and directing patrons in the event of an emergency.

The Sunrise is looking for a community of volunteers to work with us regularly each season. You must be at least 16 years of age to volunteer and also be available to assist at an event at least twice a month. To become a Sunrise Theatre Usher you will need to register and attend an orientation training session. As a volunteer usher you will be personally contributing to Sunrise Theatre’s reputation for professionalism and quality.

If you would like more information on becoming a theatre volunteer please contact Sue Dannahower at 772.618.0155, or by email at Sue_Dannahower@Bell-south.net.

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Downtown Hero: John Schultz

by Nancy Ingle

Some people stand out in the Main Street community. They are the leaders, the staff, and board members who are in the eye of the public on a regular basis. Whether it’s coordinating one of our many events, promoting the mission of our organization, or working with government officials on special projects these folks are frequently noticed and recognized.

Others, while not as vocal, also provide support to Main Street in different ways. They volunteer to work at our fundraisers, serve on committees, and help out in the office. These people like to mingle and are seen out and about in the community on a “Main Street mission.”

And then there are the silent few. They are the individuals who work behind the scenes to support the organization in his or her unique way. They utilize their skills and willingness to assist with special projects, and we at Main Street would like to acknowledge one of those extraordinary people: our website host and designer, John Schultz.

John has been the man behind the Main Street website since 1998, when we approached him via a referral from longtime volunteer, Andy Ingle. The timing was perfect as John had just completed courses in web design when we contacted him. The Main Street Fort Pierce website became one of his first projects and the rest is history.

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Originally from out west, John Schultz moved to Florida 23 years ago, settling on the Treasure Coast in 1996. He is going into his 12th year as a Technology Teacher at Forest Grove Middle School. By the way, Forest Grove, under the leadership of John, has won the County-wide technology competition the past 3 years.

After taking web design classes, he started **JBFishing**, a web host and design business. Three years ago, the name was changed to **Treasure Coast Web Hosting**, and some of his present clientele include government entities such as the DEP, the State, and the City of Fort Pierce. John also has his own sites that focus on our area. Take a look at [www.fishingfortpierce.com](http://www.fishingfortpierce.com) to find out where the fish are biting directly from the local captains or check out [www.spoilislandproject.org](http://www.spoilislandproject.org) to learn about the conservation efforts to protect the spoil island's wildlife along the Indian River.

In today's world, where many people depend on the virtual information highway, we feel fortunate to have John on our team, and we truly appreciate all he does for **Main Street**. Be sure to check out our website to see what's happening in downtown Fort Pierce. Go to [www.mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://www.mainstreetfortpierce.org) for information on our newest project, the restoration of the historic Backus House, and for the latest Main Street news.

If you'd like to contact John about web hosting and/or design, you can reach him at john@tchosting.com or go directly to the website at [www.tchosting.com](http://www.tchosting.com).
Restoration Progress: The Platts/Backus House

A new foundation was laid underneath the raised Platts/Backus House.

PHOTOS BY NANCY INGLE
Salon de Ana Bernal is the perfect destination for a relaxing day of health and beauty procedures. The salon has been providing clients with professional services for over five years. Ana, Sandy, Myrna, Linda & Lauri (with over 60 years of combined experience) are dedicated to giving their clients the royal treatment from the first moment they walk through their doors. The staff caters to all needs, providing clients the services they deserve and desire. The staff is very professional and stays up-to-date with all the latest styles and techniques for hair maintenance. The salon uses and sells top-of-the-line products for all hair care needs. 

Salon de Ana Bernal is a full-service salon specializing in color techniques, precision haircuts, special occasion hair styles, manicures, pedicures, semi-permanent eye lash applications and permanent makeup. Their day spa services allow clients to be pampered in multiple ways. 

Continued on page 32 …
Salon de Ana Bernal works with nonprofit organizations such as:

**Locks of Love** — Ana will harvest your hair as well as give you a new “do!” Locks of Love provides prosthetic hairpieces to children suffering from long-term medical hair loss. The prostheses they provide help to restore self-esteem and confidence, enabling the children to face the world and their peers.

**Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia Society** — Owner, Ana Bernal, lost a son to this disease. Ana runs marathons and holds an annual “cut a thon” and many other events to benefit the Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia Society.

**Local Nonprofit Organizations** — The salon continually gives back to the community by donating to organizations such as Main Street Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County Education Foundation, the Backus Museum & Gallery and many more.

Call and schedule a day to be pampered at Salon de Ana Bernal.

Salon de Ana Bernal is located at 101 North 4th Street, Suite 128 (in the Historic Arcade Building), Fort Pierce; phone 772-468-2555.

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Over the next few months I will be sharing some of the most loved recipes in my collection. These creations are derived from childhood culinary experiences, world travels and the Gourmet Dinner Club I managed for over 20 years. I have been published in *Light & Tasty*, *Cooking Light* and *Reunions* magazines. **Bon Appetit!**

**Coconut Shrimp**

Whether you serve this as a main dish or an appetizer it will certainly be a hit! The original recipe is from the **Burt Reynolds Dinner Playhouse**. They are time consuming to make, so prepare a double batch and freeze for later.

2 pounds shrimp, peeled and deveined, leave tails on
2 cups flour, divided
1 12-ounce can of beer
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon red pepper
1 14-ounce bag of coconut flakes

Oil for frying

Combine 1 cup flour, beer, baking powder, salt and pepper. Dredge shrimp first in the remaining cup flour, then the beer batter and finally roll in coconut. Fry until golden brown. Serve with Orange-Dijon Sauce. **Serves: 6 – 8**

**Orange-Dijon Sauce:**
1 10-ounce jar orange marmelade
3 Tablespoons horseradish
3 Tablespoons Creole or Dijon mustard

**Smoked Fish Dip (Smack)**

When I was young, Grandpa Bogaert caught and smoked hundreds of pounds of fish. My mom, Joan Payne, would make into “smack.” I have updated this dip to include a few flavorful garnishes. I think it’s better than Summerlin’s smoked fish dip.

1 pound smoked fish, skin removed, deboned and meat shredded
1 cup mayonnaise
2 Tablespoons horseradish
2 Tablespoons chopped onion
Captains Crackers

**Garnish:**
Jalapeno Pepper Slices
Chopped Red Onions
Chopped Tomatoes

In a small bowl, mix together fish, mayonnaise, horseradish and onion. Add more mayonnaise if too dry. Serve at room temperature with garnish and crackers. **Serves: 8-12.**
Meet the Band — Blane’s Not a Name
by Pam Gillette

Blane’s Not a Name is a volatile sonic cocktail. Add a splash of alternative rock, a spoon of new wave, a jigger of punk, and a dash of rock, then the mix is shaken (not stirred), and you have a band that breaks all musical boundaries. Blane’s Not a Name captures the music of the 80s and today, by revamping 80s covers, recent “buzz” and alternative music.

Blane’s Not a Name started in 1997 in Port St. Lucie with Steve “Goose” Gosnell on rhythm guitar, and Domenic “Landy” Landolina on lead guitar. They experimented with various songs and soon hooked up with Owen “Baby Eights” Schultz on drums. The three practiced out of their garage, performing at the early Gozz Fests and other parties with guest vocalists and other bass players. In 2001, the band teamed up with Janine Landolina who became the band’s permanent vocalist.

In 2001, the band relocated to Martin County and the group became known as Mikey’s Pop Rocks. They obtained the headliner spot on the main stage of Gozz Fest. After touring locally, the group disbanded.

In 2002, after a renewed interest from local fans, Blane’s Not a Name reformed with the addition of Ronnie “the Animal” Councillor on bass guitar. They began to rehearse at the newly constructed Sanctuary Studios in Port St. Lucie and debuted at Danny’s Hideaway in April of 2003. Since their debut, the band has toured throughout the bi-county area playing at local clubs and festivals. Some of the bands favorite places are: O’Malley’s, St. Lucie Draft House, Danny’s Hideaway, Archie’s, Wahoo’s, Hemingway’s, Stuart’s “Dancing in the Street” and on August 3, 2007 they will be performing in Fort Pierce at Friday Fest.

Main Street Fort Pierce is happy to introduce a new band to Friday Fest. Blane’s Not a Name brings a high energy show to downtown Fort Pierce.

Friday Fest is held the first Friday of every month. Friday Fest can be postponed to the following week due to weather. Friday Fest is held at Melody Lane and Marina Square, Fort Pierce, FL 34950. Friday Fest is sponsored by Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. For more information please call the Main Street office at 772-466-3880.

For booking information for Blane’s Not a Name, e-mail them at blanesnotaname@gmail.com or visit them at www.myspace.com/blanesnotaname.
Ask a Professional: Dr. Shannon Clark Leitenbauer, O.D., C.R. Lait Optical

Dr. Shannon Clark Leitenbauer has been practicing primary/family care Optometry since 1996. She acquired her practice in Fort Pierce in 1997. When long time resident, Carol Lait retired, she became 100% owner of C.R. Lait Optical.

Prior to moving to Fort Pierce, Dr. Clark Leitenbauer graduated from Northeastern State University College of Optometry in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She then completed her residency and practiced within the Veteran’s Administration in Boston. She practiced at the Brockton/West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain VA hospitals specializing in primary geriatric care and ocular disease.

Dr. Clark Leitenbauer has also worked as a clinical instructor and lecturer. Teaching experience includes working as a continuing education instructor in Oklahoma and Boston. She also served as a presenter for the nursing program at Massachusetts General Hospital and an adjunct faculty member for New England College of Optometry. Most recently, she served as adjunct faculty for Indian River Community College teaching Anatomy and Physiology lectures and labs.

Dr. Clark Leitenbauer’s latest accomplishment has been the birth of her twins. In April, she and her husband Jony welcomed a son and a daughter into the world. She has returned to practice and, more than ever, is enjoying caring for her new family and caring for her patients.

**Question:** What is the difference between an Optician, an Optometrist and an Ophthalmologist?

**Answer:**

- **Optician** (LDO) is a healthcare provider licensed to fill and dispense spectacles, contact lenses and other optical devices from a written prescription of a licensed physician or Optometrist. An Optician may become licensed through a two-year education program or apprenticeship program but is not required to be licensed to work. An optician is not a doctor.

- **Optometrist** (OD) is a doctor of Optometry. The doctor is licensed to practice optometry and specializes in determining spectacle or contact lens prescriptions, diagnosing, monitoring and offering primary care treatment for most eye abnormalities and diseases of the eye. The Optometry education consists of four years of college and four years in an optometry college. Post-education residencies are optional. An optometrist can prescribe topical eye medications but does not perform surgery.

- **Ophthalmologist** (MD or DO) is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy. Such a physician is licensed to practice medicine and surgery, and specializes in all aspects of eye and vision care. An ophthalmologist’s education typically includes four years of medical school, one or more years of general hospital experience in treating eye disease in a hospital-based eye residency program. In addition to diagnosing and treating eye abnormalities and disease, an Ophthalmologist can perform surgery.

**Question:** Can the sun damage my eyes?

**Answer:** Most likely, yes. There is currently quite a bit of medical research suggesting that exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light may contribute to the development or progression of many eye diseases such as cataracts and macular degeneration. Therefore, I strongly advocate protecting the eyes through the use of UV blocking lens coatings and/or sunglasses. The sunglasses that we provide offer the highest percentage of UV blocking ability available. To encourage the use of sunglasses we offer substantial discounts whenever a patient purchases a pair of sunglasses in addition to their regular pair of spectacles.

**Question:** Can anyone wear contact lenses?

**Answer:** Generally, yes. There are so many varieties of contact lenses that I can usually find an appropriate contact lens to fit nearly any patient with any prescription. Sometimes, the fitting may require custom lenses or may require more time to perfect the fitting and some contacts do not offer as clear of vision as can be offered with spectacles. However, with a little time and patience, most fittings are successful. Patients who have a fear of touching the eyes or patients with certain eye diseases are not considered candidates for contact lenses.

**Question:** Can anyone have LASIK or other forms of refractive surgery?

**Answer:** It depends. To find out if a patient is a candidate for LASIK or any other type of surgery, a complete vision analysis and ocular health check is always required.
Fishing the Flats
by Dan Dannahower

I recently had the opportunity to get out on the Indian River Lagoon for a day of fishing. After a very busy spring (daughter is getting married, family reunion, flying airplanes so I still have a job, etc.) I finally managed to get the boat in the water. Local Realtor Pat Murphy and I headed out for a day on the water looking for any denizens of the deep that might bite a shrimp with a hook and line attached to it.

We headed north of the turning basin and fished the edges of the channel, shallows around the spoil islands and the grass flats near Harbor Branch. The snapper bite in the river and offshore has been reported good lately and we weren't disappointed. Although neither of us plan to change our careers to become “commercial fishermen”, we did manage to catch a few nice fat keepers. We also released a number of smaller fish and lost many shrimp to fish we never saw. Pat kept us straight by catching the one obligatory catfish on our
very last shrimp! We saw a manatee, an osprey and a great blue heron all very close to the boat. All in all a very nice relaxing day on the water right here in our own backyard.

Bottom fish, Trout and a few Redfish are still being taken in the river. Offshore the seas have been nice and reports are on and off for Kings, Dolphin, Wahoo and Cobia. The Snapper fishing on the deeper reefs has been very good.

Hope you get a chance to get out and enjoy our great marine resources. It’s hot this time of year but there’s almost always a breeze on the water and you just might bring home a tasty seafood dinner! Good luck and good fishing.
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