Once upon a time and 20 years ago, Gene Sereq, Tom Kindred and the Main Street Board of Directors, searched for an event to make our beautiful downtown grow. The holidays were just around the corner and the Board examined several ideas. One such idea was a family-friendly, colorful, holiday-themed event called Sights and Sounds on Second Christmas Festival and Parade.
Main Streets are wonderfully resilient places. Over the centuries they have accommodated thousands of different kinds of businesses, from blacksmiths to internet service providers. They have worked as well with dirt roads and boardwalks as they have with brick pavers. The past 50 years have been unusually challenging for America’s Main Streets. The 1950s and 60s created a massive suburban housing boom resulting in the suburban shopping center development and the focus of everyday life began to move away from our downtown core.

Over the past 20 years in Fort Pierce, we have proven that Main Street Fort Pierce is on the right track. The National Main Street Program has conducted surveys for the past 10 years that suggest that cities with Main Street districts with strong revitalization programs have been on the rebound since 1998. Sales are up, as are property values, occupancy rates, rents and numbers of visitors. For many Main Street districts, the road ahead looks promising.

So, can we declare victory? I wish, but there continues to be significant threats looming on the horizon such as sprawl with development and inconsistent land-use planning policy that encourage this trend. Communities put way too much emphasis on attracting new national retailers, instead of locally owned businesses and small industries. Main Street districts with lots of workers attract retail businesses almost effortlessly – retail is a market follower, not a market leader. Also, new town centers continue to plague every community with mall developers creating lifestyle centers, neo-traditional Main Street-like shopping venues.

While we currently are experiencing a financial slowdown of disposable income, waiting on large or impulse purchases, the economic climate will change and we will all say remember 2008 and the situation we were all in? Main Street Fort Pierce has a place in our community and will continue to assist with events, attracting businesses in making Fort Pierce a great place to experience. Sure, Main Streets have some rough spots – but on Main Street you can see the evolution of an entire community unfold before your eyes. Historic places survive only because, in every generation, a group of people makes a conscious decision to take care of them and to pass them along.
Friday, December 5: Friday Fest — 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 465-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org

Sunday, December 7: 20th Annual Sights & Sounds on Second Christmas Festival, Parade, & Official City of Fort Pierce Tree Lighting Ceremony — Festival begins at 1:00 p.m., Parade begins at 4:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 465-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org

Friday, December 12: Coffee with the Mayor — 8:00 a.m.; Historic City Hall, Main Street Fort Pierce, 465-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org

Friday, December 19: Classic Car Cruise-In — 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080, www.fortpierce-fl.com

Friday, December 26: Friday Fest — 5:30 p.m.


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

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

The Fort Pierce Branch Library presents Florid-a Author Marshall Frank on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 1 p.m., as he discusses his latest book “Criminal Injustice in America: Essays by a Career Cop.” A retired police officer, author and columnist, Marshall Frank will talk about a myriad of topics, including his exciting career as a homicide detective in Miami, his years in charge of CSI, and converting true-life stories into fiction. For more information about the author visit: www.marshallfrank.com.

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

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

For information, please call 462-1600, ex. 3333 or visit www.manateecenter.com.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

For information, please call 462-1795 or visit www.stlucie.lib.fl.us/museum.

BACKUS GALLERY & MUSEUM

For information, please call 465-0930 or visit www.backusgallery.com.

November 26 to January 3: Gifts of Creativity — In this show you’ll find beautiful and innovative works of art that are perfect for holiday gift giving. Find that unexpected present for the person who already has everything. Scheduled artists include Janie Hinkle, Rebekah Joy Brown, Martin Cushman, Colleen Nash Becht, Jackie Schindelheiter, Nora Summerlin, and Jean and Ty Tyson.

The Fort Pierce Police Athletic League presents Friday Fest — 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 465-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org

The Fort Pierce Police Athletic League: “Filling playgrounds … not prisons.”

HEATHCOTE BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

The Heathcote Herb Society meets the first and third Sundays of every month at 9:15 a.m., at Heathcote Botanical Gardens, 210 Savannah Road, in Fort Pierce. The society meets to maintain the Heathcote Herb Garden, and to learn about growing and using herbs in south Florida. For more information contact Miriam Charles at (772)336-8407 or email jupiternapa@yahoo.com.

December 6: Bamboo & Nettle Palm Workshop — Mini Plant Sale — Saturday 9 a.m. to noon; free for Heathcote members; $6 non-members. Call to register 464-4672. Nothing says “Tropical” like palms and bamboo! Learn about Florida’s eleven native palms and their preferred growing conditions. Then explore intriguing bamboo during a presentation on selected species and their propagation. Includes mini-plant sale! Presented by Sherry Friend, the Green Garden Coach, and Botanics of Homestead.

December 13 (rain date Dec. 14): 2nd Annual Holiday Market & Juried Art Show — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission! Shop for special gifts offered by Treasure Coast charities and nonprofit organizations. Season tickets, original art, “fair trade” imports, memberships, unique, meaningful and handmade gifts along with ethnic foods and holiday treats. The holiday gifts you select will double as a gift to the charity you purchase from!

FORT PIERCE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

For more information, please call 370-6162, pppearson@fppd.org

The Fort Pierce PRL Center is located at 1401 N. 2nd Street; call 224-9332 or visit fortpearcepalc.com or prowrestlingfusion.com. The Fort Pierce Police Athletic League: “Filling playyards … not prisons.”
Holiday Shopping in Downtown Fort Pierce

by Jeanne Johansen

People, service, unique gifts, and a long history of holidays are what make shopping in downtown Fort Pierce delightful. The sidewalks and storefronts take on the cheery spirit.

“Service is what I am,” explains Marie Creel, owner of Alisari, Inc. “Service is what makes shopping here special.” Her clothing boutique is warm with a European flair that is reflected in her choice of ware from shirts to shoes. “All are hand-washable, wrinkle-free, and unique clothing, comfort wear for home, office or travel. Whether it is a one-of-a-kind holiday gown, sexy lingerie, flowing silk outfits by Russian designer, Komarow, or looking slim and young in Creel’s exclusive right to sell “Not Your Daughter’s Jeans,” the service will be impeccable.

Sit quietly with Jill Powers, owner of Chaney’s Flower Shop in the homey consultation room and quietly choose your floral and evergreen holiday decorations by the fireplace. “We work within people’s budgets,” says Powers and there is much to choose from with Powers’s personal care. Powers is the newest owner of this 71-year old shop, and she enjoys sharing its history with clients.

Inside the 1926 building that houses Sweet’s Jewelers, you will find shop owner, Jan Russell, displaying an antique reproduction of a 1926 slide bracelet. How “sweet” it is to be surrounded by Seiko musical clocks on the walls while searching cases of jeweled necklaces and rings for that special someone.

Phil Trew, owner of Trew Jewelers moved his store of 23 years from North 2nd Street to 220 Orange Avenue. Next door is Barbara Wilkins of Manatee Zone. A nice move as Wilkins fills her store with fine casual Florida wear. “To the west of Trew’s is Academy of Music where Boguslawa Baker offers instruments and instruction for young and old.

The perfect shop for poking around is Picture Perfect. Hidden in plain sight is a collection of the treasured “Chicken Pots” by North Carolina master potter, Clyde Gobble. Loretta Northrop, owner of Picture Perfect, knows almost all of the artists whose creations she sells.

Step on the steps of one of the town’s oldest buildings, the P. P. Cobb Store, and you will find yourself looking at Swiss clocks and a general store next door to explore hundreds of beers, wines and other items from around the world. Don’t forget the personal beauty grooming we all need and love. There are over five beauty, hair, nail and spa experiences to enjoy while in town.

If famous is what you are looking for then a trip to the A. E. Backus Museum and Gallery is a must stop. After you learn the history, search the galleries in the historic Arcade located on US 1 and Orange Avenue where the world-renown Highwaymen paintings may be bought and sold. For your special pet there are homemade treats for your dog or cat, healthy food, and toys at Kim and Greg Vaday’s “The Barkery.” For your chef, there is not a cooking item that can’t be found in the St. Lucie Restaurant Supply Store.

No great shopping experience would be complete without places to rest and eat. No box store can ever compete with the variety of great restaurants in Fort Pierce and the magnificent view of the beautiful Indian River. Food and drinks from around the world are mixed in with shops. From Bangkok to Italy and Greece, to local Florida dishes, there are menu items to rejuvenate even the most tired holiday shoppers.

The same can be said of the other two galleries, Lafferan-dre Gallery and the famous R.L. Davenport’s gallery on Depot Drive.

The storeowners of downtown Fort Pierce are experts at people pleasing. So come shop, explore and enjoy the experience in beautiful downtown Fort Pierce.

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Vera, a familiar face at Rosslow’s, helps Brenda Gibbons pick out the perfect gift. Vera is just one of the friendly faces you’ll meet while shopping in downtown Fort Pierce.
The annual tradition of 100,000 white, green and red lights and music filling the air along the downtown Fort Pierce waterfront is set to begin at Marina Square on Sunday, December 7th immediately following the holiday tree lighting ceremony in the roundabout at the conclusion of Main Street’s Sights and Sounds community event.

Sponsored by the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA) the nightly holiday lights will dance from December 7 until January 4, 2009. Bring your family and friends to downtown and experience the City’s illuminated Marina Square with lights synchronized to music that transforms trees and plants into moving artistic creations. Watch out for low flying reindeer!
Art-Filled Holiday Weeks at the Platts-Backus
by Jeanne Johansen

Main Street Fort Pierce celebrates the holidays with an art extravaganza of artist’s shows over 3 weeks starting on December 1st and continuing until December 20th at the Platts-Backus house from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Monday, December 1st, until Saturday, December 6th, Fort Pierce’s own native Lenore “Lori” McNamara will be the first to present her works at her former teacher’s home. Lori grew up on the Indian River and took a few lessons from A. E. (Bennie) Backus. “Painting is something I’ve got to do,” says McNamara who paints at least one painting a day as a member of the Daily Painters Art Gallery and the leader of the Plein Air Painters of the Treasure Coast. With a palette knife in hand, like Backus, she works to capture the vanishing Florida of Old. “It’s a nice feeling when you lay down a stroke and it’s correct. You get into this place where the painting seems to be painting itself,” says McNamara, who estimates she has completed over a thousand paintings. Her famous instructor would have totally understood, and so does Philip S. Steel.

Philip S. Steel’s works will go on sale at the Platts-Backus house on Monday, December 8th until Saturday, December 13th. Steel has been painting since he was a boy. As a teenager he competed in the same show with Andrew Wyeth. Steel won a blue ribbon for his charcoal drawing, and Wyeth won in the watercolor category. “I always painted during my architectural career,” says Steel, “I’ve painted over a thousand serious paintings, not including sketches and studies.” Steel’s works reflects his love of the sea, the speed and grace of sailing crafts, and the people he’s met. His works are in many public, private, and corporate collections. “My paintings quite often become a small essay, telling a short story,” explains Steel, a world traveler. “Many times while painting, I felt that God was holding my brush and guiding me. Weird, but true.” Weird, his works are not! He is true to his call, and the Gaga Girls would agree.

On December 15th through December 19th, the Gaga Girls will unveil for purchase the collectible “Platts-Backus House Ornaments” for 2008. The Gaga Girls, Ginny Piech Street and Anita Prentice, are well known along the Indian River, the U.S., and abroad. They are masters at taking ordinary items and making them into the extraordinary. Ginny Piech Street skillfully takes her hand-painted paper and designs whimsical compositions. “In art, there are no rules, no mistakes, and I value the processes above all,” explains Piech Street. The process for Anita Prentice’s works takes on a form she calls “frescoed mosaics.” Prentice is always searching for new and varied ways to mount her mosaics of church glass, glass droplets, wood, grout and paint. She completed 100 “frescoed mosaics” bus benches that now dot the county roadways. If you want to get a glimpse of the Gaga Girls collaborative work stop by the Old City Hall on Avenue A to see their creation, “Bird in a Hand.”

The Gaga Girls collaborative work will be on display from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Platts-Backus House from Monday, December 15th to Friday, December 19th. If you want to purchase a collectible Platts-Backus House ornament, call 772-466-3880 for directions and information.

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Art-Filled Holiday Weeks at the Platts-Backus House
122 A. E. Backus Street, Fort Pierce, FL
Lori McNamara
Monday, December 1 to Friday, December 5
From 10 AM to 5 PM
Artist Reception, Tuesday, December 2
From 5 PM to 8 PM
Philip S. Steel
Monday, December 8 to Friday, December 12
From 10 AM to 5 PM
Artist Reception, Tuesday, December 9
From 5 PM to 8 PM
The Gaga Girls
Ginny Piech Street and Anita Prentice
Monday, December 15 to Friday, December 19
From 10 AM to 5 PM
Artist Reception, Saturday, December 20
From Noon to 3 PM
For directions and information call 772-466-3880
Roy’s Liquors a Mainstay for Main Street Fort Pierce and the Community

by Beth Williams

For nearly 20 years Main Street supporters have counted on a great experience during the Annual Fall Wine Tasting and for nearly 20 years Main Street organizers have counted on Keith & Debbie Andersen of Roy’s Liquors to be the key ingredient in their recipe for a successful event.

“We’ve been involved since the very beginning,” says Keith, owner of Roy’s Liquors located at 720 South US 1. “They needed a fundraiser and the first wine tasting was so successful we decided to do it twice a year.”

“Not only does it help a vital community organization, it helps keep our name out there,” explains Keith. “We plan on being involved as long as we can.”

But Main Street isn’t the only important charitable effort that benefits from Keith’s commitment to the community. “I’ve been a supporter of Learn to Read of St. Lucie County since the late ’80s,” he says. “Just being an old English major I know the importance of this organization. I tutored for many years but lately have become more involved in the fundraising side.”

Roy’s Liquors is also involved in the Taster’s Guild International which hosts monthly dinners at different locations throughout the tri-county area. Thursday night wine tastings and Friday night beer tastings at Roy’s are weekly events that attract faithful customers and newcomers alike.

As Keith talks about the various events sponsored by Roy’s throughout the year, familiar faces come and go in the store. He exchanges hellos and hugs with customers who count on him for great advice on the best wines for upcoming celebrations.

Keith and Debbie Andersen have made Roy’s Liquors a thriving local business, and one the community counts on to help make St. Lucie County a better place to live.
Downtown Hero – Gene Sereg
by Chris Morhardt

Since moving to St. Lucie County in 1985 Gene Sereg has been a major catalyst in the revitalization of downtown Fort Pierce (cleverly disguised as a local law enforcement officer).

Our Downtown hero this month is Mr. Gene Sereg. Gene has been working behind the scenes to help create a safe and enjoyable community for residents and visitors of our beautiful city over the past twenty years. He has been married to his wife Cheryl for forty years and has one daughter, Karolyn. Gene began his journey with Fort Pierce when he volunteered for an assignment to do beat patrol in the city. In this position, with the City of Fort Pierce Police Department, he worked with the area merchants to make the city more safe and secure. As a result of his efforts, the Downtown Fort Pierce is now one of the safest areas on the Treasure Coast.

Have you ever been to Friday Fest? This monthly event draws 5,000 – 7,000 people from across the county and beyond to enjoy music, food and fun! The Main Street event began over twenty years ago with Gene, a keg of beer and 32 attendees, and he is proud to say he has only missed one Friday Fest in all of those years. After helping to initiate the event, Gene teamed up with Main Street Fort Pierce to help facilitate future Friday Fest events. He also became a board member and joined several other well respected community leaders. Gene remains on the Board of Directors today, proving his dedication and commitment to Fort Pierce.

As the holiday season approaches, we look forward to many annual celebrations. One such event, which was created by Gene, is the Sights and Sounds Christmas Parade. Every year, with help from the Sunrise Kiwanis and Gene, the parade has grown into a spectacular community gathering event for the whole family.

We are fortunate to have had Gene share his expertise in law enforcement and creative community building efforts through the years to help in the revitalization of downtown Fort Pierce. His efforts as a community volunteer are evident throughout the city and we appreciate his continued support. Main Street Fort Pierce is proud to honor Mr. Gene Sereg as December’s Downtown Hero.
Memories of Christmas Past: The 20th Annual Sights & Sounds Holiday Festival, Parade & Community Tree Lighting Ceremony

by Pam Gillette

News of the event spread all around the town and a new wave of excitement was easily found. The spirit of Christmas stretched throughout St. Lucie County and the community responded to this wonderful new event. Throughout the past 20 years, the Sights and Sounds on Second Christmas Festival and Parade has grown to include 70 parade entries, a festival full of community activities, and an arts & craft show.

This year, Main Street Fort Pierce is hosting the 20th Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Christmas Festival and Parade on Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Main Street Fort Pierce is challenging the community to join us in commemorating this historic event with “Memories of Christmas Past,” celebrating 20 years of Sights and Sounds parades.

Common Ground Vineyard Church will kick off the festivities on Sunday, December 7. They will hold an outdoor Sunday Service at the festival site at the intersection of Orange Avenue and Second Street at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend this service.

The 20th Annual Sights & Sounds on Second Christmas Festival will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Orange Avenue and North Second Street in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Activities during the Sights & Sounds Festival include: entertainment by community groups, the official grand entrance of Santa Claus by fire engine, children’s crafts, games, balloon bounce houses, pony rides, arts & craft vendors, food vendors, and much more.

Immediately following the Christmas parade will be the lighting of the City of Fort Pierce’s Community Christmas Tree located at the Avenue A and Indian River Drive Roundabout. Mayor Bob Benton and Santa Claus will need everybody’s help to illuminate the 28-foot tree. This is always a wonderful hometown celebration to kick off the holiday season. The City of Fort Pierce will also unveil “The Holiday Light Spectacular.” The light and sound show will have over 100,000 lights synchronized to holiday music and will begin at Marina Square after the tree lighting ceremony. The holiday lights and music will run from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. every night until January 4, 2009.

So grab your family and join Main Street Fort Pierce for a day full of special memories at the 20th Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Christmas Festival and Parade on Sunday, December 7, from 1:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Become part of history and make some new memories for you and your family to share.

For more information on the festival or for a parade application call Main Street Fort Pierce office at 772-466-3880.
Dermatech Day Spa – What’s New?
by Sue Dannabower

Dermatech Day Spa, located at 210 Orange Avenue in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, will make you feel beautiful from your hair down to your toes. Owner, Roxanne Bachman, is proud to announce the addition of beauticians Lisa Abernethy and Sandy Stebbins.

Lisa is California trained and specializes in precision cutting, color, highlights and the ever popular hair extensions. “Hair extensions add immediate length and volume to any type of hair. Get that movie star look without the price tag of a Hollywood salon.”

Hair stylist, Sandy Stebbins, is no stranger to Fort Pierce. She has been practicing in the area for over 33 years. Sandy specializes in haircuts and advanced hair color techniques. “Let my experience go to your head”.

Dermatech Day Spa offers a full line of day spa services, from microdermabrasion to neuromuscular massage therapy. Skin care specialist, Roxanne, specializes in microdermabrasion, full body waxing and organic facials. Among the most popular clinical facials is microdermabrasion, using aluminum oxide crystals to exfoliate and rejuvenate skin. Candice Bein, master aesthetician, specializes in anti-aging skin care and problem cystic acne. Her derma planning therapy results in the appearance of smoother skin by boosting collagen formation, therefore, smoothing fine lines, wrinkles and acne scarring.

Massage Therapist Camille Ogden is certified in neuromuscular therapy and specializes in chronic back and neck pain. Sherry Clark focuses include deep tissue, positional release, strain-counter strain and trigger point massages.

Come and visit their newly redesigned spa for a complimentary consultation or call 467-0607 to arrange an appointment. Holiday Gift Certificates are also available. Dermatech is also now open on Mondays.
These Are a Few of Our Favorite Things

Growing up my family loved to entertain for Christmas dinner. We invited our friends without local families to join in our celebration. Here are a few of our favorite recipes.

Stuffed Standing Rib Roast
This is the BEST Rib Roast — the stuffing makes it very special. Create a wonderful gravy from the drippings and serve with mashed potatoes.

4 pound standing rib roast
8 slices stale bread
Milk
5 Tablespoons butter, melted
1 onion, finely minced
1/2 cup mushrooms, chopped
1 egg, beaten
2 Tablespoons parsley, chopped
1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon
Salt and Pepper
1 cup beef broth
1 cup white wine
1 bay leaf

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Rinse roast with cool water. Cut pockets between the ribs in the roast. Lightly salt and pepper each pocket.

Put bread slices in blender until finely chopped. Place bread in bowl. Add a small amount of milk and let stand a few minutes. Melt 2 Tablespoons of butter in small saucepan. Add onions, sauté 2 minutes. Add mushrooms and sauté until tender. Squeeze liquid from bread. Combine bread, onion, mushrooms, eggs, parsley, and seasonings in mixing bowl. Mix well.

Fill the roast pockets with the stuffing mixture. Use a skewer to shut if necessary. Rub outside of roast with salt and pepper. Turn into large roasting pan.

In small bowl combine butter, broth, wine, and bay leaf. Pour mixture over the roast and cover. Bake in 350 degrees oven for 2 1/2 hours, basting with pan juices every 15 minutes. When done remove the roast from the pan and let set 15 minutes. Thicken pan juices and serve with the roast.

Make gravy from scrapings from bottom of pan, 3 tablespoons beef bouillon, 1 cup water. Thicken with flour and cornstarch.

Serves: 6-8.

Acorn Squash with Peas
We love acorn squash. Stuffing it with peas looks fancy for Christmas Dinner.

2 Acorn Squash
1 cup baby peas
4 Tablespoons butter

Cut acorn squash in half and remove seeds. Place, cut side down on a greased baking pan. Bake in 350 degree oven for 1 hour.

In a small pan heat peas.
Take cooked acorn squash out of the oven and place on a serving dish.
Place 1/2 of the peas in each acorn squash. Top with 1 tablespoon butter. Serve immediately. Serves: 4.

Red Lobster Cheddar Bay Biscuits
This recipe is from CopyCat.com. I love these biscuits — they taste just like those prepared at Red Lobster.

2 cups Bisquick
3/4 cups milk
3/4 cup shredded Cheddar Cheese
3/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
3/4 teaspoon garlic powder
3/4 teaspoon Italian seasoning

Heat oven to 450 degrees. Mix bisquick, milk and cheese until a soft dough forms. Drop by spoonfuls onto an ungreased cooking sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes until golden brown. Mix butter, garlic powder and Italian seasoning. Brush mixture over warm biscuits before removing from cookie sheet. Makes: 1 dozen biscuits.
When John Wilkes came to the Sunrise Theatre as its new Executive Director, he promised to bring more national performances to this historic regional theater. Wilkes, indeed, has fulfilled his pledge. This season, the Sunrise is presenting 7 Broadway shows: Nunsense: The Musical, The Pajama Game, Movin’ Out, CATS, Hairspray, Gilligan’s Island: The Musical, and Footloose: The Musical. Other big names coming to Fort Pierce are Judy Collins, Dave Brubeck, Bill Cosby, the Smother’s Brothers, and the Oak Ridge Boys. “We would have a more difficult time getting these great acts here without the help of sponsors,” says Wilkes. “We are grateful for the support of National City, the Beveridge Family Foundation, Seacoast National Bank, WAVE 92.7, Scripps Newspapers, Comcast Spotlight, the Hometown News and others. We will be adding other performances and attractions throughout the season, so watch our website for the latest news.” The Sunrise is also offering reduced prices for its Broadway Series. Receive a 20% discount for purchasing tickets to all 7 shows, a 15% discount for 5 shows, and a 10% discount for 3 shows. For Membership/Ticket information call (772) 461-4775 or visit www.sunrisetheatre.com or the Sunrise Box Office at 117 S. 2nd St., Fort Pierce.

The Sunrise Theatre Brings National Touring Broadway to the Treasure Coast

by Camille S. Yates

Do you know the history of the Sunrise Theatre? Have you ever wondered what happens behind the scenes of a theater production? This one and a half hour tour is your VIP access to the Fort Pierce’s renovated 1920s Theatre. Your tour guides will highlight historical and architectural aspects of the building and take you on a backstage journey through the Theatre. You will get the opportunity to see up close and personal the behind the scenes operations of the theatre, wander onto the stage, view the pit area, go into the green room, and view private rooms upstairs, that only few get to see. You won’t want to miss this unique opportunity!

The tour is free to the public — no reservations are necessary. Please join us on Saturday, December 6th at 11:00 am in the lobby of the Sunrise Theatre. For more directions or more information please call 772.461.4884.

Treasured Waters Book Signing

by Sue Dannahower

If you are looking for a gift that keeps on giving this holiday season, then you don’t want to miss the Treasured Waters Book Signing and Art Exhibit at Picture Perfect Frame Shop and Gallery in Downtown Fort Pierce at 124 North Second Street. On December 10th from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., you can meet the author and artist of the book Treasured Waters – The Indian River Lagoon. Writer, Camille S. Yates, and artist, Rick Kelly, partnered with Indian River State College to create this lovely coffee-table book filled with little-known facts about the flora and fauna of the Lagoon, as well as some interesting historical tales. By purchasing the book, you can not only give the book itself as a gift to a friend or loved one, but in addition, your purchase will go towards providing scholarships to students at IRSC.

Also, Picture Perfect owner, Loretta, tells us that she will have numerous original Rick Kelly paintings on display. Kelly’s artwork will enrich your appreciation of the beautiful, abundant plants and animals of the Lagoon. For more information, call Picture Perfect at 772-461-0410.
Downtown Businesses Expect Boost from Sunrise Theatre Holiday Programming

by Thondra Lanese

Downtown businesses in Fort Pierce are looking forward to a boost in business this holiday season, thanks to a packed schedule at the Sunrise Theater.

The theatre has announced programming for 14 evenings in December, including such holiday classics as the Moscow Ballet’s version of The Nutcracker and a musical take on A Christmas Carol. Rounding out the holiday programming includes the performances A Vienna Christmas with the New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra and the 3 Redneck Tenors in a new show called Christmas Spectacular.

“Even if downtown businesses aren’t open, the theatre has a positive effect on business because people window shop while they are downtown and come back to buy later,” says Barbara Wilkins, Owner of the Manatee Zone on Orange Avenue. “If we are open people come in and we do even better!”

Diane Killane, Manager of Café la Ronde on Orange Avenue, agrees with Wilkins that top-notch programming at the theatre translates into more business for downtown restaurants and stores. The restaurant offers a $9.99 Depression Menu Wednesday through Saturday evenings from 5:00 to 6:30, but doesn’t need to offer the special on show nights.

“The last few show nights we did really well,” says Killane. “When there’s a good show at the theatre and it sells out we really pack them in.”

Shows that will likely sell out for the month of December include the continuation of the theatre’s new Broadway series featuring the national touring companies from eight Broadway shows. In December, the theatre will host The Pajama Game, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, and Movin’ Out.

“Restaurants and shops in downtown Fort Pierce should see a dramatic spike in sales and patronage,” says the theatre’s Executive Director, John Wilkes. “The key to our mutual success is having consistency in merchants being open for business when the thousands of ticket holders for Sunrise events are here in December.”

The Sunrise Theatre Presents:
The 2008 - 2009 Season

**November Shows**

The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley - Saturday the 1st at 11:00 am

Pheobe Snow - Friday the 21st at 8:30 pm

Dave Mason & Leon Russell - Saturday the 22nd 7 pm

“Nonsense: The Musical”, starring Sally Struthers - Sunday the 23rd at 3:00 & 7:00 pm

Dave Koz & Friends: A Smooth Jazz Christmas - Friday the 28th at 8:00 pm, co-produced with Bluebird Productions

**December Shows**

3 Redneck Tenors: Christmas Spectacular - Tuesday the 2nd at 7:00 pm

The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion - Thursday the 4th at 7 pm

“Blues at its Best” - co-produced by Bluebird Productions, Zac Hanson & Albert Castiglia - Friday the 5th at 8:00 pm

A Vienna Christmas - Saturday the 6th at 8:00 pm

“The Pajama Game” - Sunday the 7th at 7:00 pm

“My Mother’s Italian, My Father’s Jewish, & I’m Still in Therapy”, Friday the 12th at 8:00 pm

Led Zepplica: The Led Zeppelin Experience - Saturday the 13th at 8:00 pm

**December Shows Continued**

“Movin’ Out” - Wed, the 17th at 7 pm

A Christmas Carol: The Musical - Saturday the 20th at 7 pm

“A Celebration of Sinatra” starring Bob Hope & His 16 Piece Band - Sunday the 21st at 3:00 pm

Melissa Manchester - Sunday the 28th at 3:00 pm

**January Shows**

State Ballet of Russia/Cinderella - Wednesday the 7th at 7 pm

Richard Nader’s Rock & Roll and Doo-Wop, w/ The Drifters featuring Charlie Thomas, Gene Chandler, Joey Dee & The Starlits, Barbara Harris - Friday the 9th at 8:00 pm

American Big Band - Sunday the 11th at 3:00 pm

“Cats” - Monday & Tuesday the 12th & 13th at 7:00 pm

The Glenn Miller Orchestra - Wednesday the 21st at 7:00 pm

Doc Grober & The Madcats - Sunday the 25th at 3:00 pm

Teatro D’Lirico Europe’s “Aida” - Monday the 26th at 7:00 pm

February Shows - Visit our website for more details


For Membership/Ticket Information call (772) 461-4775 or visit our website for the complete list of performances at www.sunrisetheatre.com or the Sunrise Box Office at 117 S. 2nd St., Fort Pierce.
Why Rebalance Your Portfolio?

Submitted by Jim O’Connar, CFP®, CIMA®, Financial Advisor

Simply stated, staying the course doesn’t mean driving with blinders. Investors should monitor their portfolios regularly to determine if they support and respond to their financial goals.

For years, investors have heard the mantra of investing for the long term. That is, to create a portfolio based on your goals and stick with it despite the rumbles of a fickle market or the allure of popular trends.

In theory, this is a suitable strategy for many investors, but staying the course wisely should also acknowledge the need for the occasional mandatory detour, taking on additional passengers, having fender benders and making complete about-faces. The better prepared a portfolio is to respond to these unforeseeable life events, the more likely it will be able to help you reach your desired financial destination.

Annual Rebalancing

Annual rebalancing is key to the long-term health of your portfolio. Rebalancing involves shifting assets from one type of investment to another to bring a portfolio in line with an asset mix created for specific goals. If this action is done on a regular or automatic basis, you can help ensure that your portfolio stays on track.

Many mutual fund companies offer the option of automatic rebalancing within various investment programs. This service can help investors avoid micromanaging their portfolios and it furthers the lines of communication between an investor and his or her financial advisor. In addition, this enforces use of the commonly embraced discipline of selling high and buying low.

Seven Rules of Effective Portfolio Maintenance

Construct an initial portfolio with a goal-sensitive allocation of stocks, bonds and cash. Keep informed about the subsets and varieties of these categories. Be aware of your short- and long-term goals when designing your portfolio.

Generally, make more comprehensive rebalancing an annual event. Many experts agree that investors who rebalance at this interval or slightly longer reap many of the same benefits as those who do so more often.

Remember that rebalancing comes from paring down or eliminating specific investments in a portfolio. In many cases there may be tax consequences, like realized capital gains. Try not to burden yourself with tax liabilities you may not be prepared to handle. Yet at the same time, you must weigh the benefits of overall return over some tax savings.

Don’t rely on natural progressions in the market to rebalance a portfolio. But keep in mind that this practice is not applicable to total equity portfolios, because stocks typically appreciate over time.

Consider contributing to your portfolio via a systematic or dollar-cost averaging strategy. Systematic investing, the process of making consistent contributions on a regular basis, can help bring you closer to your financial goals.

Don’t rely on natural progressions in the market to rebalance a portfolio, and be aware of your short- and long-term goals when designing your portfolio.
Cold fronts and frequently changing weather conditions will soon be upon us. With them come some excellent winter fishing and a plethora of fishing tournaments. Some pro tour events and some local and amateur tournaments are held each year right from our local area marinas. Fort Pierce is one of the tournament capitols of the southeast. The City is well known for world class fishing right off our coast and has one of the best inlets on the east coast of Florida. Check marinas and tackle shops for up to date info on tournament dates and possible weather cancellations.

A fun local tournament, which was held on November 8th, was one of the first of the season. “Trash Can Slam” was put on by Firefighters’ Local 1377. It was a new tournament to our area and it will become an annual event. Sponsored by Little Jim Bait and Tackle, Landshark Beer, and Star Rods, this one day event turned out a nice crowd for the weigh-in and awards party. The tournament was primarily run by local firefighters Chris Russakis, Doug Wile, and Skip Chandler who did a fine job and have promised to make a bigger and better event next year.

The tournament had both inshore and offshore categories and had fishermen vying for catches of “trash fish”. Jacks, Sailcats and Ladyfish for the inshore folks; Lings, Bluefish and Barracuda for the offshore gang. It was a nice twist on the usual quest for dolphin, sailfish, trout, redfish, etc., and followed a format that allowed a number of young folks that fished the tournament to have their catches weighed in and recorded rather than thrown back as a “no keeper.” Some nice prizes were offered: in the offshore category — $500 1st place, $250 2nd and 3rd and two Star rods for each species; in the inshore category — $250 1st place, $150 2nd and 3rd and two star rods for each species. The inshore category also included a Grand Slam Prize, a half day offshore charter trip, for the highest aggregate weight! Proceeds go to Firefighters Local 1377 Charitable Donation Account which is pooled with other Firefighter groups around the state and used to help families of Firefighters in distress due to illness or other tragedies.

I hope you get a chance to fish in a tournament or attend a weigh-in party and awards ceremony. It’s a lot of fun for folks of any age and showcases one of our big assets: the great fishing and boating opportunities that lay right off our back door!
"We overlook nothing . . . except the beautiful Indian River"

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