Downtown Fort Pierce Parking Garage Nears Completion
see story p. 8
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1902 2008
New Year Wishes for Platts-Backus House

by Dr. Clyde Platts, the area's first physician, before the city's incorporation in 1901. Over the years, the house passed through several owners and was at one time purchased by St. Lucie County and used as a welfare house.

The house's most famous resident and its current namesake, A.E. Beanie Backus, bought the structure in the early 1960s for use as his residence and workshop. The humble artist loved jazz, children, and always had an open door policy for locals to gather.

Alfred Hair, creator of “The Highwaymen Movement,” spent many days with Backus learning painting techniques he would later teach to other black artists that comprise the original “Highwaymen,” which are famous for their beautiful Florida landscapes that Backus and his students painted at the house. Up until his death in 1990, Backus was inspired by his visitors and they, in return, were inspired by him.

With encroaching development, the previous owners of the Backus House, Steve and Beverly Watkins, sold the house to Main Street Fort Pierce in 2005 and the fundraising efforts began to raise the one million dollars the board deemed necessary to purchase, restore and maintain the 111-year-old structure — our “Next Big Thing.” Today, fundraising efforts have come to fruition with over $500,000 in private contributions, grants and in-kind services. Those organizations and individuals that have contributed to our effort, thank you.

We are half way to our goal and we need your help to complete the restoration of the Platts-Backus House into a historic, cultural asset that will be enjoyed by future generations. With April 15th a few months away, consider making a tax-deductible donation to Main Street Fort Pierce to preserve our heritage for future generations.
Main Street Fort Pierce

As Fort Pierce Main Street begins its 19th 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.

Name: ________________________________

Company/Organization: ________________________________

Street Address: ________________________________

City / State / Zip: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

Email: ________________________________

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 19 years. The efforts of many have paid off. Downtown Fort Pierce is now recognized as one of the most desirable locations to live and work on the Treasure Coast, as well as, in the state of Florida.

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

The success of Main Street Fort Pierce over the past 19 years is due to the faithful commitment of current and past members of the Main Street board of directors, the City of Fort Pierce, local community organizations, local businesses, and general public support. Currently, the program consists of fourteen volunteer board members and two full-time employees. During its existence, Main Street Fort Pierce has held approximately twenty-six downtown promotional events each year, educated public school children about the history of the area, won numerous local, state, and national awards, restored historic buildings including the Sunrise Theatre, recruited businesses to the downtown area, held downtown charrettes to encourage the public participation in revitalization efforts, created outdoor art programs, and helped fund an award winning image campaign along with the Downtown Business Association, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and the City of Fort Pierce.

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 AND DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Calendar

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

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

Wednesday, January 9:  DBA Artwalk — 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080.

Brush Strokes Gallery located on 106 S. Depot Drive will present the following during January’s Artwalk event: The oil paintings of Ellen Fischer “Florida Landscape.”

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

Friday, January 25:  Classic Car Cruise-In — 6:00 until 9:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080.

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

Arts and Crafts Show & Sale – Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north of downtown Fort Pierce, 460-5124.

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

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

RESTAURANT ENTERTAINMENT

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


ST. LUCIE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

For information, please call 462-1795.


January 8–20:  Looking Back: Vintage Paintings from the Florida Highwaymen, sponsored by Art Link International. Enjoy an exhibition of vintage paintings from some of the best private collections, as well as a variety of vintage paintings for sale.

January 12 & 13:  Highwaymen Festival, sponsored by Art Link International. Sixteen of the Highwaymen will be in attendance with their new paintings for sale. More Highwaymen gather together for this festival than in any other place or event. The newest book by Catherine Enns Grigas and newest film on the Highwaymen will be released at this year’s festival.

January 25:  Around the World in 80 Daze — Dinner, Dancing and Auction Saturday, sponsored by Grand Bank & Trust and Window of the Eye Creations. The museum goes international with this year’s dinner party and live auction which is inspired by Jules Verne’s 1873 adventure novel with a very similar name. Delectable foods, décor and entertainment all inspired by a voyage around the world. Tickets to the party and live auction are $100 per person.

January 29–February 16:  Texture • Technique • Tradition. Whether relying on texture (a tactile quality) or technique (the method of accomplishment), all of the artists in this exhibition are creating their own unique traditions and style of work.

BACKUS GALLERY & MUSEUM

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January 8–20:  Looking Back: Vintage Paintings from the Florida Highwaymen, sponsored by Art Link International. Enjoy an exhibition of vintage paintings from some of the best private collections, as well as a variety of vintage paintings for sale.

January 12 & 13:  Highwaymen Festival, sponsored by Art Link International. Sixteen of the Highwaymen will be in attendance with their new paintings for sale. More Highwaymen gather together for this festival than in any other place or event. The newest book by Catherine Enns Grigas and newest film on the Highwaymen will be released at this year’s festival.

January 26:  Around the World in 80 Daze — Dinner, Dancing and Auction Saturday, sponsored by Grand Bank & Trust and Window of the Eye Creations. The museum goes international with this year’s dinner party and live auction which is inspired by Jules Verne’s 1873 adventure novel with a very similar name. Delectable foods, décor and entertainment all inspired by a voyage around the world. Tickets to the party and live auction are $100 per person.

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Four More Years! Bob Benton Re-Elected As Mayor of Fort Pierce

by Carol Johnson

The 2008 Ft. Pierce City Elections were held on Tuesday, December 4th. In the mayoral race there were 5 hopefuls. They were: incumbent Bob Benton, Chris Dzadovsky, Flip Gates, Rick Reed and Harold “Buzz” Smyth. There was a 30.02% voter turn out within the City’s 26 precincts, and the number of votes cast was 5130. Benton received 33.92% of the vote, 29.68% to Reed and the other candidates shared the remaining 36.41%. That left Mayor Benton shy of the 50% required to avoid a runoff, so he and candidate Reed met head to head on December 11th. With a 28.18% voter turnout, Mayor Benton defeated Reed by winning 54.26% of the vote. Other results of the December 4th election were as follows: For the City Commission District 1 seat, Reggie Sessions defeated R. Duke Nelson with 54.21%; and for the District 2 seat, Eddie Becht defeated Michael Perri with 63.29%.

In an interview with Mayor Benton a few days after the election, he expressed his feelings on the election’s outcome, and his plans for the next four years. Benton stated that the 2007 election brought forth areas of concern that he will be addressing over his next term. He also said that there were 5 candidates on December 4th, each had their own platform, and people voted for their favorites. But when it came to the runoff, there were only 2 candidates, himself and Rick Reed. Therefore, he was able to concentrate on informing the public on issues that were really relevant. One of which was about the use of funds by the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency. He stated that there are many things being done to improve Fort Pierce, but everyone has to realize that these changes take place over a period of several years, so we must all be patient. The local television station will be used to keep the public apprised of local projects and their status. This should alleviate concerns about the allocation of funds.

Save Energy And Money In The Kitchen!

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

A few simple tips to help you save:

- Each time the oven door is opened, the oven loses about 1/3 of its heat; open only when necessary.
- A clean seal on your oven door provides better heat retention; check the seal for wear.
- Don’t preheat your oven unless cooking or baking instructions call for it.
- Temperatures can be lowered about 25° when you use glass or ceramic pans in the oven and food will still cook in the same amount of time.
- Covered pots and pans heat up faster, and clean range top burners and reflectors save energy.
- Prevent wasted heat by matching the size of your pots and pans to the size of the burner.
- Heating elements stay hot long enough to finish cooking, even if you turn the burners or oven off 1 to 2 minutes before completion time.
- Clean dust from your refrigerator’s condenser coils (on back or underneath) every few months to increase efficiency.
- Know what you want before you open the refrigerator door so the cool air stays inside where it belongs.
- A full freezer is more efficient; however, your refrigerator should have some room around items for air circulation.

Fort Pierce Utilities
www.fpua.com
466-1600
Even though crime was not a major topic during this election, Mayor Benton mentioned that the crime rate is now the lowest it has been in 30 years, but we can't let up or it will go back to the way things were prior to the crack down. Crimes that in the past were being prosecuted on the state level are now being tried on the federal level, which serves as a deterrent. Also, approximately five hundred buildings have been bulldozed that were out of code and hazardous to dwell in. Many of them were located in crime ridden areas. Not only has elimination of these buildings increased safety for residents, it has reduced the number of places where drug dealers and other undesirables could hang out.

Property taxes are also an important issue, and not just in Fort Pierce, but throughout the state of Florida. Mayor Benton would like to work at finding a way of lowering the property tax rate, but at the same time keeping an acceptable level of services to the public.

A sore point during this and the previous election was that some residents feel their utility bills are too high. People have been misled into believing that Fort Pierce Utilities Authority can raise and lower them at will. In fact, conservation must take place all the way around. So, Mayor Benton would like to form a new task force, with the help of the City Commissioners, to look at ways of helping people lower their utility bills. In the past an effort was made by the City of Fort Pierce to make homes more energy efficient, but that money was used for high dollar improvements, such as replacing windows. Therefore, unfortunately the money was not able to help very many people. The current plan calls for monies to be set aside for weather-stripping and insulation. Since these measures are less costly, many more residents could be assisted in using these techniques to lower their electric bills. The city is committed to helping in this aspect, but it takes cooperation and conservation by the consumers as well as working with FPUA to get the word out to them about how they can conserve, thus lowering their electric bills.

Two of the other mayoral candidates gave Benton lists of concerns that citizens have and the mayor said he would look into and do his best to address them.

One of the concerns was that building plans seem to take longer than necessary to be approved. Benton said that efforts would be made to reduce the amount of time needed to process them, so that plans could be in and out in a timely fashion.

Another topic that the mayor is pushing for is to change election dates from December to November. This would accomplish two main objectives: By not holding elections between Thanksgiving and Christmas candidates can feel free to concentrate on their campaigns without having to worry about them interfering with holiday plans or having holiday plans interfere with their campaigns. Also, there would be less chance of the elections being politicized. City elections are non-partisan, but when they are held during the time that presidential candidates are campaigning, it is easy for the issues of local races to be lost in partisan issues that effect presidential campaigns.

In keeping with Mayor Benton's policy of hearing from the citizens about their concerns, he would like to implement moving the Public Comment portion of the City Commission meetings to the beginning. This would allow people to share their concerns without having to stay through the entire meeting. The time frame for this portion would be no more than one half hour, with those wanting to speak being required to sign in. And, whenever a topic requires more discussion, it can be continued at the end of the meeting.

Another issue that is very important to the mayor is the formation of a youth leadership council to develop ways of getting young people off the streets and involved in the community and to show them that their concerns are as important as everyone else's. Mayor Benton stated that "Our biggest resource is the kids." And, he would like for these future adults be able to obtain higher paying jobs and know that their future is a priority in Fort Pierce. There has already been some interest shown within the community and there are teens that want to participate, but there needs to be more youth involvement, and he hopes that can come about by increased exposure, such as on the local television channel and by going into the high schools.

The next four years offer the mayor an opportunity to continue with programs that were already in progress and implement some new ones such as those mentioned above. So, according to Mayor Benton, the bottom line is that change can only come about if everyone pulls together and works toward the same goal, a stronger and safer Fort Pierce.

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Where Can I Park?

by Anne Satterlee

Around 10 months ago, discussion took place on where the proposed Downtown Parking Garage and mixed-use building complex would start construction, what it would look like, when it would be finished and ultimately used by the public and whether it would be located on Indian River Drive or on the existing Fort Pierce City Hall parking lot. Now, just a short time later, the four-story, Mediterranean-revival influenced structure open parking garage with 156,077 square feet and 471 parking spaces is almost complete and is a welcome sight.

During the summer months, Fort Pierce City Hall employees, visitors, merchants, shoppers and residents to the downtown area had to plan just a little more on where they could park due to the construction, but the new parking garage will be a great convenience for downtown patrons who will quickly forget the past parking dilemma before and during the construction period this summer.

The parking garage and mixed-use space construction cost is $11,379,317 and was funded by the City through
the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA). The design/build project was built by The Haskell Company of Jacksonville, Florida. The retail first floor and four-story unfinished office space which encompasses 30,000 square feet on the south side of the building will be completed spring, 2008.

Much thought was given to the new addition to the existing urban fabric, especially in a setting such as Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Most people supported the almost “official” city-sanctioned theme, Mediterranean Revival, and other designs called for a striking and bold new statement with an architectural style that would distance itself from existing structures and declare itself to be different, as most civic buildings should and as Fort Pierce City Hall certainly does. The end product is a reinvestment partnership in our community. Our continued success for the future is dependent on smart choices that are made by our elected officials and support from the public sector. This is definitely a step in the right direction!
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In June 2005, the papers were signed for the purchase of the Backus House by Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. The ink was barely dry when applications were submitted for Grants to the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency and the State of Florida, Historic Preservation Division Matching Grants. Both grants were awarded funding and the efforts were off to a good start.

In an effort to work with Private Partnership’s to raise money, two Board members of Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. made some great contacts and brought home two supporters. Board member Beth Williams secured through Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute and the St. Lucie Medical Center a $30,000 pledge given over a three year period. Beth Williams said, “The hospitals are totally committed to supporting the efforts of Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. in saving the historic character of our community. This organization has done great work in the downtown and we are proud to be part of it.”

In October, the Wachovia Foundation awarded a contribution of $10,000 to Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. in support of the Platts/Backus House project. “I am delighted that the Wachovia Foundation was able to make such a valuable commitment to this revitalization project in our community,” said Kevin Evans, Wachovia’s Market President for St. Lucie County.

Kevin Evans, Wachovia Foundation

Continued on page 12 ...
Fort Pierce, Inc. board treasurer learned of the Wachovia Foundation while working with Evans on other business. The Wachovia Foundation is a private foundation that provides grants to eligible 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations to support four primary focus areas: Education, Community Development, Health and Human Services and Arts and Culture. The mission of The Wachovia Foundation is to build strong and vibrant communities, improve the quality of life, and make a positive difference.

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. proudly thanks our sponsors for their contributions in continuing the renewal of Fort Pierce. Without committed businesses and individuals, projects such as the Historic City Hall, The Manatee Observation and Educational Center, The Sunrise Theatre and now the Platts/Backus House would not have happened.
Main Street’s ‘Beautiful People’

by Patty Reynolds

A new year inevitably brings with it new resolutions. One of mine is to say “Thank You” more often. To the clerk at the store, the waitress who smiles when she’s dead on her feet and to the people who help me slow down and realize what a wonderful life I have.

Michael Goforth writes an annual recognitions column in The Tribune. This year it was titled ‘Beautiful People’ make St. Lucie special. Thank you Michael for taking the time to recognize all those whose service enhances our community.

Something caught my eye this year as I looked for my husband’s name. And yes, I admit I am a bit partial – but I knew what a beautiful and giving spirit Britt Reynolds had long before I saw it printed in the paper. What I noticed this year was how many Main Street Board members and supporters were listed.

Every category listed at least one person tied to Main Street, including Doris Tillman, Pam Gillette, Anne Satterlee, my husband, Britt Reynolds, Chris Craft, Pam & Mike Cully, Pat Alley, Ginger King and Colleen Nash Becht, wife of board member Eddie Becht.

Reading Michael’s article I realized that through Main Street my life has truly been enriched. I’ve had the pleasure of spending time with some of St. Lucie County’s most beautiful people and working on projects that make a difference in all our lives.

If you haven’t volunteered with Main Street I encourage you to come on out and join us. We’re fun and quirky and working to promote a great cause, the continued revitalization of our own community.

Congratulations Main Street – You’re an awesome group!

Thank you Michael Goforth, not just for recognizing the contributions these guys make, but for reminding me of how lucky I am to be surrounded by wonderful people.
Publix: Where Shopping is a Pleasure
by Pam Gillette

Publix Super Markets was founded in 1930 and is the largest and fastest-growing employee-owned supermarket chain in the United States. Publix and their associates excel in community involvement, volunteerism and a commitment to their market area and beyond.

Publix annually supports five organizations in companywide campaigns: Special Olympics, March of Dimes, Children’s Miracle Network, United Way and Food for All. But what most people don’t know is that Publix is also very active locally in St. Lucie County. They are big supporters of Main Street Fort Pierce, the Sunrise Theatre and our local United Way.

Publix Sabal Palm and Main Street Fort Pierce Inc. have had a great partnership for many years. From the Centennial Celebration in 2001 to our Fall Beer and Wine Tasting, November 16, 2007, Publix has been here to help the Downtown Community and the Main Street organization. Tim Maloney is the manager of the Publix Sabal Palm. Tim was born in the Keys and started with Publix when he was 18 years old. After 26 years with the company, Tim still believes it is the best company to work for. He says “Partnerships are important to Publix and one of the best partnerships that Publix has is their
partnership with Boar’s Head products.”

During the 2007 Fall Beer and Wine Tasting, Tim proudly introduced Frank Flora with Boar’s Head. Frank has worked for Boar’s Head for the past 10 years. He is originally from New York, but calls Florida his home. He grew up in Coral Springs and went to FSU. Frank agrees with Tim that partnerships are important. He says that “Publix put Boar’s Head on the map and now they are an exclusive product of Publix.” Main Street was happy to have Boar’s Head at our wine tasting.

Publix and Tim continue to support Main Street by encouraging all employees to attend Friday Fest, the Sandy Shoes Festival and all Downtown Activities. He feels that he has the best relationships and loyal associates. With over 200 employees at the Sabal Palm store alone, Publix continues to be a top company in our area, as well as being the only company nationwide that has been on the top 100 companies list for the last 10 years straight.

Publix: Where Shopping is a Pleasure and where their commitment to supporting our community is number one. Main Street Fort Pierce is proud of their association with Publix and we look forward to our continuing partnership and support of Downtown Fort Pierce.
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Across from Gator Trace golf course
Call Larry 772-359-0360
Greetings and Happy New Year! It’s that time for all of us to make New Year’s resolutions and if you haven’t come up with a good one yet then I have a suggestion for you. Why not resolve to save energy? Not only will saving energy help the planet by using less fuel or water, but saving energy will reduce your utility bill, too.

Since we reside in warm and sunny Florida, it means that most of us run the air conditioning a lot. Even in the winter months, the outside temperature can get as high as 80° or more. To stay comfortable, most people keep their thermostat between 72° and 74°. Unfortunately, most of the electric use in a home is from using air conditioning. This year, why not resolve to keep the thermostat turned 2° higher than you normally would? For example, when you are home, keep the thermostat at 76° instead of 74°. And, can you resolve to always turn the thermostat to a higher setting (to at least 80°) when you leave the house?

Appliances and lighting also use large amounts of energy in the home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, if every American home replaced their five most frequently used light fixtures, or the bulbs in them, with ones that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, we would save close to $8 billion each year in energy costs, and together we would prevent the greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from nearly 10 million cars. Why not resolve to change at least one light bulb in your home from the typical incandescent to a compact fluorescent bulb?

Now that we are in a serious drought and are under mandatory water restrictions, it not only makes sense to conserve water, but it is the law. Can you resolve to take a power shower? A power shower is a short, five-minute shower that uses about 12.5 gallons of water. Since the average shower can use up to 25 gallons of water, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, you will be on your way to saving half that amount. And if you install a water efficient showerhead, you’ll conserve even more. For the truly committed saver, consider the occasional “military” shower: turn the shower on to get wet and then turn off when you soap up, then back on while you rinse.

These are just a few ideas for New Year’s Resolutions that you can try that will save you money and will help the planet. For more information on energy saving tips, go to www.fpua.com.
Downtown Heroes – Sights and Sounds Volunteers

by Pam Gillette

As an event organizer, it takes many people and organizations to put on an event.

On Sunday, December 2, 2007, I had the pleasure of working with a number of these organizations to put on the biggest and best holiday parade in the City of Fort Pierce. All day, I kept saying to family and friends that things were running so smooth and I just kept waiting for some crisis to occur and it never happened.

Looking back over the day’s event, I know now why things went so smoothly. It has to do with the level of the Main Street Fort Pierce volunteers and the City of Fort Pierce never ending support. So my thanks goes out to the following for making the 19th Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Festival and Parade such a huge success:

Gene Sereg – St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Department & Main Street Board Member. Gene Sereg started the Sights and Sounds on Second 19 years ago. From the beginning he has been the rock of this event. Gene is looking forward to next year as Main Street kicks off their 20th year as a Main Street City and the 20th year of the parade. Look for Gene as Grand Marshall next year!

Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis. Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis has been volunteering their club’s support and manpower to organize and oversee the parade for the last 10 years. Tom Knott and Patty Reynolds, along with many club members, made this year’s parade the biggest and best with 72 entries.

Common Ground Vineyard Church. Common Ground Vineyard Church has been holding a Sunday morning church service before the festival in the intersection of Orange Avenue and Second Street for the past 10 years. Common Ground is a big supporter of Main Street. They participate in Sights and Sounds and are also at Friday Fest each month with a children’s activity and promoting their ministry. Common Ground has also provided the sound for our community entertainment during the festival.

Thank you Kevin Smothers for volunteering at the event all day to operate the sound equipment!

Sponsors: Bank United, Clear Channel Radio, H & R Block, Ocean Chiropractic, National City Bank, Reliable Poly Johns, Scripps of the Treasure Coast.

Main Street is proud of our sponsors. Through our sponsors Main Street can continue to keep the Sights and Sounds on Second Festival and Parade a free community event for all citizens to enjoy and participate in on the Treasure Coast. Main Street Fort Pierce thanks our sponsors for the support of this festival.

Main Street Board of Directors. Main Street Fort Pierce has the best Board of Directors!

City of Fort Pierce – Public Works Department. YOU ARE THE BEST!

City of Fort Pierce – City Clerk’s Office

City of Fort Pierce Police

St. Lucie County Fire District. Santa thanks you for the ride.

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. Santa again thanks you for the ride in the parade.

Boy Scout Troop 450

Community Entertainment

Southside Baptist Church

Christian Band – “Broken”

Star City Dance Academy

Girls of Valor Community Choir of St. Lucie County “Jerrie”

Thanks to the judges of the parade, whose names will remain anonymous in case you don’t like the parade results. You know who you are and we appreciate your time. Now the winners of the 19th Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Festival and Parade...
... and Winners!

1st Place Float — Downtown Business Association
2nd Place Float — Fully Involved Farms
3rd Place Float — St. Andrews Episcopal Church
3rd Place Float — Humane Society of St. Lucie County

1st Place Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float) — Treasure Coast Jeep Club
2nd Place Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float) — Capella Trail Blazers
3rd Place Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float) — Law Office of Hugo J. Concha
3rd Place Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float) — Treasure Coast Vintage Car Club

Continued on page 22...
1st Place Equestrian Group — Time Chasers 4-H Club
2nd Place Equestrian Group — Capella Trail Blazers
3rd Place Equestrian Group — Freedom Riders 4-H Club

1st Place Best Music Performance/Marching Band — St Anastasia Royal Ram Band
2nd Place Best Music Performance/Marching Band — Girl Scout Council of Palm Glades
3rd Place Best Music Performance/Marching Band — Star City Dance Academy

1st Place Girl Scout/Brownie Group — Girl Scout Council of Palm Glades
2nd Place Girl Scout/Brownie Group — St Anastasia Girl Scout Troops 485 & 540

1st Place Boy Scout/Cub Scout Group — Cub Scout Pack 450
2nd Place Boy Scout/Cub Scout Group — Cub Scout Pack 405
3rd Place Boy Scout/Cub Scout Group — Treasure Coast District Scouts
1st Place Best Dance/ Cheer Group — Star City Dance Academy
1st Place Best Governmental/Public Agency Entry — Humane Society of St. Lucie County
2nd Place Best Governmental/Public Agency Entry — Fort Pierce Utilities Authority: Santa
3rd Place Best Governmental/Public Agency Entry — Re-Elect Bob Benton

1st Place Best Commercial Entry — Yates & Mancini, LLC
2nd Place Best Commercial Entry — The Stone Family
3rd Place Best Commercial Entry — Sunrise Tractor
3rd Place Best Commercial Entry — Freddie the Locksmith

1st Place Best St. Lucie School Entry — Fort Pierce Westwood FFA
2nd Place Best St. Lucie School Entry — PACE Center for Girls
3rd Place Best St. Lucie School Entry — St. Anastasia Royal Ram Band

1st Place Best Decorated Downtown Business Window — Chaney’s House of Flowers
2nd Place Best Decorated Downtown Business Window — Beads & Baubles
3rd Place Best Decorated Downtown Business Window — Office Products & Services
Fossilized flowers trace the interconnection of humans and flowering plants to our earliest recorded history. Flowers bridge the gap between generations, cultures and time. They are found in almost every art form in every country of the world.

In England during the Victorian era, the language of flowers was as important to people as being appropriately dressed for a social occasion. Today we use flowers to express our feelings, beautify our homes and offices and commemorate important occasions.

Chaney’s has been helping the residents of St. Lucie County do just that for longer than most of us can remember. As they wrap up their 70th Anniversary year let’s take a look back at where they’ve been.

Jane Chaney opened Chaney’s House O’ Flowers on May 1st 1937. She was the wife of Marcus Chaney, a local accountant and employee of the State Road Department. An independent spirit, Jane was an active business woman in the days when businesses were more often owned by men than women. Chaney’s became the place to go to pick up a bunch of flowers for your sweetheart or a corsage for the high school dance. Browse through the photo albums of area residents and you’re sure to find arrangements made by Chaney’s celebrating the milestones in their lives.

Long before the shopping malls coined the phrase “anchor store” Chaney’s became and remained a true anchor in the downtown business district. In the early 1950’s they expanded to include a beach shop at Shamrock Village, and while they’ve had a few changes in their address over the years, they’ve never left their 2nd street roots.

Starting out in a frame building just north of Avenue A on 2nd Street, their earliest City Directory listing is at 207...
N. 2nd in 1947. In 1966 they are listed at 119 South 2nd Street. Jane's business flourished for nearly 40 years until she sold it to Cal Foist in the early 1970's. Cal ran the company until 1979 when he sold it to Ed and Betty Dunford. In 1983 Betty and Ivan Parriott became the owners of Chaney's and called 101 N. 2nd street home before one more address change brought them to the present location.

The current owner Jill Powers bought the business May 1st 2006. Today you can enjoy the seasonal window displays along with the warm and inviting interior at 139 N. 2nd Street.

With exciting renovations and a look to the future, Jill and her staff have really enhanced the community and truly enjoy carrying on a tradition that began 70 years ago. Stop by and say hello, and while you're there pick up a bouquet. Don't wait for an occasion; “Just Because” is the best reason to celebrate.
Soul Rebel at the First Friday Fest of 2008
by M. Suarez

“I’m a rebel, soul rebel
I’m a capturer, soul adventurer”
Bob Marley, Soul Rebel

Soul Rebel is a perfect name to describe a band whose diverse range of music is infused with the roots of soul. This quartet, a favorite on the Treasure Coast music scene, brings together four unique individuals whose music defies categorization. With an uncanny knack to feel the pulse of their audience, they adapt their song lists from their extensive repertoire of rhythm and blues, rock and roll, country, and island. The common denominator is their dance oriented groove established by the rhythm section of drummer Desi Kane, guitarist Kevin Peck, and bassist Garry Nutt and complemented by keyboardist Jimmy Autin. Soul Rebel is all about the groove.

Desi Kane, one of the founding members of the band, has the reputation of being the only stand up drummer, lead vocalist, and harmonica player. You have to see it to believe it. The “old man” of the group, he has been a working musician for 40 years. Desi wants to dance you with your favorite popular tunes, but don’t be fooled. He has a catalogue of original albums that are just waiting to be heard. Visit www.desikane.com to hear a sampling and then click on his My Space link for more. Desi thanks, “my loving wife Marilyn, my biggest fan and manager, because without her Soul Rebel would not exist.”

The other founding member, guitarist Kevin Peck, a true Floridian, was born and raised here in our own backyard. His interest in guitar started at the age of seven. Growing up, he enjoyed listening to R&B, The Allman Brothers, and Eagles as well as Country. He has played with many different bands in the area over the last twenty-five years. He finds playing guitar to be a great balance between work and play. Kevin plans to keep on playing ‘til the day he dies and will go out with a bang and a twang!

Garry Nutt has spent years building an esteemed career as a bassist who can do it all. He was born in England and learned to play drums as a child, but soon turned to guitar. Upon realizing there were so many guitar players around, he decided to move to the bass as his instrument of choice. He was signed to a record deal with the band Tangier and spent several years with them. He has also toured extensively with other groups, among them Chubby Checker, Cinderella and the southern rock band Laidlaw, having appeared as the bassist on their album and locally in the original SWS and Crossbone. Garry loves fishing, dogs, collectibles and Ebaying ... and he has the hottest collection of basses around. Check out his My Space page.

A real live Cajun from the Louisiana bayou country, keyboardist Jimmy Autin has been playing rock and roll music since he first saw the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show. Having moved to the Treasure Coast in 1984, he’s since been actively involved in the local music scene. He was a founding member of the long running Barracuda R&B band, and has played with many different local groups over the years. The Rhythm Doctors band, consisting of several area physicians, was a project he had a lot of fun with. He is particularly fond of musical theater and has played in the orchestra in several live productions of Evita, Tommy, the Rock Opera, and Jesus Christ Superstar.

At Friday Fest, Soul Rebel will be performing originals from their CD Waveland which will be available for sale at the concert. Reflective of the band, the tracks are diverse and encompass many music styles — truly original.

Visit www.soulrebelband.com to see a calendar of other appearances at local hot spots Archie’s Seabreeze, 22 Fisherman’s Wharf, Mother Tucker’s, and The Tiki Bar of Ft. Pierce.

Soul Rebel is excited about starting off the New Year at the first Friday Fest of the year. Make a resolution to join Soul Rebel at Main Street Ft. Pierce’s Friday Fest on January 4, 2008.
Premier Events at the Sunrise Theatre

Willie Nelson Gala tickets are still available to one of the hottest performances in town. Willie Nelson brings his rockin’ attitude and no-nonsense show to the Sunrise Theatre on Friday, January 11, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. Be part of the action by purchasing your $250 per person ticket which includes cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and dinner, a premium orchestra seat to the Willie Nelson concert, and a post-concert coffee and dessert reception. You won’t want to miss this!

If you can’t make the Gala, how about a round of golf? The Inaugural Sunrise Theatre and Indian River Club Golf Tournament benefitting the Sunrise Theatre Foundation’s Education and Outreach program is scheduled for Monday, February 18, 2008 at 12:30 p.m. Play on the 6824 yard, par 72, 18-hole championship golf course is limited to the first 25 foursomes to register (4 person scramble). Cost per player is $125 and includes gourmet buffet lunch, 18 holes of golf, cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and silent auction.

For more information on either event, please contact Ginger King at the Sunrise Theatre (772) 461-4884, ext. 306.
St. Lucie County Schools Student Performances at Sunrise Theatre

Realizing the appreciation for cultural arts and education begins at an early age, the Sunrise Theatre is proud to present two amazing productions for the students of St. Lucie County. Peru Negro: The Cultural Ambassadors of Black Peru will be presented on Wednesday, February 20, at 10:00 a.m. and the second production African Footprint will be presented on Thursday, March 13, at 10:00 a.m. These are the first shows offered as part of the Sunrise Theatre Foundation's Education and Outreach Program.

The two events are being coordinated with Karlheinz Haas, Director of Curriculum & School Improvement, for St. Lucie County Public Schools. If you are a teacher with the St. Lucie County Public Schools, contact Mr. Haas. For private school and/or parents who home school their children, please contact Ginger King at the Sunrise Theatre, 772-461-4884, ext. 306.

Other opportunities provided to students by the Sunrise Theatre include the Student/Teacher Rush. The performances listed below qualify for a unique purchasing price of $10 the day of the show and one hour before the show. A valid student/teacher ID must be presented at the time of purchase.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band — Jan. 15
Vienna Boys Choir — Jan. 27
The Best of Momix — March 9
Natalie MacMaster — March 14
Cirque Odyssey — March 16
Ballet Hispanico — April 2

Sunrise Theatre Performances

January 2008
Willie Nelson, Friday, January 11
Four Bitchin’ Babes, Saturday, January 12
Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Tuesday, January 15
Robin Trower, Wednesday, January 16
D. L. Hughley, Sunday, January 20
Doc Grober & the Mudcats, Saturday, January 26
Vienna Boys Choir, Sunday, January 27

February 2008
Journey Unauthorized, Friday, February 1
New Shanghai Circus, Saturday, February 2
Dave Brubeck, Sunday, February 3
The Pink Floyd Experience, Friday, February 8
The Pink Floyd Experience, Saturday, February 9
Jay & The Americans and The Buckinghams, Thursday, February 14
The Producers, Friday, February 15
James & The Giant Peach, Saturday, February 16
Peru Negro, Wednesday, February 20
Gordon Lightfoot, Tuesday, February 26

For more information, visit www.sunrisetheatre.com or call (772) 461-4775.
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Improvements Continue Downtown and Throughout Fort Pierce

by John Culverhouse

Each passing year opens a new chapter in the beautification of Fort Pierce. The upcoming 2008 year promises to be no different.

Downtown has many significant projects in the works, from the new Clerk of Court Building to the Renaissance on the River, both set to open in early 2008.

Other projects include the Downtown parking garage, which is on schedule and is slated to be finished by the end of January. The parking garage’s 475 spaces will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be free and open to the public, with no reserved parking spaces for City Hall staff. Orange Avenue, previously closed adjacent to City Hall, has been reopened to traffic for the duration of the project.

Plans are moving forward for the Downtown hotel that will sit on the old J.C. Penny site. Final details of the site development and surrounding retail environment were discussed at a public workshop at City Hall in December. The Indian River Development Group, led by architect and city planner Armando Montero, will construct the project.

The city is planning to enhance Veteran’s Park on Indian River Drive. The Master Plan is being modified, but plans include veteran’s memorials and other park improvements.

As our city grows and the downtown boundary is pushed further west, great things are happening to blend the area together. The Citrus Avenue Professional Building located at Seventh and Citrus recently opened for business, and the Federal Building and United States Courthouse will be located on the southwest corner of U.S. 1 and Orange Avenue.

Other projects in that sector include the renovation of the historic St. Anastasia School building on Orange Avenue. This project, according to the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, will be done in phases, and as they

Continued on page 33 ...
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determine what the building will be used for, they will make sure it fits in well with the general redevelopment of the entire neighborhood. Currently, the roof is being replaced and other repairs are being made resulting from damage from the 2004 hurricanes. Once the entire project is complete, it will serve as an “inspiration and partner for the rebirth of the tenth street corridor, anchored on the north by the Moore’s Creek project and on the south by St. Anastasia,” according to Jon Ward, director of the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency.

The construction doesn’t stop with buildings – the streets are looking better also. Seventh Street is nearing the completion of its facelift, and area businesses, homeowners and motorists will be treated to more aesthetically pleasing underground utilities, decorative lampposts, curbs and sidewalks. Similar facelifts are planned for Tenth and Thirteenth Streets — the streets leading up to the old St. Anastasia building.

In the Lincoln Park Main Street area, major construction will begin later this year on the Moore’s Creek Linear Park. All permits have been issued, according to the Fort Pierce Engineering Department, and two grant applications are currently under review by State and Federal agencies. Construction can’t begin until the grants are approved, which won’t be until April or May, but perhaps more pressing, is that construction can’t begin between Tenth and Fifteenth Streets until the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority abandons the high-pressure gas main when they decommission the H.D. King Power Plant in May.

Other projects in the Lincoln Park Main Street area include the Betts Building, the Lincoln Theatre and Pioneer Park, which is an affordable housing initiative on North 29th Street. The first three homes have been completed and another four are under construction.

When completed at the end of 2008, Pioneer Park will have 20 new owner-occupied single-family homes.

Within walking distance to downtown are our glorious beaches that attract so many from all over the country. Just east of the South Bridge is county-run Causeway Park. The City of Fort Pierce is negotiating with the County for a potential transfer of the park to the City of Fort Pierce, as the City plans to make capital investments toward the park’s improvement. Long-term upgrades include design improvements and the addition of public restrooms.

East of Causeway Park is the Jetty Park and the Inlet Park which are situated at Fort Pierce’s oceanfront, on the south side of Fort Pierce Inlet. The parks are still under design review and they are still taking comments from staff, elected officials and the public.

The new restrooms at Jetty Park are under construction and almost complete. Additional plans include major design improvements, including the repositioning of the entire road and parking system at the South Jetty so that the space can be better used by everyone who enjoys the park. A blast from the past, so to speak, will be the repositioning of the old watchtower that used to stand at the oceanfront, which will be returning to its original location. Many may remember the watchtower, and that it was used by the military as a lookout for German submarines during World War II.

Ward says that the development of these projects demonstrates the City Commission’s commitment to maintain public access to our waterfront.

“The City of Fort Pierce has water frontage that is rarely duplicated by any other city in South Florida,” he said. “The Commission, through the funding of the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, continues to develop high quality outdoor public spaces and is improving the public’s experience by designing improvements to not only these three parks, but also Veteran’s Memorial Park and the public acreage that will become available when the downtown H.D. King Power Plant comes off-line in 2008.”
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Fort Pierce Coffee With The Mayor

Mayor Bob Bucklew invites you to join him for coffee, community news, special announcements, and more.

Friday, January 18, 2008 8:00AM
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We hear so much about undocumented foreigners, what about legally coming to America to work.

Gloria Roa Bodin, Esq. has been practicing immigration and citizenship law for more than 25 years. She recently opened an office at 215 N 2nd St. and is starting a new concept in legal low cost representation (wills, corporations, etc) under the name Law and Coffee.

Frequently asked questions about work visas:

**QUESTION:** I have a son, Bruno, from a previous marriage living with my former husband in Germany. He has a Masters in Business Administration. Can he enter on his B-2 tourist visa and stay?

**Answer:** Foreign nationals who enter the United States on a tourist visa must intend to just visit. If while visiting, Bruno is offered a job, he is eligible to change his status to a work visa. The Immigration Act is comprised of two systems: temporary visas and permanent (green card) visas. The following are temporary work visas: H-1b1, Professional, H-3 Trainee, H-2 A and B (agricultural and seasonal workers), J-1 visitor exchange program, Q cultural exchange and R religious worker.

**QUESTION:** I own a millwork factory in P.S. Lucie. We build luxury cabinets for million dollar homes. I want to hire a fine carpenter. He entered on a tourist visa and overstayed.

**Answer:** There are millions of overstays in the United States. Before Congress can pass the comprehensive reform bill on immigration, it is working on securing our borders against illegal entrants, criminals, smugglers and terrorists. A tourist who overstays more than 181 days after the expiration of his legal stay will be barred from re-entering for three to ten years. There is no work visa for your prospective carpenter. If he enters into a good faith marriage with a U.S. citizen or Cuban lawful resident (CU 6), he can apply for lawful permanent residency (green card).

**QUESTION:** I have a popular restaurant in Stuart on a waterway that I want to sell. It grosses 2 million per annum and has 15 employees. My business broker has brought me a contract from a wealthy British restaurateur, Mr. Snowden, who wants to semi-retire to Florida. Mr. Snowden is concerned about buying my restaurant without assurances that he can remain in the United States to manage his investment.

**Answer:** He is eligible to apply for: (a) E-2 Treaty Investor visa if he can demonstrate he is making a substantial investment in an ongoing or new business; (b) L-1/EB-1 visa, Intra-Company Transfer of executive or manager from abroad. Mr. Snowden's UK company is the parent company of a US subsidiary and Mr. Snowden can be transferred to the US as an executive; (c) Millionaire Visa-Mr. Snowden must invest a million dollars and have the potential of hiring ten workers.
January - A Spectacular Beginning at the Manatee Center

January is always an exciting month for the Manatee Center. With manatee migration fully underway, the Manatee Center will be overflowing with eager students anticipating the chance to glimpse a manatee in Moore's Creek. They fill the exhibit hall with excited chatter as they enjoy lessons, informative exhibits and view the variety of sea life contained in our aquariums. We treasure these opportunities to educate our children about the nature and habitats of the Treasure Coast.

The volunteers and staff at the Manatee Center are busily preparing for upcoming events in January. In addition to our exciting monthly activities, we are putting the final touches on several new exhibits providing important information and new educational experiences for visitors. Indian River Lagoon Boat Tours continue to fill with visitors wanting a first hand look at the animals and plants that inhabit the Indian River Lagoon, one of the most diverse estuaries in the United States. “Kayaking the Treasure Coast” will be the topic for the Brown Bag Lunch Lecture scheduled on January 11th. Our monthly volunteer meeting is on Monday, January 14th at 11:00 am. If you are interested in volunteering at the Manatee Center, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet other volunteers and find out what the Center is all about. On Saturday, January 26th, we will participate in the Party in the Park celebration held at the Fort Pierce Inlet State Park. There is also a volunteer reward trip scheduled for Monday, January 28th. Whew, it is shaping up to be a very active new year!

Also in January is the Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation’s 4th Annual Evening of Jazz! On Saturday, January 19th, the stunning home of Dan and Sue Dannahower will be host to the sultry sounds of Bobby and the Blisters as they perform live. Enjoy dancing under the stars or just relax with friends as you enjoy the entertainment, luscious food and divine cocktails. For additional information call 772-466-1600, extension 3071. Tickets are limited, so reserve yours today!

As you can see, the Manatee Center’s 12th season continues with abundant activities and events. We invite you to visit to see our new displays, browse the Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop to find unique nature-related gifts and attend one of our educational programs or events. Manatee Center hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10-5 and Sunday, 12-4. Indian River Lagoon Boat Tours depart daily Tuesday through Saturday at 1 pm. Reservations are highly suggested, please call 772-460-6445. For additional information, you can call the Center at 772-466-1600, ext. 3333, or visit our website at manateecenter.com. The online gift shop can be found at manateegiftsgalore.com. See you at the Center!
Winter Fishing

by Dan Dannahower

We've already experienced several nice “cool” snaps. For the next several months south Florida will be in our winter weather pattern. Strong cold fronts pushed by large and very cold arctic air masses can roll through as often as once a week and occasionally even more often. These systems which bring ice and snow to the northern parts of our country maintain enough energy to push on through our state and into the Caribbean, bringing us overcast skies, blustery winds and rain and much cooler temperatures. A few days after the front things generally settle down and we have beautiful clear cool days until the next system starts the cycle anew. This pattern continues through March or April when the fronts begin to have less energy and we transition to our great spring weather of clear calm days and pleasant temperatures.

Our changing winter weather creates a number of pleasant and not so pleasant days to be out on the water. Offshore fishing in the ocean can be at its best for game fish like kingfish, cobia, wahoo, etc. The prime sailfish season reaches its peak and the Treasure Coast is known as a world class sailfishing venue. Bottom fishing offshore for grouper, snapper, etc. can be off and on due to changing temperatures, pressures and water clarity. Your best bet is to check with local marinas and tackle shops for up to date info on what’s biting and where. The Atlantic in winter tends to be rougher and can be downright dangerous with big waves and chop whipped up by those frontal winds. Be sure and get a good weather briefing (a number of good websites are available) and be ready change your plans if need be.

Fishing the river and inshore waters also has good and not so good days, again due to frequently changing temperatures, pressures and surface conditions. Cool snaps often slow the bite for game fish like Snook. Those choppy, squally days of a frontal passage sometimes create a great trout bite. You may need a sweater and rain gear but the results may be worth it. Again, your local tackle shops are the best bet for info on when and where to go.

Bottom line: for the next several months our weather will probably change frequently with lots of nice days mixed with short periods of windy rainy cold fronts moving through. Fishing will be very good at times and not so good at others. Buy a little bait or tackle at our local shops and get a good briefing to help improve your chances at boating a few big ones. If fishing those frontal days be prepared for cold and rain and don't be afraid to cancel if things get worse or you're not completely comfortable with your abilities. Be safe and have fun! Good luck and good fishing.

Mark Dickerson with a nice snapper caught off Ft Pierce.
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