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We have all heard the quote "what does government do for me?", and often those of us who work in government hear this saying used daily. Over the past 15 years, government, especially Fort Pierce City government, has contributed a large portion to defining and answering this ultimate question.

Look around and take notice of the tremendous physical and financial impact that has taken place since the City leaders made a commitment to revive the downtown area. With additions of streetscapes, brick pavers, Royal Palms, decorative light fixtures, banners, signage and more, the City began rebuilding the aesthetic qualities we enjoy today in our waterfront community.

Public buildings have been planned and built. Their origins derived from various public planning charrettes conducted over 10 years ago. From the planning process we have the downtown library, the Seven Gables Visitor Information Center, the Sunrise Theatre, the Public Defender’s Office, the Clerk of the Court Building, the Federal Courthouse, the Downtown Parking Garage, the City Marina improvements, and multiple street projects. These are just the improvements in the Fort Pierce Main Street designated area.

This significant public reinvestment has resulted in private investment with the up and coming Renaissance on the River, a $50 million project; prospects of a hotel and parking garage on the old JC Penney parking lot; private owners and businesses renovating and painting their buildings; new residential development on the beach; and the Arcade Building. I think you get the point.

We are all in this reinvestment partnership together. Our success for another decade is dependent on the smart choices that are made by our elected officials and support from the public sector. Working together is the key and the result will benefit all of Fort Pierce for generations to come.
Main Street Fort Pierce Annual Meeting
Friday, June 1st: **Friday Fest** – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880.

**Weekly Events**

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

**Arts and Crafts Show & Sale** – Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; north of downtown Fort Pierce Library, 460-5124.

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

**Forts Pierce Community Center Activities**

For information, please call 462-1792.

**Restaurant Entertainment**

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

**Governor’s Grill** – 466-6900; “Open Mike Night” on Tuesdays, 9 p.m. to closing; “Blues Night at the Grill” on Wednesdays, 8 p.m.; “Ladies Night” on Thursdays, 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.; Live Music on Friday evenings; Live Jazz with Matrix on Saturday evenings.

**Downtown Fort Pierce Library Activities**

For information, please call 462-2787.

**Sunrise Theatre**

For information, please call 461-4775.

**Manatee Observation and Education Center**

For information, please call 466-1600, ex. 3333.

**St. Lucie County Historical Museum**

For information, please call 462-1795.

**Backus Gallery**

For information, please call 465-0630.

**Backus Gallery Season’s Premiere Exhibitions**

**Indian River School of Painters: May 29 – July 14.** Whether formally instructed or merely mentored by Backus, the legions of artists gained in skill and wisdom from the influence of Bean Backus. Exhibiting artists may include Don Brown, James Hutchinson, Jackie Brice, Jackie Schindehette, Sherrie Johnson, Therese Knowles, Tom Fresh, Julie Enders, Rick Kelly, Dan Holt, Delores Hutcheson and more…

**On the Cover … Downtown Parking Garage Construction Underway**

It is now official: the **City Hall Parking Lot** is the staging and construction area for the City’s downtown parking garage and mixed-use building complex. The project began Monday, April 9, 2007.

The four-story, Mediterranean-revival influenced structure will consist of a concrete pre-cast 156,077-square-foot open parking garage with 471 parking spaces, to be located on the existing **Fort Pierce City Hall** parking lot.

City employees and visitors to **City Hall** are directed to park at temporary employee parking areas around **City Hall**. Construction and completion is expected to last approximately 10 months. The parking garage and mixed-use space construction cost is $11,379,317 which is funded by the City through the **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency** (FPRA).

The design/build project is being built by **The Haskell Company** of Jacksonville, Florida. The final concept and construction drawings will be produced by Haskell’s in-house architectural team, under the leadership of Christopher Holmes, AIA.

Photo Credit: Photographs for “Then & Now: The Tyler House” story, May 2007, were contributed by **Tanya Sockol-Harrington.**
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Downtown Fort Pierce Strengthened by the Future of the Sunrise Theatre
by Fort Pierce Mayor Bob Benton

The Sunrise Theatre is a great asset to the citizens of the City of Fort Pierce and also surrounding communities. The Sunrise is a community cultural and economic asset in the same sense as a museum, park, library, golf course or baseball stadium that directly impacts quality of life and desirability of private investment. From that standpoint, the theatre warrants and deserves public support.

At the same time, there is a constituency that has a greater benefit from the operation of the theatre, the same as there are people who have a greater benefit from the operation of the municipal golf course, marina, library, etc. We look to those individuals to carry a greater share of the financial burden for the support of the cultural facilities. It is important to recognize that over $2.5 million was raised by individual citizens of our community writing personal checks to the Sunrise Theatre to ensure its restoration and re-opening.

A Board of Directors has been chosen to help manage the theatre's operations and I would like to welcome them to a rewarding task. I know the devotion and desire of this Board will bring great entertainment to our area and great community involvement. The City of Fort Pierce would like to welcome the Sunrise Theatre Board Members: Commissioner Christine Coke, Chair; Bruce Abernethy, Jr. Vice Chair; Douglas Davis, Suzanne Danahower, Margorie Harrell, Francenia Mimms, Robert Braude, Leslie Wright, Jack Kelly, Jay Spicer, Michael Horowitz, Linda Lambrecht, Ben Hopper and Ashley Recor.

One of the first jobs of the new board members will be to appoint a foundation board to develop private resources to subsidize this cultural asset. If you would be interested to helping the Sunrise succeed contact a board member and let them know your desire. A community is made strong by community commitment and involvement! I thank the new board members for their commitment and look forward to working with you.
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The Story of Juneteenth

by Jon Ward

Standing on the front porch of the antebellum Knott House located on Park Avenue in occupied Tallahassee, Florida, on the warm morning of May 20, 1865, Union Brigadier General Edward M. McCook read aloud the dry and unpoetic words of an official doctrine that had been written some two-and-one-half-years before. The proclamation was a long time coming to this capital city and it would be another month before its words were heard in the last Confederate hold-out state, Texas. Reactions to these written words ranged from shock and disbelief to jubilant celebrations. The full range of emotions that the proclamation inspired would never be appreciated by the document's writer for, only the month before, he had died, cut down by an assassin's bullet.

"Got my hands on the gospel plow, wouldn't take nothin' for my journey now. Keep your hands on that plow, hold on."

The author of that distinctly un-musical sounding official document read on the steps of the Knott House was Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth president of the United States. His words did not carry the kind of power contained in some of his other noteworthy writings, such as the Gettysburg Address. They may well have been forgettable except for the overwhelming effects that his proclamation generated and whose full measure of importance would be impossible to gauge for decades to come. The tome would, however, be the source of one of his numerous and enduring nicknames, "The Great Emancipator," for this was the Emancipation Proclamation. Issued on September 22, 1862, it declared, "That on the first day of January, A.D. 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever, free ..."

"Took Paul and Silas, put 'em in the jail. Had no one to go their bail. Keep your hands on that plow, hold on."

January the first is not known as the Day of Emancipation, even though that is the date that the Proclamation took effect. No, it would be more than two years later, on June 19, 1865, when General Gordon Granger and 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, the last State to yield, and announced the glad tidings, just as General McCook had done in Tallahassee the month before. A commemorative celebration was held in Texas on the following year's anniversary and Freedom Day, June nineteenth, got colloquialized into "Juneteenth." Within a few years, the observance had spread to other States and became a growing annual tradition. In 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday in Texas and it became a state holiday observance in Florida in 1991. Today, Juneteenth celebrates freedom for African Americans in addition to many other themes, including education, self-improvement, African American accomplishments throughout history and tolerance and respect for all cultures.

As we approach our season of national celebration, let us all be mindful of what we celebrate. Memorial Day honors our servicemen and women who have given the last, full measure of duty and devotion for their country in wartime. The Fourth of July jubilantly shouts our pride at being Americans. Bracketed between these hallowed days, all Americans should join the joyous hosanna of Juneteenth, the day that celebrates the loosening of the shackles of slavery for every American, for the practice of slavery made slaves of all of us, slave and slave-holder, alike. And the freedom from it made all of us free.
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Downtown Hero: Robert L. Brackett
by John Culverhouse

At the height of Saint Lucie County’s real estate boom, developers from as far away as Miami-Dade County offered to purchase the historic Arcade Building from Bob Brackett. The building was not on the market, and it was clear that intentions of interested buyers was to demolish the Arcade in order to build a bigger, more modern structure. Brackett’s tenacity and determination to make Fort Pierce a better place by “recalling the past while shaping the future,” as his own motto states, makes Bob Brackett this month’s Downtown Hero.

Native to Cincinnati, Brackett moved to Miami with his parents when he was a young child. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Vero Beach, where they have lived ever since. Brackett has been in the credit reporting business since 1960. He has been an owner of Credit Data Services since 1977, and has been a past president and past board member of the Associated Credit Bureaus of Florida.

Restoring historic buildings is more or less something Brackett does on the side. His company, Brackett Family Limited Partnership, has restored numerous historic buildings in the area, four of which appear on the National Register of Historic Places. Three of those buildings are in Vero Beach, and of course, the Arcade Building in Fort Pierce is the other.

In Vero Beach, Brackett restored the old Indian River County Courthouse into the Courthouse Executive Center. Upstairs, the original courtroom was restored and is used for community events and receptions, both public and private. Brackett also restored Vero Beach’s Pueblo Arcade. The Pueblo Arcade is similar to Fort Pierce’s Arcade, only a bit smaller. Brackett’s other Vero...
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Beach project on the National Register of Historic Places is Vero’s old Theatre Plaza. The theater lobby was restored to its original look, and the rest of the building consists of retail space with apartments on the top floor.

Though most of Brackett’s work has been in Vero, his wife, Sandy Biggles Brackett, grew up in Fort Pierce. Sandy loves Fort Pierce and has many fond memories of time she spent here. When city leaders contacted Bob about purchasing and restoring the Arcade, Sandy was a primary influence on his decision to undertake the extensive project.

The Arcade Building was built in 1926, and for most of its existence was owned and operated by the family of Judge William Tye. The Tyes loved the building and devoted many years of dedication and hard work into the Arcade. The Tyes’ stewardship might explain why the Arcade stands today as only one of five remaining arcade buildings of its style in the entire state of Florida.

Arcades were designed to contain a series of shops and restaurants within one building that are accessible along a breezeway, instead of the conventional storefront along the street. People had a new way to shop and a nice way to relax away from the hot Florida sun. Decades later, shopping malls became the new trend in shopping methods, and arcade traffic swiftly declined along with other downtown establishments.

All the challenges Brackett incurred to preserve and modernize this historic building make Brackett’s work appreciated by many. Touches like new customized wooden door frames and the window frames directly above— from every last detail to the finish of the wood—give

Mr. Brackett inside the Community Room, where historical memorabilia of the Arcade Building can be viewed by the public.

Continued on page 15 ...
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the building a fresh look from the 1920s. Aside from hurricane impact glass, many interior panes have an antique look. Among other challenges Brackett faced, was that when the Arcade was built, it had no central air conditioning and did not have elevators. Brackett found nice ways of incorporating the new technologies into the building, including a historical-looking doorway at the base of the staircase that leads up to the second floor.

A walk through the Arcade takes you back in time. As you listen to music from the jazz age, you see an antique water fountain across from an old style phone booth. The U.S. 1 Arcade exits say “Fourth Street”, which is what U.S. 1 used to be known as. The Arcade’s Community Room, which is open to the public, is a historian’s haven. The room is a tribute to the Arcade’s rich history, containing numerous newspaper articles, stories, and photographs of the Arcade throughout the years. Visitors can see photos of the Arcade in its heyday in years past, to pictures of the Arcade on fire in 1982, when the west wing of the building burned down.

Eye-catching murals envelope the outside of the building and create a sense of nostalgia for many. Colorful murals can also be found in the Arcade breezeway. These murals depict local historical scenes, including the Spanish Treasure Fleet, Hogg’s Trading Post, Beanie Backus, Zora Neale Hurston, and of course the heyday of the Arcade Building.

The two million-dollar restoration of the Arcade Building in 2002, took nearly 18 months to complete. Brackett’s stellar restoration earned him the Florida Trust Award, the Florida Main Street Award, and the Fort Pierce Mayor’s Gold Hammer Award.

Brackett is very enthusiastic about helping others. He is a staunch supporter of higher education, serving as a Harding University Trustee for the past ten years. The Bracketts endowed the library at Harding University, and are endowing the new library at Indian River Community College’s Vero Beach campus. The Bracketts’ commitment to higher education does not stop there. They provide scholarships for students with financial needs here in the United States, and they also provide financial support for college students in impoverished Third World nations who wish to earn a higher education but do not have the means to do so. He points out the importance of educating college students of Third World nations in their native countries so that they will have the ability to lead those countries in the future.

Brackett enjoys spending time with his four children and twelve grandchildren, all who live in Vero. He is active in the community. He is an Elder at his church and has won the Exchange Club’s Golden Deeds Award and the March of Dimes’ Citizen of the Year in 2000. Our local communities are nicer places to live, thanks to his fine restoration projects. Thanks to his generosity towards education and students here at home and abroad, Bob Brackett’s noble deeds will help to make the world a better place.
Residents Will Decide the Future of Health Care in St. Lucie County on June 26th

On June 26, 2007, St. Lucie County’s registered voters will have the opportunity to make a life-saving decision for the community. Voters will determine whether or not to create a trauma district to fund critical care physicians required to operate a trauma center at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute in Fort Pierce.

Today, St. Lucie County residents are forced to leave our county for trauma and specialty care every day. Between January 2006 and March 2007, nearly 600 people were transferred either from an accident site or Lawnwood for care that we can’t provide at home because we do not have a trauma center and the medical specialists a trauma center provides. Patients who need this life saving care now must go to either Melbourne or Palm Beach creating a higher risk of death and an increased burden on family members who want to be near their loved ones throughout the crises. Having trauma care in St. Lucie County will save lives.

Improving the overall quality of care for all patients is one of the many benefits of having trauma services in a community. Studies indicate that in trauma centers there is a halo effect within the other departments of the hospital enhancing the overall delivery of care for all patients. Because trauma centers require certain medical specialists are available 24/7, all patients have better access to those doctors. Specialties such as neurosurgery, orthopedics, plastic and oral surgery have historically been in short supply on the Treasure Coast causing patients with non-trauma needs to be transferred as well. Trauma surgeons and critical care surgical Intensivists are at the hospital around the clock providing all patients with access to a doctor who can assist the nursing staff in assessing and treating patients 24-hours a day.

The State of Florida has approved Lawnwood to become a Level II Trauma Center by October 1, 2007. For that goal to become a reality, voters must approve a referendum scheduled for June 26th which will form a trauma district. The sole purpose of the trauma district is to provide funding for the trauma center’s physician specialists – trauma surgeons, neurosurgeons, and other critical care specialists. The trauma district would be funded through a property tax that could not exceed 1/4 mill per year. It is very likely that the full 1/4 mill allowed will not be needed so the amount assessed each year would be less than predicted. This fee would be charged annually on a property owner’s tax bill and would appear as a line item for trauma care.

For example, if the assessed value of your home is $250,000, your annual fee would be $56 if the entire 1/4 mill was used. That’s less than $5 a month for this life-saving service. The assessed value of your home is the amount the property appraiser bases taxes on. Your assessed value is generally much lower than the actual value of your property, particularly if you have a homestead exemption. If your assessed value is $100,000, your fee would be $25 per year. Again, it will differ for each of us depending on the assessed value of our property. The hospital will actually be one of the biggest contributors to the trauma district because Lawnwood pays property taxes based on the assessed value of the hospital.

Again, the funds provided through the trauma district are solely for medical personnel only. Because Lawnwood has already invested $12 million to expand its emergency department, making it “trauma ready” from a facility standpoint, there are no additional capital requirements. Payments from the trauma district would go directly from the district to the physicians. The money does not flow through the hospital’s bank account. This is not a subsidy for the hospital; it is an ongoing funding mechanism for medical specialists who will be available to all residents of St. Lucie County.

To provide complete public accountability, the trauma district will be governed by the existing Fire Board which is comprised of elected officials from the County Commission, Fort Pierce City Commission, and Port St. Lucie City Council.

A group of individuals called Citizens for Trauma Care has formed to promote the initiative to bring this life-saving service to St. Lucie County. For more information on the benefits of trauma care and how you can be involved, the group has developed a web site www.citizensfortraumacare.com.
A Decade of Fun in the Sun at the Manatee Center!

by Carol Johnson

When Liberta Scotto, the first Curator of the Manatee Observation and Education Center, offered a summer camp from July 22-26 in 1996, little did she or the others involved know, how successful the camp would become. Ten years later, the Manatee Center offers a whole month of fun for kids ages 7 to 17!

Since the Manatee Center did not open its doors until October 26, 1996, that first camp was offered even before there was an official Manatee Center! It was a joint effort between Liberta and the St. Lucie County 4-H program, headed up by Ken Gioeli of the St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Office. She had several Manatee Center volunteers assist with the camp, including George Springer, who was one of the Center’s very first volunteers and still continues to assist Lesley Vincent-Ryder, the current Manatee Center Education Coordinator, with the summer camps and the education programs throughout the year.

Over the years, the camp has evolved but it still offers the high quality of education and fun that was present at its inception. Due to its popularity, one week camp offered the first year grew to two weeks on the second year and encompassed a large age group from 8-18. When Camille Yates became Curator in 1999, she named the two camps “Nature Adventure Camp” and limited the age group to 8-12. She also expanded the camp schedule to include an “Art in Nature Camp,” also for 8-12 years and a “Photo Safari Camp” for older children, aged 13-17.

In an effort to make the “Photo Safari Camp” appealing to an ever more sophisticated teenaged group, Jann Widmayer, the current Curator, has revamped the name, which is now called “Photo Safari Summer Workshop.” She wants the older children to know that they are not just going to “camp” but will participate in an activity more suited for their age.

All sessions offer a good deal of outdoor activity but are varied according to the curriculum of the instructor. The Manatee Center’s Education Coordinator, Lesley Vincent-Ryder, is in charge of the “Nature Adventure Camps.” She gives classroom lessons on various Indian River Lagoon Life and other ecosystems and follows up by taking the children on field trips to area locations where they can actually view the nature they have been learning about and have fun doing so. Activities include: kayaking trips, seining, visiting various exhibits in the area, a visit to a local ranch and more. Gerard Saltus, III is an art instructor at the Fort Pierce Magnet School of the Arts. He conducts the “Art in Nature Camp” where he incorporates various art mediums with nature studies taking the campers out to various locations to learn how art and nature go hand in hand. While leading the “Photo Safari Summer Workshop,” he teaches the teens

Continued on page 18 ...
various photographic techniques that help them get the most out of their nature photography. Then he takes them to areas throughout our unique ecosystem to photograph flora and fauna in their natural habitats. They create a unique scrapbook of the photography techniques they have learned using their own photos!

Each camp is held Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., each taking up a week throughout the month of June.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Manatee Observation and Education Center’s summer camps or in volunteering as a camp counselor, please call Carol at 772-466-1600 extension 3071 and she will be happy to assist you. You can also download registration forms found online to www.manateecenter.com. Our summer camps are very popular and fill up fast so register soon!

Hurricane Planning For Your Business

You can take actions that will save damage and lost productivity before a hurricane threatens the area. If your business is in an evacuation zone, you need to plan for high wind and high water. Hiring an engineering firm to inspect the building and foundation can determine if the structure could withstand the forces of a hurricane. If it is not, you should plan to evacuate it completely during a hurricane.

Hurricane Preparation Tips From Fort Pierce Utilities

- Clear out areas with extensive glass frontage as much as possible. If you have shutters, use them; otherwise, use precut plywood to board up doors and windows.
- Bring inside or secure any objects, including hanging signs, that might become airborne in strong winds.
- Secure showcases. Use plywood to protect glass showcases or, if possible, turn the glass side toward an inside wall.
- Review your list of major equipment and furnishings to determine which items need to be protected or removed and record how you plan to do it.
- Store as much merchandise as high as possible off the floor, especially goods that could be in short supply after the storm.
- If merchandise cannot be stored, move it away from glass and cover it with tarpaulins or heavy plastic.
- Identify essential records that should be removed and determine where you plan to take them. Back up computer records and move these also.
- Remove papers from lower drawers of desks and file cabinets and place them in plastic bags or containers on top of cabinets.
- Secure all goods in warehouses off the floor, and place sandbags in spaces where water could enter.
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Fort Pierce’s New Chief of Police: Sean Baldwin

by Anne Satterlee

For R. Sean Baldwin enforcing the law in the city of Fort Pierce has become something he takes personally. Since being hired in 1990 as a patrol officer, Baldwin, 39, has had his mind focused on being the city’s “top cop” and took the necessary steps to ensure he would be prepared for the call to duty as Chief of Police, when it came.

On April 10, 2007, Baldwin achieved his goal of becoming Chief of Police. Though he has served in that capacity since August 2006, the assignment is now permanent. As Chief Baldwin settles into his position, his mind is set on moving the department to a higher level in responding to crime in the city of Fort Pierce.

In order to maintain the level of service and continue achieving our primary mission of “protecting the community we serve,” Chief Baldwin said we must focus on two things: “First, we have to control crime and other public safety threats in our community,” he said. “Second, we must constantly develop our organization, so that we become more effective in meeting our mission.” Chief Baldwin also said, “Community collaboration is an essential element in succeeding in these efforts.”

As Chief Baldwin ponders the future of the department, there are many difficult challenges it will face during the next five years. The most threatening crime problem in Fort Pierce is the festering problem with youth involved in gangs. Also on the rise are crimes involving fraud, including identity theft, Internet-based fraud, and even counterfeiting, he said.

“Organizationally, our largest challenge over the next few years will be acquiring and maintaining adequate resources to meet the increasing demands of our mission,” Chief Baldwin said. “We need to maintain competitive salaries, so that we keep and attract the best employees and at the same time find funding to increase our staffing.”

Approximately one year ago, Chief Baldwin, then assistant chief, began to implement a progressive approach to developing the department’s management staff. In partnering with Dr. Rachel Bob, of Florida Atlantic University, the department has incorporated an innovative community problem solving methodology that will drastically improve the department’s response to crime and other threats.

“The purpose of this investment is to continue our progression from being reactive to being proactive in protecting our community,” Chief Baldwin said. “The management staff has completed intensive leadership training in order to equip them with the appropriate tools to be more efficient, effective and accountable.”

Though a seemingly daunting task, Chief Baldwin is confident in the department’s ability to address the growing needs of our residents. In five years, he would like to see substantial progress in controlling crime within our community. During that time, Chief Baldwin wants the department to maintain the strong, trusting hold on the partnerships with our entire community and other agencies serving our community.

“In doing so, we will serve as a model for other law enforcement agencies in the development of proactive policing,” said Chief Baldwin. “Our dream is that Fort Pierce will be a safer place for all of us to live, work, and play.”
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Shut the Door on Utility Consumption
by Camille S. Yates

Shut the door! When you were a kid, did you ever hear one of your parents exclaim that you were letting the air out by keeping the door open? Whether it was the door to the refrigerator or the door going outside, thirty-five years later, I can still hear my mother reminding me to shut the door. In the 1970s during the “oil shortage,” conserving energy was important then and it still is now.

In today’s world, the costs to produce electricity, pump and treat water, and clean wastewater have risen dramatically. As a result, we sometimes get “sticker shock” when our utility bill arrives. If you are a customer of Fort Pierce Utilities, the bill comes with not just charges for all utilities including electricity, water, wastewater and natural gas, but it also includes items that FPUA bills for on behalf of the City of Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, and the State of Florida.

The good news is that each of us can control the bottom line on our utility bill when it comes to energy consumption. Keeping the door shut is just one way that we can reduce the use of energy which in turn, will lower the bill. Not only will we see a savings on our bill when we practice utility conservation, but we will also be ensuring that our resources will be available for future generations.

Since we are now in a drought and the South Florida Water Management District has started mandatory water restrictions, most of us should be aware of our water use. We are forced to conserve water because Mother Nature’s rainfall is not replenishing the ground water.

Saving water is easy. If you have a big family, limit the amount of time in the shower for each person, and put a flow regulator on the showerhead to reduce the water use while the shower is on. Make sure that everyone in the house knows to turn off the faucet when shaving, brushing their teeth, or washing their face. Also, avoid putting anything down the toilet such as tissues or bugs. Those types of items can be thrown in the garbage instead of flushed down the toilet.

To reduce your electric use, listen to my mother and keep the refrigerator door shut as much as possible, and avoid leaving the door to the outside open. Make sure that all doors have adequate weather stripping. Also, when you will be away from home, turn your air conditioner thermostat higher so it won’t come on as often. Keep ceiling fans and lights off unless you are in the room. Replacing the incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent will also save energy and money.

We all have the power to control our utility consumption. It just takes a little discipline. For more money saving tips on how to conserve utilities, go to www.fpua.com or give FPUA a call at 466-1600, Ext. 3900.
Art Link International Opens Gallery in Arcade Building

By Sue Dannahower

Lake Worth based Art Link International has opened a Gallery in the Historic Downtown Fort Pierce Arcade Building. Gallery owner and collector of Highwaymen, Howard Brassner’s family-owned business has nearly 70 years of experience in the art world. Art Link International’s Lake Worth location was the first fine art gallery to showcase the folk art Highwaymen paintings.

Art Link International specializes in Highwaymen paintings: First Generation artists: (late 50’s to early 60’s) Mary Ann Carroll, James Gibson, Alfred Hair, Roy McLendon, Harold Newton and Livingston Roberts. Second Generation artists: (late 60’s and early 70’s) Curtis Armett, Hezekiah Baker, Al Black and many more.

Mr. Brassner was instrumental in the success of the...
9th Annual Highwaymen Festival at the Backus Museum & Gallery earlier this year.

Son, Aaron Brassner, is the manager of the Fort Pierce location of Art Link International. Please stop by to view their extensive collection of highwaymen paintings. They are located at 101 North US1, Suite 124 (the Arcade Building) or you can phone them at 772.293.0214. Visit their website artlinkinternational.com.
Membership
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(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:________________________
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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.
Meet the Band - Ossie Wright and the Groove Division Band

by Pam Gillette

Solo Piano, Jazz trio, Quartet, Quintet, or a six to eight piece Cover Band, **Ossie Wright and the Groove Division Band** is the band for your dance party or next corporate event. Back for a return engagement, **Main Street Fort Pierce** is happy present **Ossie Wright and the Groove Division Band** to the June Friday Fest.

**Ossie Wright and the Groove Division Band** is a group of versatile musicians that can play a variety of musical styles, ranging from Classical, Jazz, Gospel, Blues, R & B, Reggae, Latin, Top 40, Light Rock and Dance music from the 50s to present day.

The **Groove Division Band** gets its name from 2 terms. The term Groove relates to the high quality rhythmic feel and the quality melodic sound that you hear. They maintain a high level of energy and professionalism that translates to their listeners and dancers. The second term Division is used because the band can range in size according to the type of event. Ossie Wright can perform solo or with the full band to play different musical styles for a variety of different occasions.

The band consist of Ossie Wright, Jr. Edsp, (Pianist, Organist, Keyboardist, Bandleader & National Recording Artist), Jerry Adams, (Percussionist, Drummer, Singer - the heartbeat of the band), Mark Patton, (Drummer, Backup and Vocals Effects), Michael King, (Guitarist & Bassist), John Anthony Kismick, (Bass Guitar, Vocals, Special Effects), and Ari Mendesm, (Bass and Guitar/ Producer and Recording Engineer of Amen Recording Studios in Port St. Lucie, FL). A very special feature in the Groove Division Band is the dynamic voices of Vernesha Swoope and Deborah Ramsey, PH D. Both women are educators on the Treasure Coast and bring an energetic vocal show for your dancing and listening pleasure. Each band member is a college trained musician and singer and they are happy to bring their musical talent to the Treasure Coast.

If you would like to have the **Groove Division Band** at your next event or listen to their music you can visit their website: www.groovedivisionband.com or www.rentmyband.com or Grooveman123@aol.com.

**Friday Fest** is held the first Friday of every month. **Friday Fest** can be postponed to the following week due to weather. **Friday Fest** is held at Melody Lane and Marina Square, Fort Pierce, FL 34950.

**Friday Fest** is sponsored by **Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc**. For more information please call the **Main Street** office at 772-466-3880.

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Spring Downtown Stroll

Barbara Miller, Mimi Ewan, Ryan Sapp, Rusty Wiles, Wanda Sapp and Dave Miller at Picture Perfect.

Billie Rose Lewis, Gary Gillette and Mimi Ewan at Manatee Zone.

Debbie & Rick Hinkle, Jo Pye and Donna at Gift Horse and Jiffy Printing.

Steve Milechman, R.L. Davenport, Anne Satterlee and Sue Dannhower at Brush Strokes Gallery.

Mark and Lisa Floyd at Coke's Stationery.

Colleen Nash Becht, Bob Davis, Mel Liebman, Roberta Davis and Eddie Becht in front of Chaney's House O' Flowers.
Exactly - At Lafferandre Gallery

Still looking at a blank wall because you can't find exactly what you want? Why not have an original piece of artwork designed for that space. Have a portrait of those grandchildren (or your favorite pet) done while they are at that cute age. Maybe your walls are full? Have a piece of jewelry created for that special anniversary. Don't know what to do with those favorite cowboy boots that don't fit anymore? Have them recycled into pocketbooks.

The Lafferandre Gallery can help you acquire exactly what you want — even if you don't know you want it yet! They represent over seventy artists, many of whom will work with you and custom create artwork to suit your color palette and space. Here is a partial list of artists who will work with you:

- Peter Bailey: Botanical Watercolors
- Ron Balaban: Oils
- Colleen Nash Becht: Flora and Fauna Watercolor
- Leslie Chapman: Recycled Cowboy Boot Purses
- Joan Dpezier: Watercolor Portraits
- Leslie Lafferandre: Quotations
- Joseph LaPierre: Large Landscapes and Beach Scenes
Peg Miller: Silver Jewelry
Marcia Robart: Beaded Jewelry
John Staropoli: Custom Tile and Wrought Iron Furniture

Come by the gallery and take a look around.

If you don’t see what you are looking for, talk to us. With limited space, we do not always have everything out. You never know what Laff has stored away in his space cubes.

The Lafferandre Gallery is located at 205 N. Second Street in historic downtown Ft. Pierce, and is open Tuesday through Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday from 10-3 pm and most Mondays. For more information, call (772) 489-4255.
“A metropolitan ambiance with down-home service,” was a comment from a Winterhaven couple who drove to Fort Pierce just to experience the Yellow Tail Grille’s signature dish, Whole Yellow Tail Snapper. The Yellow Tail Grille and Raw Bar is indeed very upscale; from its rich red mahogany décor, to the tables adorned with crisp tablecloths, to the expansive copper and granite bar. Modern abound, an Internet café with wifi connections and flat panel television screens alive with the latest news and sports. Cozy, café-style outdoor dining is also available.

Brian Long and Dominick Collura own and operate the Yellow Tail Grille and Raw Bar. “Our goal is to become a focal point of the historic downtown area. Every seat has a panoramic view of our resurging downtown,” boasts Brian. “The quality of our food is only matched by our service, our raw bar selection is fabulous and our desserts are hand made in our kitchen,” adds Brian.

The Yellow Tail Grille is one of my favorite lunch haunts. Their unique pizza selections are undeniably wonderful. Try the savory Magherita Pizza — vine ripened tomato, basil, and mozzarella; the fresh Greek Pizza — hummus, grilled eggplant, roasted red peppers, calamata olives and feta cheese; or the exquisite Bianca Pizza — fresh ricotta & mozzarella, topped with herbs and olive oil.

Salad selections including Spinach Gorgonzola Salad — fresh baby spinach garnished with roasted pepper, Bermuda onion, sliced portabella mushrooms, pine nuts and gorgonzola cheese, drizzled with a warm raspberry vinaigrette and the Classic Cobb Salad — mixed greens...
topped with grilled chicken, avocado, tomato, egg, bacon and blue cheese. Both are almost too large to eat in one sitting.

The Ole B’s Fish Tacos are my favorite. Fresh grouper fingers are deep fried or blackened and served in a soft tortilla with lettuce and tomato, lime, guacamole, sour cream, and salsa.

The **Yellow Tail Grille** is perfect for dinner before a night out at the **Sunrise Theatre**. Start with crisp Calamari — octopus rings lightly breaded and fried until golden brown. The Roasted Portobello Mushrooms are “to die for.” Jumbo portobello caps are roasted with white wine, olive oil and herbs, finished with a roasted herb dressing and fontina cheese. From the Raw Bar you must try the Dirty Oysters — oysters topped with sour cream and caviar or Asian Oysters — oysters topped with marinated seaweed, ginger and caviar.

Fish is fresh and delivered daily. I recently dined on Snapper Oscar, a special that evening. The snapper filet was delicately sautéed, topped with asparagus and lump crab, finished with a silky Béarnaise Sauce. Dominick and Brian — I’ve fallen in love! Please add this to your regular dinner menu.

The **Yellow Tail Grille** serves beer, wine and the finest selection of liquors. Try their house draft, the Yellow Tail Lager. Many evenings they have extended hours to accommodate patrons after taking in a show at the **Sunrise Theatre**.

Their “kid friendly” Children’s Menu boasts hamburger, hot dog, chicken fingers, macaroni & cheese, fried shrimp and grilled cheese.

Join them every Thursday from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. for **Bike Night**. Bikers from miles around enjoy good food and friends, and an evening in historic downtown Fort Pierce. The **Yellow Tail Grille** hosts **Bike Night**. For more information call 772-466-5474.
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**QUESTION:** My “check engine” light is on. Do I need a tune-up?

**ANSWER:** This is where an analysis of the problem is most important. A “check engine” light requires diagnostic equipment that can read codes, known as sensors, to determine the problem such as oxygen sensors, possible spark plug fouling, etc. We would then ask if your vehicle is smooth on acceleration and if you noticed any difference in performance and/or gas consumption. At a stop, is it idling smooth or rough? All these questions will be answered after a test drive and complete inspection including engine diagnostics and possibly compression test of all cylinders. If your vehicle has high mileage, we might recommend new spark plugs and complete wires which may have become worn.

The St. Lucie Battery & Tire management staff, Phil Silver and Marco Sanchez, are available at the Downtown store located at US 1 and Orange Avenue. Each have over 20 years of experience in tires and mechanics. Our mechanic has been with us well over 8 years and has over 30 years of auto repair experience. St. Lucie Battery & Tire has been in business on the Treasure Coast for over 30 years and proudly supports Main Street Ft. Pierce. You can contact Phil and Marco at 772-489-3977.
Our beautiful spring weather has arrived. Many days this time of year offer smooth glassy conditions on the Indian River Lagoon and very tame conditions on the ocean. It's a great time of year to get out on the water, unwind, and bring home a fresh seafood dinner. There's always action to be had, it's just a matter of doing a little checking around in order to be successful. Your local tackle shops are a great source of information and are always willing to help with advice on where to go and what's biting.

For those who might want to step it up a notch and maybe even win a prize there are a number of summer fishing tournaments and events that are fun for both participants and observers. You don't have to be a pro. Many tournaments have a wide variety of participants and win or not, you're sure to have a great time competing. Below is a list of upcoming events at our own Fort Pierce City Marina over the summer months. If you're interested you can get more information on any of these events from the friendly marina staff at 464-1245.

Tournament weigh-ins and other events are normally held at the south end of the marina on the grassy area between Indian River Drive and the marina offices. Marina Manager Dean Kubitschek advises that on June 11th construction will begin on a new fuel system for the marina.
which will cause the “tournament area” to be closed for some time. Those tournaments that occur after June 11th will be based out of the Manatee Center boat ramp area, just north of the marina. Remember, dates and locations for all tournaments are subject to change for a number of reasons. Be sure to call for details.

Good luck and good fishing!

UPCOMING SUMMER TOURNAMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tournament Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1-2</td>
<td>Vero Radiology (Catch for the Cure) Fishing Tournament</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8-10</td>
<td>Wal-Mart FLW Kingfish Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>Fuel tank construction project begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22-24</td>
<td>FLW Kingfish Series</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>25th Anniversary Fort Pierce Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 31-Sep 1</td>
<td>Sheriff’s Explorer’s Fishing Tournament</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 22</td>
<td>2nd Annual Inshore Fishing Tournament</td>
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Congratulations to the Campbell Family!

Brian Thomas Campbell Jr., was born May 11, 2007 to parents Brian & Angela Campbell and proud sisters Brandie, Brooke, Brittany and BriAnna. The Campbells own Sunrise City Carpets in Downtown Fort Pierce.

Kathleen Frederick & Robin Dannahower Receive Public Relations Award

Kathleen Frederick and Robin Dannahower of the A.E. Backus Gallery and Museum were selected as the Communicator of the Year for a Nonprofit Organization by the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association.

Kathleen and Robin accepted their award at the annual Image and Communicator of the Year Awards reception at the IRCC Schreiber Center on May 8th.
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Happy Hour 4-7 Monday – Friday

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2007 NITRO
2007 CHARGER
2007 RAM

Just North of Midway Rd. • Ft. Pierce
461-4770

NISSAN

2007 350Z
2007 ALTIMA
2007 TITAN

1/2 Mile North of Midway Rd. • Ft. Pierce
464-4645

MITSUBISHI

2007 GALANT
2007 ECLIPSE
2007 OUTLANDER

Just North of Farmer’s Market Rd. • Ft. Pierce
468-3100

ISUZU

2007 i290
2007 i370
2007 ASCENDER

Just North of Farmer’s Market Rd. • Ft. Pierce
468-3100

Where You Buy Is As Important As What You Buy!