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So we live, work and play in a city well over 100 years old filled with beautiful historic architecture, wonderful tree-lined streets and neighborhoods, a downtown that is located on the water with unique shopping and dining opportunities, and the ocean just a short distance away. Local residents and visitors may take this for granted but to other residents on the Treasure Coast, Fort Pierce is being looked upon in a whole new light.

Around ten years ago, the City of Fort Pierce made a concerted effort to promote the City’s changing appearance to surrounding counties. The new look that took hold in Fort Pierce was from significant public reinvestment, new events, retail & dining venues and new development. Strategic advertising resulted in the City’s new found attention. With television commercials, paid advertising and new events, Fort Pierce is being noticed on the Treasure Coast. We are fortunate to have a hometown based publica-

Indian River Magazine, that continually provides positive, interesting articles about our area. In just the last few months, Channel 10 in Vero Beach asked the City to be a monthly guest to inform their audience in Indian River County on current events in Fort Pierce, and Stuart Magazine featured the City’s revitalization efforts and the Sunrise Theatre’s impact on the rebirth last year.

Former visitors and residents return to a find Fort Pierce in the middle of a renaissance. Once they see the impressive results of the City’s renovation, some are so pleased that decide to once again make Fort Pierce their home.

In the upcoming year, let’s keep our positive momentum going and have a Happy New Year!
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WEEKLY EVENTS

**Friday, January 2:** Friday Fest — 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org

**Friday, January 16:** Coffee with the Mayor — 8:00 a.m. Historic City Hall; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org

**Friday, January 30:** Classic Car Cruise-In — 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080, www.fortpierce-fl.com

**Fort Pierce Bike Night** — Thursdays, 6 to 9:30 p.m.; 2nd Street, Downtown Fort Pierce; Yellowtail Grill, 468-7071.

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

**The Original Tiki Bar** — 461-0880; Music by Pierce Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5124.

**Pierce Community Center; $2 Admission; Fort Fort Pierce Jazz Jams**

**Yellowtail Grill, 468-7071.** 9:30 p.m.; 2nd Street, Downtown Fort Pierce; Fort Pierce Bike Night — Thursdays, 6 to 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north of downtown Fort — Saturdays, Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

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

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

**WELCOME TO MAIN STREET AND DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

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

**Heathcote Herb Society** meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday each month at 9:15 a.m., at Heathcote Botanical Gardens, 210 Savannah Road, Fort Pierce, to maintain the Heathcote Herb Garden and to learn about growing and using herbs in south Florida. Contact Miriam Charles at (772) 336-8047 or e-mail jupiternapa@yahoo.com.

**January 8 to March 10:** Heathcote Kids Winter Garden Session — Thursdays, 4:15 to 5 p.m. One-time $5 registration fee for 10-week session. Develop a sense of place through exploring nature, growing and appreciating plants and food, and learning about sustainability and good stewardship. Math, science, and Florida history are woven into the program.

**Saturday, Jan. 10:** Candlelight Concert in the Gardens “Swing-O-Nine” — presented by Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society and Heathcote Botanical Gardens; $5 – 9 p.m.; $15 ticket, $10 for Heathcote members, children under 12 free (food and drink for sale). Swing in the New Year and the first of four concerts with the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society providing a hot swing band, and Heathcote providing fine wines and food. Bring your own candle, picnic blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy an elegant evening in the Gardens.

**Saturday, Jan. 24:** Candlelight Concert in the Gardens “Dixieland Band Mardi Gras Kick Off” — presented by the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society and Heathcote Botanical Gardens; $5 – 9 p.m.; $15 ticket, $10 for Heathcote members, children under 12 free (food and drink for sale). Kick off the Mardi Gras season with a Dixieland Band, fine wines and the kind of food that made “Nawlins” famous. Bring your own candle, picnic blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy an elegant evening in the Gardens.

**January 7 to 18:** Keeping the Balance: Images of Florida’s Unspoiled Places — For nearly 20 years, award-winning photographer Sean M. Dowie has been photographing Florida’s diverse landscapes and unique wildlife. Dowie is helping to preserve Florida’s hidden treasures. He also owns and operates Windmill Gallery in McIntosh Florida. Visit www.smphotography.com.

**January 16, 17 & 18:** The Art of Living Green — held on the museum’s grounds Saturday & Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A family-friendly celebration featuring workshops, exhibitors, and activities focused on greener living. Carter Oosterhouse, host of HGTV’s Red Hot & Green, will be at the event on Saturday. Saturday evening, the museum will host a private VIP party in the gallery. The Art of Living Green will kick-off on Friday when the museum hosts a symposium with scientists from across the region. Visit theartoflivinggreen.org for more information. Sponsored by Grand Bank & Trust and Integrative Health Strategies.

**January 21 to February 14:** Variations — In art, variations can include technique, materials and subject. The works in this show are all beautiful and striking, but appear to have little in common. They offer the viewer a wide variety of incredible treats for the eye. Artists include Anna Allegra Desio, Ted Ellis, George Paxton, Leslie Swift and Rita Ziegler.

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2009 Downtown Calendar of Events

Main Street Fort Pierce (MS) Events, 772-466-3880
Downtown Business Association (DBA) Events

Weekly Events: Bike Night, every Thursday on 2nd Street, 6 to 9 p.m. For information call Yellow Tail Grill, 772-466-5474.
Farmers Market: every Saturday at Marina Square, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. For information call Bobbi Spencer, 772-940-1145.
Monthly Event: Classic Car Show – 2nd Street; last Friday of each month.

January
January 2: Friday Fest (MS) – Anderson Council
January 14: 2nd Wednesday Artwalk (DBA)
January 16: Coffee with the Mayor (MS), Sponsored by South Florida Management District
January 30: Classic Car Cruise-In (DBA)

February
February 6: Friday Fest (MS), Brad Brock & the Renagades
February 11: 2nd Wednesday Artwalk (DBA)
February 20: Coffee with the Mayor (MS), Sponsored by The Lynmoore
February 27: Classic Car Cruise-In (DBA)

March
March 6: Friday Fest (MS) - Skeezix
March 11: 2nd Wednesday Artwalk (DBA)
March 20: Coffee with the Mayor (MS), Sponsor TBA
March 21: Sandy Shoes Festival (MS)
March 27: Classic Car Cruise-In (DBA)

April
April 3: Friday Fest (MS) – Moon Shadow
April 8: 2nd Wednesday Artwalk (DBA)
April 17: Coffee with the Mayor (MS), Sponsor TBA
April 22, 23, 24: Souvenirs of Downtown - Paint Out (MS)
April 24: Classic Car Cruise-In (DBA)
May
May 1: Friday Fest – Category 5
May 6: Main Street Annual Board Meeting (MS)
May 13: 2nd Wednesday Artwalk (DBA)
May 15: Coffee with the Mayor (MS), Sponsor TBA
May 15: Spring Downtown Wine Tasting (MS)
May 29: Classic Car Cruise-In (DBA)

June
June 5: Friday Fest (MS), Ossie Wright and the Groove Division Band
June 26: Classic Car Cruise-In (DBA)

July
July 3: Friday Fest (MS) - TBA

August
August 7: Friday Fest (MS) - TBA
August 15: Reverse Raffle (MS)
August 28: Classic Car Cruise-In (DBA)

September
September 4: Friday Fest (MS), TBA
September 18: Coffee with the Mayor (MS), Sponsor TBA
September 25: Classic Car Cruise-In (DBA)

October
October 2: Friday Fest (MS) - River Dawgs
October 14: 2nd Wednesday Artwalk (DBA)
October 16: Coffee with the Mayor (MS), Sponsor TBA
October 28: Downtown Ghost Walk (MS)
October 30: Classic Car Cruise-In (DBA)

November
November 6: Friday Fest (MS) – Moon Shadow
November 11: 2nd Wednesday Artwalk (DBA)
November 20: Coffee with the Mayor (MS), Sponsored by
Riverside National Bank
November 20: Arcade Fall Wine Tasting (MS)
November 27: Classic Car Cruise-In (DBA)

December
December 4: Friday Fest (MS) – Storm Rider
December 6: Sights & Sounds Christmas Festival & Parade (MS)
December 9: 2nd Wednesday Artwalk (DBA)
December 18: Coffee with the Mayor (MS), Sponsor TBA

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Marriage is a new beginning, a new chapter, and sometimes even a new book. And the wedding represents the turning of the page. Sometimes a flurry of activities, sometimes a quiet escape but always an event that captures our hearts and memories forever.

Every little girl dreams of her special day, the day she transforms into a princess — her wedding day. She sees the perfect setting, the perfect weather, the gown made just for her and, of course, the perfect man waiting with anticipation to take her hand in marriage.

Well, for Casey Thompson (now Wile) all of her dreams came true! I feel privileged to have been there to witness it. This downtown Fort Pierce wedding was truly spectacular.

According to Casey she knew shortly after Erik proposed that she wanted their union to be held by the beautiful fountains on the Indian River. “I wanted a true downtown wedding because it represents who Erik and I are. We were both born and raised in Fort Pierce and if it hadn’t been for a night out in downtown, we may have never started dating,” said Casey.

However, fate stepped in, the two fell hopelessly in love and wedding dreams began to take shape. “The inspiration for our wedding came so naturally to both of us,” says Casey, “we’ve used so many of the businesses in the past and knew how much the shop owners really care about their customers. But it wasn’t until downtown Fort Pierce held their first bridal walk (hosted by Val from Visions Hairstyling) that I could see all the details come together.”

During the bridal walk, Casey was introduced to the many businesses that would be available to help her. A simple walk through downtown Fort Pierce and everything was within reach; added to the simplicity of location
was the excitement and personal attention to details that you can typically only count on from local, family owned businesses. “From the very beginning of the planning phase all the downtown shop owners were so encouraging and helpful! It quickly became a real community project, which meant the world to my Mom and me.”

Nancy Thompson, the mother-of-the-bride, is still reeling from the day. She said, “I just can’t believe how perfect it all was. Everything came together exactly the way Casey imagined it! I’ll admit now that I was a little worried … I just wanted Casey to have her dream wedding with out any major drama. So, I did all I could and then prayed a lot! Obviously it worked … because the entire evening couldn’t have been better! Everyone did exactly what they were supposed to … I still can’t believe how perfect it was.”

Nancy and Casey both admit, “Even during the rehearsal dinner, held at Cobb’s Landing, which was a beautiful night, we were a little worried about what we may have forgotten!” But the City of Fort Pierce had their backs — permits were pulled, city workers were

Continued on page 10…

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available to assist and together they came through for this young couple. The Public Works Department, FPRA and the City Clerk’s office all did their part to make sure the day went without a single hitch! Meanwhile, TLC Carpet spent the day at historic City Hall, making sure every tile and grout line gleamed! Afterwards, Haupt-Roberts Nursery brought in lush greenery and blooming bushes to enhance the surrounding reception area.

Eunice Bridal Shop, Rosslow’s and Alisari had already done their part providing an array of beautiful clothing, accessories and jewelry choices for the entire Bridal Party. As well, Brush Strokes Gallery & Framing, Karen Kane’s Interiors and Lafferandre Gallery had done theirs, by helping the excited couple pick out their “wish list” and providing the gift registries for the guests to select from and that they offered beautiful, unique items to fit absolutely every budget! I particularly appreciated that.

Trew & Sons, now located on Orange Avenue, made certain the rings were only out sparkled by the sun. And Pip Trew, the owner of Trew & Sons, personally sized the bands to be certain they would glide easily onto the fingers of the bride and groom.

Dermatech Spa had also gotten involved in the festivities by helping relax the anticipating attendants before the big day, with calming facials and encouraging beauty tips. K-Nails provided Casey and her four attendants with beautiful fingernails, mandatory for holding the fresh, white rose floral bouquets made by Chaney’s House of Flowers.

The actual wedding ceremony was held where Casey had imagined, right by the fountains on the Indian River, with the ceremony to commence at 4:00 p.m. The city Marina Square helped coordinate the set up earlier that afternoon with Park’s Rental, and the Fort Pierce library gave them a room for the groomsmen to gather before the ceremony. Pastor Todd Smith, the senior pastor at Common Ground Vineyard Church, was at the downtown Fort Pierce library as well, taking roll call, preventing any last minute jitters and preparing for this traditional, yet unbelievably unique, wedding ceremony. Just across from the pacing men, was the Lincoln Park Academy Orchestra Quartet setting up alongside the Indian River to perform for the mingling guests and prepare for the wedding.

Meanwhile, Main Street Fort Pierce allowed the bride and her entourage to utilize The Platts / Backus House to get ready in. What a blessing that was! It became the hub for all of us to gather and pamper the bride. Lori Hargrave had been at the Backus House since before noon, meticulously
creating hair do’s, up-do’s, curls and whispies for the bride, her attendants and anyone lucky enough to get in her chair. Each creation was as unique as the woman. The make-up artist arrived at noon. Her mission was to ensure fabulous photographs. So, camouflage where necessary, enhance where needed and make absolutely certain that the bride remained gorgeous throughout the entire evening. That was my job, Maria Starratt, and I loved every minute of it. I was also the candid photographer, therefore as a photographer I know what to be attentive to for the prettiest pictures.

At 3:55 p.m., the Fort Pierce trolley arrived at the Backus House and transported the bridal party to the ceremony. They all stayed in the air-conditioned trolley, watching, while guests were being seated and groomsmen were taking their places. At 4:00 sharp the quartet began to play the processional, the crowd grew quiet and the first of the four attendants began to walk down the aisle. It was picture perfect.

But the best was yet to come as the Wedding March began, the audience stood, and then Casey appeared on her father’s arm. As she began to walk towards Erik it was obvious to everyone the moment they finally saw one another because a flood of love engulfed downtown Fort Pierce. It was truly breathtaking.

The ceremony was personal, traditional and fun all rolled up in one. On more than one occasion tissues were passed and laughter was shared. It was a magical experience and a memory-making day.

There to capture the memories was Jon Pine Photography. Jon was the wedding photographer and he did a masterful job with the posed portraits.

Immediately following the ceremony, guests were transported by the trolley to historic City Hall. While the guests were waiting for the arrival of the wedding party, they were treated to fabulous appetizers. Paragon Entertainment provided the music while friends mingled and the time flew by. After the arrival and announcements of the newly married couple, dinner was served. Café La Ronde gifted the couple with an entrée (shrimp scampi) from their restaurant to go along with the magnificent buffet.

The evening progressed with continued excitement dancing, champagne toasts and happy tears. The father/daughter dance had the whole room in tears and the Electric Slide had everyone doubled over in laughter! From the men’s serenade to the throwing of the bouquet, the evening was great.

It was the perfect downtown Fort Pierce wedding experience. Thank you Casey & Erik for putting your faith in all of us in downtown. Your special day will never be forgotten.
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“Go Green” is now a national theme, and “how to” is the focus of the A.E. Backus Museum's The Art of Living Green Festival on Saturday, January 17th and Sunday, January 18th, 2009.

The Backus Museum’s plans are shaping up to make this 1st Green Festival on the Treasure Coast an enjoyable family-friendly celebration with workshops, exhibitors, food, and activities focused on greener living.

“Our goal is to create an event that is multifaceted,” explains Pam Cully. “A place for serious discussion…but we also want to create an event that is both educational and fun.”

The main festival begins on Saturday and runs through Sunday. Gates open each day at 10 a.m. and festival ends until 4 p.m. Admission is $10 per person and tickets are good for both days.

“There will be 14 local and national speakers during the weekend event,” festival organizer, Robin Dannahower, reports “along with exhibitors, demonstrations, and a food vendor who will be selling healthy foods.” Speakers will present in the amphitheatre.

On Saturday, January 17th, Carter Oosterhouse, Home and Garden Television’s host of Carter Can and Red Hot & Green, will be one of the featured afternoon speakers, helping participants live greener. Oosterhouse first gained national fame as a carpenter on the TLC series, Trading Spaces.

Oosterhouse is a frequent contributor on new green products and their applications for TODAY on NBC. He will speak at 2:00 PM about the importance of using green building materials, give tips about making your home more green, and share his experiences working with homeowners. There will be a time for public questions at the end and he also plans to have time to sign autographs.

Another the planned speakers will be Kandi Phillips, a certified Decorator, Organizer, and Feng Shui consultant.

Continued on page 15 …
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Thursday, January 15, 2009
Fort Pierce Academy of Town Designs, Orange Avenue, Fort Pierce
CEU courses on Green Building Design

Friday, January 16, 2009
Indian River State College, Fort Pierce Campus, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Symposium
Report on the Environmental Condition of The Treasure Coast, Open To Public: Tickets $10

Saturday, January 17, 2009
A. E. Backus Gallery and Museum, Veterans Park, Fort Pierce, FL
Exhibitors 10:00 am. - 4:00 p.m.
Amphitheatre, Fort Pierce, FL, Speakers & Demonstrations 11:00 am - 2:00 p.m.
Carter Oosterhouse 2:00-3:00 p.m.; Autographs 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Tickets for the daytime festival: $10 per person (good for both Saturday & Sunday)

Saturday Evening, January 17, 2009
A. E. Backus Gallery & Museum VIP Party
Organic Food & Organic Wine Tasting, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Music by Acute Affliction
Tickets sold separately: $50 per person

Sunday, January 18, 2009
A. E. Backus Gallery and Museum, Veterans Park, Fort Pierce, FL
Exhibitors 10:00 am. - 4:00 p.m.
Amphitheatre, Fort Pierce, FL
Speakers and Demonstrations 11:00 am. - 3:00 p.m.
Tickets: $10 per person

…continued from page 13

“January is National Get Organized Month,” explains Phillips, “Getting organized is one of the top 5 New Year’s Resolutions and it is perfect time to take control.”

Phillips, the founder of Awaken Your Space, LLC, will offer decorating and organizing tips and products that are more sustainable and create clutter-free, healthy living environments within your home and office.

After all, “Our homes are our sanctuaries, where we build health and happiness,” says Phillips.

On Saturday, from 5 to 7 p.m., the museum will host a special VIP party in the gallery. Carter Oosterhouse will attend the party to meet and greet guests. The party will feature selected organic food and organic wine tasting. Tickets for the Saturday evening VIP party are $50 per person and are limited.

For tickets and more information on the events go to www.thearchinggreen.org or by stopping in at the A. E. Backus Gallery & Museum, 500 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, Wednesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone number 772-465-0630.
“Memories of Christmas Past”
20th Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Christmas Festival and Parade

by Pam Gillette

With picture perfect weather — okay, it was a little chilly for some of us Floridians — Main Street Fort Pierce kicked off the 20th Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Festival and Parade, sponsored by National City Bank, at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7, 2008.

Before the festival began, Common Ground Vineyard Church held a Sunday morning church service at the intersection of Orange Avenue and Second Street. Pastor Todd and his congregation have been there to bless our festival and support Main Street for the past 11 years. We are continually grateful to Common Ground for their support and also for providing the sound for our community entertainment during the festival.

The festival began with entertainment provided by the Boys and Girls Club Showtime Boyz & SOS Girls, followed by Star City Dance Academy and then the Fort Pierce Magnet School of the Arts Warrior Corps Drum Line & Percussion Ensemble. During the festival, hundreds of people mingled through the streets listening to the entertainment, visiting the children’s activities, shopping in downtown businesses and through arts and crafts vendors, and drinking hot chocolate and coffee to keep warm. Each person was eagerly waiting the starting of the 20th Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Parade.

While spectators arrived and waited for the parade to begin, The Lincoln Park Academy Jazz Ensemble, lead by director Jason J. Albert, entertained the crowd at the Roundabout at the corner of Indian River Drive and Avenue A. The Jazz ensemble played before the parade and then after the tree lighting with an assortment of Jazz and Christmas music.

Finally the moment had arrived and the 20th Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Parade began. This year theme was “Memories of Christmas Past” and there were 58 entries to the parade. Main Street Fort Pierce was proud to have Gene Sereg, Board Member and original parade organizer as this year’s Grand Marshall and Tom Kindred as MC. Gene Sereg and Tom Kindred started the Sights and Sounds on Second 20 years ago and have enjoyed being part of this fantastic event.

Joining Gene again this year is the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis. They have been volunteering their clubs support and manpower to organize and over see the parade for the last 11 years. Tom Knott and Patty Reynolds, veterans of the parade, along with newcomer Kiwanis President Laurie Lisk and many club members, made this year’s parade a memorable experience.

At the conclusion of the parade, Mayor Bob Benton and Santa counted down and lit the Christmas tree in the roundabout followed by the Holiday Lights Spectacular.

Main Street Fort Pierce would like to thank the many volunteers, sponsors and participants that make this day such a special event. So here’s to you Fort Pierce!

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20th ANNUAL SIGHTS & SOUNDS PARADE WINNERS
Fort Pierce – December 7, 2008 – The 20th Annual Sights & Sounds Parade winners are:

1st Place Float – Orchid Island Juice Company
2nd Place Float – Common Ground Vineyard Church
3rd Place Float – Paul Jacquin & Sons
1st Place Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float) – St. Lucie County Historical Society
2nd Place Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float) – Treasure Coast Vintage Car Club
3rd Place Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float) – Amara Shriners
1st Place Equestrian Group – Freedom Riders 4-H Club
2nd Place Equestrian Group – Racing on Faith 4-H Club
3rd Place Equestrian Group – Capella Farms Equestrian Center
1st Place Best Music Performance/Marching Band – Fort Pierce Westwood Panther Pride
2nd Place Best Music Performance/Marching Band – St. Anastasia Royal Ram Band
3rd Place Best Music Performance/Marching Band – Fort Pierce Magnet School of the Arts
  1st Place Girl Scout/Brownie Group – Girl Scout Council SE
  2nd Place Girl Scout/Brownie Group – Girl Scout Troops 271
  1st Place Boy Scout/Cub Scout Group – Cub Scout Pack 444
  2nd Place Boy Scout/Cub Scout Group – Cub Scout Pack 405
  3rd Place Boy Scout/Cub Scout Group – St. Anastasia Boy Scouts Troop 473
1st Place Best Dance/ Cheer Group – Showtime Boyz & SOS Girls
2nd Place Best Dance/ Cheer Group – Star City Dance Academy
1st Place Best Governmental/Public Agency Entry – Fort Pierce Utilities Water Department
2nd Place Best Governmental/Public Agency Entry – Fort Pierce Utilities Authority
3rd Place Best Governmental/Public Agency Entry – Fort Pierce Utilities Waste/Water Department
  1st Place Best Commercial Entry – Kauff’s Transportation
  2nd Place Best Commercial Entry – Treasure Coast Towing
  3rd Place Best Commercial Entry – Riverside National Bank
1st Place Best St. Lucie School Entry – Samuel Gaines Academy
2nd Place Best St. Lucie School Entry – Fort Pierce Westwood FFA
3rd Place Best St. Lucie School Entry – St. Andrews Episcopal School

Main Street Fort Pierce thanks our sponsors for the support of this festival.
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  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
  Boys and Girls Club — Showtime Boyz & SOS Girls, • Star City Dance Academy
Fort Pierce Magnet School of the Arts — Warrior Corps Drum Line & Percussion Ensemble
  Lincoln Park Academy — Jazz Ensemble
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.
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We’ve Been Adopted!

by Brandi Lanas

The Manatee Observation & Education Center’s Butterfly Garden has been adopted by the Hog Huggers 4-H Club of Saint Lucie County. Our butterfly garden, which has only recently begun to flourish after being destroyed by the hurricanes, has been in serious need of weeding and pruning. The Hog Huggers 4-H Club offered their assistance with this endeavor. They have agreed to nurture our butterfly garden for one year as a club project. Their support will aid us in encouraging wildlife (butterflies, birds, etc.) to frequent our garden, expanding our educational programming, and providing an aesthetically pleasing environment around our center for visitors.

4-H is a nationwide youth program that encourages young people to “learn by doing” in the hopes of acquiring knowledge and developing practical life skills such as leadership, confidence, and teamwork. The Hog Huggers 4-H Club is a local club in which members raise hogs for the annual show and market sale at the Saint Lucie County Fair. In addition to learning about and working with their market animals, 4-H’ers attend educational field trips and perform community service, such as this adoption program.

On November 2nd, 2008, The Hog Huggers 4-H Club took an educational field trip to the Manatee Observation & Education Center. The 16 members learned about the history of the Manatee Center and our mission to educate. They also participated in a touch tank demonstration where they got to learn about and touch several kinds of echinoderms such as sea stars, sea cucumbers, and sea urchins.

After their tour of the center, the 4-H’ers were given a tour of our gardens and were introduced to the butterfly life cycle & names of butterflies the garden is designed to attract. They were also shown the plants in our garden and advised of their function in the butterfly life cycle (larval plant and/or nectar plant).

This wonderful group of kids worked diligently to weed our garden of pesky, invasive plants and to beautify our grounds. Although they were briefly interrupted by rain, the 4-H’ers quickly got back to work to honor their commitment to the Manatee Center. In just a couple of hours, the Hog Huggers were able to provide the Manatee Center over 30 hours of work. There will be several more gardening days scheduled with the Hog Huggers 4-H Club throughout the 2008/2009 season. The staff and volunteers at the Manatee Center look forward to working with this wonderful group again.
A Literal Artwalk

January Artwalk is all about the literary arts. Each participating merchant will host an author for a book signing. It is an opportunity for people to come down to historical downtown Fort Pierce and meet some of the amazing authors we have here on the Treasure Coast.

Artwalk is a monthly event put on by the Downtown Business Association of Fort Pierce that takes place within the stores and galleries in downtown Fort Pierce from Orange Avenue and Avenue A to Second Street. As downtown grows, the participating businesses have grown also. The term Artwalk now applies to the art of each individual business, such as the art of floral design and the art of home decor as well as the art in the galleries. The focus in January is the literary arts. While the participating authors have not been formally announced yet, it is shaping up to be an exciting night. For further information please call (772) 489-4255.

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Downtown Hero: Dr. William R. Dannahower

by Camille S. Yates

He has been described as a crusader, tenacious, dedicated and stabilizing. Like a sculptor working on a masterpiece, former City of Fort Pierce Mayor, Dr. William R. Dannahower, has spent the last several decades shaping his beloved city into what it is today. Born in Fort Pierce on King’s Highway in a house that his father built, Dannahower enjoyed growing up in a citrus grove in what was, at that time, the backcountry. In 1943, he was honored with becoming an Eagle Scout. This dedicated young man later joined the Army, and knowing that he wanted a career in medicine, served as a surgical technician. After his military service, he attended the University of Missouri for both undergraduate and dental school.

While in school in Kansas City, Dannahower met his future wife, Lucia Sevier. “The things I did as mayor, I could not have done without her patience and understanding,” Dannahower explains. He and Lucia spent almost 58 years together until she succumbed to cancer in April 2008. Lucia became pregnant with their first child while Dannahower was finishing dental school. After graduating, he stayed on at the school as an instructor for three years. As he describes, “I had a pregnant wife, an old car, and less than $100.”

When they got on their feet, the couple moved to Fort Pierce in 1956. Knowing that he wanted to be downtown, Dannahower found a quaint house on US 1 and opened his first dental office there. “Gloria and H.B. Moore had a feed store close by, two blocks south of Orange Avenue,” he recalls. He spent 32 years of drilling and filling and ended his dental practice in 1988 when he was 57. He and Lucia raised four children in Fort Pierce. Although each of the four children moved away from the city, three of them have returned. Dannahower’s daughter, Linda Nunn, and two of his sons, Dan Dannahower, and James Dannahower all have houses on the same street as their father. Dannahower’s third son, Steven, lives in North Carolina.

Dannahower first ran for public office in 1962 when he was elected as a commissioner to the Fort Pierce City Commission. Then, in 1965, he was elected to his first term as mayor. “One of the first projects I tackled was to start a sewage collection system for the city,” he says. “That was a time when we had a lot of raw sewage going into the Indian River.” He was also instrumental in creating the first minimum housing code. As Dannahower recalls, “This was an important step because we had some homes that had no sanitary facilities and only a faucet outside for water. This was a terrible way for people to have to live.”

Creating good infrastructure in the city was another project that was important to Dannahower. “The area schools did not have paved streets. I worked to get as many streets paved as I could,” he says. “But there was never enough money to do the things we needed to get done.” Nevertheless, the city was successful in getting a federal grant, and with the money they were able to enhance the Lincoln Park area by adding paved streets, curbs and gutters, as well as water and sewer from Avenue D north to the city limits between 17th and 25th Street.

After a several year hiatus, Dannahower ran once again for mayor and was re-elected in 1983. He served his city well as mayor for another 12 years until 1995. As a proficient politician, Mayor Dannahower developed a good working relationship with those who served as St. Lucie

Continued on page 22 …
County’s elected officials. One of the projects that Dannahower is most proud of is keeping the St. Lucie County Courthouse in downtown Fort Pierce. There were some officials who wanted it moved into the southern part of the county. “I fought hard on that issue and helped elect county officials who pledged to keep the courthouse in Fort Pierce,” he says. “I can’t tell you how significant it was, at that point in time, for the County Courthouse to stay in Fort Pierce.” Indeed, many businesses depended on the people who came to the city because of the courthouse and still do.

Dannahower was also instrumental in securing the construction of the Florida State Building, known as the Clem C. Benton Building, on US 1 in Fort Pierce. The city urged the state to build on the site next to Moore’s Creek. But, state government officials were leaning toward placing the State Building in Port St. Lucie. After receiving notice that the building would be constructed in Port St. Lucie, Mayor Dannahower, City Manager Bo Powell, and County Administrator Doug Anderson organized a group of Fort Pierce citizens to go to Tallahassee to try to convince the state to place the building in Fort Pierce. They were successful in doing so. “Had we not have taken the action that we did, the State Building never would have come to Fort Pierce.”

With the County Courthouse and the State Building secured in Fort Pierce, Dannahower sent a memo to City Manager Bo Powell and City Attorney John Brennan in
1987 suggesting that Fort Pierce try to acquire a Federal Courthouse as well. Again, they were successful in doing so. The first Federal Courthouse resided in one room at the US Post Office on Orange Avenue and 6th Street. With the assistance of US Magistrate Frank Lynch and other federal judges, Dannahower worked to get the government to build a new courthouse in the city. Rather than take this route, the US General Services Administration suggested that the city have a private developer build a site that the government could lease as a courthouse. A site was selected and the federal courthouse plans were completed, but then the bombing of Oklahoma City’s Federal Courthouse changed everything. “Even though we were ready to break ground, we couldn’t do it because we needed new building plans that had tighter security,” Dannahower lamented. At that point, the Federal Courthouse moved into the building where it is today at 6th and Boston Avenue.

When Edward Enns became mayor of Fort Pierce, he continued the job of building a new Federal Courthouse in Fort Pierce. He created a task force and selected William Dannahower as the Chairman. Dannahower has been to Washington several times to lobby for the new Federal Courthouse building. With a smile, he says that he is confident that it will happen.

During his tenure as Mayor, Dannahower can also be credited with leading several other projects that have benefited Fort Pierce. He pushed to build a new City Hall building on US 1 and Orange. At the time, this prominent corner housed 10 dilapidated buildings including 2 gas stations and a clothes cleaning business. “I know that some folks don’t like the appearance of the City Hall building, but it was designed for energy efficiency,” he says. Dannahower was also instrumental in getting a public library in downtown as well as rebuilding the nearby City Marina. He helped steer the Harbortown Marina construction through the Regional Planning Council. Under his leadership, the City rebuilt Sunrise Boulevard and secured a grant to landscape Okeechobee Road. He also helped get funding for the renovation of the Sunrise Theatre.

Dannahower is humble about these important accomplishments. “It’s nice to get credit for these things, but there are always a lot of people behind the scenes who make it happen,” he says. But, in large part, Fort Pierce’s downtown renaissance continues because of Main Street’s Downtown Hero William R. Dannahower.
“Catch A Wave”

The Lafferandre Gallery is starting their ninth season with a show “Catch A Wave” which includes paintings by international acrylic artist Dan Mackin. Hailing from South Florida, Dan Mackin captures on canvas his memories of tropical islands and marine life from his world wide travels. He took up painting in 1971 after dropping his camera overboard on a sailing trip. He would journal the day’s events and illustrate what he saw. Dan also worked for a while as a tour guide on the Amazon River, giving him lots of time to study the flora and fauna of the tropical rain forest. Dan uses these experiences, along with his love for surfing (he is in the Surfing Hall of Fame), diving and sailing. He is able to create a canvas that presents you with a feeling that you are in the tropics.

Dan collaborated with famed beach boy Brian Wilson to create images on surfboards. These images are interpretations of four of the songwriter’s hits: “Surfin’ USA,” “Surfer Girl,” “In My Room,” and “God Only Knows.” It was a mending of beach lifestyles. Dan has done work for numerous corporations and individuals. He designed the label for “Shoal Draft” made by the Indian River Brewing Company.

Dan is currently working on a series of paintings involving our national parks. He was honored for bring awareness to our national parks through his work by the Superintendent of Biscayne Bay National Park. He also has raised over a million dollars for various charities through his donations.

It all starts with the opening reception at the Lafferandre Gallery from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on January 14th. The show runs through January. The gallery is located at 205 N. Second Street in Fort Pierce and is open Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 772 489-4255.

So “Catch a Wave” at the Lafferandre Gallery. Don’t miss this chance to take a mental vacation and escape into the seas of enjoyment.

Rocio’s Closet

by Camille Yates

Rocio “Rose” Ribeiraud moved to Fort Pierce in August 2008 from New York. Unable to find work as a Certified Nursing Assistant, she decided to fulfill her dream to open a clothing store. She comes from a large family of 6 sisters and 5 brothers. “My younger sisters would always say they were going shopping, but I’d look around and they would be headed for my closet,” explains Ribeiraud. “That’s why I call the shop Rocio’s Closet!”

Located at 148 North Depot Drive, Rocio’s Closet sells both new and gently used clothing, shoes, household items, and collectibles. “Every day is like redecorating because new things keep coming in,” Ribeiraud says. Indeed, the store is filled to the brim with lovely quilts, decorative pillows, shoes, clothes, and even a washer and dryer.

Last November, many people donated clothes, purses, and shoes to Kate’s Hope, an organization which is raising money for Kate O’Connor to help her in a fight against cancer. “I have a whole room dedicated to Kate’s Hope,” says Ribeiraud. She took in hundreds of items to sell for Kate’s Hope. Prices are very reasonable. As an example, leather jackets and designer suits were priced at $20.

For those who want to bring items in for consignment, Rocio’s Closet will keep the item for 45 days and will split the sales proceeds 50-50. “I want to rotate the items as much as possible,” Ribeiraud explains. She posts new items to Craig’s List on the web every other day. She says that 90% of her customers are from Craig’s List. People from Port St. Lucie, Fort Pierce and Vero Beach have come to the shop to pick up items that they found on Craig’s List.

Ribeiraud is also working on bringing Depot Drive back to life. “I am talking with the city to see if we can get some landscape or something to revitalize the corridor,” she says. She plans on offering complimentary coffee in the morning. “I am a people person and I just want to be a good neighbor to the whole community.”
Trend Setting on the Treasure Coast at Bangz Salon
by John Culverhouse

Bangz Salon in Downtown Fort Pierce offers a variety of products and services. Cheryl Asklof, who runs Bangz Salon, has been in the business for more than 20 years. Her shop is a full service salon, offering many services for hair, nails, and skincare, such as facials and makeup.

Asklof is a West Palm Beach native, but grew up in Fort Pierce and now enjoys being part of downtown. “We have a convenient location in downtown Fort Pierce, close to many shops and restaurants,” Asklof said. “We provide the finest services and use top of the line products, which are also for sale here in the salon.”

Bangz is unique in Fort Pierce and on Treasure Coast because of its location and the variety services and products it offers. All kinds of haircuts and hairstyles can be fashioned at Bangz for men, women, and children.

The very qualified staff of Bangz also offers services for nails and cosmetic services like makeup and permanent makeup.

If it is pampering you’re looking for, Bangz offers facials, manicures and pedicures. A wide variety of facials are offered, including deep cleaning facials and pumpkin and cranberry enzyme peels for skin improvement.

Bangz Salon has maintained an excellent reputation and a long-standing clientele. One client in particular, who was getting her hair done at the time of the interview, has been one of Asklof’s many regulars for nearly twenty years. In addition to Asklof’s expertise, she says she is a repeat customer because of the friendly and welcoming atmosphere that makes you feel right at home.

“If you’re looking for a makeover, or you just want to update your look, come in and see us,” Asklof said. “We give expert advice and provide expert services in hair care, hair color and makeup.”

A full line of retail items are sold at Bangz, including hair products, skin care products, cosmetics, and select boutique items like handbags and jewelry.

Bangz is located inside the P.P. Cobb Building at 100 Avenue A, Suite 1E. The hours of operation are Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The salon is closed Sunday and Monday. Gift certificates and spa packages are available. For more information on products and services provided, call 772-489-0910.
Main Street Fort Pierce

As Fort Pierce Main Street begins its 20th successful year, it is undertaking an aggressive Membership Drive. “The Next Big Thing” campaign took off in May, 2006. Please consider becoming a Main Street Member.

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

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

Membership Benefits:

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

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:

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- Large Business (51 or more employees) . . . . $500.00
- Patron (all others) ................ $500.00
- Sponsor .................. $1,000.00

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

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

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

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

Individuals are the single largest group of owners in today’s municipal bond marketplace.¹ Why? Because municipal bonds are unique securities, generally offering investors features such as tax-exempt, predictable income and high credit quality on many issues.

Municipal bonds are tax-exempt², fixed income securities that represent the debt obligations of municipal entities (states, cities, counties etc) seeking to raise money to fund projects for the public good, such as building schools, highways and hospitals. The issuer promises to repay principal in full at the bond’s maturity, and to pay semi-annual interest income – which is generally exempt from federal income tax, and in most cases, state and local taxes as well.

Is your Federal Income Tax Bracket 25% or Higher?

One of the most compelling reasons to own municipal bonds is that interest income is generally exempt from regular federal income tax. Under most state laws, ‘home-state’ municipal bonds’ interest income is also exempt from state and local taxes. As a result, municipal bonds may generate higher net (after-tax) yields than taxable bonds of similar quality and maturity.

Your federal tax bracket plays an important role in determining whether a taxable or tax-exempt security is the better choice for you. As a general guideline, the higher your tax bracket, the more likely you are to potentially benefit from owning municipal bonds. As illustrated below, an investor in the 33% federal income tax bracket would have to earn a 6.72% yield from a comparable fully taxable bond to match a 4.50% yield from a tax-exempt municipal bond.

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For illustrative purposes only, and does not represent any specific investment.

Tax-Exempt Yields v Taxable Equivalent Yields

Nonetheless, when choosing any fixed-income security, you need to do more than just compare yields to find the bond that is most appropriate for you; an assessment of risk and return is also important:

Consider the Impact of Interest Rates

All fixed income securities are susceptible to interest rates fluctuations; generally, if interest rates fall, bond prices rise and inversely, if interest rates rise, bond prices fall. Because bonds are typically issued with prevailing market yields, rising market interest rates causes new issues to have higher yields than existing bonds, forcing down prices on existing bonds. Generally, longer term bonds are more sensitive to interest rate changes, and the more likely their value is to fluctuate. However, longer-term bonds generally have higher yields, thus compensating for the time principal is exposed to interest rate fluctuations. Conversely, bonds with short-term maturities (up to a year) normally experience relatively minimal changes in price as interest rates fluctuate, but also typically provide lower yields. Another point to consider: If you hold your bonds to maturity, your principal will be returned in full, yet, if you sell your bonds prior to maturity, the price you receive may be more or less than your original purchase price.

Credit Risk

You should consider every bond’s creditworthiness; if an issuer is unable to meet its financial obligations it may fail to make interest and principal repayments. Although municipal bonds are generally considered to be high quality investments, not every issuer has the same tax base or sources of revenue.

Continued on page 28…


Consider Call Provisions

Many municipal bonds have call provisions; the issuer has the option to redeem the bonds prior to maturity. If a bond is called, you bear the risk of reinvesting the proceeds at a possibly lower rate of return, depending on market conditions, potentially impacting your ability to plan your future income stream.

Are Municipal Bonds for you?

As well as generating tax-exempt income, the municipal market is attractive in terms of investment quality, maturity, sector focus, and geographical diversity. Municipal bonds could be an important diversification and tax planning tool within your fixed income portfolio. For more information, please write in care of Jim O’Connor, CFP®, CIMA®, Financial Advisor, 2100 SE Ocean Blvd., Suite 300, Stuart, FL 34996.


2. Municipal bonds are generally exempt from federal income tax. Typically, state or local tax-exemption applies if securities are issued within one’s state or city of residence. If you are subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), interest on ‘private activity’ municipal bonds is considered a preference item.

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Winter on the Water

by Dan Dannahower

Our winter weather pattern seems to have come on early this year. We’ve already experienced a number of strong cold fronts bringing cloudy days, gusty winds and some very cool temperatures. Constantly changing conditions is the norm during this time of year. Cloudy, blustery days are followed by sunny calm beautiful days with mild temps. The key to enjoying time on our local waters this time of year whether boating, fishing etc., is to know what the weather is doing.

Fishing action is often good during the winter but changes drastically along with the weather. Get a good report at our local tackle shops and marinas about what’s biting and what’s not. For example, recently offshore fishing for grouper has been very slow as have dolphin and cobia. Kingfish have been fairly prevalent and Sail fishing has been outstanding. Bottom fishing inshore has been fairly good and Snook are being caught but Trout and Redfish have been slow. A quick conversation with the experts at our local tackle shops will greatly improve your chances of a successful trip.

A good weather briefing is also invaluable when contemplating a venture onto local waters. Local television, newspapers, marinas, tackle shops and some excellent internet weather sites are all good sources. Venturing out on the Indian River Lagoon for a little bottom fishing when it’s choppy and blowing 25 knots can result in a miserable day even if they’re biting. With the proper rain gear you might turn that poor experience into a fun day with a great catch. Getting offshore and having the swell come up to 8 to 12 foot seas can also ruin a great plan and even be downright dangerous for smaller boats. Get that weather briefing and always be ready for the unexpected.

Winter offers some of our best fishing and some awesome weather days for boating. Be informed, know what to expect and always be ready for the unexpected to avoid surprises. We have an awesome water asset right here on our front door step. Be careful and enjoy.
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