Stars Over St. Lucie — Fourth of July Celebration

Music by Johnny Cool and the Mobster Swing Band
Fireworks over the Indian River
Veteran’s Memorial Park
Tuesday, July 4th
5:30 p.m.

Continued on page 4 ...
Delivering a Tradition...

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1902 2005
The Past Year and the Next Big Thing!

While there were the typical boarded buildings, windows, FEMA trailers and construction roll-off containers, it looked like our city did after the two storms in 2004; on a larger scale of course.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is committed to preserving as much of the traditional buildings of New Orleans as possible in the city's recovery and along the Gulf region. It seems rather appropriate that the national meeting was held in New Orleans — rebuilding and revitalization is what we do.

Throughout the area, historic structures were tagged for demolition and through the efforts of Main Street volunteers and the National Trust, many structures have been spared from the bulldozer in the recovery efforts. Rebuilding is occurring and the residents want to make their communities better than ever.

Preserving and rebuilding is a commitment that we have followed in Fort Pierce, like the New Orleanians. As part of our history and culture, our community has saved a part of Fort Pierce's regional heritage with buildings like Historic City Hall, Sunrise Theatre, Seven Gables House, St. Anastasia School, the Arcade Building, Orange Avenue Post Office and the Lincoln Theatre, just to name a few. Homeowners are restoring homes in historic neighborhoods and we are bringing back our heritage that makes us Fort Pierce — a 105 year old city.

Regional heritage is important and significant to every city and to have a catastrophe practically wipeout that history and culture is devastating. It is truly remarkable the rebuilding in both New Orleans and our city, Fort Pierce.
MAIN STREET AND DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Calendar

Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

❖ TUESDAY, JULY 4 ❖
Stars Over St. Lucie – 4th of July Celebration
Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880

❖ FRIDAY, JULY 7 ❖
Friday Fest – 5:30 until 8:30 PM
(Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880)

❖ WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 ❖
2nd Wednesday Walkabout
5:00 until 8:00 PM
Downtown Business Association, 465-7080

❖ SATURDAY, JULY 29 ❖
Sunrise City Summer Fest & Fireworks – All Day
Various Organizations in Downtown Fort Pierce
Held at the Fort Pierce Marina, 940-4889

Weekly Events

❖ SATURDAYS ❖
Ft. Pierce Farmer’s Market
8:00 AM to Noon
Market Manager, 940-1145

❖ SATURDAYS ❖
Arts & Crafts Show & Sale
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
600 N. Indian River Drive
F.P. Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5124

❖ THURSDAYS ❖
Fort Pierce Bike Night
6:00 until 9:30 PM
2nd Street – Downtown Fort Pierce
Yellowfin Grill & Raw Bar, 468-7071

❖ GOVERNOR’S GRILL ❖
466-6900

“Open Mike Night”
Tuesdays, 9:00 PM to Closing

“Blues Night at the Grill”
Wednesdays, 8:00 PM

“Ladies Night”
Thursdays, 10:00 PM to 12:00 AM

Live Music – Friday Evenings
Live Jazz with Matrix – Saturday Evenings

~Event Spotlight~

WHO: Main Street Fort Pierce

WHAT: Stars Over St. Lucie
Music by Johnny Cool & Mobster Swing
Fireworks

WHEN: Tuesday, July 4
5:30 p.m. to end of Fireworks Show

WHERE: Veteran’s Memorial Park

INFO: 772-466-3880

From the Cover, continued ...

by Pam Gillette

At 5:30 PM on Tuesday, July 4, 2006, join Main Street, the City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County as we present Stars Over St. Lucie – 4th of July Celebration. The Treasure Coast will celebrate the birth of our nation with the sounds of Johnny Cool and the Mobster Swing Band and a dazzling fireworks display.

Johnny Cool and the Mobster Swing is a contemporary swing band. Based out of Orlando, FL the band travels worldwide to bring the sounds of swing to their audiences but on the 4th of July they will be right here in Fort Pierce to jump, jive and swing the night away.

The 4th of July Celebration will be held at Veteran’s Memorial Park, 600 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34950 at 5:30 PM. Johnny Cool and the Mobster Swing Band will begin at 6:30 PM and will be followed by a fireworks presentation over the Indian River.
Main Street Wraps Up A Busy Event Season
by Pam Gillette

From Festivals, to Cowboy Golf, to Farewell Send Offs, Main Street Fort Pierce has been very busy since the beginning of the year. This is a quick wrap up of all our recent events:

During the first 6 months of the year, Main Street hosted 6 Friday Fest and 6 Coffee with the Mayors.

February 1, 2006
Main Street moved their offices to the Platts/Backus House at 122 A. E. Backus Avenue and began their newest project; it’s renovation.

March 25, 2006
Hosted the Sandy Shoes Festival with the Atlantic Rhythm Section as the featured entertainment and a spectacular fireworks show after the concert.

April 28, 2006
Spring Wine Tasting
The evening was beautiful with a cool breeze from the Indian River. The wine flowed as Main Street Fort Pierce and Keith Anderson of Roy’s Liquors hosted an Eclectic Evening of Wine and Rum Tasting on April 28, 2006. Along with the large selection of wine and rum, Budweiser introduced their new product, Peels, to the guests. The event was held at the Seven Gables House and was sponsored by Atlantic Building Materials, Charlie’s Dodge and Isuzu, and Harbor Federal. Proceeds of the event will benefit the restoration of the Backus House.

May 3, 2006
Annual Main Street Board Meeting
Main Street opened the doors of the Platts/Backus House to the public on Wednesday, May 3rd and presented Main Street’s “Next Big Thing”, the renovation of the Platts/Backus House. Be part of the puzzle and join the newly elected officers of the Main Street Board as we start this new project and rebuild our new home and office. A big thank you goes to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center for sponsoring the Main Street Fort Pierce Annual Meeting and to Mike Denhe for the entertainment.

May 13, 2006
Cowboy Golf at Adam’s Ranch
With the generosity of the Adam’s Family, Bobby Knowles, and Bucky Walters, the Adam’s Ranch was

Continued on page 26...
The Indian River School of Artists

by Kathleen Piowaty Fredrick

The influence of Ft. Pierce’s most celebrated artist, A.E. “Bean” Backus, is multifaceted and far-reaching. As the Founder of the Indian River School, Backus is commonly called The Dean of Florida Landscape Painters. Now nationally recognized, many are aware of Backus’ important contributions to Florida’s regional art. Apart from a few minor show-bird artists like Winslow Homer and acclaimed Hudson River School painter Herman Herzog, Backus practically invented painting Florida. However, far fewer people are aware of his influence upon this community and its residents.

The A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery is currently hosting an exhibition of the works of The Indian River School of Artists. On exhibit through July 15, this group exhibition features over 25 artists who were either actual students of Bean Backus or were inspired and mentored by him. Backus share his talent, wit and wisdom with legions of artists who came to him for instruction and inspiration. Works in the exhibit run the gamut and span a period of over 60 years. Included are two rare 1930’s paintings by Duke Merwin. The Merwin family owned Jensen Beach’s Edenlawn Plantation and Duke went with Bean to attend art school in New York City. On the other end of the spectrum is a small but tasty 1990 Jamaican street scene by Dan Holt who was Backus’s last student. Many of the works in the exhibition are part of the Museum’s growing collection of important works by The Indian River School. Others are contemporary works by this diverse group of extremely talented painters. Exhibiting artists include: Paul Arsenault, Jackie Brice, Don Darwin...

There appears to be a great deal of confusion concerning the Florida Highwaymen and their place in the nomenclature of Florida art. The A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery considers the Highwaymen to be a part of the Indian River School; perhaps one could consider them a sub-category. Certainly, no one can deny Backus’ influence on the Highwaymen’s artwork.

Alfred Hair, widely considered the motivating force behind the Highwaymen movement, was an actual student – apprentice of Backus. Hair was taken to Backus’ studio, and then located at 103 Ave. C, by his art teacher at Lincoln Park Academy, Zanobia Jefferson. For several years, Hair worked for Backus stretching canvases and making frames while he studied the nuances of painting Florida landscapes. Hair became a fine painter with tremendous promise. Had he been white, he would most likely have enjoyed a successful mainstream career with gallery exhibitions and dealer representation, much like his teacher and mentor. However, realizing the career limitations imposed by the social constraints of racism and segregation, Hair opted to market his paintings en masse along the highways and main streets of Florida. Hair’s financial success and charisma inspired other African Americans to try their hand at creating the hastily rendered glimpses of an idealized and stylized Florida. While among the Highwaymen Hair was the only true...
“student” of Backus, he was never reluctant to critique, encourage or assist the emerging entrepreneurs. Always generous, Backus frequently gave paints and supplies to his black artist friends when they were short on cash and long on bills.

Many consider Harold Newton the “original” Highwayman. He was the first to explore roadside marketing by selling his paintings door to door. At the time that he met Backus, he was primarily painting religious scenes on velvet. Backus counseled that landscapes held greater market appeal. Following Backus’ advice, Harold Newton went on to become the most celebrated and painterly of the Highwaymen. Many comment that Newton’s paintings bear the closest resemblance to a Backus painting. Perhaps that is the reason that Newton’s paintings typically command the highest prices among the original Highwaymen’s works.

Aside from the Highwaymen, dozens of artists came to Backus for instruction and advice. While many went on to make careers of painting Florida landscapes, such as Jackie Brice or Don D. Brown, others took their Backus roots in entirely new directions. Michael Enns, who spent his youth at the studio went on to art school in New York City and spent several years working for Andy Warhol. Michael Sitaras, showed exceptional talent as a portraitist but went on to become a Greek Orthodox priest. The Backus experience was liberating. Backus never imposed limits on people. Rather he encouraged them to truly see the world around them not just look at it. He inspired people to be generous and kind. He inspired others to view the world with an open mind and to explore it with great relish.

On Saturday, June 3, the A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery hosted the first ever and now first annual Backus Studio Reunion. The group that gathered spanned four decades as “Backus Brats.” Childless himself, Bean Backus dubbed the generations of young artists and local teens that flocked to his studio.

Continued on page 22 ...
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Excuse me, May I Shoot your dog?

by Sue Dannahower

From Fort Pierce, FL to Sausalito, CA; Littleton, CO to Rye, NY Jeff is shooting dogs all over the country. In Fort Pierce, on May 16 & 17, Jeff Moore shot well over 50 dogs. How does he get away with this?

Well, Jeff Moore is a photographer making a cross-country tour gathering images and stories for his upcoming book, Excuse Me, May I Shoot Your Dog? Jeff will be visiting over 40 Pet Stores on this four-month project.

On May 16 & 17 The Barkery at 204 N 2nd Street hosted a two-day shoot. Jeff shot Main Street Manager, Doris Tillman's two collies, Cosmo & Kramer; Camille Yates beagles, Lucky and London; Susan Parry's Rescue Dogs, Romeo and Darlin; and Pam Gillette’s Yorkie, Mya.

Continued on next page...

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Each session cost $75, with $10 of the fee going to a pet related charity. The Barkery Owner, Terri Ann Palumbo selected Dogs & Cats Forever.

Jeff has a studio outside New York City. His works have been featured in Studio Photography and Design, Animal Fair and Country Living. For more information log on to www.mayishootyourdog.com.
As Fort Pierce Main Street begins its 18th successful year, it is undertaking an aggressive Membership Drive. “The Next Big Thing” campaign took off in May, 2006. Please consider becoming a Main Street Member.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Main Street program was created by the National Trust of Historic Preservation in the early 1980s. The program was designed to revitalize 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 18 years is due to the faithful commitment of current and past members of the Main Street board of directors, the City of Fort Pierce, local community organizations, local businesses, and general public support. Currently, the program consists of twelve volunteer board members and two full-time employees. During its existence, Main Street Fort Pierce has held approximately twenty-six downtown promotional events each year, educated public school children about the history of the area, won numerous local, state, and national awards, restored historic buildings including the Sunrise Theatre, recruited businesses to the downtown area, held downtown charrettes to encourage the public participation in revitalization efforts, created outdoor art programs, and helped fund an award-winning image campaign along with the Downtown Business Association, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and the City of Fort Pierce.
The Backus house. It should be an easy writing assignment, right? Well, it proved not as easy as it sounded at our monthly editorial meeting. When we decided to write a "Then and Now" piece about our new home I figured there'd be a wealth of information to work with. I wanted to know more about the people who once occupied the house where Main Street Fort Pierce now conducts its daily business, so I went happily to work looking for information.

I was sure the St. Lucie Historical Museum would have lots of photos of the home in their vast collection of early Fort Pierce photography, but unfortunately none were to be found. I knew that the City Directories would list all the occupants at 122 Avenue C, but oops, wrong again. I knew who lived there, but not exactly when. Census reports maybe? Yep, found them — but the 1900 and 1910 census takers neglected to write street names or house numbers.

So what's a girl to do? I collected all the pieces of information on the house that I could find; sporadic directory information, almost complete census reports, as well as, a few articles and books about the house and Beanie. Then I called the Clerk of the Court and Pat Fessel is the lady who saved the day. At work I often need official record book copies, and both Pat and her coworker, Ruth, are terrific at digging up what I was looking for. Pat is the

Continued on page 14 ...
poor soul who answered the phone. When she was done, she had followed the trail back to 1888 when Block X, lots 1 & 2 were first platted.

Now, imagine that it is June 9th 1900 and you live here in what is part of Brevard County. The census taker has been holding you up, asking all kinds of ornery questions. You answer politely, all the while anxious to be off to see your friends Clara and Clyde Platts and their young sons Phillip, who is 4; Norman, a 3-year-old; and little George just a year old. Clyde’s the local doctor and a good friend. You’ve heard the news that Clara is expecting again and that they are hoping for a girl. Clyde’s mother Mary lives with them and will be a big help to the family when the time comes. Finally, you’re done with the census taker. You have some other errands to do, so you hitch old Captain to the wagon and head up Orange Avenue.

See if you recognize today’s streets in the path you’d take the good doctor’s home. First, you turn on High Street, and follow High past Tropical to go over the creek. After crossing the creek you turn right and follow Seminole Ave almost to the end where you find the Platt’s new home near the river. On cooler spring days, when there’s a break from chores, Clara may have taken the children down to the shore to watch the steamboats dock at the new pier which runs 760 feet out into the Indian River.

Sadly Clyde passed away before the census of 1910. At that time Clara was listed as head of the house, and the family had grown to include Helen, age 9, and a little sister age 6. I can’t quite read the little one’s name. It may have been after Clyde’s death that the home was rented to Dr. W.E. Van Landingham, the doctor who delivered Beanie Backus on January 3rd 1906.
After all my ups and downs of research, I found that I had more information then I could use in just one article. With the indulgence of the Focus editorial staff, I’ll continue this article in our next issue. Between now and then, if any of you have stories, photos or information about the house that you’d like to share, I would love to talk to you. Call the Main Street Office and talk to its staff, Pam or Doris to schedule a time to get together.

The Platts must have been a progressive family. Clara bought this property in her own name on April 8th 1896 from the Florida Canning Company for $150.00. I wish I could talk with her now and ask her thoughts of the house she resided in and the community that grew around it.
Cocktail with a Cajun

Farewell Roast to Bud Boudreaux

Guest of Honor Bud Boudreaux and his wife, Dolly.

Dolly and Bud Boudreaux react to a roaster’s comment.

Main Street Marketing & Events Coordinator Pam Gillette and her husband.

Speaker, Tom Perona, entertains the crowd with interesting tidbits about Bud.
In July 2005, the staff, board and volunteers of Main Street began an in house production of its own monthly newspaper. From the first edition to the current edition The Focus has brought you all of the wonderful things that are happening in Historical Downtown Fort Pierce. Over the past year, Main Street has covered the news, the events, the people, the businesses and the redevelopment issues taking place within the Main Street boundaries.

Doris Blair, President of Blair Advertising created a new logo and head mast for the Focus, Sue Roberts joined the team as Production and Graphic designer, and many volunteers writers came on board to bring a collection of styles to the paper. Congratulations are in order for everyone involved because one year later the Focus is bigger and better and is growing stronger everyday.

In August 2005 The Main Street Focus started with 24 pages and 56 brave advertisers who took a chance with our small paper. In February 2006, the Focus increased our lay out to 40 pages and our advertisers increased to 80. Circulation has increased by 65%. Main Street is proud to bring a positive image of Downtown Fort Pierce to members of our community and beyond, with subscriptions being requested all over the nation. Reader, Paul McGuire said “a Downtown magazine is very helpful and very informative ... and very needed in Fort Pierce.” Thanks, Paul, and everyone else for the support.

Main Street would like to give a special thank you to Joanne Davis who moved to Fort Lauderdale in January 2006, but still remains editor of the Focus and Delila McKenna who is our advertising manager. We would also like to thank all of our volunteer writers and advertisers who have made the Focus great success.

Happy Birthday Main Street Focus!
Doris Blair’s office in the P.P. Cobb Building, just across the street from the Fort Pierce Marina and downtown traffic circle, arguably has one of the best outlooks on downtown Fort Pierce around. The view is an appropriate reward for one of the downtown area’s biggest fans and business advocates.

“It’s amazing what this city has done in a relatively short time,” says Doris, President of Blair Advertising. “What was once a declining business district has become a thriving downtown with outstanding economic and cultural opportunities.”

Doris has had a first-hand view of the transformation. When the company that became Blair Advertising first moved into the Cobb Building it wasn’t such a desirable address. “Ad agencies are known for funky locations,” she laughs, “but we had more than our share of atmosphere.”

As the agency grew and flourished, so did its downtown home. Doris remembers the Fort Pierce Centennial Celebration as a turning point, with citizens reaching a new level of cooperation. “We all have something to contribute,” she says, “you just have to put yourself out there.”

For her part, Doris’ contribution has been to help Main Street Fort Pierce and other local organizations promote themselves with classy, effective marketing materials. The literature Blair Advertising created for the Sunrise Theatre won a Florida State Main Street award.

More recently, Blair Advertising developed a new logo for Main Street Fort Pierce, and the agency is currently working on materials for the annual state Main Street conference, to be held in Fort Pierce in November.
PROFILE

Name: Doris M. Blair
Nickname: Mi Mi (But only to granddaughter, Alyssa.)
Birthplace: New York City
When Came To Area: Mid 1970s.
Favorite Thing About Downtown Fort Pierce: The revitalization of the entire district. “I’m delighted to see this area starting to get the recognition it deserves.”
Favorite Main Street Fort Pierce Activity: Anything she and Alyssa can do together, particularly the Sights and Sounds on Second holiday festival and parade and the synchronized lights on Melody Lane.

Other Civic/Charitable Activities: Chair, Fort Pierce Area Council of St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce; Board of Directors, Rotary Club of Fort Pierce; United Way of St. Lucie County (twice recognized with Community Service Awards for her work developing the Circle of Honor Program); Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society; Heathcote Botanical Gardens; Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County.

Doris and husband Jack Blair enjoy the holiday lights on Melody Lane.

Doris helps create the marketing tools Main Street and the Sunrise Theatre boards, staff, and volunteers used to generate interest and funding to restore the Sunrise Theatre.

Doris watches the Sights and Sounds parade from her office with Granddaughter Alyssa and Great-Niece Nora.

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Shape Up – Fort Pierce Style
Downtown Fort Pierce Offers New Choices For The Fitness Conscious

by Sue Dannahower

Summer’s here, time for eating light and body conscious clothes. If you’re not quite ready for the season, downtown Fort Pierce has lots of options to help you get in shape.

Get Moving

Looking for a great new way to get fit? How about belly dancing? Or yoga? You’ll find it all downtown.

Community Center – Operated by the St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation Department, the Fort Pierce Community Center offers a full schedule of fitness classes including Jazzercise, Slimnastics, Tai Chi, and yoga, and dance classes like belly dancing, country line dancing, flamenco and social dancing. Call for a schedule, 772-462-1792.

One Yoga Planet – Fort Pierce resident Margarida Tree wanted to take the mystery out of yoga and provide a supportive environment for beginners. Her studio, One Yoga Planet on Avenue A offers classes for every skill level. Says Margarida, “I feel very blessed at the support of our community and Second Street Station.” The center also offers belly dancing and African drumming classes. Call for a schedule, 772-318-9695.

Self Motivate

Are you the self-directed type? Then direct yourself to the causeway bridge for an invigorating walk. It’s 1.5 miles over and back. Or, if that’s too far (remember, you’ll be walking up hill half the way), just walk to the hump for a three-quarter mile jaunt. Either way the view is better than any you’ll find on a treadmill.

Summer-Fit Dining

If you’re more into food than fitness, our downtown restaurants offer a variety of delicious, healthy menu items. Here are some of our favorites.

At Café La Ronde on Orange Avenue the Spicy Thai Soup is a perfect blend of hot and tangy with lemon-grass broth, tomatoes, scallions, straw mushrooms, and your choice of chicken or shrimp. Cobb’s Landing on Indian River Drive offers an assortment of wood grilled fish and lean meats served with flavorful
vegetables and salads. Try the Mortar and Pestle Salmon based with lime juice, olive oil and sea salt then wood grilled.

The menu at Governor’s Grill on Second Street offers a variety of healthy options, including the Mexican Dolphin Wrap made with blackened mahi mahi, cheese, salsa, and lots of vegetables.

Cool off at Java Charlie’s on Avenue A with a tasty assortment of fruit and yogurt smoothies.

At Lazy Daze Grill on Second Street, one of the signature offerings is the Garden Chicken Sandwich, with grilled chicken, avocado, and a portobello mushroom cap. For a healthy twist, ask for it served on a bed of romaine instead of a roll, and don’t forget the cilantro dressing.

The P.P. Cobb General Store in The Cobb Building on Avenue A makes a quick lunch of black bean soup or homemade chili with ground turkey.

It’s not on the menu, but be sure to ask for Sue’s Salad (named for our own Sue Dannahower) at Pizoodles on Orange Avenue.

Tender field greens are topped with sun dried tomatoes, house-made mozzarella, artichoke hearts, fire roasted red peppers, walnuts and bacon bits and served with a balsamic vinaigrette.

Call the Pot Belli Deli in the Arcade Building on U.S. 1 for a classic Salad Plate with tuna, egg, or turkey salad.

On the water at the end of Avenue A is the Tiki Bar & Restaurant. Their Key West Summer Salad is perfect for the season with mixed greens and vegetables topped with avocado, mango, mandarin orange sections, coconut, and your choice of chilled shrimp, chicken, or fish.

Tropical Wave Restaurant on Avenue A has a large menu of seafood, salads, and island specialties. The Vegetarian Special Plate proves how delicious eating light can be with roasted garlic hummus, eggplant tapenade, herbed goat cheese, and a cucumber olive salad.
bohemian studio as his “Brats”. It was a term of endearment and those who were fortunate enough to be there wear the label with pride.

Not everyone who sought refuge at the Backus Studio was artistic. Many came there because they simply did not quite fit anywhere else. It was a free place. Free of much adult supervision to be sure. Quite honestly, in today’s society it could never have existed. Those who came to be part of Bean’s world had their eyes opened to an amazing variety of people, the world of art, music, literature and opera. A high school dropout, Backus was incredibly well read. The New Yorker was the periodical of choice. Until very late in life, Backus never owned a television, and only grudgingly purchased one to watch baseball. He enjoyed reading, listening to painfully scratched jazz albums on his stereo and opera every Saturday when it came on the radio. Bean loved to argue about religion, politics and philosophy. He loved a good joke and he told many. He loved a good party and he threw plenty of them. For many years, the Backus Halloween party - complete with an elaborate haunted house created in the attic by the Brats - drew over one thousand guests. Children from all over the county came to experience the attic’s gruesome thrills. It was a stimulating place to be and it was a privilege to have been there.

Main Street board member Sue Dannahower was gracious enough to open Bean’s house so that the brats could take a walk down memory lane. While quite a few took advantage of the opportunity to see the house as it is today and learn of the exciting plans that Main Street has for restoration, many others chose to pass on the tour. They wanted to remember Bean’s the way it was. They wanted to keep the vision of the white haired man at his easel, or sprawled in his chaise lounge reading, Duke Ellington blared from blown speakers. The smell of lima bean soup simmering on the stove competed with the acrid whiff of turpentine. The power plant across the street hissed and spewed soot laden steam that settled on the old well used car parked on the gravel drive. The door was always open and all were welcome. For some it was a refuge from the world, a special place and a special time. They were the Backus brats and they were truly lucky to have been there.
Got A Tough Question? Ask A Professional!

Alisari Boutique in Historic Downtown

**QUESTION:** Can people tell when I’m wearing a wig?
**ANSWER:** Whether you choose a Human or Synthetic fiber wig, today’s state of the art wig construction gives these wigs a realistic appearance.

**QUESTION:** Isn’t a wig uncomfortable?
**ANSWER:** In the 1960s, wigs were made with solid caps that were hot and sticky. In the 1970s the capless wig was invented, thus making the wigs more comfortable.

**QUESTION:** What if my wig comes off?
**ANSWER:** A wig that fits your head is essential to security. A proper fit prevents slippage. Look for Velcro adjustments.

**QUESTION:** Aren’t wigs expensive?
**ANSWER:** The belief that all wigs are expensive is simply not true. Wigs, like any piece of apparel, vary in price depending on the materials and craftsmanship. They can cost as little as $50 or more than $3,000.

Alisari Boutique has been in business for over 40 years specializing in wigs, great clothing, fashion jewelry, lingerie, Sari cosmetics, and shoes. Maria Creel has been the boutique’s owner for the last 10 years in Historic Downtown Ft. Pierce and offers her expert help when people suffer temporary or permanent hair loss or simply want to wear a wig!

How many times have you found yourself with a tough question? Now you can “Ask A Professional.” Send your questions to Main Street Focus “Ask A Professional.” We’ll ask one of our Main Street professionals to reply, and we will publish the answers right here in the Focus—where we can all learn from them.

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Downtown Feature Business: Beads & Baubles

by Kate O’Conner

This story is dedicated to Sue, owner of Beads & Baubles Gallery, who fell in love with beads 25 years ago. I had a chance to sit down with Sue and listen to her stories and I was amazed for a number of reasons. The attraction to beading is not just about the seemingly infinite forms of beads available but it is also about that fact that any object, once perforated, can be included in a beaded piece of art.

To bead, or not to bead, that is the question...the question that I have asked myself when Sue showed me her collection of hand picked specialty ribbons and yarns that she brought from Tucson, Arizona last February while visiting an International Trade Show. Sue uses these ribbons for custom design work. Why am I, like so many other people, so absorbed with beading? The pleasure of stringing a bead and creating something new from a small collection of various shaped objects is extremely relaxing. Beading, like fashion, fine art, and interior design, offers a huge variety of looks to choose from, and a chance to experiment outside our own interpretation of chic. Sue showed me that beads can be made out of anything and can be put together in so many different ways. It's hard to choose one particular type over another. For instance: Luigi Cattelan, a Venetian Glass Master, is a frequent guest at Beads & Baubles. Luigi is the last living Muranese artist to create Chevron Beads. He creates glass blown beads that range in beautiful color glass designs.

Luigi Cattelan, a Venetian Glass Master, creates one-of-a-kind glass artwork.
The display of his work shown in the Beads in Baubles is striking.

Beads style follows fashion trends. A lot of time it’s more about how they are assembled; one person’s “frumpy” is a different generation’s “cool”. For example, the crystal beads I saw have swung the cool to frumpy pendulum so many times, and been strung in ways that suggest bohemian “hip” or “granny like.” Mom’s old beaded necklace from the sixties is now polished anew by a whole new generation of hipsters like my daughter Shannon, 9.

A quick glance of Sue’s hand chosen collection shows just how widespread beads are today. A woman of a certain age, wearing a string of pearls may think she has nothing in common with a teenage surfer wearing surfer beads. Some of us have our own style and others develop one subconsciously, but each of us will be drawn to a look that inspires, excites and makes us feel comfortable, happy and even sexy. Sue can make an interesting connection with her customers and an assortment of glass cabochon jewelry.

For brides-to-be she makes incredible wedding veils. To suit any event, she can decorate the most unusual presents. Every beader has a specialty. Sue’s is her funky necklaces and bracelets.

If you are new to beading like me and have someone special you like to spend time with, for me it’s with my daughter, take a Cross Your Heart beading class with Sue as your guide.
transformed into a makeshift golf course to host First Cowboy Golf Tournament in St. Lucie County. Eleven teams competed for the coveted title of top Cowboy Team and when the event over, D & D Construction won the honors. We would like to give a special thanks to Adam’s Ranch and all of our sponsors. Proceeds from the tournament will go to Main Street and the restoration of the Backus House.

May 25, 2006

Cocktail with a Cajun - Farewell Roast to Bud Boudreaux

What do the Pelican Yacht Club and the Louisiana Bayou have in common? Well nothing really, but on Thursday night Bud Boudreaux, the director of Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, as well as, a true Cajun consented to being roasted. Friends, family, and colleagues joined Bud and celebrated his life and accomplishments to raise money for the restoration of the Backus House. The evening was great, the food delicious and the music was pure Cajun by the band “The Porchdogs”. Thanks to Bud for all of his support and “Happy Trails Cher¢!”

Main Street would like to thank the community for all of their support over the last 6 months and to plan on joining us for our future events.

EVENTS COMING UP:
4th of July Celebration – Veteran’s Memorial Park.
Friday Fest (1st Friday of Every Month)

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A Friendly Reminder...

How many cities have you been to and if you parked over the time limit you received a “friendly reminder” of the 2 hour parking? The City of Fort Pierce wants to thank you for visiting the city, but also reminds visitors and residents that you might be off the hook this time for a parking ticket, but the next time it can cost you.

As an informative way to let visitors know where to park in the City, Commissioner Rufus Alexander suggested that the Police Department provide information to individuals who may not know about the 2 hour parking in downtown. Now, parking enforcement officers issue a warning ticket and the reminder that next time, you will be reaching in your pocket. Currently, the City is working on a map that will provide locations for individuals to park that will be distributed with reminders.
Fishing Update
by Dan Dannahower

The blustery winds of March and April have finally departed. Generally March and the first half of April see a number of windy days which can make fishing the Indian River an unpleasant experience and make fishing offshore downright impossible for all but the most serious diehard fishermen. This year we had more than our share of fronts and windy conditions. The rough stuff continued right on through the end of April, even causing the cancellation of one day's fishing during the Southern Kingfish Assn's Yellowfin-Mercruy Classic held in Fort Pierce the last week of April.

The wind demons have finally moved on and since the beginning of May we've seen a number of very pleasant days. The ocean has laid down with many offshore fishermen reporting near totally calm conditions. Calm seas mean lots of boats are out fishing and reporting on catches.

Offshore fishing continues to be good. Plenty of kingfish are being caught trolling live bait from the inshore reefs to 90 feet or so. The deeper reefs seem to provide more hookups although not necessarily the biggest fish. Dolphin are also being caught trolling live bait or ballyhoo but are a little more iffy than the kings. Bottom fishing offshore has also been good with lots of snapper and some grouper being taken. An example of a typical offshore trip: I had the opportunity to fish offshore with 3 friends on Memorial Day. After some time catching bait we fished about 5 hours on reefs in 90 feet of water. The result was 8 nice kingfish to 25 pounds or so, 3 large mangrove snapper, one very large flounder and at least a half dozen grouper bites that broke us off and were not boated!

Fishing the river has also been good with trout and redfish being taken on the flats and large snook still hitting in the turning basin and around bridges. May, June and July often offer some of the nicest weather conditions for fishing and boating on the Treasure Coast. I encourage you to get out and enjoy the calm conditions and pleasant breezes and hopefully bring home that fresh seafood dinner! Remember your local bait and tackle shops can help with what's biting and where and how to rig up to catch them. Be safe, good luck and good fishing!

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