The Renaissance of Downtown Fort Pierce

It has been several decades since downtown Fort Pierce saw its heyday. However, the Fort Pierce of tomorrow promises to rival the thriving downtown of yesteryear—and what is more, downtown Fort Pierce stands out in a positive way as it continues to be a trendsetter for other communities on the Treasure Coast and in South Florida.

See page 20...
BRADFORD L. JEFFERSON, P.A.

Proud supporter of Main Street Fort Pierce

- Personal Injury
- Wrongful Death
- Commercial and Civil Litigation
- Circuit Court Mediator

Historic Arcade Building
101 North U.S. 1, Suite 208
Downtown Fort Pierce

Telephone: 772.468.8887
Fax: 772.468.2226

Camille S. Yates
m: 772-971-9798
f: 772-465-1886
camille@csyfreelance.com
328 South Second Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34950

www.csyfreelance.com
Freelance Writing
Grant Writing
Marketing
The Main Street Program in Fort Pierce began as a way to redevelop and improve downtown business districts that were finding themselves vacant, in disrepair and unattractive. The new kid on the block in the 1970s was the newest trend — the shopping mall. Larger retail shops forced the downtown and smaller “mom-and-pop” stores out of business. Downtown theaters closed, restaurants were abandoned and private reinvestment diminished. The once historical, valuable districts became crime ridden areas as property values continued to drop. Historical, architecturally-significant buildings were decaying or finding their fate with the wrecking ball.

Sounds familiar doesn’t it? With the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Main Street Program, cities like Fort Pierce looked for an opportunity to stop the “mall migration” and preserve and revitalize downtown. Through a four-step approach, the Program consisted of promotions, economic restructuring, design and organization. In 1987, the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA), City Commissioners and concerned citizens completed the necessary paperwork to hopefully receive Main Street community designation. Tom Kindred became the first Main Street manager. It was the beginning of what we enjoy and sometimes take for granted today. Kindred began working as soon as he could — decorative light posts and benches were purchased and installed, popular promotional events such as Friday Fest, Sights and Sounds on Second and the Backus Festival were created and a façade improvement grant was offered.

Kindred resigned in 1991 and in came Doris Tillman to serve as Main Street Manager. With the growth and popularity of Tom Kindred’s leadership, Main Street’s work on large projects was just beginning. In 1993, the fate of historic Fort Pierce City Hall, built in 1926, was questionable. Main Street formed St. Lucie Preservation Association, Inc. to serve as a restoration arm of Main Street. The Association could secure historic grants and restore historic properties. Historic City Hall was restored to its original elegance and now serves as a meeting area for weddings, parties, meetings, etc.

Continued on page 5 …
Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic, Downtown Fort Pierce!

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

Wednesday, May 14: DBA Artwalk — 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080, www.fortpierce-fl.com.

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

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

RESTAURANT ENTERTAINMENT

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


DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

For information, please call 462-2787 or visit www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us.

SUNRISE THEATRE

For information, please call 461-4775 or visit www.sunrisetheatre.com.

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

For information, please call 466-1600, ex. 3333 or visit www.manateecenter.com.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

For information, please call 462-1795 or visit www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/museum.

FORT PIERCE COMMUNITY CENTER

For information, please call 462-1792.

Floor Acrobatics and Tumbling Class: Beginner class for boys and girls 6 – 10; basic floor tumbling moves, improving strength, flexibility, coordination; Mondays 4 to 5 p.m.; $25 per month; first class is free.

Pre-teen/Teen Exercise & Tumbling Class: Children 11 years and up; exercise routines, basic floor tumbling techniques; Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m.; $25 a month; first class is free.

Tumbling for Tots: Children 3 – 4 years; basic tumbling techniques incorporated through the use of music and dance expression; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m.; $20 a month; a free introductory session Tues., Feb. 26, 10 a.m.

HEATHCOTE BONTANICAL GARDENS

For information, please call 464-4672 or visit www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org.

BACKUS GALLERY & MUSEUM

For information, please call 465-0630 or visit www.backusgallery.com.

May 6 to May 24: Mood and Motion — The collection of work in this exhibition explores the range of mood and motion that artists are able to evoke or create. The show includes Jackie Brice, Charles Gruppe, Ruth Ellen Hoag, Brenda Truesdale and Rick Kelly.

Premier Exhibitions

May 27 to July 19: Fragile Nature: Photographs by Joel Sartore — Ever wonder what it’s like to go “On Assignment” for National Geographic? Photographer Joel Sartore takes the viewer on assignment with the world’s greatest magazine. It’s a journey into the natural world across much of North and South America, from jaguars and macaws to gray wolves and grizzly bears. In plain talk Sartore details why species become endangered, what are their chances of recovery, and most importantly, what we all can do to help.

May 27 to July 19: Carlton Ward: Images of Natural Florida — Carlton Ward Jr. regularly produces images for Smithsonian, National Wildlife, Africa Geographic, and Outdoor Photographer. He is an environmental photojournalist from Clearwater, Florida, with graduate training in ecology and anthropology. Through his photographs, he aims to promote conservation of natural environments and cultural legacies. Lecture by Carlton Ward and film on Joel Sartore: Saturday, May 31, 1:00 p.m. Admission $5.00.

Spring Downtown Stroll — Wine Tasting

Friday, May 15, Downtown Fort Pierce

Trunk Show

Wednesday, May 21

Platts/Backus House

Main Street Fort Pierce

466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org
In the mid-90s, Main Street forged ahead working to build the Manatee Observation and Education Center, hired a professional marketing company to survey the area to study what types of businesses were desired in downtown, and assisted the City of Fort Pierce by conducting a public charette to develop a master plan for public improvements and design. With most of the groundwork done, the big restoration effort came with the acquisition of the Sunrise Theatre. The restoration work began in 2002 and the theatre reopened to the public in January 2006. The City of Fort Pierce owns and operates the beautiful, 1,200-seat performing arts theatre in the heart of downtown which is proving to be not only a wonderful cultural asset in our community, but also an economic one.

With the successes in the last 20 years, what does the future hold for Fort Pierce? With the continuing street reconstruction and improvements along Indian River Drive, new retail and upscale housing in downtown, new condominium owners in Harbour Isle, growth in St. Lucie County, Sunrise Theatre events and the myriad of monthly events hosted by Main Street and the Downtown Business Association, we now are facing the reality we worked so hard for some 20 years ago. It is an exciting and challenging opportunity and one that we do not want to lose sight of because we have all worked very hard to have the promise of so much in Downtown Fort Pierce.
Main Street Fort Pierce turns twenty this month. The accomplishments are almost too many to list. Just look around at the bright and vibrant city Fort Pierce is today and you know that what we’re doing is working.

But Main Street isn’t just about revitalizing a unique Florida city, or worthy projects, or exciting events. The heart of Main Street Fort Pierce is people coming together to make a community.

So in honor of our twentieth anniversary we asked twenty members of our downtown community to speak about what they love and remember best about Main Street Fort Pierce.

1. Jo Pye, Owner of The Gift Horse

I started out working on the food committees for various Main Street events. The restaurants were so generous. The first six or seven Reverse Raffles were all memorable, but I’ll never forget the first one. We had it outside on 2nd Street in August and it was so hot that we had to keep the desserts in my shop!

2. Bill Platts, Police Officer

I always remember them playing reggae music at the Cattleman’s Parade. I guess they couldn’t find a country band!

3. Pam Cully, Main Street Fort Pierce Board Member

I have been a board member since 1996 and it is and has been very special to me. I enjoy being with a group of people who all feel the same as I do about our community. That it is a wonderful place to live. We have the small-town feel, the beautiful waterfront, a diamond in the rough. Our job is to smooth out those rough edges to make it an even better place to live.

I was president for three years during the time we were renovating the Sunrise Theatre. Doris Tillman always said the theatre would be the anchor for the success of our downtown. After many years of hard work, we are just beginning to see the fruition of her goals.

I believe Main Street has come a long way and done so much for our downtown. Of course, in turn, the success of our downtown will lead to the success of all Fort Pierce.
4. Yuko Weisser, Owner of The General Store
   I like the neighborhood feeling here. Everybody knows everybody. If you don’t see someone, you check on them. They still keep the good old days here. I see a lot of people every day, we complain together and then we encourage each other. It’s contagious!

5. R.L. Freeman Davenport, Owner of Brushstrokes Gallery
   I’ve been here thirteen years. From the Tea and Fashion Show to Sea Cows on Parade, my favorite memory is always our current project, the newest challenge. Right now, that’s Souvenirs of Downtown (the En Plein Air Paint Out held in April 2008).

6. Cheryl Asklof, President, Bangz
   My favorite memory is of the city’s 100th anniversary. Just to see everybody come together, and they did a fabulous job with the music, the fireworks, the whole thing.

7. Joanne Davis Blandford, Editor Main Street Focus
   I have so many fond memories of the years I worked at Main Street Fort Pierce. It never felt like work yet I had such a strong feeling of accomplishment. Main Street was my first job out of college, and I worked with wonderful people. Doris Tillman is a visionary and able to see potential in dilapidated buildings and off-the-wall fundraisers. It was a pleasure working beside her and watching downtown Fort Pierce morph into a Mecca for dining, entertainment, and shopping.

   My favorite memory occurred the opening night of the Sunrise Theatre. We knew all along the value of the Sunrise Theatre as catalyst for economic development and an anchor for great things to come. However, throughout the renovation we constantly had to defend the project. We walked through the Sunrise Theatre almost daily for four years and watched as the barren shell of the building transformed into a magnificent performing arts venue one phase at a time. The night the Sunrise opened, I spent more time watching and listening to the people around me marvel about our “baby” than I did watching the performance.

   Here’s to another 20 successful years as a Main Street program!

8. Pip Trew, Owner of Trew & Sons
   I like the Renaissance going in. It should be good for us and it looks very nice. The new Clerk’s (of Court) building and the old town hall are beautiful too.

Continued on page 8 …
9. Linette Trabulsy, Media Relations/Community Outreach South Florida Water Management District

My job at Main Street Fort Pierce was during a very important time in my life. During that time, I had both of my children and they instantly became part of the Main Street family. Both Ryan and Kyle spent a good portion of their first years of life at the Main Street office!

The work was challenging, but very rewarding! At that time, the Sunrise Theatre was under construction and Friday Fest had to move off Second Street. Changes were always hard, but I believe the outcome of those changes have been very good to Fort Pierce.

Many people say to me, “Downtown Fort Pierce looks so good these days!” and that makes me smile! I take pride and (some) ownership of those comments because I know I had a small part in making those wonderful changes! Most importantly, I made lifelong friends and some very special memories while working there.

10. Robin Mixon, Fort Pierce Native

I remember going to the Sunrise Theatre to see Gone With the Wind with Clark Gable — Oh my! I remember the red carpet, and I used to look up at the ceiling and think ‘if they turned this upside down it would make a great roller rink!’ It was very sad when it closed. It has always been a unique area here, but I really like what they are creating now. I always tell people how great it is here, I’m happy to be here.

11. David Cleveland, Architect and First Main Street Board President

My proudest memory was when the old city hall reopened. The city was in the process of tearing the grand old lady down when Main Street intervened. After much negotiation, an agreement was reached; and, after much reconstruction, the building was reopened.

It stands as an example of a building that was respectfully restored to its historical significance, while continuing to maintain it's economic viability. A shining example of a public, private partnership that embodies the spirit of the Main Street Program.

12. Karen Kane, Owner of Karen Kane Interiors

Doris is my main memory of Main Street. She is so enthusiastic and focused. When she says she is going to do something, she does it!
13. Georgiann Spencer, Owner of Java Charlie’s
My first memory of Fort Pierce is from before we opened Java Charlie’s. Charlie and I came down for Friday Fest. It was a first for us to see a little town with a big city atmosphere.

14. Mel Liebman, Owner of The Clock Shop
I remember the first Main Street office. It was upstairs at the Raulerson Building and those stairs were steep. You could have a heart attack going up and down!

15. Susan Bartette, Owner of Beads and Baubles
Karen Kane and I started remodeling our stores at the same time. This had been a kid’s rave club and the pipes were all broken. My dad (who is legally blind) and his friend were fixing the pipes. My father never swore but there was a blue streak coming out of that bathroom that day!

16. Dede Wilson, Owner of Tobacco Emporium
I met Doris Tillman in the 80s. “Doe” worked at Casual Corner and that’s when she first started working for Main Street. That was my first experience volunteering, and she was the reason I got involved in downtown. I always wanted to be down here and now I’m on the Board of the DBA (Downtown Business Association).

17. Andy Brady, St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce
Friday Fest is the best place to go to see people you haven’t seen in years. Now if they would just hire my band!

18. Jack Blair, Former Owner of Blair Advertising
My favorite memory of downtown Fort Pierce is the Christmas celebrations (Sights and Sounds on Second, the Christmas Parade, and the Dancing Lights). I’ll always remember Doris watching the parade with her granddaughter and grandniece from her office window in the P.P. Cobb Building.

19. Melodee Daniello and Rachel Heddings, Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Taste of St. Lucie started out downtown at Veteran’s Memorial Park with about 20 restaurants including many downtown restaurants like Café La Ronde and Brewer’s. We also have open houses to go along with many of the kid-friendly Main Street events like Sights and Sounds on Second and the Ghost Walk.

20. Terri Ann Palumbo, Owner of The Barkery
The happiest thing I have seen happen is the continuing improvements and growing cooperation between the merchants and downtown organizations toward the common goal of making Fort Pierce a vital destination.

Join Now to be part of The “Next Big Thing”
Become a member & volunteer today!
Call Main Street Fort Pierce at 772.466.3880.
Spring Beer & Wine Stroll

by Pam Gillette

Spring is here and back by popular demand is the Main Street Fort Pierce, Roy’s Liquors and Budweiser’s 18th Annual Spring Beer and Wine Tasting Stroll. Friday, May 16, 2008, the streets of downtown Fort Pierce will come alive as local businesses open their doors, partner with local restaurants, and allow Main Street to present this annual event inside their stores. Come enjoy a spring evening, walking through shops, tasting special wines and strolling through beautiful Fort Pierce.

Royal’s Liquors will be supplying a variety of wines for your tasting at 5 merchant stops: Brush Strokes Gallery Art & Frame, Chaney’s House of Flowers, Creative Color & Hair Designs, Picture Perfect Frame Shop & Gallery, and The Barkey. Budweiser will feature Bud Light Lime at the Manatee Zone.

Restaurants partnering with these local businesses are Alumni’s International Grill, Cafe la Ronde, Downtown Bangkok, Yanni’s Greek Restaurant and Yellowtail Grill. Restaurants will be open after the event for your dining pleasure.
Registration for the wine tasting will be held in the lobby of Grand Bank & Trust of Florida, at 200 S. Indian River Drive, in downtown Fort Pierce. Grand Bank & Trust of Florida is a proud sponsor of this year’s event. You can sign up for the wine tasting by either calling the Main Street Fort Pierce office at 466-3880 to reserve a ticket or just come by the Grand Bank & Trust lobby to register the night of the wine tasting.

Main Street Fort Pierce, Roy’s Liquors and Budweiser’s 18th Annual Spring Beer and Wine Tasting Stroll is Friday, May 16, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in downtown Fort Pierce. Tickets for the Spring Stroll are $40.00 per person. Tickets include complimentary wine or beer tasting, light appetizers at each store, a commemorative wine glass, a $10 coupon good towards any purchase at Roy’s Liquors located at 720 South U.S. 1 in Fort Pierce and coupons from a variety of downtown merchants.

Sponsors at time of print for this event include: Budweiser, Burkhardt Construction, Inc., Grand Bank & Trust of Florida and Roy’s Liquors. For more information or to reserve a ticket, please call the Main Street Fort Pierce office at (772) 466-3880.
Just like African-Americans celebrate Kwanza, and German-Americans celebrate Oktoberfest, Mexican-Americans celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Cinco de Mayo is distinguished as a day to commemorate the triumph of a people over oppression. For nearly 300 years, Spain and France dominated the Mexican people. This rule continued even after the Mexican citizens declared independence on September 16, 1810.

Fifty years later, the battle for Mexico was fought over un-paid debt. Over the years, Mexico received economic support from France, England, and Spain. But, because many groups within Mexico were struggling for power, the country was not able to pay back the loans. On July 17, 1861, Mexican President Benito Juarez issued a moratorium in which all-foreign debt payments would be suspended for a period of two years, with the promise that after this period, payments would resume.

In 1862, the three European countries dispatched their fleets to Mexican shores pursuing not only money but also land rights as payment for their loans. Mexico acknowledged its debts, but since it did not have funds to pay them, they offered payment warrants in exchange. The English and Spanish quickly made deals and left. The French, however, had different ideas.
Under Emperor Napoleon III, who detested the United States, the French decided to occupy Mexico. They brought a Hapsburg prince named Maximilian with them to rule the Mexican empire. Napoleon’s French Army had not been defeated in 50 years, and it invaded Mexico with the finest modern equipment and with a newly reconstituted Foreign Legion. The French were not afraid of anyone, especially since the United States was embroiled in its own Civil War.

Napoleon planned to overtake Mexico City, the nation’s capital. To get to the capital, though, the French troops had to cross through Puebla. Upon learning of the invasion, Mexican President, Benito Juarez, prepared his defense. He commanded Texas-born General Ignacio Zaragoza to fortify the City of Puebla and repel the French invaders.

General Zaragoza led 4,000 ill-equipped Mestizo and Zapotec Indians called Zacapoaxtlas against 8,000 French troops. On the 5th of May 1862, the forts of Loreto and Guadalupe, in the city of Puebla, became the scene of the historical defeat of the great European army. When the battle was over, many French were killed or wounded and Mexico declared victory. In modern times, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated throughout Mexico, but more especially in the state of Puebla and in Mexico City. In the United States, many festivities, including parades, are held to remember this special day.
Main Street Moms

by Thondra Lanese

Nobody knows about being a working mother like our Main Street Moms. This Mother’s Day, six of our working moms share the secrets of combining work and motherhood in downtown Fort Pierce.

Cindy Rosslow
Owner: Rosslow’s
Children: Kellie (25) and Scott (22)

What is the secret to being a mom and a business professional? Having a spouse who helps. Greg and I are partners in business and at home. It was especially important when our kids were young.

Have you ever brought your kids to work with you? The last couple of years at Christmas, Kellie was such a big help. It would have been hard without her.

What is your favorite memory of downtown Fort Pierce with your kids? The Fourth of July fireworks.

Who is your role model for being a successful professional mom? My mother and mother-in-law. They were great mothers.

What have you learned by being a professional mom? Make the time to be involved in your children’s lives, especially their schools and extracurricular activities and sports. The memories you make will be with you forever. Work is very important, but can be too consuming if you let it. You must balance work time and family time.

What advice would you give another professional mom? In the long run, professional success is not as important as our personal relationships and family.

Susie Thomas
Vice President, Office Products & Services Inc.
Children: Andrea (30) and Gaige (29)

What is the secret to being a mom and a business professional?
professional? Making a schedule and sticking to it.

Have you ever brought your kids to work with you? Yes, yes and yes! Andrea and Gaige were picked up from school and came downtown from there.

What is your favorite memory of downtown Fort Pierce with your kids? There are many, but most relate to my own experiences, like putting coins on the railroad tracks, riding down Tickle Tummy Hill on carts, and generally annoying people.

Who is your role model for being a successful professional mom? Yes, my mother, who also worked downtown in Fort Pierce. My memories of roaming around Orange Avenue and 2nd Street as a kid are some of my favorites.

What have you learned by being a professional mom? That having two children is all I could handle comfortably. I am lucky to have had the opportunity to bring them to work. These days you are probably looking at a daycare and it’s very difficult to leave them. It’s very tough and there’s no spare time.

What advice would you give another professional mom?

Best: Take it moment by moment, otherwise it’s overwhelming. Worst: It’s easy. You can do it.

Parting thoughts: Guess what? Andrea and Gaige both work in downtown Fort Pierce, as did my mother and her mother, my father, brother, two sisters-in-law, and cousins. Natives rule!

Amber Perkins
Co-Owner, Undercover Skate Shop
Children: Adaire (13), Colin (6), Noah (21 months), new baby due in May.

What is the secret to being a mom and a business professional? I am lucky to only work noon to 3:00 during the week, which makes it easier to focus on being mommy. I pick up Colin from kindergarten every day and run any errands that need to be done. There is enough time to complete my responsibilities at home while spending time with the kids. My biggest secret is the help of my husband. He jumps right in after he gets home, gives baths, and cleans up. It is a busy time of the day, and it would be impossible without his support.

Continued on page 16…
Have you ever brought your kids to work with you? I usually only bring Noah to work. We don’t open until noon, so I feed him before we leave the house and drive around until he falls asleep. It is difficult at times, but I am very grateful for the opportunity. Our shop is geared toward children and teenagers, so it is appropriate for our own kids.

What is your favorite memory of downtown Fort Pierce with your kids? Some of our favorite moments together as a family are relaxing and eating at Lazy Daze and picking out treats at Java Charlie’s. We are lucky to have friendships with many of the other downtown business owners who treat our children like gold.

What have you learned by being a professional mom? Tomorrow is a new day. I may not have been as patient, creative, or productive as I would like to have been today, but I can try harder tomorrow. I am no expert. Each mom has different children, work hours and responsibilities. We each have different situations that we have to make work.

Parting thoughts: Some days go smoothly. We accomplish things easily and have fun along the way. Other days are so overwhelming I want to hide. Today I want to hide.

Linette Trabulsy
Community Outreach/Media Specialist South Florida Water Management District
Children: Ryan (8) and Kyle (6)

What is the secret to being a mom and a business professional? Sense of humor, lists, an organized and encouraging husband, family members who support us, a caring employer and being blessed with having my
children in a loving environment every day giving me the opportunity to do my job worry-free.

Have you ever brought your kids to work with you? Ryan and Kyle spent a good portion of their first years at the Main Street Fort Pierce office while I worked there. I can’t imagine a more perfect way to start childhood. These days the kids think it is super cool when I do presentations for their classes on water conservation!

What is your favorite memory of downtown Fort Pierce with your kids? Probably the Sights and Sounds Christmas Parades! We love the tree lighting ceremony and enjoying the lights and music during the holidays. Growing up in Fort Pierce, there weren’t the kind of community events there are now, and I’m so happy my children will grow up experiencing community pride and learning about the unique history of our town.

Who is your role model for being a successful professional mom? Without a doubt, my mother and grandma. Both ladies juggled family life with work life brilliantly and I’m better off because of it!

What have you learned by being a professional mom? Ask for help when you need it, play baseball if they ask you to, clean the “dust bunnies” later, and be silly!

What advice would you give another professional mom? Always put your family first. Your work stuff will be there when you get back. Turn off the cell phone/Blackberry when you are on vacation.

Susan Tillman
Sales for Office Products & Services Inc.
Children: Daniel (23) and Melissa (20)

What is the secret to being a mom and a business professional? Work for a great company that allowed me to leave if I needed to or bring the kids to work if they didn’t have anywhere else to go. It made me do a better job at work.

Have you ever brought your kids to work with you? My son came to work with me when he was three weeks old. They grew up at work with me. In fact, my son is working here at the moment, and my daughter, who works downtown, visits regularly.

Continued on page 18 …
What is your favorite memory of downtown Fort Pierce with your kids? When they came down every day after school. I’m still hearing stories today of what they were doing when I wasn’t looking. Oh boy!

Who is your role model for being a successful professional mom? My mother-in-law, Olympia Tillman, really helped me be a good mother.

What have you learned by being a professional mom? Be thankful for the opportunities you are given. I was given the opportunity to be a good mother and a good employee. It isn’t easy, but if you stay organized you can do everything.

What advice would you give another professional mom? Just find a way to do it. Stress will be a big part of your life; but then you blink and the kids are grown and life gets easy again.

Parting thoughts: My children grew up downtown and their lives have been enriched by this opportunity. When we moved our store, I found things my children had written on the shelves and drawings from 10 to 15 years ago. It made me smile to think they got a great childhood in such a beautiful location. I could have left my job many times, but I can’t bear to leave downtown after 28 years.

Barbara Wilkins
Owner, Manatee Zone

Grandchildren: Maya (14), Rosa (12) and Amanda (10)

What is the secret to being a mom and a business professional? Everyone knows the secret … after you spoil your grandchildren send them home to their parents!

Have you ever brought your kids to work with you? Yes. Sanna, my daughter-in-law, was my partner at the Manatee Zone until 2005 when the family moved to Finland.

What is your favorite memory of downtown Fort Pierce with your kids? When Amanda, the youngest, was about four years old, we brought in a line of t-shirts called ‘Magic Ts.’ They are white and when you go out into the sun they burst into color. Amanda loved them so much she constantly took customers outside to see them change color. She was a very good salesperson.

Who is your role model for being a successful professional mom? Since I was a single working parent, I knew how difficult it was to juggle work and family. Sanna worked 10:00 – 2:00 so she would be home for Maya, who was in school. It gave her time to help with homework and cook dinner at a reasonable hour.

What have you learned by being a professional mom? The ideal way to raise a family is to be a stay-at-home mom. Because we had our own business, it was easier to schedule work hours and eliminate caregivers.

What advice would you give another professional mom? Children will be the next generation of leaders. As parents, we have to raise them to have values and morals and be honest upstanding citizens. As a grandparent, that is what I want for my grandchildren.
May 7th Annual Meeting & Grand Opening of Platts-Backus House

Come and celebrate the kick-off of Main Street’s 20th Year from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on May 7, 2008. The Annual Meeting will be held during the anticipated unveiling of the newly renovated Main Street office in the historic Platts-Backus House. The grand opening and annual meeting will include a reception, board meeting, ribbon cutting, music and a glimpse of Main Street’s new office.

Located at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue, this is the beginning of a highly significant and very important year for Fort Pierce! For Main Street to continue with its efforts, we need people like you that will support, sponsor, and work the many events hosted by Main Street. It’s hard to believe but, Main Street Fort Pierce hosts 27 events per year — twelve Friday Fests, two Wine Tastings, nine Coffee With the Mayors, Cowboy Golf, 4th of July Concert, Sandy Shoes Festival, Sights and Sounds on Second and the Reverse Raffle. With only two Main Street full-time and two part-time staffers and the board of directors, we manage to provide a monthly community event like Friday Fest to approximately 5,000 people.

Every year we have lots to celebrate and this year is even more special. Come by and let’s toast the 20th year to Main Street Fort Pierce! Cheers.
MAIN STREET & THE RENAISSANCE OF DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE

by John Culverhouse

It has been several decades since downtown Fort Pierce saw its heyday. However, the Fort Pierce of tomorrow promises to rival the thriving downtown of yesteryear — and what is more, downtown Fort Pierce stands out in a positive way, and continues to be a trendsetter for other communities on the Treasure Coast and in South Florida.

“Fort Pierce used to have a bad reputation,” said Mel Liebman, owner of the Clock Shop at the P.P. Cobb Building. “Today, however, we have more and more people coming to Fort Pierce to go to the Sunrise Theatre, Friday Fest, the Farmer’s Market, or other special events, and they go back to Vero Beach and they go back to Stuart, and they say ‘wow, Fort Pierce is really beautiful!’

Chris Craft, St. Lucie County Commissioner and Main Street Fort Pierce Board Member, says it has been interesting to see downtown’s transformation take place. He recalled the Orange Blossom Mall “sucking the life out of downtown” when it was built in the 1980s, drawing people westward. When Main Street entered the local scene twenty years ago, downtown began to rebound slowly but surely.

“Following the four principles of the Main Street program, we began to build the necessary infrastructure, and today, downtown Fort Pierce is certainly one of the best downtowns you can find along
the Treasure Coast, and quite possibly all of South Florida as well,” Craft said.

Friday Fest, hosted by Main Street Fort Pierce, is the event that showcases all of Main Street’s accomplishments. As thousands of guests come to this free event held on the first Friday of each month, they can view all of the things Main Street has had a hand in restoring and improving, such as Old City Hall, the Sunrise Theatre, and their current project, the restoration of the Beanie Backus House.

Main Street’s biggest restoration project was the Sunrise Theatre, which draws thousands of visitors to the downtown area on a weekly basis.

“The impact that the Sunrise Theatre is having on the downtown economy is incredible,” Craft said. “Seeing the number of people that go into the restaurants, both before and after performances, shows us that the Sunrise is really doing what we anticipated it would do. The investment in time and money has been well worth the efforts.”

The first Main Street Fort Pierce program manager was Tom Kindred, Jr. Doris Tillman is the second and current manager, and has added to the success started by Kindred, board members, philanthropists and volunteers, and the City of Fort Pierce.

Continued on page 22 …
“Doris Tillman is phenomenal at putting together a team, and that’s what she’s done with Main Street,” Craft said. “The projects that we’ve accomplished would not have been possible without her leadership and bringing in the right players.”

“The Board of Main Street has always taken risks and took the challenges necessary to make change in the city that they live in and love, and without the support of the City and our volunteers, there would be none of the popular things like Friday Fest, Sights and Sounds on Second Street, and Sandy Shoes,” Tillman said of the roughly 30 events hosted by Main Street each year.

Exciting times are on the horizon for downtown Fort Pierce, as the Renaissance is set to open, featuring retail and luxury condos.

“We’re moving into the next phase of Main Street,” Craft said. “It is absolutely priceless to the livelihood of Main Street and downtown to have an injection of people in the downtown area after five o’clock. The presence of people downtown on a 24-hour basis will create even more opportunities downtown, thereby making Fort Pierce more successful.”

The City of Fort Pierce, Main Street Fort Pierce, and other community organizations and activists continue to plan for downtown’s future success. The City has held charrettes to plan for the future use of sites like the former JC Penny’s and the H.D. King Power Plant, being decommissioned by the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. Potential plans being discussed include hotels, condos, townhouses, and other things that
would draw people to live, work, and play in downtown Fort Pierce.

Liebman recalls the early days of *Main Street*, and when a crowd of 50 was a good turnout at downtown festivals. Today, thousands attend weekly *Farmer’s Markets*, monthly *Friday Fests*, and other special events. “With so many more people coming downtown, more people are spending money, and that keeps everybody in business,” he said enthusiastically.

The *Farmer’s Market*, held every Saturday morning at the downtown waterfront, contains a plethora of food and vegetable vendors. Shoppers can find smoothies, fresh-made bread and baked goods, plants, vegetables, and other goods that have been grown or prepared.

Alex León, owner of *Crêpes by Alex*, brought a taste of Latin America to the Treasure Coast. León travels to Fort Pierce from Homestead every Saturday to sell an authentic flair of Latin America. It’s not unusual to find a steady line of people waiting to purchase a wide variety of made-to-order crêpes containing everything from chicken, onions and peppers, to the popular “Funky Monkey,” containing peanut butter, chocolate chips, and bananas.

“I’ve been doing farmer’s markets all over South Florida for more than six years, and *Fort Pierce’s Farmer’s Market* is by far the best,” León said. “You can’t beat the scenery right here along the waterfront, the nice breezes, and the live music. You just can’t beat it.”
Historic City Hall in Downtown Fort Pierce

by Sue Dannahower

Historic City Hall is located at the southeast corner of Avenue A and U.S. 1 in beautiful downtown Fort Pierce. Built in 1925 by architect William Hatcher and builder C.E. Cahow, this classic Mediterranean building was the hub for Fort Pierce governmental activities for almost sixty years. In 1983 it was replaced by a more efficient and larger building.

In 1995 Historic City Hall was renovated by St. Lucie Preservation Association. The $500,000 restoration project was accomplished through the efforts of Main Street Fort Pierce volunteers, architect Robert Terry, the City of Fort Pierce, R.K. Davis Construction and funding from the State of Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation. The building was restored to its original beauty; the Dade County Pine floors were preserved and the unique arched windows and beautifully detailed ceilings that created the “old Florida” ambiance were refurbished. On December 7, 2001, Historic City Hall was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

Today the ground floor is leased as office space; the building’s upper floor is available to for rent. Rentals include Coffee with the Mayor, church services, yoga classes, wedding receptions, class reunions, City of Fort Pierce functions and much more. The proceeds from rentals help fund the upkeep and preservation of the building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rental Rates &amp; Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Profit Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hourly Rate — Weekday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday to Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hourly Rate — Prime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekends &amp; Holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300 for the 1st 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$225 for the 1st 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$85 each additional hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60 each additional hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Day Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekend Day or Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Available from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Security Deposits: For event before 5:00 p.m. $200; For event after 5:00 p.m. $500. Security deposit is required to hold the date of event. Deposits are in addition to rental fees and are refundable AFTER facility has been inspected and approved by staff. Security deposits are mailed approximately one week after event and are NOT available for pick up from the Main Street office. Security deposits will NOT be refunded if damages occur or the premises are not cleaned.
May 2008  MAIN STREET FOCUS  25

GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity:</th>
<th>Tables:</th>
<th>Chairs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>130 with tables and chairs</td>
<td>Twenty (20) 48” round tables</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150 with chairs only</td>
<td>Four (4) 8’ rectangle tables</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 standing only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Handicapped-accessible men’s & women’s restrooms; elevator; refrigerator; microwave; sink. Podium/sound system: available for rent: $35.

All rentals at regular rates are subject to applicable sales tax at the current St. Lucie County sales tax rate. Proof of non-taxable status must be presented or applicable sales tax will be applied to rental rate. Weekend rentals are for a minimum of three (3) hours. No refunds will be giving if event is shorter than planned. If canceling an event, notification must occur at least 72 hours prior to event date. All fees received MINUS a $25 cancellation fee will be refunded. Final cash payment must be made 48 hours in advance of event.

For rental information or to book an event please contact Pam Gillette at Main Street Fort Pierce/St. Lucie Preservation Association, Inc: 772.466.3880; 772.466.3917 Fax or e-mail MainStreet15@aol.com. Main Street Fort Pierce offices are located at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue in historic downtown Fort Pierce.

Downtown Fort Pierce Parking Garage Opens

The City’s newest public asset, the 465 space parking garage, is free and open to the public on Tuesday, April 1, 2008. The parking garage and mixed-use space construction cost is $11.8 million which is funded by the City through the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA).

The four-story, Mediterranean–revival influenced structure consists of a concrete pre-cast 156,077 square-foot open parking garage. The 30,000 square-foot mixed-use office/retail construction will be completed by the end of April 2008. Until the entire project is completed, vehicles will only be able to access the parking garage on the Avenue A entrance with pedestrian access from the parking garage to City Hall.

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

restorative & cosmetic dentistry
Compassionate dentistry.

New patients always welcome!

Specializing in painless dentistry for over 15 years.

Dental Implants – the preferred alternative to bridges. Why cut down healthy teeth to replace missing teeth?

Norman D. Knowles, DMD
1511-B South 25th Street • Fort Pierce • 772-464-7214

1100 Colomades Drive
Fort Pierce, FL 34949
772-465-3200
www.oculinabank.com

Free & Br“easy” and Coral Plus Checking
Competitive Loans with Local Decisions
Friendly Personnel
Anywhere, Anytime Internet Banking
Conveniently Located in South Beach
Fort Pierce, Vero Beach, Fellsmere, Sebastian, and Palm City

Oculina Bank
“the friendly bank”®

MEMBER FDIC
**Fort Pierce Professional Office**  
**Delaware Ave.**

1,100+ SF centrally located executive office with conference, reception, 7 parking spots, fireplace, and kitchen area. Walk to new courthouse! $1,000 per month. Mel Robinson, **772-708-1518**.

---

**R.N. Koblegard, III**  
**Attorney At Law**  
**Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer**  
200 South Indian River Drive, Suite 201  
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

*Litigation, Business, Real Estate, Probate, Criminal & Family Law*

Telephone  
(772) 461-7772  
Fax  
(772) 461-0226

---

**AAA Appraisal, Inc.**

**Quick Appraisals with a Quality Approach**

1221 E. Weatherbee Rd., Suite 12, Fort Pierce  
**772-460-8779**

[www.Quick-Appraisal.com](http://www.Quick-Appraisal.com)  
*Real Estate Appraisals — Treasure Coast & Palm Beach*  
Larry L. Quick, Sr.,  
LLQ@bellsouth.net

State Cert. Gen. REA RZ1267

---

**“BLINKY’S”**

**J.A. Taylor Roofing, Inc.**

**Licensed Contractors**

302 Melton Drive • Fort Pierce 34982  
(772) 466-4040 • Fax (772) 468-8397

---

**The Sandhurst Hotel & Suites**

Waterfront on Hutchinson Island

866-395-SAND and 772-595-0711  
1230 Seaway Dr, Hutchinson Island, Fl Pierce, Fl 34949  
[www.thesandhurst.com](http://www.thesandhurst.com)

**On the Atlantic Ocean Inlet**  
Free hot deluxe cont breakfast  
Free Wireless • 100% nonsmoking • 16 Waterview Suites  
Fishing pier and boat docks • Pets Accepted • Outdoor Hot tub and pool  
Onsite water activities • Tiki Hut and Grill • Gourmet cookies every evening  
Close to Historic Downtown Fort Pierce
The Sunrise Theatre Presents the Missoula Children’s Theatre Summer Camp Program

The Sunrise Theatre it will host three (3) week-long children’s summer programs in conjunction with the Missoula Children’s Theatre (MCT). The first week-long program is June 9-14, the second program is August 4-9 and the final program is August 11-16, 2008. All camps begin at 10:00 a.m. The three-week-long programs are Hansel and Gretel, Robinson Crusoe and the Little Mermaid, respectively. Pre-registration for the roles to be cast are required, with a maximum of 64 students participating the week of each program. The cost for each week-long program is $50 per child.

Attendees should arrive at 10:00 a.m. and plan to stay for at least the first two hours on Monday, June 9. Some cast members will be asked to stay for an additional two hours of rehearsal on the afternoon of June 9. MCT Tour Actor/Directors will conduct remaining rehearsals Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day. Students, grades 1st through 12th, are encouraged to participate. No advance preparation is necessary. Assistant Directors will also be cast to assist with the technical aspects of the production.

“We are pleased to offer this community program once again this summer,” said Ginger King, Sunrise Theatre Marketing Manager. “The program was well-received last year and we intend to expand our children’s programs in the future.” MCT touring productions are complete with costumes, scenery, props and makeup. From Broadway musicals and poignant comedies to original children’s productions on gym floors and auditoriums around the world, MCT performances have delighted and amazed audiences for nearly four decades. MCT performing programs are designed to develop the personal and professional skills and goals of the participants.

The MCT residency in Fort Pierce is brought to you by the Sunrise Theatre. For pre-registration information, call 772-461-4775.
Gates and Gates Wins Statewide Outstanding Renovation Award from Florida Trust for Historic Preservation

First time Prestigious Honor Is Given to Fort Pierce building

The recently renovated Gates and Gates Building, located on Orange Avenue, north of Fort Pierce City Hall, has received the most prestigious statewide award for historic preservation.

“I am delighted and honored,” said Flip Gates, who owns the building and was responsible for the renovation. “We took great care to follow the highest standards of historic preservation, and the final result contributes to the overall redevelopment of our downtown.”

The project was privately funded, a fact that impressed the awards jury. “Most of the projects we reviewed had substantial public subsidies,” said Kathleen Kauffman, a member of the awards jury. “The Gates and Gates Building was an outstanding example of the private sector’s ability to preserve history.”

The Gates and Gates Building dates from the fabled building boom of the 1920s. The boom was a special time in Florida — a time when architecture built community, as it sold real estate. The Gates and Gates Building, designed by architect William Hatcher, was a skillful interpretation of the Mediterranean revival style popular at the time.

Hatcher was the leading designer of the Fort Pierce Boom. He moved to town in 1923 and stayed until his death in 1991. During that time, he designed the wide range of building types found in the small towns of old: a City Hall, a church, several mixed-use commercial structures, and a few houses in historic neighborhoods.

“I have learned much from Hatcher,” said Ramon Trias, president of the Fort Pierce Academy of Town Design. “I was lucky to have the chance to work on the restoration of one of his buildings and to move the Academy to the Gates and Gates Building.”

“The Gates and Gates Building was built by my grandfather in 1925,” said Flip Gates. “It has been owned by my family ever since.” After the 2004 hurricanes severely damaged the roof, Gates embarked on a year-long restoration project. To restore the building to the highest standards, he hired architect Don Bergman of Peacock and Lewis and consulted with Trias.

“It was a pleasure to recreate the Ionic capitals to the façade” explained Bergman. “We reconstructed the architecture that had been lost through the decades.” The building will have retail along the front, and professional office space in the back. The mix of uses should contribute to the revitalization of Downtown Fort Pierce.

“Orange Avenue is the gateway to our downtown,” Gates believes. “Hatcher’s Mediterranean style is a pleasant contrast across from our modern City Hall. I think Hatcher’s legacy speaks of the Fort Pierce we relish and want to preserve.”

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation awards will be formally presented during the statewide conference in Pensacola in May. The Trust, a non-profit corporation which advocates the preservation of Florida’s built heritage, celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2008.

In 2003, the Trust honored the Arcade building with a meritorious award, a category second only to the outstanding award received by the Gates and Gates Building. The Arcade and the Gates and Gates Buildings are the only structures in St. Lucie County that have been honored by the Trust.
Jernie – Fort Pierce’s Rising Star

by Pam Gillette

Hang on Fort Pierce, the little girl who sold kettle corn with her mother and sang karaoke at Friday Fest is just getting stronger and stronger and is in popular demand.

Jernie Talles started singing at the age of five, when she came home from pre-school and sang Tomorrow, the theme song from Annie. Since that day, Jernie has become one of the youngest top performers in South Florida, with her family and friends supporting her all the way.

Recently I had the pleasure of sitting down with Jernie, now 14 years old and an 8th grade student at Lincoln Park Academy. While talking with her you would never know that she has been traveling all over the country, appearing on national television, and opening for many national recording artists such as Rascal Flats, Sugarland, Taylor Swift, Darryl Worley, Cowboy Troy, Trace Atkins and most recently for Billy Ray Cyrus at the St Lucie County Fair.

For all of her achievements at an early age, Jernie is just a teenager who loves to hang out with her friends and who loves to sing. She is interested in saving the environment and world peace. But most of all, she wants everyone to know Jernie. She wants to be famous.

In 2006, Jernie completed her first CD with Mirrome Records, which was produced by the legendary Ron Cornelius in Nashville. The first single from her CD Jernie was released on April 30, 2007 and since then 2 of her songs have reached number one on the Indie World Country Charts. Jernie has performed throughout the region, appearing at major league baseball games, private events, fairs and festivals and for civic organizations. She has also appeared in several theater productions including Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Annie.

Jernie has started writing her own songs and looking forward to starting work on a new CD. She is also looking forward to attending the Country Music Awards Festival in Nashville in June 2008.

Jernie — ambitious, determined, devoted, talented and charming. She is a rising star and someone that Fort Pierce can call their own. Jernie is up and coming, so hold on — you ain’t seen nothin’ yet!

For more information on Jernie Talles or to purchase her CD go to www.jernieonline.com.
Buzz On In: Local Bee Keepers Carry On Sweet Tradition

by Camille S. Yates

“You gonna teach the bees how to read,” asked Melissa Gruwell’s mother, Brenda. After receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of Florida in speech pathology and audiology and later a Master’s Degree in learning disabilities, Gruwell made a hard decision. She left her chosen profession to, once again, join the family bee keeping business. “My grandmother had Alzheimer’s,” she explains. “After teaching at the University of Florida for three and a half years, I moved back to Fort Pierce, to help out my family.”

Melissa Gruwell is a fourth-generation bee keeper. Her great grandfather and his son started beekeeping as a hobby in the 1950s. In 1952, Gruwell’s grandparents, Gracie and Orville Gruwell, came to Ft. Pierce in 1952 to escape the cold long winters of Ottumwa, Iowa. They became interested in beekeeping at their winter residence where they bought 2 beehives for $10 apiece from a New York beekeeper who visited Florida every winter. This hobby eventually grew into a full time commercial business. Now Gruwell Apiary produces honey and other bee by-products from locations in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties.

“We do it from A to Z,” says Gruwell when she speaks of how the family runs the business. “We are busy bees,”
she jokes. The Gruwell family, including Melissa, her dad Larry, mother Brenda, and brother David, tend the hives, make repairs, extract the honey, and market and make sales. A family cousin and Gruwell’s boyfriend also help out.

Gruwell shows great respect for the bees. “They are such amazing creatures,” she says. “Without bees, our entire food chain would be disrupted. Farmers depend on bees to pollinate their crops. There are so many agricultural industries dependent on bees to keep things growing.” Gruwell is concerned, however, about increased development and a greater use of pesticides. She explains that these are the two biggest threats to bee populations.

The Gruwell Apiary bees are not threatened with diseases like some of the other Florida populations are. “We keep our bees very healthy by feeding them their own honey,” Gruwell says. “Some keepers set out over 400 hives and feed their bees corn syrup which has no nutritional value. As a result, the bee’s system is weakened and they are more prone to sickness.” By keeping the bees fed with honey, the Gruwells ensure that their bee populations remain healthy.

When asked what other threats the bees face, Gruwell remarks that long ago, bears used to prey on the hives. 

Continued on page 32 …
Farmers’ Market: A Saturday Morning Tradition in Fort Pierce

**Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce** hit a high water mark in February with more vendors than ever before, giving patrons a wide variety of produce, baked goods, honey, sauces, coffee, plants, flowers, and plenty of food and beverage types to eat and drink while sitting along the seawall. The Market has also been proud to welcome not-for-profit groups like the Treasure Coast Genealogical Society, the Cora Stickney Harper Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Treasure Coast Literary Guild and the Empty Bowls Project. The Empty Bowls Project is the brainchild of area high school art teachers at St. Lucie West Centennial, and Fort Pierce’s Lincoln Park Academy and John Carroll High Schools. Students from F.K. Sweet and St. Lucie Elementary also played a part. The bowls were made in pottery classes and decorated by art students. The students sold the bowls, filled with soup if you wanted it, for $15 at the Market on March 19. In conjunction with the Treasure Coast Food Bank, the Empty Bowls was collecting money to feed area residents. Their slogan: “Fighting hunger, one bowl at a time.”

According to Market Chair, Linda Hudson, “the Market is proud to have hosted this group and welcomes not-for-profit groups to the Market, space permitting. No more than 3 at the most are allowed per week. Not-for-profits selling goods pay the same rental fee as other vendors, but not-for-profits promoting educational and charitable causes can be at the Market for free. We limit not-for-profits to four times a year, unless they’re selling something and then they can be there twice a year.”

“We want to be a good citizen in the community, but our main mission is to be a green-market venue for our small-business growers and vendors,” said Hudson. “That’s why we limit not-for-profits. We are now attracting such good crowds that we are besieged by requests. A commercial business, such as a bank, a developer, or a car dealer, would not qualify to be a vendor at our Market, but we would welcome them to be a corporate sponsor. For $500 or $1,000, a corporation can have a presence at the Market and advertise their products. We use the money to pay musicians and to advertise the Market.”

“Checking with our market manager is the key to being able to set up at the Market on Saturday,” said Hudson. “A group must call Bobbi Spencer at 772-940-1145 to get approval, and this must be done no later than end of day on Thursday.”

The Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce is open year round, on Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to 12 Noon. The Market is located at Marina Square, between the library and the marina, on Melody Lane at the waterfront. Visit www.ftpiercefarmersmarket.com for more information.

It’s a Saturday morning Tradition!

For more information contact, Linda Hudson, Chair, Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce, Bobbi Spencer, Market Manager, 772-940-1145 or Treasure Coast Food Bank 772-489-5676.

---

“Buzz On In” …continued from page 31

“They would not go for the honey, but would break into the hives to eat the bee larvae.” Now, the non-native Bufo toad is a threat to the bees. “The toads sit on the porches of the bee hives and eat, by the hundreds, the bees flying in and out of the hives. You see them lined up and going to town at their bee buffet.”

As with any agricultural business, Mother Nature plays a huge role in the success of the crop. When Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne hit Fort Pierce in 2004, the Gruwells lost 800 of their 1,000 plus hives. They are still rebuilding some of the hives that they lost, but they are close to exceeding their 2004 numbers.

**Gruwell Apiary** produces and sells raw honey as opposed to filtered or heated honey. “Raw honey is much healthier to eat because it still has lots of enzymes that are good for our immune systems,” says Gruwell. “Also, since we don’t feed our bees corn syrup, our honey can be consumed by diabetics.” Besides honey, the Gruwells also sell bee pollen, bee wax, and now, a line of cosmetics.

Gruwell was one of the first vendors to set up at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market when it opened ten years ago. “Wow! How time flies,” she says. To see some of the fine Gruwell Apiary products or to learn more about bees, visit Melissa every Saturday at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market on the riverfront at Melody Lane.
**Graham Cracker Crust**

\( \frac{3}{4} \) cup graham cracker crumbs (5 to 6 crackers)
3 cups (2 stick) butter or margarine, softened
2 Tablespoons sugar

**Chocolate Cream Cheese Filling**

3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
8 squares (1 ounce each) semisweet chocolate, melted and cooled
\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup dairy sour cream
7 tablespoons Kaluah (or strong coffee)
2 teaspoons dark rum (or heavy cream)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Prepare Graham Cracker Crust: Combine crumbs, butter and sugar in container of a blender or food processor.

Cover and whirl at high speed until well combined. Press crumb mixture into bottom of 8-inch spring form pan. Set aside.

Prepare Chocolate Cream Cheese Filling: Combine cream cheese, sugar and eggs in container of blender or food processor. Cover and process at high speed until smooth. Add chocolate, sour cream, Kaluah, and rum. Process until well blended. Pour on top of crust.

Bake 45 minutes. Turn oven off and prop oven door open slightly. Leave cheesecake in oven with door ajar for one hour. Remove the pan from the oven and cool. Place in refrigerator overnight.

To serve: loosen side of pan and remove. Top with shaved chocolate if desired.

Makes 10 servings (one 8-inch cheesecake).
Main Street Fort Pierce

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

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

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

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.

Membership Benefits:

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

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

Main Street Membership Form

Name:______________________________________
Company/Organization:________________________
Street Address:_______________________________
City / State / Zip:______________________________
Phone:______________________________________
Email:______________________________________

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

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

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

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

**Things Every Homeowner Should Know . . .**

**QUESTION:** How often should I have maintenance performed on my equipment?

**ANSWER:** We highly recommend that you change your filters once per month. Also, in order to keep your central air system running efficiently, we suggest a certified technician perform annual maintenance. This helps reduce the risk of major component failure, extends equipment life, maintains efficient operation, and protects your equipment warranties. If you allow your filters and air conditioning coils to become dirty, the air conditioning will not perform properly and the compressor or fans can likely fail prematurely. Among other things, there can also be a drain line blockage that could create a leak.

**QUESTION:** Why does the service company we are using have to keep adding freon to our central air conditioning? It has happened already twice this past year.

**ANSWER:** Sometimes, when your air conditioning is low on refrigerant, there is a possibility that it could have been undercharged when it was originally installed or it could have a leak. If it is a leak, simply re-adding in the freon is not the answer, nor by EPA regulations, is it to be done that way. A certified technician should fix any leak, test the repair, and then charge the system with the correct amount of refrigerant. The best performance and efficiency from your central air conditioner and heater is best when the refrigerant charge matches the manufacturer’s specifications, and is neither under charged or overcharged.

**QUESTION:** I read that in the year 2010 manufacturers will stop making the Freon 22 systems, is this true?

**ANSWER:** Yes. They will be making all new equipment with a more “environmentally safe” freon called 410-A. They have been making systems with the 410-A Freon for a few years now, and will just be converting all systems to the more environmentally safe Freon 410-A. Freon R-22 will still be available through the year 2020 for repairs and maintenance to systems with that freon.

**NisAir** is family owned and operated and has been serving Palm Beach to Indian River counties since 1973. Philip Nisa, Jr and his sister/partner, Christine Nisa Mulrooney have been operating the company since 1986 and are the second generation to operate NisAir. They take pride in the quality of their workmanship and provide all aspects of air conditioning services from maintenance, service, air quality, high-efficiency filtration units, new construction and systems upgrades/change-outs. You can contact their office at 772-466-8115.
Morgan Stanley

INVESTMENT SERVICES

Jim O'Connor, CFP®, CIIMA®
Financial Advisor
2100 SE Ocean Blvd
Stuart, FL 34996
772-223-2400

Investments and services are offered through Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, member SIPC. © 2007 Morgan Stanley NYCS 5574774 ANN 06/07

Yates Funeral Homes
Serving the Area Since 1897

Salutes
Main Street Fort Pierce

1101 So. U.S. 1, Fort Pierce, 461-7000

Treasure Coast Abstract
And Title Insurance Co.
500 Virginia Avenue, Suite 200
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982

Frank H. Fee III Esq.
President
Frank H. Fee IV Esq.
Vice President
Wendy Lounds
Office Manager

TELEPHONE: (772)461-7190
FAX: (772)461-0487

St. Lucie Battery & Tire
Home of Honest And Reliable Service
Serving The Treasure Coast For Over 30 Years

NOW IN 7 LOCATIONS

FT. PIERCE    PORT ST. LUCIE
317 Orange Ave. 5500 Orange Ave. 6911 S. U.S. 1
Historic  Off I-95 772-461-1746 772-466-1814
Downtown  772-489-3977
772-489-3977

VERO BEACH    PALM CITY
1893 90th Ave. 3992 SW Bruner Terr. 772-219-0100
772-569-7629

OKEECHOBEE    MELBOURNE
198 U.S. Hwy. 98 N. 1653 N. Harbor City Blvd.
863-357-2431 321-254-8475

Or Call Toll-Free 800-432-1064
Hablamos Español

© 2006 St. Lucie Battery & Tire Company

10 Tips to Saving $$$

1. Use programmable thermostats.
2. Caulk windows and weatherize door panes.
3. Insulate your water heater.
4. Use window coverings to keep the sun out.
5. Wash clothes in cold water only.
6. Check door seals on refrigerators and freezers.
7. Use glass or ceramic pans when cooking in ovens.
8. Clean your dryer’s filter after each use.
9. Check your central air conditioning/ heating system’s filters once a month and schedule regular maintenance.
10. Make sure your home is properly insulated.

Visit www.FPUA.com for more energy and water conservation tips.

Fort Pierce Utilities
206 South 6th Street, Fort Pierce, Fl. 34950
772-466-0202

Our Mission is to provide our customers with economical, reliable, and friendly service in a continuous effort to enhance the quality of life in our community.
Spring Fishing

by Dan Dannahower

We’ve finally gotten away from the windy days of March and into some of the nicest weather of the year. May and June tend to bring us some of the best days of the year for doing anything outdoors. Sunny days, light winds and comfortable temperatures prevail along with calm boating waters both offshore and in.

Kingfish and dolphin, along with a few Cobia and Wahoo should be available offshore. Trolling with either live baits or frozen ballyhoo is the most common method of pursuing these large blue water species. Our local bait and tackle shops can help with advice on what gear to use and how to rig it. Bottom fishing for snapper, grouper and black sea bass will be off and on depending on a number of factors.

In the Indian River Lagoon fishing for trout has been good and should continue. Snook and redfish should be available on the flats and in the turning basin. Sheepshead, drum and snappers can be had year round by bottom fishing rocky ledges and around pilings or other structure. Expect your fair share of catfish as any local bottom fisherman will attest! Again your local tackle shops can help with live or frozen baits and artificial lures that are appropriate for the type of fish you’d like to catch.

For the non boaters there are numerous bridge piers, public shorelines and jetties which can provide access for a few hours or a day of fishing. We have a number of professional charter captains who can put you on the fish all the way from the deep of the gulf stream to the shallowest flats of the lagoon. It’s a great way to bring home some dinner and learn some new tricks to improve your fishing skills. Party boats are also available for those who enjoy bottom fishing offshore at very reasonable rates. Inquire at our local marinas or tackle shops.

Some of the nicest weather of the year is upon us for the next few months. I hope you get a chance to pick a beautiful day and “wet a line!” Good luck and good fishing.

Robbie Yancy, Captain, and the all women fishing team, Joy Yancy, Missy Blandford, Dina Hicks, and Christy Dobrea placed 2nd in the Southern Kingfish Tournament held in Biloxi, Mississippi last November.
Main Street DINING

Conveniently Located 1/2 Mile East of U.S. 1 Off Weatherbee Road

GATOR TRACE
Golf & Country Club

Roy’s Liquors
AND
Boozgeois Saloon

Fine Wines • Full Beverage Catering
720 South U.S. 1, Ft. Pierce
461-3097

BANQUETS
Our Beautiful Clubhouse is Available for your Special Function
Check Out Our New Condos!
Call us at
464-7442
www.gatortracecountryclub.com

Located at the Northwest end of the Historic Arcade Building in Downtown Fort Pierce
• Breakfast • Sandwiches • Subs • Catering • Delivery
Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
465-4888  Fax 465-4969

Balls of Fury Every Tues. Night at
Mother Tucker’s Sand Bar & Grill
@ Al’s Bait & Tackle
772.461.8338
658 N. 2nd Street
Fort Pierce

GATJOR TRACF
Golf & Country Club

“tee times 464-0407”

BANQUETS
Our Beautiful Clubhouse is Available for your Special Function
Check Out Our New Condos!
Call us at
464-7442
www.gatortracecountryclub.com

Located at the Northwest end of the Historic Arcade Building in Downtown Fort Pierce
• Breakfast • Sandwiches • Subs • Catering • Delivery
Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
465-4888  Fax 465-4969

Balls of Fury Every Tues. Night at
Mother Tucker’s Sand Bar & Grill
@ Al’s Bait & Tackle
772.461.8338
658 N. 2nd Street
Fort Pierce

GATJOR TRACF
Golf & Country Club

“tee times 464-0407”

BANQUETS
Our Beautiful Clubhouse is Available for your Special Function
Check Out Our New Condos!
Call us at
464-7442
www.gatortracecountryclub.com

Located at the Northwest end of the Historic Arcade Building in Downtown Fort Pierce
• Breakfast • Sandwiches • Subs • Catering • Delivery
Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
465-4888  Fax 465-4969
The Original

In the middle of everything that makes Fort Pierce Fun . . .

Daily Drink Specials featuring Cruzan Rum & Margaritaville Tequila

Live Entertainment Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Fort Pierce Tribune’s People’s Choice Award for Best Happy Hour

Serving Lunch & Dinner 7 Days a Week

Two Avenue A • Fort Pierce City Marina
Tel: 772.461.0880 • Fax: 772.461.3989 • www.originaltikibar.com
Serving The Treasure Coast For Over 35 Years!

Charlie's
DODGE

2007 CHARGER
2007 NITRO
2008 AVENGER
2007 CALIBER
2007 CARAVAN

1 Mile South of Midway Rd.
Ft. Pierce

461-4770

Nissan
Of Ft. Pierce

2007 TITAN
2007 MURANO
2007 350Z
2007 VERSA
2007 SENTRA

Just North of Midway Rd.
Ft. Pierce

464-4645

Where You Buy Is As Important As What You Buy!