Want to be a part of "The Next Big Thing?"

Do you want to be a piece of the puzzle?

What color do you want to be?

These were all questions that were asked at Main Street Fort Pierce's 18th Annual Board Meeting.

See Story and Photos on page 16...
Main Street's new office, The Backus House, was spruced up and ready for a coming out party on Wednesday, May 3, for the 18th Annual Main Street Meeting. With all of the hard working Board Members and Officers for the next coming year on hand, we once again rolled up our sleeves to tackle the new Main Street year.

Main Street’s Board and staff have seen some firsts this past year. With production and publishing help from Sue Roberts and a collection of talented volunteer writers, we began publishing our own monthly newspaper, The Main Street Focus. Since its first edition in August 2005, the paper has been a phenomenal success with a circulation of over 5,000 every month and an increase in advertising and pages. Staffing changes have occurred over the year with Joanne Davis’ departure after 7 years and the arrival of MS Board Member Pam Gillette filling the position. With Pam we also have event assistance from her husband, Gary, who is a welcomed addition to our organization. Linda Lacey joined the staff as part-time bookkeeper to handle the finances that Joanne had also managed.

The most successful and organizational strengthening Main Street saw this year was the Board Retreat where we developed an annual work plan that defined specific goals, objectives and activities. The retreat was a brainstorming day that really got the board going on our Next Big Thing! If you did not attend the annual meeting, then you missed out on the announcement of the Next Big Thing – the Backus House. Our goal is to raise one million dollars for the Backus House and as always, you are a piece to our puzzle that will enable us to reach this goal. With your help, sponsorship and volunteer spirit, we can again our goal to save the historic house. Funds will also help to revitalize and restore the home for the community to enjoy and for Main Street to have a place to call home.

Yes, this is a big challenge and endeavor for the Main Street organization, but together we can achieve great things in the upcoming year!
Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

Friday Fest – 5:30 until 8:30 PM
Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880

Monday, June 5
Fixed Income Investing – Under $1 Million
Ft. Pierce Library, 461-0880

Wednesday, June 14
2nd Wednesday Walkabout
5:00 until 8:00 PM
Downtown Business Association, 465-7080

Calendar

Friday, June 3
Community Center

Sun Nastics
M. on, Wed., Fri., 9:00 to 10:00 AM
Ft. Pierce Community Center, 462-1792

Jazzercise
M. on., Wed., Fri., 10:00 to 11:15 AM
Ft. Pierce Community Center, 462-1792

Adult Flamingo Class
Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 PM
Ft. Pierce Community Center, 462-1792

Adult Social Dance Class
Wednesday, 7:00 to 8:30 PM
Ft. Pierce Community Center, 462-1792

Pilates Classes
Monday, 7:00 to 8:15 PM
Ft. Pierce Community Center, 462-1792

ADULT SOCIAL DANCE CLASS
Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 PM
Ft. Pierce Community Center, 462-1792

ADULT FLAMINGO CLASS
Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 PM
Ft. Pierce Community Center, 462-1792

ADULT SOCIAL DANCE CLASS
Wednesday, 7:00 to 8:30 PM
Ft. Pierce Community Center, 462-1792

Gold Star Class
Monday, 7:00 to 8:15 PM
Ft. Pierce Community Center, 462-1792

Restaurant Entertainment

The Original Tiki Bar
461-0880
Sunday Afternoons 3:00 to 7:00 PM
Music by "Eddy Broken"

Governor's Grill
466-6900

"Opm M Iike Night"
Tuesdays, 9:00 PM to Closing

"Blues Night at the Grill"
Wednesdays, 8:00 PM

Friday Night Live Music – Friday Evenings
Live Jazz with Matris – Saturday Evenings

HOURLY JAM SESSIONS
Sunday Afternoons 3:00 to 7:00 PM
Music by "Eddy Broken"

ADULT SOCIAL DANCE CLASS
Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 PM
Ft. Pierce Community Center, 462-1792

ADULT FLAMINGO CLASS
Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 PM
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Friday Night Live Music – Friday Evenings
Live Jazz with Matris – Saturday Evenings

~Event Spotlight~

INTERACTIVE NATURE SERIES CLASSES
Fort Pierce Library, Captain Chop Lege, the St Lucie County Mosquito Control District and the Marine Resource Council are offering FREE Interactive Nature Series classes. Captain Lege is a fifth generation Audubon warden, captain of the Manatee Education tour boat and founder of the Conservation Center for Lake Okeechobee, Kissimmee, Indian River and Everglades Education. Each topic has an information program at the Fort Pierce Library at 3:00 p.m. and a walk in the field on the following day at 10:00 a.m. The programs are FREE, however, participants are required to pre-register. For more information or to register, please call 466-2747.

June 22: Tacking: All creatures great and small live in our beautiful preserves managed by the Mosquito Control District. Learn to find and identify prints left by our animal friends. 3:00 p.m. at the Fort Pierce Library.

June 23: Walk and Talk. Vitolz Family Park, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

July 6: Birds, Butterflies and Bobcats. You see them but do you know their names and habits. Come and learn who and how they impact on St. Lucie County? 3:00 p.m. at the Fort Pierce Library.

July 7: Walk and Talk. Vitolz Family Park, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

July 13: Marshes, Estuaries and Impoundments. Nature interacts with us. Learn the history behind today’s realities. Learn about the real Florida. 3:00 p.m. at the Fort Pierce Library.

July 14: Walk and Talk. Vitolz Family Park, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

July 20: Mangroves, Mosquitoes and Man — What a Combination! Capt. Chop will explain their mysterious relationship to each other and us especially in a hurricane! Learn to spot all 3 kinds of Mangroves, local fish, birds and other creatures of the lagoon. 3:00 p.m. at the Fort Pierce Library.

July 21: Walk and Talk. Vitolz Family Park, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Please wear suitable clothing and walking shoes for the Walk and Talk.

What is red, white and blue all over? You do not have to give up guessing, but just show up on May 29 around dusk at Fort Pierce’s Marina Square and you will find out with 2,200 strobe lights and music. If you missed out on the Holiday Spectacular Light Show, now is your chance to enjoy the Patriotic Light Show which will run from Memorial Day through July 9 from dusk until 11:00 p.m. every evening.

The interactive music and light display will feature songs from some of the traditional classic patriotic tunes as God Bless America, Washington Square and Those In Peril on the Sea. The Marina Square landscaping will come alive with flashing lights and palm trees that take on a “firecracker” appearance during the Patriotic music selections.

The Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA) is working with Let There Be Lights, owner Dave Lockey, to provide a Patriotic Memorial and Fourth of July Holiday Spectacular in Fort Pierce. You don’t want to miss this one!
Meet me Downtown: DiscoverFortPierce.com

by Bill Cheverie, President of the Downtown Business Association

A beautifully renovated pristine theatre. An inviting brick paved waterfront, accented by swaying palms, fountains and a panoramic view of the Indian river. Wide sidewalks perfect for strolling are lined with coffee houses, gourmet restaurants, relaxing lunch venues, day spas and unique shops of all kinds. Upon entering, the warm smile and friendly greeting you will receive is usually from the shop’s owner. If you have not visited downtown lately, it is time you discovered the new Fort Pierce.

Each month, the Downtown Business Association will help you to discover or re-discover this newest gem of the treasure coast. We will help you to navigate this blend of historical significance, cultural renaissance, and waterfront beauty that has become Downtown Fort Pierce. Shop, Dine, Enjoy, is not only the slogan of the DBA but a sincere welcome from all our members and friends.

To help you enjoy all that downtown has to offer, the DBA is unveiling their new website, DiscoverFortPierce.com. Here you will find a shopping and dining directory, a community events calendar with links, maps, helpful tips, upcoming shows, dining coupons, menus, parking areas, trolley schedules, important phone numbers and contacts, places to visit and stay and a wealth of other information to make your visit to our bustling downtown area more enjoyable. The site was built by 1800v.com and is always being updated. “1800v.com realized what we needed, prepared the site quickly and charged less than half of what other companies were proposing. We have recommended them wholeheartedly to all our members and are very pleased with their work,” says Angela Campbell, treasurer DBA.

The Downtown Business Association which is made up of businesses of all types and sizes is taking a much larger role in assisting the city and other community groups. Fort Pierce has changed significantly in the past five years and the future looks very bright and promising. The transition is remarkable and it has taken the vision and dedication of groups such as Main Street, the Community Redevelopment Agency, property owners, city officials and civic leaders to bring a sense of pride and recognition back to this beautiful waterfront community. The DBA stands ready and is always looking for new members and volunteers to assist in this endeavor. For more information on the new DBA and how you can share your ideas and take part in the continuing growth of your downtown area please call 772-940-4889 and ask for Bill.

For now, consider this our cordial invitation to discover our historic waterfront community. Please stop by or visit us online at www.discoverFortPierce.com. As always, be sure to “Shop, Dine, & Enjoy beautiful Downtown Fort Pierce.”

June 2006 MAIN STREET FOCUS 6

Hurricane Tips From Fort Pierce Utilities

- If you lose water service or have a drop in water pressure, boil all tap water used for drinking or cooking until you are advised that it is safe to stop.
- Please limit your water use immediately before and after a storm so that water will be available for emergency use.
- When there is no electricity, wastewater lift stations don’t work, so refrain from flushing your toilet to help prevent backups.
- During a storm, turn off or unplug all electrical equipment.
- Do not touch downed or low-hanging wires or anything they may be touching. Also, stay away from puddles where downed lines may have landed.
- If you use a generator, be sure to turn your electricity off at the fuse box and make sure your generator is in a well-ventilated location. Also, remember to turn the generator off before turning your electricity back on.
- Call FPUA at 466-7703 to report downed power lines, damaged lines or poles, or broken sewer or water lines.
- Do not to block utility poles or equipment by placing debris around them.

Fort Pierce Utilities
206 S. 6th Street
(772) 466-1600
www.fpu.com

Gloria Roa Bodin, P.A.
Attorneys at Law
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Gloria Roa Bodin, P.A.
Attorneys at Law
VISAS FOR INVESTORS AND SAUSAGE MAKERS

The Immigration Law Offices of Gloria Roa Bodin, P.A. specializes in representing businesses, investors and professionals from all over the world. Recent clients from the Treasure Coast include a German investor building luxury homes, a Polish businessman opening a sausage (bratwurst) plant, and a French investor refurbishing a Bed and Breakfast.

239 N. 3rd St., Fort Pierce, FL 34940 (Under Construction)
2921 Le Jeune Rd, Suite 1000 • Coral Gables, FL 33154
3200 Colonial Blvd, Suite 151, Fort Myers, FL 33907
Tel: (305) 442-1322 • Fax: (305) 444-7270 • Toll Free: 1-888-442-9449
groabodincounselors.com • www.gloriaraobodin.com
Before choosing a lawyer, ask for written information about the lawyer’s legal qualifications and experience.

Meet me Downtown: DiscoverFortPierce.com

June 2006 MAIN STREET FOCUS 7

Other information to make your visit to our bustling downtown area more enjoyable. The site was built by 1800v.com and is always being updated. “1800v.com realized what we needed, pre
New Art for Our New Home

Main Street Fort Pierce is the proud owner of a new piece of art. A painting of the Seven Gables House now graces our lobby thanks to the generosity of Mr. Ed Bryan. Ed presented this treasure to the group at our Annual Meeting in May.

Ed Bryan reveals his painting of the Seven Gables House as a gift to Main Street at the Annual Meeting in May.

I wondered how he came to be interested in Fort Pierce and why he chose to paint the house. It was a roundabout path that led Ed to art and to our area.

Born in Brooklyn, he moved out to Wantaugh on Long Island. In the 1950s, his wife suffered a fall and was laid up for a while. To help keep her occupied, Ed bought her a pre-stretched canvas and some paint. She wasn’t too taken with the idea, but Ed gave it a shot, and found his calling.

Ed studied with a painter on Long Island, John Dillon, a member of the Salmagundi Club, the oldest professional art group in the country. He also had a mentor in Walter Emerson Baum who was the founder of the Baum School of Art in Allentown, PA.

Ed moved here to enjoy our sunny climate over forty years ago. He noticed the Seven Gables house several years ago while still in its original location on US 1. He was so taken with the architecture that he spent a day sketching and photographing the unique house. From this fieldwork, he produced the painting we have today.

But the story doesn’t end there. A few months after he sketched the house, he drove by and realized she was missing. Imagine his disappointment as he believed one more historic building fell victim to demolition. Then just a few months later he was driving up to the Backus Gallery and found her new home as she was being refurbished.

Ed said that he donated the painting to Main Street with the hopes that it would be enjoyed and to add to the ambiance of our new offices in the home of one of Fort Pierce’s most beloved artists.

Main Street would like to thank Ed for his generosity and invites the public to stop by, view the painting and visit our new home. Come, sit a spell, and learn more about how you can help us with “Our Next Big Thing” which is to save one more of Fort Pierce’s Architectural treasures, the Platt’s/Backus House.

June 2006 MAIN STREET FOCUS 8

Where You’re Doing Business With A Friend...At Home.

- Lifetime Free Checking™ Account
- Free Business Checking* & Other Business Banking Services
- Consumer, Commercial, Real Estate Loans & SBA Loans
- Local Lending Authority & Competitive Rates
- Trust Services
- Leasing & Merchant Services

RIVERSIDE BANK
2210 Okeechobee Rd, 466-1200
1600 S. Federal Hwy, 464-9000
5053 Tumpke Reeder Rd, 461-3000
www.RiversideBank.com

8 MAIN STREET FOCUS June 2006
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute has been recognized by Healthgrades, the national healthcare quality rating organization, for our exceptional dedication to quality care and clinical excellence.

We are one of only 21 non-teaching hospitals in the country to have received the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence for four consecutive years.

This distinction places Lawnwood among the top 5% of hospitals nationally for overall clinical excellence as well as 5-STAR ratings for:

- *Stroke Care*
- *Cardiac Interventional Procedures*
- *Pulmonary Care*
- *Treatment of Heart Failure*
- *Recipient of the Cardiac Care Excellence Award*

Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute

For Your Good Health

Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute • 1700 South 23rd Street, Fort Pierce, Florida 34950
772.461.4000 • www.lawnwoodmed.com

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Unique Father’s Day Gifts Located in Downtown Fort Pierce
by Kate O’Connor

I have come to the conclusion that slippers just will not do in the summer — they’ll probably have to wait until this coming winter. One thing is for sure: Downtown Fort Pierce has some shopping secrets and great gift ideas. I was just walking down Orange Avenue the other day to find an idea for the perfect gift for my dad. I stopped first at Jo Pye’s store, The Gift Horse. She showed me some foot stools and very unique scented sea shells with candle lights.

I continued down Orange Avenue and glanced through the window into Harbor Wear boutique. They have a great selection of “Life is Good” Tee shirts and I had a chance to speak with Peggy who kindly showed me all the color selections she has. Next, I walked across the street to see Roxanne at Der-matched. She warmly invited me in and gave me some tips for Father’s Day gifts which included a relaxed setting for personalized skin therapy. She conveniently sells coupons for any of her spa treatments.

I walked over to Manatee Zone where I saw a great Panama Jack hat selection and to complement the hat I picked out a Guy Harvey shirt for a great price.

You could give your father something from the average big chain store, but why not pick up something special from a local store? Downtown Fort Pierce has many unique gift ideas that you can find right here in town.

If you prefer to give your dad a taste of something different, check out the selection of cigars at Carolina Cigar Company. I visited their big, walk-in humidor filled with fresh hand-rolled cigars. Don’t know what kind of cigars to get as a gift? Just ask for a custom made cigar sampler with a selection of cordials.

Downtown is always becoming, with its great selection of gourmet finds to make your day with Dad complete. So, if you are looking for a very unique place to find a gift for the father who thought he had everything, this is the place to come for the out-of-the ordinary. I have.

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I unwrapped this restored old painting that you so carefully brought back from the Picture Perfect Gallery. Loretta, owner of Picture Perfect, showered me with kindness and also shared with me different types of frame molding that would make an outstanding present for those artistic evenings and quality time spent with Dad making beautiful frames to fit his favorite picture or painting.

Why not give Dad an hour to himself at Rumir’s Day Spa for a massage. The moment you venture into Rumir’s, you have ventured into a tranquil environment embraced in luxury with private treatment rooms and soothing music.

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Membership Fort Pierce

Main Street Fort Pierce

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©3 corporation, are tax deductible.

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

Main Street Membership Levels

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

Corporate:
- Small Business (less than 10 employees) ........................................ $100.00
- Medium Business (11 - 50 employees) ...................................... $250.00
- Large Business (51 or more employees) ................................ . $500.00
- Patron (all others) ........................................... $50.00
- Sponsor .............................................. $1,000.00

I would like to become a Main Street volunteer.

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

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., a 501©3 not-for-profit corporation, has encouraged and participated in the revitalization efforts of downtown Fort Pierce for the past 18 years. The efforts of many have paid off. Downtown Fort Pierce is now recognized as one of the most desirable locations to live and work on the Treasure Coast, as well as, in the state of Florida.

The M ain 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 charettes to encourage the public participation in revitalization efforts, created outdoor art programs, and helped fund an award winning image campaign along with the Downtown Business Association, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and the City of Fort Pierce.

Membership Benefits:
- Subscriptions to Main Street Focus and Website Links to Focus On-Line
- Advance Notice and Invitation to Special Events
- Membership to St. Lucie County Preservation Association
- Listed on our On-Line Membership Page

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.

In recent years, Roxanne has observed a change in skin care awareness. Her clients (both male and female) have a growing concern in the health and beauty of their skin. This includes using quality home care products and clinical facials. Among the most popular clinical facials is microdermabrasion, using aluminum oxide crystals to exfoliate and rejuvenate skin.

O ver the past few years new products have revolutionized the clinical spa industry. Diamond byte machines have been introduced for resurfacing the skin; ultrasound is being used for penetration of products; and micro-current stimulation is used for muscle contraction.

The DermaTech group is very active and giving to downtown events. They are a member of the D.B.A., they are eager participants of the Sandy Shoes Festival Parade, and make shopping fun by decorating their shop for all holidays and by offering coupons to those looking for a great gift for loved ones.

DermaTech — 10 Years Young

by Sue Dannahower

DermaTech Day Spa is celebrating its 10th year in business. DermaTech is located at 210 Orange Avenue in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Roxanne Bachman, owner, esthetician and nail technician acquired the business in 2003. By her side are Marie Maile, esthetician and massage therapist and Diane Steele, esthetician. Together they have contributed to the success of DermaTech, bringing with them over 25 years of industry experience.

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On May 3, 2006, Main Street Fort Pierce opened its doors to the public to celebrate 18 years of organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring in historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Invitations were sent out to the Board Members, Main Street Members and the general public to introduce this year’s theme, “The Next Big Thing,” and to let the public know how they can be a piece of the puzzle.

Anne Satterlee, president of Main Street, took center stage to welcome guests and thank the many Main Street sponsors and wonderful volunteers. Main Street board member, Beth Williams, explained this year’s theme and the most immediate future goals: the restoration of The Platts/Backus House and hosting the State Main Street Conference in downtown Fort Pierce. Beth Williams presented a check from Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and St. Lucie Medical Center in the amount of $30,000.00 to Main Street for their continued support of the Main Street Program and the Platts/Backus House.

Anne Satterlee returned to the podium to introduce the 2006-2007 Main Street Board of Directors, including Britt Reynolds (Vice President), Sue Dannahower (Secretary), Dave Miller (Treasurer), Pat Alley, Edward Becht, Chris Craft, Pam Cully, Brenda Eaves, Nancy Ingle, Michelle Miller, Eugene Sereg, and Beth Williams.

After the introduction of the board, Anita Prentice stepped in for T.A. Wyner and released a butterfly symbolizing Main Street’s new beginnings at the Backus House. E.G. Bryan donated a picture of the Seven Gables House to Doris Tillman to display at the Main Street office. Anne Satterlee concluded the meeting and guests were treated to food provided by Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and a music performance by Mike Denne.

Main Street has proven that years of consistent dedication and creativity have made a positive, lasting change to downtown Fort Pierce. With the completion of the Sunrise Theatre, it is now time for Main Street Fort Pierce to move on to “The Next Big Thing.” Main Street is creating a Custom Palette to help with the restoration of the Platts/Backus House. Just as the artist’s palette is used to arrange and mix colors that will make a work of art, donations will help give new life to an important Fort Pierce treasure. Help Main Street put the pieces of the puzzle together, restore the Platts/Backus House, and bring the Florida landmark back to its central position in the community while giving Main Street a permanent home.

For more information about how you can be part of the Next Big Thing, a piece of the puzzle or choosing your color, contact Main Street Fort Pierce at 466-3880.
On the Waterfront from Orange to A
by Patty Moll

One Tuesday morning about a week ago I had the chance to chat with Ed Register, one of Ft. Pierce’s native sons. We met at the Backus house on one of our perfect Florida days. You know the kind – when the sun is bright and breeze is soft. The kind of day when it seems like there’s nothing no matter how enticing, will keep you inside. Well, once Ed started talking I forgot all about the day and my wish to be outdoors. He took me back to a time when long forgotten homes and businesses lined the drive between Orange Avenue and Avenue A. Ed was born at home on May 24, 1917. His house sat on the corner of Avenue A and US1, just a stones throw from the river. So take a walk with Ed, listen to his words, and roll back the image of today’s waterfront to view it through the eyes of a boy in the last halcyon days of the roaring twenties.

Heading back to the western corner of Orange and what we call Indian River Drive today, lived the Roylance family. Just behind their house was a little garage apart from the Backus building, Mr. Gray would try to put together a picture of the era. A home much like the one we’re sitting in today. I’m at the stage of my life where I often wish I were a few years younger, but as I listen to Ed and look around the Backus house, I’m a little wistful wishing I were a few years older. We live in an amazing age, but how much fun it would have been to grow up downtown in a Huckleberry Finn kind of way.

Next to the Backus property was the store run by the Samples and Harris families who owned the East Coast Grocery Company. Ed and his family were friends with the Samples and Harris families who owned the store, so it was a natural place for him to pal around after school. And as boys will, held climb all over the bags of feed, having fun while getting into harmless mischief. He remembers the building as large with tall ceilings that stretched far beyond his ten year old shoulders.

Just one lot north was the storage building where they kept their dry feed. Back then, the water from the river came right up to the road. The building stood on pilings and the feed was kept in storage to try and prevent the “varmints” from getting in.

Next to the grocer’s storage building was Ed’s dad’s barrel factory. The location originally housed A.M. Samples fish house. Ft. Pierce was once home to a large commercial fishing community and even after Ed’s dad bought the business and turned it into a barrel factory it maintained its fish house heritage. Fishermen still hung their nets outside to wait for the next day’s tide and another bountiful haul of fish.

The Gulf Oil dock. If you dug down far enough today, you might still find concrete from the platform they built for their trucks to use. There was a single long pier going out to the channel so the trucks could meet the barge and get the next load of fuel. If you look closely at the photo below you can see the shadow of the pier in the water. If you were a kid back then, when you left Gulf Oil, you might play a game of ball in the open field between there and the bandstand, or you might linger a while by the water skipping stones and planning what to do with your summer. After that you could always wander down to Cobb’s Dock and see if the fish were biting.

Next to Billy’s place was a small lane and beyond that, the Backus house. I’m a little wistful wishing I were a few years older. We live in an amazing age, but how much fun it would have been to grow up downtown in a Huckleberry Finn kind of way. For their truckers and islanders, we meet Mr. Nicholson, the local weatherman. In his yard you’ll find wind gages and rain gages and miscellaneous gadjets sure to peak a boy’s imagination. Inside the house he kept his most important instrument, a barometer. When a big storm or hurricane was headed this way the local paper would run stories and tell the folks they were “checking with Mr. Nicholson”. If a really big storm was brewing, telegrams would be sent from Mr. Gray down in Dade County. In addition to his own data he collected information from people around the Caribbean who had short wave radios. From all these sources, Mr. Gray would try to put together a picture of what the storm might bring.

North from there lived Bill Farmsworth, better known as Billy Wistlebritches the Riverside Barber. Ed remembers him as the nicest, funniest man he ever knew. He’d cut your hair for 25 cents and sell you a soft drink for a nickel. Now he kept soft drinks around for a long time, a really long time. So long that the caps rusted some. No matter – a cold cream soda brought some welcome relief on a hot Florida day. Over in the corner was Billy’s bed with an old mosquito net to keep him from being eaten up while he slept. Behind his bed was a little kitchen area and a bathroom. Everything a young man like Billy might need was right at his fingertips. And, for a bit of company, he could always pop over to see his sister M.r. Curry, who lived on up the hill behind his house.

Two lots down on the west side we stretched far beyond his ten year old shoulders. Just one lot north was the storage building where they kept their dry feed. Back then, the water from the river came right up to the road. The building stood on pilings and the feed was kept in storage to try and prevent the “varmints” from getting in.

Next to the grocer’s storage building was Ed’s dad’s barrel factory. The location originally housed A.M. Samples fish house. Ft. Pierce was once home to a large commercial fishing community and even after Ed’s dad bought the business and turned it into a barrel factory it maintained its fish house heritage. Fishermen still hung their nets outside to wait for the next day’s tide and another bountiful haul of fish.

Nest to Billy’s place was a small lane and beyond that, a miniature golf course, where you could play for next to nothing. What a great deal, the twenties were roaring, but money was scarce. Adjoining the golf course was a stretch of open land bordered by Avenue A.

Today this small block is a concentration of commercial ventures, but with the addition of the A marina Square project and the Renaissance building we return to our small town roots. Rebuilding a community where you can live, work and play all within walking distance of our incredible waterfront. This addition will enrich Ft. Pierce for residents and visitors alike. We invite you to come downtown, watch us grow and be part of our future.
The third member of the team is office manger Janet Livingston. A seasoned veteran of the travel industry, Janet truly enjoys matching up clients with their perfect vacation. Weather it's a Harley Davidson cruise through Europe, (bring your bike or rent one in country), a cozy river cruise through the tulips and windmills of the Netherlands, fighting bill fish off the coast of Florida or the coast of South America or a traditional vacation package, bring your dream vacation to the ladies at All About Travel and they will make it a reality at an unbeatable price.

All About Travel can be heard singing the praises of His toric Downtown Fort Pierce on their weekly radio show on Thursday nights between 5-6 pm on WPSL radio am 1590. Listen in for great travel tips, ideas, and upcoming vacation specials. Stop in any time to pick up a brochure and feel free to call at (772) 465-6565. You will find ample parking behind their new location and Gretchen the Hur rican office kitty will meet you with a wide eyed grin. It’s a great time to travel. All About Travel is standing by to help you before, during and after your next vacation.

Continued on next page...
Backus Gallery News
by Sue Dannahower

“The Indian River School of Painters”
May 31 – July 15, 2006

Whether formally instructed or merely mentored by A.E. Backus, legions of artists gained in skill and wisdom from the influence of Bean Backus. This exhibit, held in honor of his 100th birthday, pays tribute to Backus’ artistic and humanitarian legacy through the exhibition of paintings by those he influenced the most. Exhibiting artists include Don D. Brown, James Hutchinson, Michael G. Enns, Michael Sitaras, Jackie Brice, Jackie Schindellette, Sherry Johnson, Therese Knowles, Tom Fresh, Julie Enders, Rick Kelly, Dan Holt, Delores Hutchinson, Leslie Szakacs, selected works by The Florida Highwaymen and more.

The Gallery will be closed to the public July 17 through September 22, 2006.

Got A Tough Question? Ask A Professional!

The Clock Shop Owner, Mel Liebman
by Sue Dannahower

**Question:** How does my atomic clock work?
**Answer:** What you have is probably a radio controlled clock, not an atomic clock. The US Government uses atomic clocks at the US Naval Observatory in Fort Collins, Co. They send out a radio signal that your clock picks up and uses to adjust its time keeping. The problem we have in Florida is that we are about as far as you can get from Fort Collins. So, sometimes we will lose the signal. When that happens, your clock can lose its ability to keep the correct time. It’s best to keep your radio controlled clock on the inside of an outside wall of the house, where there is less interference.

**Question:** Can I set my clock backwards?
**Answer:** Most clocks made in the past 20 years can be set forward or backwards. However, always look at your directions to be sure. Most older clocks can be set clockwise only. Always stop at each quarter hour if it’s a chime clock or every half hour and hour if it’s a striking clock. Any clock that is time only can be set either way, but if there is a chime, read the directions to verify if it’s self-adjusting.

When in doubt, move the hands clockwise.

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.
Jon Ward isn’t one to do things halfway. The first six years he lived in Fort Pierce he barely slept there – his business kept him on the road some 200 nights a year.

Once Jon retired from that business and had a chance to appreciate Fort Pierce, he became a one-man-band promoting the city’s revitalization, particularly advocating for business and culture downtown.

One to put his money where his mouth is, in 2000 Jon and his wife, Fort Pierce native, Teri Adams-Ward, purchased, “what was arguably the ugliest building in town.”

The couple renovated Russakis Liquor Store on North Depot Drive, putting their publishing company, Long Wind Publishing, on the ground floor and their private residence upstairs. Says Jon, “Both Teri and I saw the value of doing our part to recreate a living downtown, both economically and from a lifestyle standpoint.”

The couple has taken a lot of ribbing over the past 16 years about the building’s bright coral paint job, but they’ve also served as inspiration to others wanting to bring life back to downtowns all over the country. Not only did the renovation win the Mayor’s Gold Hammer Award, the Florida State Main Street Awards Committee recognized it in 2002.

The Wards brought national attention to downtown Fort Pierce not long after, when the home was featured on HGTV’s series “Building Character.” HGTV recently returned to feature the building on the program “ReZoned.”

In the years since, Jon has made promoting the region his business, serving as Director of Cultural Affairs for St. Lucie County from 2002 to 2005, and joining the City of Fort Pierce last summer as Director of the city’s Redevelopment Agency. At FPRA Jon is directly responsible for leading the city’s revitalization, bringing difference-making...
projects like the new trolley downtown to businesses, resi-
dents, and visitors. And yet, still he says, he and Teri are
“just cheerleaders.”

Nickname: The T-Rex of Culture (Dubbed by travel-
author Herb Hiller in Highway A1A: Florida at the Edge.)

Birthplace: “Dubach, Louisiana — a town the size of
your coffee table.”

Came to Area: Moved to Fort Pierce from Atlanta in 1990.

Favorite Thing About Downtown Fort Pierce: “The
way the pieces are really coming together: the new library,
beautiful Marina Square, the Sunrise Theatre, private
investment … we are creating the look of the city for the
next 100 years, and I like what I see.”

Favorite Main Street Fort Pierce Activity: “Their leadership
role in historic preservation, as evidenced by their involve-
ment in the restoration of Old City Hall, the Sunrise The-
atre and their present challenge: the Backus House.”

Other Civic/Charitable Activities: Board of Directors Flori-
da Humanities Council (hosted a ‘Gathering’ of scholars
from around the State in Fort Pierce this year), Sunrise The-
atre and Treasure Coast Hispanic Cultural Foundation; for-
mer Chairman, St. Lucie County Cultural Affairs Council.

What You Might Not Know: Award-winning illustrator of
13 children’s books, including Howard Wise and the
Monsters of Mop, which he wrote and illustrated.

What’s Next: Speaker at the Main Street State Conven-
tion in Fort Pierce in November.
Southern Kingfish Association Championship Returns
by Dan D annahower

April saw at long last the return of the Southern Kingfish Association’s 2005 National Championship Finals. Originally scheduled in November 2005 in Fort Pierce, a major weather system caused the event to cancel and be rescheduled for this April 20-22. By late night on the 20th, 272 boats had officially registered to compete!

The battle was on and by the end of competition on the 22nd the catches were large. Taking home the 2005 National Champion title to Brunswick, GA was Rick Smith of the “Wild Turkey” with an aggregate catch of 109.25 Lbs. Howard Poe’s “Kill-N-Me” from Darien, GA took second place with 95.28 Lbs. David Ballard’s “Iron Man” out of Georgetown, SC took third with an aggregate of 75.63 Lbs.

Many other boats won in other classes and levels of competition too numerous to report. For further details visit www.fishska.com. Details on upcoming tournaments and a plethora of other information can also be found there.

Numerous peripheral activities always accompany these tournaments with lots of fun for the competitors and spectators alike. Street fests, live music, festivities, kids events, even a Texas Hold-M. poker tournament are a few examples of the fun surrounding these major events.

Just a week later another SKA tournament, the Yellowfin-Mercury Kingfish Classic kicked off in Fort Pierce. A large number of boats registered and were faced with unusually blustery conditions which ultimately resulted in the cancellation of one day’s fishing. As of this writing results were unavailable on SKA’s website but should be posted soon.

Locally fishing continues to be very good. In the river trout and redfish are being caught on the grass flats on live shrimp and lures. Snook fishing in the turning basin and around bridges and structures has been excellent with the main problem being catching one small enough to be legal.

Offshore has been a bit tough due to the higher than normal wind days. Kingfish, Dolphin and bottom fish have all been reported off and on depending on conditions.

Tip of the month: Night bottom fishing for snapper can be very rewarding as we slip into the summer months. Longtime friend and local fisherman extraordinaire Ed Lewis reports that a recent trip resulted in a limit catch of mangrove snapper in just a few hours, all around 8 or 9 Lbs!

Ed advises fish any of the reefs from close inshore to the deeper water ledges, deeper usually means bigger fish. Live bait like greenies work well fished on the bottom with circle hooks. Don’t “set” the hook, let the fish do the work and just reel steadily when you feel he’s on. The circle hook will take care of the “set.” The five or so days leading up to a full moon seem to be an excellent time for this type of fishing. If possible get out and anchored before sunset as the bite comes on fast once it gets dark. One caveat: the inlet and the Atlantic Ocean in particular, are not a place for neophytes. Venturing out onto the ocean in daylight conditions requires reasonable boating skills and the proper safety equipment. Add to the mix the dark of night and one need be sure he is prepared to deal with contingencies. Just use your common sense and be careful out there. Good luck and good fishing.
I cook with wine; sometimes I even add it to the food.

— W.C. Fields

To advertise your Restaurant in the Main Street Focus Dining Section, call Delila at 772-466-3880.

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Monday – Friday, 11:00 a.m. to Close, Lunch & Dinner
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Dinner Only

Live Music Every Saturday Night with MATRIX from 6 – 9 p.m.
Ladies Night Thursday with STARTIME Karokee,
Ladies drink FREE 10 – 12 p.m.
Happy Hour 4-7 Monday – Friday

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