Main Street Focus
122 AE Backus Ave.
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Delivering a Tradition...

Helping To Build A Better Way For Over 100 Years

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TRUSS PLANTS - Ft. Pierce, Melbourne

1902 2007
Have you ever traveled to a city, whether large or small, and noticed unique esthetics such as brick pavers, landscaping, decorative lighting and signage or a public art program? Well, chances are if you have noticed these enhancements in the city, you probably were in a Main Street City.

I recently spent a week in Norcross, Georgia, about 25 miles north of Atlanta, where I grew up and my mother is the mayor! Yes, I guess it’s in the genes so to speak. With a population of around 10,000, Norcross was once considered to be located in the boonies during the 70s and had little to offer other than a row of local businesses, few restaurants and a flashing stop light in the center of downtown. Now with the rapid growth of the metro Atlanta area, urbanites have moved to the burbs and snapped up the desirable 100 plus year old homes to renovate, bought storefront businesses to afford unique shopping and have opened trendy restaurants that are crowded most every night. It is something I cannot believe when I return home to Norcross. Who would have thought!

What created this revitalization was the city’s forward thinking of creating an inviting and welcoming environment for residents and visitors — the Main Street Program. Now the City of Norcross boasts a huge 4th of July fireworks display where thousands of people begin gathering well before dark to see the 30 minute extravaganza and free concerts in the City’s park, which has greatly improved since I played there. Downtown streets are lined with trees that twinkle with white lights, brick pavers and decorative lights and signage. While the downtown row of businesses is still small, it hosts a variety of shopping and dining opportunities. The businesses are supportive of the City’s efforts and have worked together to create a successful downtown that draws many to it throughout the year.

So the next time your traveling through a community, look around and see if you can notice a difference if the city is a Main Street City or not. Happy trails!
Membership
Main Street Fort Pierce

As Fort Pierce Main Street begins its 19th successful year, it is undertaking an aggressive Membership Drive. “The Next Big Thing” campaign took off in May, 2006. Please consider becoming a Main Street Member.

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

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

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

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

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

Main Street Membership Levels
Private:
☐ Student .................. $15.00
☐ Friend .................... $25.00
☐ Family .................... $50.00

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

☐ I would like to become a Main Street volunteer.

Name:_____________________
Company/Organization:_____________________
Street Address:_________________________
City / State / Zip:_________________________
Phone:______________________________
Email:______________________________

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

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., a 501©3 not-for-profit corporation, has encouraged and participated in the revitalization efforts of downtown Fort Pierce for the past 19 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.
MAIN STREET AND DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Calendar

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

Friday, September 7th; Friday Fest — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880.

Friday, September 21st; Coffee with the Mayor — 8:00 a.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880.

Friday, September 28th; Classic Car Cruise In — 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080.

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.

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.

FORT PIERCE COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES

For information, please call 462-1792.

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

For information, please call 462-2787.

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

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

SUNRISE THEATRE

For information, please call 461-4775.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

For information, please call 462-1795.

BACKUS GALLERY & MUSEUM

For information, please call 465-0630.

Florida: More Than Meets the Eye – September 29th to October 20th.

HEATHCOTE BONTANICAL GARDENS

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

Friday, September 14th — Free Friday! Free admission 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday, September 19th — Volunteer Orientation, Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 13th — Heathcote Kids After School Garden with Nannette Billing, 4:15 p.m.

New Arrivals

Dr. Shannon Clark Leitenbauer and Jony Leitenbauer are the proud parents of twins born April 1st 2007, Ayla Antonia Leitenbauer and Jordan David Leitenbauer.
Mayor’s Message: Look Who’s Looking At Us Now!

by Fort Pierce Mayor Bob Benton

If you have not seen or read the July edition of the Stuart Magazine, pick up a copy today. Fort Pierce is on the cover with an additional six-page featured article! Many years ago, Fort Pierce was considered the thorn between two roses, Stuart and Vero Beach. We have since blossomed and are now in a full bloom. Fort Pierce is being recognized by our neighbors to the north, south and throughout the state of Florida as an up and coming revitalized city with a promising future. It has taken years of diligence and the hard work of dedicated staff to turn this city around from low property values and high taxes to the current status of higher property values and the lowest tax rate in the city in at least the past decade! In fact, the city’s millage rate is within 1 mil of Stuart’s rate, allowing us to compete with our neighboring community for business and residents.

We are a community looking into the future and not just making decisions that will satisfy the needs of today. Fort Pierce is taking a direction that will sustain planned growth with a long term, positive outcome for our children and grandchildren. This makes approach to growth
makes Fort Pierce a city that will bring back our youth of today, to be tomorrow's leaders. There was a period in time in which Fort Pierce's youth were heading to college and continuing to move to other areas. I am proud to say that many of them have taken a new look at the great assets of Fort Pierce and the job opportunities and have returned to become members of this great city and raise their families.

To continue to make our future a community with a “Happily Ever After” as the cover of Stuart Magazine expresses, we have to continue to invest in our future. We have come a long way over the past 12 years and have even more to accomplish. The support and partnership of churches, civic groups, business leaders, organizations like Main Street Fort Pierce, and volunteers help make our city’s “Storybook Tale” a reality! Thank you, Stuart, for recognizing Fort Pierce as the great community and neighbor that we are!

First United Methodist Church

Dr. Ronald D. Thomas, Sr.
Pastor

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Blended Worship Service
(Broadcast on WPSL 1590 AM)

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The management and staff of Blair Advertising extends their sincere sympathy to the family of Doris Blair.

We will continue her legacy.
She will be deeply missed.
In October of 1996, the Manatee Observation and Education Center opened its doors as St. Lucie County’s first environmental education facility. The Manatee Center, located at 480 N. Indian River Drive, was built on this location due to the large numbers of manatees that congregated in Moore’s creek, especially throughout the winter season. The neighboring H. D. King Power Plant, owned and operated by Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, produces an outflow of warm water into Moore’s Creek. Since manatees cannot survive in water temperatures below 68 degrees, they are drawn to the Creek’s warmer water.

But where did the idea for an education center develop? Because of the numbers of manatees in the creek, many people would come to the seawall in search of them. As humans are inclined to do, those same folks wanted to ensure their survival, so they fed the manatees lettuce and gave them fresh water from hoses. In other words, all the things that shouldn’t be done for animals in the wild, especially those that are listed as an endangered species. So, the town began talking and decided that there should be some informational signs to offer some form of education to visitors. That is when Main Street Fort Pierce came on the scene.

Spearheaded by the efforts of Main Street Fort Pierce, the Manatee Center is the result of a cooperative effort among the City of Fort Pierce, Florida Inland Navigation District, governmental agencies, local businesses and concerned citizens. Many volunteers, such as Fred Brock,
proved to be invaluable. Built primarily with a $200,000 grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District, major donors such as the Community Redevelopment Agency, Fort Pierce Main Street, City of Fort Pierce, Harbor Federal (nka National City), St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Fort Pierce all contributed to the Center’s completion. Doris Tillman, Executive Director of Main Street Fort Pierce, was also instrumental in securing Fort Pierce Utilities Authority to manage the Center. Bud Boudreaux, Director of FPUA at that time, tells the story of their first meeting on the subject: “We went to the Tiki for lunch to discuss the possibilities. We needed a table for four, but were told that there were none available. Then, I watched as Doris walked over to a couple and ask them if they would move to a table for two so that we could sit down. I knew then that I was in trouble.”

As the Center’s first Curator, Liberta Scotto worked tirelessly attending to the Center’s final opening details. From informational signs, murals and even light fixtures, all was completed before the scheduled opening on October 26, 1996. Plans were to have the Center in operation six days per week from November 1 to April 15, so Liberta enlisted help from the community through volunteerism. Volunteers have an enormous impact on every aspect of the Center’s operation, from acting as docents in the exhibit hall and gift shop assistants to office help. Community agencies also partnered with the Manatee Center to offer popular programs such as summer camps, brown bag lunch lectures and NatureFest, an environmental festival. The St. Lucie County School Board is a lifetime partner with the Manatee Center to provide education and field trip opportunities for public school children in St. Lucie County. The Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation, made up of prominent citizens and business leaders, was established to act as a fund raising arm for the Center. Liberta’s efforts and contributions to the Manatee Center are countless.

Camille Yates was Curator of the Manatee Center from 1999-2005. During her tenure, significant changes took place. The Center became more accessible to the general public by staying open from October 1 through June 30, and then in 2003 added summer hours on
“Classic Car Cruise In” is the newest event in historic downtown Fort Pierce. Come on down and experience a little bit of nostalgia and maybe spot your favorite car from the past. The owners of all classes of cars of interest, from muscle cars and hot rods to antique cars and trucks, are invited to bring their vehicles downtown for display. Second Street is closed each month for this event, so there is plenty of room for these cars to show off and allow spectators to enjoy a little bit of auto history.

Moroso Motorsports brings in their show cars to perform for the public. There are live oldies bands playing in the streets for dancing and listening pleasure. Who can resist stepping to the doo-wop tunes of the past? The stores, galleries and restaurants are all open late for your shopping and dining convenience. Whether you are a car enthusiast, a music appreciator or just looking for a fun evening, “Classic Car Cruise In” offers great entertainment for everyone.
All of this takes place the last Friday of every month from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and is growing in stature each month. In the event of inclement weather, the rain date will be the following Saturday evening. The best part is that all of this is free; both to the general public and for those bringing cars to show. Sponsored by The Tribune, Budweiser, Moroso Motorsports and the City of Fort Pierce, the "Classic Car Cruise In" is put on by the Downtown Business Association of Fort Pierce.

This event is just one more reason to come down and see more of what downtown Fort Pierce has to offer. For further information call (772) 618-0989.
Downtown Business Focus: Tobacco Emporium

by Dan Dannahower

Are you a connoisseur of fine cigars? Looking for the perfect smoke to celebrate a special event or upcoming milestone? Need help with a hard-to-find cigar, tobacco or smoking accessory? **Tobacco Emporium** can help with all this and much more. Located at 223 Orange Avenue near the corner of Orange and Depot Drive, **Tobacco Emporium** is a full service tobacco store with a wide variety of products for all your fine cigar and tobacco needs.

When you enter the shop you’ll be immediately drawn to the large walk-in humidor which is the store’s central showcase. Maintaining the perfect temperature and humidity that fine cigars demand, the humidor is newly constructed, well lighted and has glass on two walls so you never get that closed in “closet” feeling. Inside you’ll find a large assortment of the finest cigars from around the globe. Whether you’re an occasional smoker or a dedicated aficionado, you’re sure to find the perfect cigar to fit your needs.

**Tobacco Emporium** also carries a full line of products including cigarettes, pipe and rolling tobaccos, snuff, and a wide variety of lighters, torches and other accessories. Their expertise is right here in our own downtown and available to help you with your own needs or to find that perfect gift for a friend or relative.

Emporium owner Dede Wilson has been a downtown merchant for around three years and is very involved not only with her business but with a variety of downtown events and charities. She is a member of the board of the Downtown Business Association and collects donations for United Way for Animals. Her United Way “Doggy” sits in front of the store and is actually a deposit box for donations. Be sure to give him a pat and a coin when you stop in! Dede is also something of a “fixture” at the weekly Bike Night, helping with activities and occasionally roaming the streets as a downtown ambassador and cigar salesperson!

Dede says the best thing about her business is the customers. She told me “my customers are the nicest people you could meet”, and says that’s why she enjoys coming to work. She also says her downtown business neighbors and acquaintances are friendly, helpful and make downtown a great place to work. Dede says her friends John and Susan Parry, Eddie Joe, Gene, Donnie, Mike, Jim at East Coast, RL, Dick, Bob, Carl, Yvonne and Don

*Continued on page ... 14*
are perfect examples of folks chipping in to help. They lent expertise, advice and actual physical help to get the new location up and running. “I couldn’t have done it without them,” said Dede.

Stop in at Tobacco Emporium for some friendly help with your tobacco needs or just to say hello to Dede and her shiny new store! You won’t be disappointed.

Tobacco Emporium, 223 Orange Avenue, 461-0655, tobaccoemporium@aol.com.
Downtown Hero: Bill Thiess

by Camille S. Yates

Raised in West Hollywood, in the North Miami area, Bill Thiess can appreciate the laid-back, hassle-free atmosphere in Fort Pierce. As Director of Utilities at Fort Pierce Utilities (FPUA), he is acutely aware of the growth that is occurring in St. Lucie County. “Growth is good, but we don’t want to over-build,” he explains. “I’d like to see more shopping and entertainment businesses move downtown, but we also need to have enough people here to sustain them.” When asked about important future issues for downtown, he feels that increasing parking is a big one. He acknowledges that the new parking garage east of City Hall will help when it is completed, but he thinks that having ample parking still needs to be addressed.

Attracted by the water and great surfing waves, Thiess originally came to Fort Pierce in 1971. For the last 36 years, he has cultivated his love of surfing, fishing, and diving for lobster. When the wind is blowing and it’s cold and windy on the water, you may find him hanging out at his home in St. Lucie Village where he has just completed a several-year landscaping project. Much of his yard is now covered with lush, tropical vegetation that enhances privacy and makes it seem as though he’s in a Costa Rican hideaway on Playa Negra, which is one of his favorite surfing spots other than Fort Pierce.

When he’s not on the water, or landscaping his yard, or running the utility company, he may be presiding over a St. Lucie Village town meeting. Thiess has been a Town of St. Lucie Village official since 1987, first as Vice Mayor for two years and then as Mayor for 18 years. Now that is dedication.

Speaking of dedication, Thiess’ wife, Beverly, who is a Media Specialist at Lincoln Park Academy, also enjoys fishing and boating. It was more than three decades ago when they met. A mutual friend set them up on a blind date at the Sebastian Inlet to — get this — shark fish. I guess he knew that he had found his soul-mate, because they have been married and enjoying life together for 33 years.

One of Thiess’ strong points is his foresight for future construction projects. As a State of Florida engineer for 22 years, he’s been responsible for design, permitting and construction of numerous water and wastewater treatment facilities throughout the Treasure Coast area. He was also extensively involved in designing and permitting the St. Lucie County Landfill, Phase 2. In his former position at FPUA as Director of Water and Wastewater systems, he was responsible for planning and implementing major water and wastewater utility expansions to keep pace with the rapid growth presently being experienced in St. Lucie County.

There are a lot of things that Thiess enjoys about downtown Fort Pierce, especially its proximity to the water. “It’s nice to walk down to the waterfront to break up the day,” he explains. He says that Fort Pierce’s downtown has a pleasant environment that makes coming to work more enjoyable. Being able to go a couple of doors down to eat lunch is also a big advantage. “When you have consultants or business associates in town for a meeting, it’s handy to get a bite to eat next door,” he says. “Plus, I always run into someone I know.”

Under Thiess’ tenure, FPUA’s ninety-five year old H. D. King Power Plant will be decommissioned in the spring of 2008, and the land will be handed over to the City. As Thiess explains, “I am hoping the future project that goes on the power plant property will be something that attracts people to downtown — a focal point for entertainment. You have the Sunrise Theater on the south side, so it would be ideal to have an attraction that anchors the north side.” The future of the land will be decided by local officials in the next few months, and it is certain that Thiess, who has shown much dedication to the area, will be called on for his advice.
Thursday, Friday and Saturday, from July 1 through September 30. Additional emphasis was placed on marketing to increase the Center’s exposure throughout the community. A new 800 square foot addition is home to the Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop. The online website www.manateecenter.com was established and expanded to include an online shopping site www.manateegiftsgalore.com. As a tribute to Fred Brock, a devoted volunteer donating over 2700 hours of his time, the Fred Brock Memorial Butterfly Garden and sculpture was dedicated. A high school intern program was developed and the volunteer program expanded to include ages 14 & up. Many unique fundraisers were held for the Center, including the very successful ‘Sea Cows on Parade’ event. The Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation has held many successful fundraisers, contributing funds supporting the Center’s educational exhibits and programs, including purchasing a life-size Manatee Exhibit. In early 2005, the Center began offering Indian River Lagoon Wildlife Boat Tours. Those are just a few of the highlights from Camille’s years at the Manatee Center.

In 2005, I became Curator of the Manatee Center. These past two years have brought even more changes. The Center celebrated its tenth anniversary! Many special events and celebrations surrounded this momentous occasion. Several new marketing programs were implemented and the Center was featured on the cover of the Real Yellow Pages phone book. The Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation is committed to the success of the Center and their fundraisers continue to flourish. The volunteer program continues to grow, topping an all-time high of more than 100 volunteers. A new touch tank program was developed and is offered to school groups and visitors. We partnered with the St. Lucie County School Board to offer activities for the...
D u u u d e! Check Out Undercover!

by Nancy Ingle

Skateboarders from all over are being drawn to downtown Fort Pierce to check out the area’s newest specialty shop, Undercover. It’s a skater’s paradise, offering everything from skateboards, parts, and DVDs to clothing, shoes and accessories.

Owner Rob Perkins, who works full-time for the Fort Pierce Police Department, was born and raised in Fort Pierce. A graduate of Fort Pierce Westwood, he has been skating for over 20 years. Considering there were no skate shops in the County, he realized the opportunity and thought about going into business but always held back. According to Rob, in addition to a little “push” from his wife, Amber, the final straw to fulfilling his dream was his participation in the design and construction of Phase 1 of the County’s skateboard park, currently underway at the Lawnwood Sports Complex.

When it was time to find the right location for the shop, Rob knew he wanted to be in downtown Fort Pierce. He had his eye on a storefront next to the Yellowtail Grille and was disappointed to find out that it was taken. As soon as he heard that The Barkery relocated, Rob moved quickly to secure the vacated space at 204 N. 2nd Street. Undercover opened its doors on May 25.

Although the majority of the customers who frequent Undercover are younger teens, clients of all ages visit the shop where the walls are lined with colorful skateboard blanks from over a dozen makers, trucks, wheels, and other accessories. Protective gear, footwear, t-shirts, hoodies, hats and more are located throughout the store. Also on display is artwork and photography by locals.

Undercover isn’t simply a skate shop — it’s a place where locals meet to exchange stories, watch the latest skate video, or maybe even play a game of XBox on a rainy day. Those who drop in may even catch local Pro Skater Tim Kulas who works at the shop two days a week.

Besides getting his stock built up for the upcoming school year, Rob is busy concentrating on scheduling competitions and exhibitions, and he’s also focusing on Phase 2 of the new skateboard park. He has committed participation in special events in the downtown area such as Friday Fest, Bike Nite, Classic Car Show, etc. Rob says he has received a warm welcome from neighboring merchants, and he intends to be involved as much as possible.

An official Grand Opening was scheduled for July 21 but had to be rescheduled to August 11, due to thunderstorms. You can read all about the grand opening as well as other news and happenings on their website. The website is updated on a regular basis. For more information, call Undercover at 489-6558.
‘Magical School Bus Tour’, a week long teacher in-service program. Summers have been busy with Nature Adventure, Art in Nature and Photo Safari camps. We also provide lessons for IRCC’s Campus Reach Out Program. Throughout the year, we continue to offer exciting events such as the Island Kayak and Moonlight Paddle adventures. The Brown Bag Lunch Lectures, held the second Friday of each month, offer interesting speakers and topics. Beginning in the fall, a new Trader Canoe Trip will be offered! October will usher in exciting new outreach programs offered at schools such as Touch Tank to You and Mangroves, Manatees and More. We are excited about the changes at the Center and the new exhibits and programs that will offered next season.

The Manatee Observation and Education Center is a nonprofit nature education facility dedicated to promoting respect for the unique and fragile ecosystems of the Treasure Coast Region and their inhabitants. Located along the waters of Moore’s Creek and the Indian River Lagoon, we are home to abundant wildlife, including Florida’s endangered manatee. Walk along the Center’s covered walkway or climb the observation tower to comfortably view animals in their natural habitat. Tour the exhibit hall to learn about many of Florida’s ecosystems and how to interact responsibly with them and their inhabitants. View live freshwater and marine animals in our various aquariums. Hop aboard and enjoy an educational Indian River Lagoon Wildlife Boat Tour. You’ll want to take home a remembrance of your tour when you visit our Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop, where you’ll find hundreds of nature related items.

The Manatee Center is open October 1 through June 30, Tuesday through Saturday, 10-5, Sunday, 1-4 and July 1 through September 30, Thursday through Saturday, 10-5. For information on Indian River Lagoon Wildlife Boat Tours call the Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop at 772-460-6445. To contact us for additional information on hours and events, call 772-466-1600, ext. 3333 or visit us online at www.manateecenter.com.
Seahorse Source Generously Donates “Hippocampus Erectus”

by Carol Johnson

In August 2007, the Manatee Observation and Education Center received a new addition to their family of aquatic life. This anxiously awaited creature is requested time and time again by visitors of all ages. It is none other than Hippocampus Erectus, otherwise known as the sea-horse (Hippocampus is the scientific term for seahorse and Erectus is the species being donated). Actually, two were provided because seahorses are social creatures and require companionship from others of their kind. The company that generously donated them is Seahorse Source, a well deserved name, because Dan Underwood, his wife Abbie and sister Debbie Forbes have been servicing local, national and international customers since their breeding facility opened in 2005. They offer several varieties of seahorses and supplies, along with advice on how to care for them when they are both well and ailing.

The origination of this unique business began with Debbie, who became acquainted with seahorses during her employment at Ocean Reefs and Aquariums and later Harbor Branch Oceanographic, both located in Ft. Pierce. As a lifelong resident, she saw a niche to be filled and approached Dan and Abbie with the possibility of starting a business built on seahorses. They had both been in the corporate world for 20 years and were ready for a change. They believed the less stressful occupation of seahorse breeding might be what they were looking for. In 2003 the three of them began a small breeding operation, and after about a year and a half of perfecting and fine tuning, decided to open their doors, or should I say website, known as SeahorseSource.com. Due to the nature of their company and insurance restrictions, this facility is not open to the public. Dan said he would love to be able to offer tours because seahorses are so well loved and a great deal of mystery surrounds them. In fact, so little is known about seahorses by the general public that sometimes when conversations shift to what Dan does for a living, they say it can’t be possible because seahorses don’t exist! It seems that seahorses fall into the same category as mermaids and sea monsters. This could be due to the fact that, even though they are a fish they don’t share the same structural body shape as fishes. Instead, they have body rings that are rigid and surround their body similar to armor plating. Between the rings are sections of flesh that can expand or retract. They have a prehensile tail which they use to hitch themselves to coral, grasses or anything that extends out. For this reason, when you have seahorses you should be careful about putting a heater in their tank because if they wrap around it while it's running they could get burned. The H. Erectus can live in cooler waters, but while breeding they prefer temperatures between 68 and 75 degrees. This is confirmed by the fact that they are found from the warmer ocean waters near Brazil all the way up the eastern coast of North America to the cold waters of Nova Scotia and even survive under ice, going into a dormant state in very cold water. On the other hand, if the water is too warm it suppresses their immune system and can be fatal.

The most unusual fact about seahorses is that the males are the ones that become pregnant and bear young after a 2-3 week pregnancy period. So, if the pair we received turns out to be a male and female (right now they’re still too young to tell), we could have as many as 500 babies swimming around at a time! Wouldn’t that be something great for our guests to experience?

The volunteers and staff at the Manatee Observation and Education Center truly appreciate the generosity of Seahorse Source for providing us with seahorses to share with our visitors from this area and from around the world. The more people that are made aware of the diversity of creatures that call our beautiful Indian River Lagoon home, the more chance we have of preserving it for future generations. So, thank you Seahorse Source for doing your part to help!
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Meet the Band Brother Bean: High Octane, Dance Inducing Jam Rock

by Bret McCain

Tightly fusing a bond between beauty in songwriting and daring jams, Brother Bean is a force in the Florida music scene. The members, each unique in style and influence, find themselves to stand on uncommonly common ground when on the stage.

The original members of Brother Bean came together one summer night in Grant, Florida, for an all night jam that ushered in the dawn. There was an immediate feeling in the air from the energy created in that first session, and everyone left the next morning dumbfounded by what they had stumbled away from.

As years passed and the band evolved, the fresh new sound that is Brother Bean firmed up. Shows are packed with finely crafted songs and dazzling improvisational sections, an eye-popping synchronized light show, and a family of fans willing to go the distance to catch a show.

Breaking the barrier of what is possible with 3 instruments, Eric Flint (guitar, vocals), Russ Neidhardt (bass, vocals), and Patrick Livezey (drums) bridge the gap between compositions with an intricate tapestry of improvised music. The lines between songs become blissfully blurred, and the natural instinct to dance takes over their audiences.

“It’s about discovering new music… for instance: music that is layered, intricate, technical, flowing, whimsical, elating and euphoric like that of the Melbourne favorites (and now one of my favorites) Brother Bean. Never have I seen a band create such a mood in a venue where no one spoke and everyone just listened…” – Alicia Lyman, Orlando City Beat.

Combining elements of funk, blues, rock and roll, and an underbelly of intense jam, this infectious live music flows through mind, body, and soul. If you like the music to grab you and take you with it, then you’ll love an evening with Brother Bean!

For additional information please visit www.brotherbean.com. Brother Bean will appear at the September 7th Friday Fest.

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.
The Original Tiki Bar, Cobb’s Landing and the New Bluewater Beach Grill: St. Lucie County’s Dining Trifecta

by Donna Burke and Diego Larroude

The Original Tiki Bar is located at the Fort Pierce City Marina in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. It has been serving locals and tourists great food and drinks with a spectacular river view since 1998. The Tiki Bar has seen its share of mishaps starting with the 2004 Hurricanes, which destroyed the Marina and took the roof off of the Tiki Bar. With a lot of hard work the Tiki Bar re-opened January 1, 2005. The Tiki Bar has remained one of the most popular restaurants in town due to its relaxed atmosphere, live music and of course wonderful food and beverages.

As a result of the success of the Tiki, Colin and Ian Lloyd were awarded a long-term lease from the City of Fort Pierce to operate a restaurant on the other side of the Marina which was formerly known as the Manatiki.

The restaurant was completely renovated and the name changed to Cobb’s Landing to reflect the historical significance of the site which used to be the loading pier for the early inhabitants in Fort Pierce. With a resort casual theme, Cobb’s Landing offers Certified Angus Beef along with some of the best seafood on the East Coast. Cobb’s Landing also offers private banquet facilities overlooking the City Marina. In addition, people come from miles just to try their signature drink, the Pineapple Mojito.

Bluewater’s theme of surfing goes hand in hand with the vibe of Fort Pierce and the owner’s love of surfing. Many long time Fort Pierce residents enjoy the sport and can be seen surfing near the Jetty. Make sure to check out the casual atmosphere and Cork’s Pain Killer, Bluewater’s signature drink.

The Lloyd’s third and newest restaurant venture began as a result of their love of the beach. When the former home of Theo Thudpucker’s restaurant on the South Beach Jetty became available, they knew they had the perfect spot. After two long years of extensive renovation, their dream of a beach restaurant was realize when the Bluewater Beach Grill opened its doors on June 18, 2007.
Public Power and Natural Gas Week 2007

Fort Pierce Utilities Offers Low- and No-Cost Ways to Protect the Environment and Save on Utility Expenses

by Camille S. Yates

Fort Pierce Utilities (FPUA) will celebrate Public Power and Natural Gas Week, during October 7-13, along with other community-owned electric and natural gas utilities that collectively provide electricity and natural gas on a not-for-profit basis to almost 50 million Americans. To kick off the week, FPUA will host a community festival on Saturday, October 6th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for local citizens to celebrate their ownership in the utility and to provide educational materials for those who want to learn more about how to save money on their utilities. During the week, FPUA will also have other activities for community involvement.

The week-long Public Power and Natural Gas Week activities include:

❂ Public Power and Natural Gas Festival – October 6th, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the H.D. King Power Plant at 311 N. Indian River Drive;

❂ Last chance to tour the 95-year-old H.D. King Power Plant before it is decommissioned in the Spring of 2008

❂ Bucket Truck Rides

❂ Dress up like a lineman

❂ Explore Safety City

❂ Natural Gas Pipe Hula Hoops

❂ Energy Conservation Tips

❂ Food, drinks, and fun

❂ Themed Art Contest: Electricity – Past, Present, and Future for all elementary school-aged children – winner announced that week.

❂ Custom-designed FPUA bookmarks with energy conservation tips distributed to St. Lucie County libraries.

Boutique featuring wigs, spirited clothing, fashion jewelry, lingerie, and Sari cosmetics...

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As part of Public Power and Natural Gas Week, FPUA is reminding its customers of low- and no-cost opportunities to protect the environment and save on utility expenses by being energy efficient.

“Whether you are trying to save money on your monthly utility bill or doing your part to protect the environment, there are many good reasons to be energy efficient,” said Bill Thiess, Director of Utilities.

Practicing these tips can help you save money on utilities:

❂ Check your air conditioner filter each month, and clean or replace it as needed.
❂ Keep the lids on pots while cooking or use your microwave instead.
❂ Only heat or cool the rooms you need by closing vents and doors of unused rooms.
❂ Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when buying new products such as televisions, refrigerators, and even cell phones.

More tips are available at www.fpua.com or the Alliance to Save Energy’s Web site: www.ASE.org.

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority offers home energy surveys to help customers see where they can save money on energy use. This is a comprehensive $125 home energy survey that customers can have done at a reduced rate of $25. To apply, call 466-1600, and talk to Sharon at ext. 3430.

Public Power and Natural Gas Week is being held in conjunction with the American Public Power Association (APPA) and the American Public Gas Association (APGA). APPA is the national service organization for not-for-profit, community- and state-owned electric utilities, while the APGA serves as an advocate for over 5 million customers of publicly-owned natural gas utilities.
New Restaurant! Lorenzo’s Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria

by John Culverhouse

Fort Pierce recently received a grand addition to its Downtown dining selection. Lorenzo’s Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria, located at 222 Orange Avenue, provides delectable Italian food at reasonable prices. Owners Lorenzo Romano and AJ Rose have been friends for over 20 years. They come from New York originally, and have been in the restaurant business as long as they both can remember. Chef Lorenzo got his start as a teenager at his uncle’s restaurant in Queens.

AJ and Lorenzo saw Fort Pierce’s potential and all the great things happening here, so they decided to take part in the Downtown experience and create an authentic flair of Little Italy, and arguably the best Italian food outside of New York City right here in Fort Pierce.

The menu includes a copious selection of items, from pizza and calzones to sautéed calamari and chicken cacciatore — and everything in between. The entire cuisine, including the marinara and the homemade sauces, are prepared fresh to order with fresh vegetables and ingredients. Chef Lorenzo uses flavorful recipes that have been in his family for generations and personal recipes that he has created over the years.

Chef Lorenzo likes to accommodate his guests. Occasionally, people come in with dietetic issues like lactose intolerance. Chef Lorenzo can accommodate these needs and others, as he and AJ aim for complete customer satisfaction.
“We aim to please,” Chef Lorenzo said. “As long as everyone leaves happy, we’re happy.”

Customers are treated to great food and huge portions. Chef Lorenzo joked that when people eat at Lorenzo’s, they’re eating for at least two days. Their specialty rolls, for example, are delicious and filling. The Stromboli is so filling that no one has eaten a whole one. AJ and Lorenzo say that if any person is able to eat an entire Stromboli in one sitting at the restaurant — it’s on the house.

Skip, from Fort Pierce, was dining at Lorenzo’s when I conducted the interview. It was his first time eating there, and he said he would definitely be back.

“This is the best Italian restaurant in town,” he said enthusiastically. “The service was great and the food was unbelievable. I got two meals out of one!”

Your meal is not complete without dessert. AJ prepares delicious desserts, from tiramisu and New York cheesecake to cannoli and homemade zeppoli.

Lorenzo’s makes you feel at home. AJ enjoys chatting with their regular customers and getting to know new ones. Their customers enjoy the banter and love their New York accents.

Lorenzo’s caters for a wide variety of occasions, including parties, weddings, and other occasions.

Continued on page … 32
Edward G. Enns Indian Hills Golf Course

It is time to get into the ‘swing’ of things at the Edward G. Enns, Indian Hills Golf Course in Fort Pierce. Located at 1600 South 3rd Street at Ohio Avenue, the city owned and operated golf course offers something for everyone on the 18-hole, par 72 championship golf course and driving range.

Currently, leagues are being organized for the winter season. Fort Pierce City Employees can take advantage of a reduced rate by presenting your city employee identification badge, from now until November you can golf 18 holes for only $15 with a cart with any guests paying the “Players Pass” rate.

On Wednesday and Saturday, for $3 you can enter to win gift certificates by playing “Blind Draw and Gross Skins” games. Also, men and ladies beginner golf clinics are being offered for only $10 per person at 5:30 p.m. Now there is no excuse to not learn the game! For more information on any of these activities at the golf course, call 465-8110.

Pre-Season Open House at Sunrise Theatre

The Sunrise Theatre is hosting an open house on Friday, September 21, 2007 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The public is invited to attend to view the theatre and purchase tickets for the upcoming 2007-2008 season. Confirmed performances include the following:

- 1964 Tribute Band – September 29
- Menopause the Musical – October 6 & 7
- Robert Cray – October 21
- Ballet Folklorico de Mexico – November 7
- 3 Redneck Tenors – November 24
- Peter Pan: The High Flying Musical – December 6

… continued from page 31

There is a bowl at the front of the restaurant for customers to drop off their business cards. Each Friday morning, one card will be randomly drawn and the winner will receive one free large pepperoni pizza to be ready at noon.

Lorenzo’s opens at 11:30 a.m. from Monday through Saturday for lunch and dinner. They have daily lunch specials and offer free delivery for orders of $8.00 or more. For more information, you can reach the restaurant at 772-460-5445.
Diva Recipes!

by Sue Dannahower

Over the next few months I will be sharing some the most loved recipes in my collection. These creations are derived from childhood culinary experiences, world travels and the Gourmet Dinner Club I managed for over 20 years. I have been published in *Light & Tasty*, *Cooking Light* and *Reunions* magazines. *Bon Appetit!*

**Buffalo Shrimp**

Spice up your party with succulent Buffalo Shrimp. Serve them along with celery sticks and blue cheese dressing. The original recipe hails from the Hyatt Hotel in the Orlando Airport.

**Brine:**

- 4 cups of water
- 1 large bottle of Red Hot Durkee sauce
- 4 teaspoons dry yellow mustard
- 4 teaspoons cayenne pepper
- 1 bottle of Tiger sauce (can be found in most grocery stores)
- 1 bottle Tabasco sauce
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 cup sugar
- 5 pounds of shrimp, shells on
- 1 large bottle blue cheese dressing
- Celery sticks

In a large pot mix together the brine ingredients and shrimp. Boil for 2 minutes. Set aside to cool, and then chill for a minimum of 2 hours. The longer the shrimp brine the spicier they become.

Drain shrimp; serve with blue cheese dressing and celery sticks. *Serves: 15-20.*
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**QUESTION:** How often do I need to change my air conditioning system’s filter?

**ANSWER:** We recommend you clean or replace your system’s filter(s) every month or two during the cooling season. Filters may need more frequent attention if the air conditioner is in constant use, is subjected to dusty conditions or you have fur-bearing pets in the house.

**QUESTION:** Is an annual maintenance important for my air conditioning even if I change my filter regularly?

**ANSWER:** An air conditioner’s filter, coils and fins require regular maintenance for the unit to function effectively and efficiently throughout its year of service. Drain lines and freon levels should also be monitored to assure you have no leaks. Neglecting necessary maintenance ensures a steady decline in air conditioning performance while energy use steadily increases.

**QUESTION:** Can switching to a programmable thermostat help me save on my power bills?

**ANSWER:** By switching to a programmable thermostat it allows you to adjust the thermostat automatically and maximize your energy savings. It also helps you maintain a comfortable temperature when you wake up or return home.

**QUESTION:** My system is 10 years older and still runs good, should I start to consider to replace it?

**ANSWER:** The standards of efficiency and changes in technology, allow energy ratings to continue to increase in newer equipment. For a system 10 years old, you may save 20% to 40% of your cooling energy costs by replacing it with a newer, more efficient model available today.
Fishing the Flats

by Dan Dannahower

It's hot! The full heat of Florida's summer is upon us. With the heat index approaching 110 degrees many days, what is better than to get out on the water where the breeze can make a hot day feel twenty degrees cooler? Yes, our summers get hot, however, all you need is a pair of shorts, a t-shirt and a breeze off the water to enjoy a relaxing time and beat the heat.

With our huge variety of water venues a number of opportunities exist. Fishing from a pier, a dock, bridges, the Jetty, a riverbank, the beach or from a boat are all ways to have some fun, beat the heat, and maybe catch a meal for the table. The Indian River Lagoon (“the River” to locals) is the most diverse ecosystem in our country! A wide variety of fish live here. Snappers, drum, Sheepshead, Redfish, Seatrout, Snook, Grouper, Jacks and more species can be caught to varying degrees year round. A quick visit to your local tackle shop for some gear and a little bait can yield a wealth of information on
what’s biting and what’s not, where to go, and how to rig up for the best chance of catching that trophy.

If you have access to a boat, fishing the ocean offshore becomes another option with even more opportunity to catch a seafood dinner. Dolphin, Wahoo, Kingfish, Cobia and many others cruise the waters right off our shores.

World class deep sea fishing is right here in our “backyard”. Again, all you need is a little knowledge and the right equipment for a great time on the water.

For the totally uninitiated or for those experienced fishermen who want to gain a little more knowledge a number of professional charter boats are based right here in Fort Pierce. Hire a professional for a day trolling the oceans’ depths or prowling the river’s mangrove flats. You’ll have a great time and learn some things for use on future outings.

Grab a pole and some bait, head to an enticing spot, and have a great time fishing the most diverse ecosystem that’s right here on our front doorstep.

Carl and Kyle Trabulsy show a Snook caught the last weekend of Snook season earlier this summer.
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