Talk of the Town - New Projects on the Horizon

By Anne Satterlee

For many years the City of Fort Pierce elected officials, employees, residents, and visitors wanted to see Downtown Fort Pierce prosper with shopping, art galleries, restaurants, new housing, Sunrise Theatre renovation, a night life, and more.

The dreams of yesterday are becoming a reality. Downtown is booming and has quickly been discovered by developers with “location, location, location” in mind. With home values and housing developments soaring throughout the Treasure Coast, Downtown Fort Pierce offers distinctive waterfront living for the urban condominiumites.

Harbour Isle on South Beach is the impetus to the discovery of Fort Pierce’s treasures. All 864 of the pre-construction condominium units were sold out, by a lottery selection, in just one day. Currently, some units are reselling at double or more the original selling price!

Several other projects that are on the drawing board are going to be breaking ground in 2006. Renaissance on the River will be a mixed-use development consisting of office and retail space and 38 condominiums with a 130-car parking garage. The project is located where SunTrust’s building is on Orange Avenue. The estimated cost of the project is $20 million and has been approved by the Fort Pierce City Commission for construction.

The One Marina Place development consists of 40 condominium units with retail space on the first floor. The approved project is located behind the P.P. Cobb Building on North Indian River Drive. Another large addition to Downtown is the much talked about Marina Square. The project includes retail, hotel, conference center and a public parking garage situated north of the Downtown Public Library to Melody Lane. The cost of the approved project is $50 million and is expected to begin in late spring 2006.

With all the “new” residents and visitors to Downtown, you have to wonder where we will park. Parking issues have always been a constant in Fort Pierce or any city for that matter. We all love to drive and want to park as close as possible to where we want to go. In order to accommodate the changes, the City of Fort Pierce is providing some new parking lot options and transportation in and around Downtown.

Several proposed projects offer parking to their guests and customers - Marina Square and Renaissance on...
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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 17 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 1600 communities across the United States and its model has been studied internationally.

The success of Main Street Fort Pierce over the past 17 years is due to the faithful commitment of current and past members of the Main Street board of directors, the City of Fort Pierce, local community organizations, local businesses, and general public support. Currently, the program consists of twelve volunteer board members and two full-time employees. During its existence, Main Street Fort Pierce has held approximately twenty-six downtown promotional events each year, educated public school children about the history of the area, won numerous local, state, and national awards, restored historic buildings, 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.

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~Event Spotlight~

WHO: Florida Spine Institute
Dr. Kevin Wood

WHAT: KIDZFEST

WHEN: September 10, 2005

TIME: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WHERE: Fort Pierce Community Center
600 North Indian River Drive
Fort Pierce, FL 34950

WHY: Free youth health fair. Health screenings, education, entertainment, and fun for kids 15 years and younger.

COST: Free

Weekly Events

❖ SATURDAYS ❖
Ft. Pierce Farmer’s Market – 8:00 AM to Noon
Market Manager, 465-5658

❖ THURSDAYS ❖
Fort Pierce Bike Night – 6:00 to 9:30 PM
Gately’s Grill, 468-7071

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Kidzfest to be Held in Downtown Fort Pierce

Dr. Kevin Wood, of the Florida Spine Institute, and his wife Carole are proud to host KIDZFEST, a free annual event for children. KIDZFEST will be held on September 10, 2005 at the Fort Pierce Community Center located on 600 North Indian River Drive. From 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM, families may bring their children, ages 15 years and younger, for health screenings, safety education, and entertainment. All of the activities are free and include a live DJ, Giant Slide, obstacle course, pony rides, clowns, fingerprinting kits, fire & emergency vehicles, pool safety awareness, child abduction awareness, visits from Ronald McDonald, McGruff the Crime Dog, and St. Lucie Mets “Slider.”

The Turnabout Talent Agency has also partnered with the event to host a local talent search for children ages 15 and younger. For more information about KIDZFEST, please contact Carole Wood at (772) 283-1449 or e-mail her at Carole@ckmwood@adelphia.net.
Receive Main Street Focus in your mail! See page 29.

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Brush Strokes Gallery Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Joanne Davis

If you have stood in line at the main branch of Harbor Federal and glanced at the beautiful paintings hanging in the lobby or have seen the “Tiki Taxi” while driving around downtown, you have witnessed the remarkable artistic talents of R.L. Davenport. As a business owner, R.L. is the type of retailer that every downtown would love to have. She is energetic, positive, creative, and genially cares about the community she lives and works in. This year marks the 10th Anniversary since R.L. became a downtown fixture at her shop, Brush Strokes Gallery and marks the 10th year downtown Fort Pierce has benefited from her contributions.

In 1995, R.L. was offered studio space at Brush Strokes Gallery while attending a lecture by the famous mural artist, Blue Sky, at Fort Pierce City Hall. The studio was located in downtown Fort Pierce and was occupied by three artists. At the time, R.L. was working out of her house and needed more room to grow. She joined the artists at Brush Strokes Gallery in May. With a degree in Fine Arts from Cornell University and a strong retail background, R.L. used her skills to expand Brush Strokes from an art studio to a gallery, complete with artist shows, and began to sell unique merchandise to help support the business.

Originally from Ithaca, New York, R.L. was inspired by the rich history and beautiful architecture surrounding her birthplace. “Architecture a is reflection of the history of a community. Its sense of space, height, & weight can be very impressive and often tells a story of those that were here before us,” says R.L. She attended the school of Art, Architecture, & Design at Cornell University and after graduation continued her study of art and architecture in Italy for a year.

Shortly after her arrival in downtown Fort Pierce, R.L. immediately began helping her community. “I participated in everything I could. As a member of downtown, I wanted to be a part of all the activities taking place.” She looked for local non-profits in need of support and created events to raise money and awareness. For the Sunrise Theatre, R.L. started the Sunrise Collage of Artists Show, the Tea & Fashion shows, and hosted the Sunrise Theatre Film Series. Another benefactor...

Continued on next page...
Brush Strokes, cont’d. from p. 7

of her creativity is Heathcote Botanical Gardens. Twice a year R.L. organizes an Artist Day event, in which artists from all over the state of Florida visit either Adams Ranch or Heathcote Botanical Gardens to become inspired. After the Artist Day event, R.L. hosts an art show with works created during Artist Day and 50% of the proceeds are donated to Heathcote Botanical Garden. R.L. was instrumental in the Downtown Business Association’s ART WALK event and the Sea Cows on Parade project. She also organized one of the first Highwaymen Shows in the area in July 1996.

Since 1995 Brush Strokes Gallery has evolved to offer more services for customers in addition to showing and selling artwork. With help from her husband Jim’s framing business, International Art & Frame, R.L. was able to offer custom framing in 1996. In addition to her commissioned paintings and drawings, R.L. is a licensed interior designer. Through her talents, she is able to produce interior and exterior concept drawings based on a customer’s ideas. She and her associate, C.R. Browning, recently completed a sculpture garden for a client based on her concept drawings. From designing ornate pool tables to performing restoration work on 17th century wallpaper, R.L. is constantly busy. “I’m fortunate to be doing something I love and am able to make a living from it. My job constantly changes and each assignment is different from the last,” says R.L.

“I’m fortunate to be doing something I love and am able to make a living from it.”

R.L.’s Sport Fish designs will grace decorative park benches that will be placed along the Treasure Coast Connector route. Several local artists were chosen to submit design work for the project.

Strokes Gallery continues to thrive under R.L.’s direction, with of course, steady support from her husband. In celebration of its 10th year anniversary, Brush Strokes is offering 10% off selected artwork and merchandise throughout the entire year. R.L. and Jim are located at 106 South Depot Drive in downtown Fort Pierce and can be reached at (772) 595-0026.
Thursday Bike Night: Shopping for Men - Not Just With Men

by Marti Reno

Shopping, while strolling in and out of expensive motorcycles, lively street music, and all ages of smiling faces, is making every Thursday evening a special event in downtown! It has especially become a night of shopping for men, with a flavor for high quality jewelry and clothing, in the style of the casual Florida biker!

A must see is the jewelry at Trew and Sons. Priscilla can show you a large selection of designs that can be ordered or discuss your own personal design, like the strong American Eagle in gold. Trew and Sons is also well known for their line of nautical jewelry for men and women.

Assuredly, the ladies will love looking at the special selection of diamond rings and bands which owner, Phillip Trew, is offering at 40% off through the month of September. In general, Trew and Sons is known for top quality jewelry and expertise in executing the design you want.

For husbands and fathers: have you experienced fun shopping with your family lately? Thursday evening has become a great family night alternative from TV. It starts with a wide variety of great places to eat like Gately's Grill, Café LaRonde, Governor's Grille, Pizzoodles, or Brewer's Café. All of these eating establishments offer children's special portions.

Continued on next page...
Continued from page 9...

This past Thursday was a great evening when my friend PJ and I went out to eat, shop and talk to good-looking men about their motorcycles! Yes, it is fun to see the variety of finely cared for bikes; (the good-looking men are merely a bonus!) This one young man was a favorite of mine!

PJ and I started with a glass of wine at the Governor's Grill, which sits in the middle of all the excitement of the evening where the people-watching does not get any better!

Owners, Lorraine Snyder and Dominic are gracious and engaging. They make a point of saying hello and insure you have a comfortable and delicious meal with them.

While on your Thursday evenings bike adventure, you can grab a hotdog and beverage from Governor's outside stand. PJ and I opted to sit inside for a full meal. Lorraine came over to visit and her news of all the events they have scheduled through the week was a wonderful surprise. First off, they hold “Happy Hour” all day every day! Wow! Saturdays you can dine and dance to smooth jazz; a perfect date night.

For a “hotdog” such as myself, it was great news to learn they have Karaoke, along with “Ladies Night” on every Thursday. (I returned, after shopping, and sang Patsy Kline’s “Crazy” that night! No one ran out the door, so I felt successful.) Lorraine continued to say they offer 20% off all meals Monday through Friday for Seniors. Surprisingly, the offer is not limited to certain time periods of the day! You don’t have to be an “early bird” anymore!

We were really all smiles as we left to continue with some shopping. The Manatee Zone was full of great sale items. The sale signs alone forced us to enter! (Yeah right, but that’s my story and I’m sticking to it!) Owner, Barbara Wilkins, stays open every Thursday and loves all the business from the crowd! She showed us some great shirts called The Floridian Biker. They are a tropical campy shirt and are selling so quickly, Barbara is waiting for the next shipment to arrive.

There was a Jimmy Buffet shirt that I enjoyed which read “Always keep working your rearview mirror”.

The Manatee Zone is known for all its great beach wear, including tan-through bathing suits, but you must go see all the great specialty items. I bought a “self-mailer T-shirt” that you just have to see to believe! Also, ask Barbara about their unique “Progressive Sale.” With the holidays coming straight for us, this is the perfect time to join in on this “special sale event.”

I wanted to shop some more and decided I needed an ice cream cone. I was clinging at the window of Alisari, where the owner, Marie Creel, has lovely new fashions. I must go back over there this week. Then I walked into the newly opened Sunrise City Carpets, the only carpet and tile store in historic downtown, where I met the owners, married couple, Brian and Angela Campbell.

Shopping on Thursday evening, eating, and enjoying all the excitement of downtown, has turned into a favorite, not only for me, but for the hundreds of people that arrive throughout the course of the night.

It really is a favorite shopping night for men, I mean of men’s shopping!
Got A Tough Question? Ask A Professional

Walk along the streets of Main Street Fort Pierce and you notice fun shops, enticing eateries, and attractive landmarks. But you might miss one of our most valuable resources – our professionals. Tucked away in second-floor offices and on side streets are expert practitioners of law, medicine, marketing, accounting, real estate and more.

Best of all, they are ready and willing to share their expertise with you!

How many times have you found yourself with a tough question and thinking, “I wish I knew an attorney,” or “I wish I knew an accountant.” Now you can “Ask A Professional.”

Send your questions to Main Street Focus “Ask A Professional.” Well ask one of our Main Street professionals to reply, and we’ll publish the answers right here in the Focus – where we can all learn from them.

Joseph J. Mancini, Esq. of Yates & Mancini, LLC, has graciously agreed to get things started this month. Read on for expert answers to two questions about letting employees go in an “employment-at-will” state.

Florida is an “employment-at-will” state, so I can fire an employee without legal reprisal, right?

In a word, “no.” The employment-at-will doctrine says that unless an employee has a contract of employment for a definite period, e.g. 6 months, both the employee and the employer are free to end the relationship at any time – with or without cause. However, you cannot fire an employee for illegal reasons. Illegal reasons range from the well known (race, religion, sex, age or national origin) to the more obscure (filing a worker’s compensation claim, to prevent an employee from obtaining vested pension rights). Not every employer comes within the jurisdiction of all of these statutes, but you get the picture.

Does this mean that a Florida employer can never fire an employee without fear of a possible lawsuit?

The short answer is “yes.” Nothing in life is guaranteed, and the courthouse is open eight hours a day, so there is no way to ensure you won’t be sued. However, there are steps you can take to improve your chances of prevailing if a termination decision is challenged. Before you decide to fire an employee consider how the decision will look if it is reviewed by a judge, jury or administrative agency. Can you articulate legitimate, substantiated, objective reasons for

Continued on next page…
Continued from page 11...

your choice? Can you document your reasons? If you can answer, “Yes” to these questions, your odds of prevailing are significantly increased.

To learn more about Florida employment law, contact Joseph J. Mancini, Esq. at Yates and Mancini, LLC in Fort Pierce at 772-465-7990.

Main Street Focus thanks Thondra Lanese of Blair Advertising for her assistance in this premier feature.

Have a question you’d like to “Ask A Professional?”

E-mail questions to MainStreetFocus@aol.com (with “Ask A Professional” in the subject line.)

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New Projects, continued from page 1...

the River. In addition, the City is constructing a 380-space parking garage adjacent to Orange Avenue and Indian River Drive. Ground breaking is set for early 2006 on this project which will afford retail space and provide needed parking for businesses.

Recently completed, is the 72 space public parking lot west of U.S. 1 at Avenue A, just north of the Arcade building. The City has plans to purchase from the Florida East Coast Railroad (FEC) and build a 169-space public parking lot south of Orange Avenue at the railroad to alleviate parking woes. Currently, the old JC Penney parking lot, between Orange and Avenue A is on the drawing board for a 309 space 3-story parking garage set to begin construction in early 2006, with a free standing retail space by the roundabout at Avenue A for more shopping opportunities. The Marina Square project also has on the drawing board 197 parking spaces in their garage which is directly across from the JC Penney lot. In addition, two new floors will be added to the St. Lucie County parking garage on South Second Street to accommodate courthouse business.

While there is adequate parking available around town and numerous parking plans in the development stages, there still needs a better way to get people around during parking construction, events, etc. Other cities do this all the time – a trolley! If it’s good enough for San Francisco, it’s good enough for Fort Pierce!

Beginning late Fall 2005, the Fort Pierce Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is hoping for a trial run on a 21-seat open and enclosed trolley to service Downtown, the Beach Area as well as other points of interest. Whether you are on the beach and want to come downtown, to the Farmers’ Market or be picked up at one of the parking lots, you can catch a ride on the convenient trolley to transport you to your destination. Trolley routes are being determined to meet the needs of riders and will have a short wait time.

As you can see, there is a plethora of activity in Fort Pierce these days. We are all hopeful of what it brings to our historic community. While it does mean change, it also means a rebirth that we have all been anticipating for many years.
Main Street Fort Pierce’s
12th Annual Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction
“Pearls & Boots”
held at Pelican Yacht Club on Saturday, August 20, 2005

MSFP Board member, Dave Miller, helps guests at the silent auction checkout.

Barbara Miller checks out her bids.

Main Street Board President, Anne Satterlee & Main Street Manager, Doris Tillman.

Downtown business owner, Roxanne Bachman (Dermatech), and Carol DiFransisco in their “Pearls & Boots.”

Christia Gibbons and Linda Lacy check out the silent auction.

The Reverse Raffle Team made of Main Street board members, Pat Alley, Britt Reynolds, staff member, Joanne Davis and the first Main Street Manager, Tom Kindred, Jr. draw numbers in front of the anxious crowd.

Main Street supporter, Stan Crippen, with Jim Russakis.
Board member & volunteer, Pam Gillette, used wonderful decorations to turn the Pelican Yacht Club into the OK CORRAL.

Main Street Board members, Britt Reynolds and Pat Alley assist the official Reverse Raffle announcer, Tom Kindred, Jr.

Couples two-step to the music of Storm Chasers.

Local realtor, Dottie Harding, studies the various silent auction items.

These attendees are taking a well deserved break from the dance floor.

Reverse Raffle spectators watch their numbers in hopes they will not be called.
Fort Pierce Jazz Society Celebrates “Mardi Gras in August”

On August 22, members and supporters of the Fort Pierce Jazz Society gathered in the Harbor Federal main branch lobby to celebrate the success of Mardi Gras Jazz Week 2005. In addition to the jazz, wine, and cheese, the 2006 Fort Pierce Jazz Society events were announced.

The Fort Pierce Jazz Society was founded in 1996 with a “mission to foster a greater awareness and love for jazz by teaching and performing this great American art form in schools.” The Jazz Society will celebrate its 9th anniversary in September. Jazz enthusiasts or individuals interested in becoming members of the Fort Pierce Jazz Society may call (772) 460-JAZZ or visit the organization’s web site at www.jazzsociety.com for more information.

Jazz Week organizers, Darryl Bey and Bernie Bires.

Upcoming Fort Pierce Jazz Society events are as follows:

WEEKLY EVENTS
Weekly Jam Sessions resume! One in Pt. St. Lucie on Wednesday at the Pt. St. Lucie Yacht Club and on Thursday in Ft. Pierce at the Ft. Pierce Community Center. All of the jams are free and open to the public and complimentary refreshments are served. The band is paid with tips that are collected by passing the hat. Jam times are 7 PM to 10 PM.

Art and Craft Market every Saturday morning, 9 AM to noon along Melody Lane between Orange and Atlantic Avenues along the Indian River, near the library. Jewelry, paintings, unusual stone items, stained glass, Christmas items, and more

SEPTEMBER
The final concert of the Jazz At The Oxbow - Natural Jazz Concert Series is scheduled for 7 PM on Saturday, September 24th and will feature Jane Oster & Jazzed About Jazz. It’s all brought to you by the Fort Pierce Jazz Society and it’s all happening at the Oxbow Eco-Center, 5400 N. E. St. James Drive, Port St. Lucie. Tickets for individual concerts are just $18.00 for non-member; $15.00 for FPJS members.

OCTOBER
Annual FPJS Birthday Celebration, October 15, 2005. Mark your Calendars! Details to follow.

Annual Rib & Roast Honoring Gertrude Walker will be held on Saturday, October 29th, 2005 at Panther Woods.

FEBRUARY

February 20 through 25, 2006 Jazz Week Celebration. Brown Bag Concert Series on the St. Lucie River Waterfront. Interactive grade school and college level classroom lectures and workshops.

Jazz & Wine Dinner at Ian’s Tropical Grill.

“Tribute to a Past Jazz Master,” a concert honoring one of the great Jazz geniuses of our time, Mr. Ray Charles, with former members of the Ray Charles Band. All of these events and more will be happening daily during Jazz Week.

Leslie Lafferandre, of Lafferandre Gallery, and Leslie Wright, of Harbor Federal.

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Become a Member of Main Street Fort Pierce. See page 3.
Coffee With the Mayor

Does the smell of coffee brewing in the air and the site of fresh donuts ring a bell? It is time for Coffee with the Mayor to begin again. This year’s Coffee with the Mayor season has a great lineup of successful businesses and organizations in our community.

Kicking off the event in September, will be the Southern Eagle Distributors/Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. Come walk on the wild side and hear about this local corporation’s efforts to rescue animals and view some of those in their care.

Mayor Bob Benton invites everyone to join him and hear the good things about our community. Coffee with the Mayor is held on the third Friday of the month, September through May, at 8:00 AM. The event is located on the second floor of the Historic City Hall building on 315 Avenue A. If you would like more information about this event contact Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. at 772-466-3880.
VIP Club Memberships for Sunrise Theatre Now Available

As the Sunrise Theatre prepares to open in January, memberships for the theatre's VIP Club have just gone on sale. There are several membership levels with various benefits designed to fit every lifestyle and budget.

All members will receive advance notices for performances and will be able to purchase tickets for the best seats before they go on sale to general public - all without leaving their homes. No standing in line or waiting! Members will also receive a membership card that will admit them and a guest into the private Member’s Only Lounge.

Donna Murray, a long time supporter and volunteer for the theatre signed up as the first official member. “I was surprised to hear that I was the first official member of the Sunrise Theatres' VIP Club. I've always supported the theatre, so becoming a member was something I had always planned to do. I think the theatre will be wonderful for Fort Pierce. It will be exciting to have a theatre in town where everyone can go to see live performances,” said Murray.

Annual Membership Levels

Individual: $75
~Membership card and admittance for member and one guest to upstairs Member’s Lounge before events and during intermission.
~Subscription to the Sunrise E-Blast, an e-mailed bulletin which will include advance notice of event bookings, members-only discounts, special offers, etc.
~Membership opportunity to purchase two tickets before they go on sale to the general public*. 

Family: $125
~All of the above for up to four persons.

Friend: $250
~All of the above, plus, ~Concierge Box Office Service, which entitles one individual to personalized ticketing including first access to up to four of your favorite seats per event*

Superstar: $500
~All of the above, plus, ~Permanent brass seat dedication plaque in the balcony section of the theatre.
~$50 in free concession stand food & beverage.

VIP: $1,000
~All of the above, plus,
~Two free VIP tickets to Grand Opening (or to a show of your choice).
~Permanent brass seat dedication plaque in the orchestra section of the theatre.
~$100 in free concession stand food & beverage.
~Sunrise Theatre T-Shirt.
~Sunrise Coffee Mug.

Gold: $2,500
~All of the above, plus,
~Concierge Box Office Service, which entitles one individual to personalized ticketing including first access to up to four of your favorite seats per event*
~Permanent brass seat dedication plaque in the orchestra section of the theatre.
~$100 in free concession stand food & beverage.
~Sunrise Theatre T-Shirt.
~Sunrise Coffee Mug.

Platinum: $5,000
~All of the above, plus,
~Four free VIP tickets to Grand Opening (or to a show of your choice).
~10% discount on all Sunrise ticket purchases*** (beyond other discounts, if offered).
~Second seat dedication.
~Your name permanently engraved on the theatre dedication wall.

Donna Murray, Volunteer & Supporter

*Regarding First Access to Seats - Guaranteed first access to seats for members will be on a first come first serve basis and will be available only on events where the Sunrise Theatre is acting as the promoter.

**Regarding Concierge Box Office Service - Concierge service will be available only on events where the Sunrise Theatre is acting as the promoter.

***Regarding ticket discounts - Discounts at the Platinum level will only be available for those events where the Sunrise Theatre is acting as the promoter. Discounts may not be available for events which are booked by an independent promoter or organization.

Just fill out and return this form to the Sunrise Theatre at 210 South Depot Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34950 or call 772/461.4662 to get your advanced membership today. Please note that membership benefits will begin the first day that tickets are available and will be good for one full year.

Name__________________________________________
Address_________________________________________
City, State, Zip Code________________________________
Home Phone (_____)_______________________________
Cell (_____)_____________________________________
Office Phone (_____)_______________________________
Email Address____________________________________
Membership Level_________________________________

If the level you have selected includes a seat dedication plaque or your name on the theatre dedication wall, please let us know how the inscription should read:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Payment Options (please circle):
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Happenings at the Library

What is Waggin' Tales?
It is a reading program designed to help children increase their reading skills. Children will read to a therapy dog for a period of 20 minutes. Our volunteers will assist the children as necessary in learning to read. Children may bring in their own books to read or one will be selected by the volunteer.

Computer Classes
"Basic Windows and the Internet" Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:15-10:45 AM. For additional information please contact Reference Services at 772.462.2187.

Children's Programs
Pre-K Jamboree for Ages 4-6 years, Wednesdays 1:00-1:45 PM.
Toddler Time for Ages 18 months-3 years, Fridays 10:00-10:30 AM.

Great Expectations Book Club
1st and 3rd Thurs. 10:00 a.m., Ft. Pierce Branch Library. Call Beverly Klemenc, Adult Services Librarian for more information.

Lakewood Park Book Discussion Group
First Mondays at 3:00 p.m., Lakewood Park Branch Library. Call Mary Beth Pickney, Branch Manager, for more information.

Free Monday Movies @ your Library
Every Monday at 2:00 PM. Classics, Literary based, Foreign and Suspense films. Ft. Pierce Branch Library.

Young Adult Book Club
Third Saturdays of the Month. Sponsors lively discussions including favorite fantasy novels, mysteries, renaissance literature, Florida history, writing workshops. For readers 9 years old and up. Get a schedule at the Ft. Pierce Branch! 772-462-2787.

"Featured" Local and Florida Author Book Signings
Authors vary locations and times; please check with the library to see who will be visiting next.

Treasure Coast Writers' Guild
Guest Speakers. Interested in publishing, marketing or locating editors for your writing? 4th Fridays at 2:00 PM.
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TRUSS PLANTS - Ft. Pierce, Melbourne

1902 2005
Exceptional Man About Town

by Marti Reno

After a conversation with Main Street's Doris Tillman, I wanted to meet the seemingly mysterious man responsible for the outstanding oil paintings that hang at Brewer's Café. I met Ned Conlin: an artistic treasure of a person!

While his exceptional background and excellence in art requires one to address him as Mr. Conlin, after one warm handshake and smile, Ned is your new friend.

Ned Conlin is a former Marine who moved to Ft. Pierce in 1981. Through their mutual friend, Eddie Enns, our former Mayor, Ned was introduced to the famous illustrator Carl Hantman. Ned studied under Hantman and learned the precision of painting “values.” The mastery of mixing oil paints is evidenced by the strong precision of his subjects without the use of splashy bright colors.

Mr. Conlin is a member of the prestigious New York Illustrators Society. Other former Marines will recognize “Leatherneck” as a magazine of the Marine Corp. Ned’s business card shows the magazine’s cover that he illustrated of a F-8E Crusader used in the Vietnam War. Another impressive example of his mastery appears in a series commissioned by the Marine Corp: six paintings depicting the Vietnam War. Those paintings currently hang at the Marine Corp Museum in the Navy Yard of Washington, D.C.

So how did Ned’s work end up being seen only at Brewer’s Café? When Anne opened one of our now favorite downtown cafes, it was a fortuitous meeting between them. The new café needed a style and Ned had been keeping his art treasures in a warehouse... Voila! Through Ned’s painting style, Anne’s Café reflects the warm homey feel of friends gathering, while Anne still adds a gourmet touch to each meal.

Ned explained, “I walk into Anne’s place and these paintings are like postcards of my life with my wife, Jeannette.” He continued, “I look at each painting and see a whole story of our travels together.” It was then I knew I was sitting with a “treasure of a person!”

It is the unique style and “precision of values” in Ned’s work that has allowed him to capture an ordinary part of everyday life and transform into a piece of fine art. “I like grabbing a moment in time,” Ned said in his charmingly New York casual tone, “those everyday things we don’t usually see.”

There are numerous large paintings hanging in the Café. Ned is clear that he does not sell his work, but he likes to share the places he depicts like seeing the back view of the Statue of Liberty from Liberty Park’s East end of Theodore Conrad Blvd. Many of Anne’s customers recognize the mostly New York City streets of Ned Conlin’s work.

While I enjoyed a home-cooked upside down chicken potpie at Brewer’s Café, I marveled at the luck of seeing fine art that’s totally open to the public!

Stop at Brewer’s Café for breakfast or lunch on Orange Ave. and see the work of an exceptional “man about town,” Mr. Ned Conlin.

Ned Conlin also works for Harbor Federal and his wife works at the City Clerk’s office.
www.manateecenter.com

SUMMER HOURS
Thursday – Saturday
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Closed Sunday – Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 3
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Kayaking Adventure
$35 with snack.

The Manatee Observation and Education Center is hosting a kayaking adventure in the Indian River Lagoon. This guided tour includes a kayak (either one- or two-person), paddle, life-jacket, instruction and lunch. For more information, call 1-888-652-9257. A portion of the proceeds benefit the educational programs at the Manatee Center.

SEPTEMBER 9
12:00 PM
Brown Bag Lunch Lecture
Which Plants are Native?

A certified University of Florida Master Gardener will take you on a virtual tour of Florida’s wild lands to learn which plants are true natives to Florida. Learn which plants will work best for your yard with little maintenance. Participants for the Brown Bag Lunch Lectures should bring their lunch to enjoy this free talk in a casual setting. Books and other educational material about Florida wildlife are available in the Manatee Observation and Education Center’s Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop. For more information call 772-466-1600, ext. 3071.

SEPTEMBER 17
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Art in Nature Workshop
Ages 7-12, $15.

Learn how art and the beauty of nature go hand in hand. Children ages 7-12 enjoy creating their original works of art to take home, while learning about Treasure Coast ecosystems and the animals that inhabit them. This class will focus on mammals. To register, call (772) 466-1600, ext. 3071.

SEPTEMBER 20
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Island Kayak
$40 includes lunch.

See the full moon rise over the Indian River Lagoon while you kayak to a tropical island in this estuary of national significance. This moonlight paddle is for ages 6 and higher. Once on the island, your guides will serve barbecue chicken, pasta salad, rolls, chips, fruit, and brownies. This guided tour includes a kayak (either one- or two-person), paddle, life-jacket, instruction and dinner. For more information, call 1-888-652-9257. A portion of the proceeds benefit the educational programs at the Manatee Center.

SEPTEMBER 17
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Kayaking Adventure
$40 includes lunch.

Explore the beautiful St. Lucie River by boat. The Manatee Observation and Education Center is hosting kayaking adventures for ages 6 and higher. This guided tour includes a kayak (either one- or two-person), paddle, life-jacket, instruction and lunch. For more information, call 1-888-652-9257. A portion of the proceeds benefit the educational programs at the Manatee Center.

SEPTEMBER 30
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Lagoon Lecture Cruise
$30 includes snack & beverage.

Special guest speaker, Captain Joe Ward, will come aboard the Gator, a 42-passenger covered pontoon boat, to offer a waterside lecture on fishing in the shallow waters of the Indian River Lagoon. The cruise will take participants to view several hot fishing locations. Also on board will be Captain Barry “Chop” Loge is at helm aboard the Gator, a forty-two passenger pontoon boat. During the hour and a half tour, participants may catch a glimpse of fish, birds, manatees, dolphin and more. Additional times are available for special group tours. Tickets may be purchased at the Manatee Center’s Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop either in person or by calling (772) 460-6445.

JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1-hour tours
Departing times 10:30 AM, 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM

Indian River Lagoon Boat Tours and the Manatee Observation and Education Center are hosting Indian River Lagoon Boat Tours six days a week. Captain Barry “Chop” Loge is at helm aboard the Gator, a forty-two passenger pontoon boat. During the hour and a half tour, participants may catch a glimpse of fish, birds, manatees, dolphin and more. Additional times are available for special group tours. Tickets may be purchased at the Manatee Center’s Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop either in person or by calling 772-460-6445 for a cost of $19 per adult and $12 per child. Seniors receive a 10% discount.

To Advertise in the Very Next Issue of Main Street FOCUS
Call Delila at 772.466.3880
State Officials Tour Fort Pierce Revitalization Areas of Interest

The Fort Pierce Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), in conjunction with the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Redevelopment Agency, conducted a tour of the CRA District on July 20th. The purpose of the tour was to show Treasure Coast Legislators the many improvements to the CRA District and to promote how effective CRAs can be as a redevelopment tool.

The tour began with a presentation by City Manager, Dennis Beach, with before and after pictures of projects in the CRA District. A bus tour took City passengers through downtown Fort Pierce, Avenue D and the Beach, highlighting such projects as the Sunrise Theatre, Community Resource Center, streetscapes, and more.

The Fort Pierce CRA was established in 1982 to turn blighted areas of Fort Pierce to economically flourishing areas. This task includes roadway improvements, streetscapes, landscaping, neighborhood parks, and parking garages in the hopes of attracting businesses to invest in the city and create more jobs.

Public funds are leveraged to promote private sector activity in a targeted area. The dollar value of all real property in the CRA is determined as of a specific date. Increases in property value go back into the CRA Trust Fund and are used for projects in the CRA Redefvelopment District.

The CRA Tour participants had never visited Fort Pierce and were impressed with the many improved sites Fort Pierce has. Attendees were pleased to see first hand all of the revitalization efforts that the City has set forth and all the promising projects to look forward to in the future.
Downtown Heroes: Sue Dannahower

By Joanne Davis

Sue Dannahower does not have a job. She has hundreds of jobs with multiple organizations and Main Street Fort Pierce was fortunate to become one of the beneficiaries of her boundless energy earlier this year.

We first became acquainted with Sue during the Sunrise Theatre Gala committee planning sessions in January 2005. She had volunteered to help her sister-in-law, Robin Dannahower, plan the Sunrise Gala. Soon after we met Sue, she promptly told us that she “needs work to keep her busy or she was going back to Colorado.” Doris and I looked at each other and smiled. With over 26 yearly events to plan, several marketing projects to design, two restoration projects to oversee, and only two employees to handle the workload, we knew we could keep Sue busy.

Sue and her husband, Dan, are Fort Pierce natives. They married shortly after high school and moved to Colorado where Dan was employed with United Airlines. Sue became a Senior Technical Instructor for a major computer software company. Her job required her to train the newly hired Computer Science graduates to program software. These students would then go on to create software for the company. She enjoyed her job and her experiences while working for the company.

When she and Dan decided to move back home, Sue needed to keep busy. “I was use to working over 60 hours a week and loved it. I have to stay 100% busy and cannot sit at home and do nothing,” said Sue. She began to volunteer at the Backus Gallery and was looking for other volunteer opportunities.

Since becoming a Main Street volunteer, Sue has helped us plan the Sandy Shoes event in March, the annual meeting in May, the wine tasting event in May, and the Reverse Raffle event in August. She has never flinched at any assignment she has taken on. On the evening of the Reverse Raffle, when most of us were thoroughly exhausted, Sue asked, “OK, what’s our next event?” This is a perfect example of her tireless energy.

Currently, Sue is working on the Backus Gallery’s reopening and is hooking up their computer system. She also comes in our office daily to wrap up the Reverse Raffle event. Soon, she will begin to help up plan fundraisers for the Backus House and, in October, will help us with our fall events.

Doris and I thank our lucky stars that Sue walked into our lives.

In her free time, (yes, she does have some free time) Sue enjoys cooking and gardening. When she lived in Colorado she belonged to a gourmet club. Sue would make a recipe once a week and invite her neighbors to come over and try it. Her favorite recipe is Coconut Shrimp (I am currently waiting for an invitation to try her recipe).

Sue and Dan are in the process of building a house on Indian River Drive next to Dan’s brother James, and down the road from Dan’s sister, Linda, and father, former Fort Pierce Mayor, Dr. Dannahower. Sue and Dan have two grown children, Kristy and Dan, and a granddaughter, Miah.

Doris and I thank our lucky stars that Sue walked into our lives. Her organization and planning skills have helped us improve our events. With help from Sue, Michelle Miller and other Reverse Raffle committee members, we had a record breaking year in both attendance and profits from this year’s Reverse Raffle event.
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"Friendship First" at First United Methodist

First United Methodist Church Invites the Ft. Pierce Community to the “Friendship First Experience.”

Can you imagine a community of people truly connected to each other with growing bonds of “friendship?” Imagine them growing in deeper friendships, common experiences, and like-minded vision. Imagine the church and the community together laughing, crying, learning together, building an authentic friendship with Jesus, serving together in harmony, and sharing meals together. This is a beautiful picture of friendship.

It’s been said that the two most powerful influences shaping us into who we are and what we will be, are the friends that we have and books that we read. Making new and deeper Christian friendships naturally opens us up to new opportunities and experiences, a deeper understanding of love, and a more authentic friendship with God.

Beginning September 11, we’ll help you move from “fear” to new “friends” through a new series called “Friendship First.” This is a new and exciting and fun series for the whole family, and it will help us launch the following opportunities for our community: an exciting new service of worship called “The River” (9:45), a new service with a vision for the arts and the whole family; the “Friendship First” experience will also be offered at our well established traditional services at 8:30 & 11:00; new “Kidz-BEACH” that gives children (kinder to 5th grade) a hand’s-on experience with the story of God and their own growing lives (9:45); New “Friendship First Group” for Kids & Teens at 11:00; and New “Friendship First Groups” for Adults at 9:45 & 11:00.

Be a part of the Friendship First™ experience at First Methodist beginning September 11. It’s our goal to reach those who are hungry and thirsty for something more, something deeper, something purposeful, powerful and lasting in their lives. These same people will grow in their relationships with God while building lasting relationships with one another.

You can find out more about this exciting “Friendship First Experience” by calling the First UM Church (464-0440) or visiting our website, presently under construction (like the rest of our buildings), fumc-online.com

First United Methodist Church is on the corner of Orange & 7th in downtown Ft. Pierce at 616 Orange Ave.
Receive Main Street Focus Directly in Your Mail...

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City, State, Zip
E-mail
Phone

E-mail the information above to MainStreetFocus@aol.com or send this form to
Main Street Focus, 210 South Depot Dr., Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Special</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Cuba Libra</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Cape Cod</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Domestic Draft</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
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Bud Boudreaux Elected for Third Term to FMPA Board

Longtime Main Street Fort Pierce supporter and Fort Pierce Utilities Director, Bud Boudreaux was recently elected for a third consecutive term as Chairman of the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA). Boudreaux has served on FMPA’s Board of Directors since 1994.

The Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) is a wholesale power company owned by 29 municipal electric utilities in Florida. FMPA provides economics of scale in power generation and related services to support community-owned electric utilities. The members of FMPA serve approximately 1.8 million Floridians.

Bud Boudreaux and his wife Dolly, have been members of Main Street Fort Pierce for many years. Boudreaux and the employees of the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority have been instrumental in planning the Sandy Shores and 4th of July fireworks celebrations every year.

Look for the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority “Public Power Week” displays at the October 7th Friday Fest. There will be power related activities for children and adults, as well as educational and vehicle displays.

Governor’s Grill Announces Weekly Events

Looking for activities to do in downtown Fort Pierce? Look no further because, in addition to their delicious lunches, the management of Governor’s Grill recently added a complete lineup of weekly events. These events include:

- **Tuesday** – “Open Mike Night” from 9:00 PM until closing.
- **Thursday** – Karaoke with STARTIME & Big John from 9:00 PM until closing.
- **Thursday** – “Governor’s Grill Ladies Night.” All ladies drink free (well drinks & house wines) 10:00 PM until 12:00 AM.
- **Friday** – Live Music.
- **Saturday** – Live Jazz with the Matrix. Prime rib dinners & dancing.

Governor’s Grill is located on 122 North Second Street in Historic downtown Fort Pierce. For more information, please call the restaurant at (772) 466-6900.