4th Annual
Souvenirs of Downtown
Plein Air Paint-Out
APRIL 20th – APRIL 22
(See stories inside)

“St. Lucie County Library” by Chris Kling
Volunteers Make All Main Street Events a Success
by Beth Williams

April is such a great month! Spring has fully sprung and Main Street’s 4th Annual En Plein Air Paint-Out is just a few weeks away. If you haven’t been downtown during this awesome outdoor event, you’re missing a great experience. It’s simply amazing to walk through historic downtown and see both local and visiting artists turning an empty canvas into a beautiful piece of art featuring images from our community. The artists enjoy the opportunity to paint in a magnificent setting and are always very friendly and gracious with folks who stop and ask questions about their work.

The event, scheduled for Wednesday, April 20th through Friday, April 22nd, also offers two public receptions at the Platts/Backus House during which you can purchase these unique original works. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of artwork also benefits Main Street and the preservation of the Platts/Backus House. So whether you are an art aficionado or just a fan of historic downtown, this is one Main Street event you don’t want to miss. A complete schedule of the Paint-Out can be found in this edition of Focus.

Speaking of great events, how about that Sandy Shoes Festival last month? A great time was had by thousands of festival-goers who enjoyed good music, food, arts & crafts, and special “events within the event.” Thanks to the many sponsors and volunteers who made this year’s family-friendly event a smashing success!

The En Plein Air Paint-Out and Sandy Shoes are just two examples of how Main Street Fort Pierce is working hard every day to ensure our city is a great place to live, work, and play. A tremendous amount of effort and dedication go into every event we organize on behalf of the community. The support Main Street receives from our sponsors, donors, members, and volunteers make these events possible and we are sincerely grateful!

If you are not a member of Main Street Fort Pierce yet, I hope you will complete the member application provided in our magazine and send it in. Together we can continue to make improvements and ensure our lovely city is the best it can be.

Beth Williams
President

April 2011
Friday, April 1: Friday Fest — Moon Shadow band: 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Friday, April 15: Coffee with the Mayor — Sponsor: Ocean Village; 8:00 a.m. at Historic City Hall; call Main Street Fort Pierce for more information, 466-3880, mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Wednesday to Friday, April 20 to 22: Souvenirs of Downtown – Paint-Out — 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily; receptions Thursday and Friday 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 29: Classic Car Cruise-In & ARTWALK — 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080, fortpiercedba.org.

Art Mundo Open Studio — Wednesdays, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; The ArtBank at 111 Orange Ave., Artmundo.org@gmail.com or artmundo.org.

Fort Pierce Bike Night — Thursdays, 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.; 2nd Street, Downtown Fort Pierce; Yellow Tail Grille & Raw Bar, 468-7071.

The Jazz Market — Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

The Jazz Market — Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 1/2-mile north of downtown Fort Pierce Library; Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299, jazzsociety.org.
4th Annual Souvenirs of Downtown Plein Air Paint-Out

by Pam Gillette

Spring has arrived and it’s time for Main Street Fort Pierce’s 4th Annual Souvenirs of Downtown Plein Air Paint-Out. April 20th through April 22nd at the Platts/Backus House.

“Plein air” (to paint in the open air) is popular with many artists. This French Impressionist movement began in the late 1800s when artists started taking their easels to the countryside to capture the ever-changing light and moods of nature. Taking the spirit of those early plein air painters, this diverse group of artists will arrive in Fort Pierce and capture the beauty of our town in extraordinary pieces of artwork.

Each year, the Main Street Plein Air Committee chooses one piece of artwork to be the poster painting for the following Souvenirs of Downtown. Last year’s winning painting was “The St. Lucie County Library” by Chris Kling. Chris said, “I enjoy taking a different viewpoint of subjects and have people see something that they may see everyday in a whole new light. When I saw this colonnade with the morning light streaming through it, I was struck by the light and shadow on the interior of the walkway and the arched shapes formed on the interior wall to stand out. Library patrons may have seen this several times but have never really noticed it. I think that is the job of the artist, to have people really see the amazing beauty in our everyday world. That is what inspires me.” Main Street thanks Chris for her beautiful painting and look forward to her participation in this year’s Plein Air event.

As Main Street begins the 4th Annual Souvenirs of Downtown Plein Air Paint-Out, it is excited and proud to welcome this year’s participating artists: Kirsten Andreason, Colleen Nash, Becht, Judi Bettendorf, Carol Boye, Kay Braswell, Sally Brown, Judi Bettendorf, Carol Boye, Kay Braswell, Sally Brown-Gillette, and Doug Baggett. The artists will be painting in different locations from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian River adding to the selection of artwork and showcasing the beauty of our waterfront areas. On Thursday and Friday, the artists will return to the downtown Fort Pierce area, painting from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The public is invited and encouraged to come watch the artists paint and interact with them about their artwork. Everyone is encouraged to stop by the Platts/Backus House to pick up an artist booklet and check the map to see where a favorite artist is painting.

All the paintings by these well known Florida artists will be on display at the Platts/Backus House immediately upon completion. The public will have the opportunity to purchase paintings they saw produced. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of every piece painted during the paint-out will go to the preservation of the 116-year-old Platt’s/Backus House. By purchasing a painting, the public will own a piece of local history created before their eyes and will also help save another piece of local history.

On Thursday, April 21st and Friday, April 22nd, Main Street Fort Pierce will hold a free public art reception to showcase and sell the pieces created during the Plein Air event. The receptions will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm at the Platt’s/Backus House, 122 AE Backus Avenue, Fort Pierce. The public will have the opportunity to meet the artists, purchase artwork painted during the event, and listen to live music.

Main Street Fort Pierce is excited to present Souvenirs of Downtown and to welcome each of the artists who are coming to downtown to capture these special moments. Your support will help make a difference in the historic preservation and pave the way to preserving our unique heritage. Come join us April 20th through April 22nd, for Souvenirs of Downtown En Plein Air Paint-Out. For more information on the event call the Main Street office at (772) 466-3880.

Souvenirs of Downtown is sponsored by Miller Insurance, Southern Eagle Distributing and St. Lucie News Tribune.

Duane Hatfield, Dorothy Hudson, Richard Kelly, Carol Kepp, Chris Kling, Barbara Landry, Michael V. LeCras, Vera Mangold, Lori McNamara, Harry McKay, Diane Mesagno, Dwayne K. Mill, Marlene E. Purnam, Jackie Schindehette, Lee G. Smith, Ada Swenson, Barbara May Smythers, and Emily Tremain.

New this year, Main Street is adding “Water to Water” painting on Wednesday, April 20th, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The artists will be painting in different locations from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian River adding to the selection of artwork and showcasing the beauty of our waterfront areas. On Thursday and Friday, the artists will return to the downtown Fort Pierce area, painting from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Calling All Child Actors to the Missoula Children’s Theatre
by Sue Dannahower

The Missoula Children’s Theatre, sponsored by the Sunrise Theatre Foundation, is back again for the fourth year. Under the direction of two MCT actor/directors, the production is staged and performed entirely by local children whose ages range from first grade (age 6) through twelfth grade (age 18). This theatrical camp rehearses daily, Monday through Friday, culminating in a performance Friday evening. Cast members also have the opportunity to participate in workshops that cover subjects such as the principles of acting, mime, make-up and more.

MCT, the nation’s largest touring children’s theatre, has been touring extensively for more than 30 years and will visit more than 1,100 communities this year with 30 teams of tour actors/directors. A tour team arrives in a given town with a set, lights, costumes, props and make-up — everything it takes to put on a play … except the cast.

Registration begins on Monday, May 2 and spots are limited by age group. The cost is $100 per week. Call the Sunrise Theatre box office at (772) 461-4775 to register.

Would you like to help with the children’s theatre camp? If you are interested, please call Sue Dannahower at (772) 618-0155.

The Jungle Book
June 20 – 24, Monday to Friday (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
Performance: Friday, June 24

The Tortoise Versus The Hare
July 11 – 15, Monday to Friday (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
Performance: Friday, July 24

Cinderella
July 25 – 29, Monday to Friday (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
Performance: Friday, July 29

The Wiz Of The West
August 8 – 12, Monday to Friday (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
Performance: Friday, August 12
Friends of Main Street Fort Pierce

by Pam Gillette

Friends are always there to lend a helping hand, and Main Street is lucky to have many friends who believe in us and support our organization. During the month of February, many of those friends came forward to put on some events to benefit Main Street Fort Pierce.

Suzie Smith and the “Finish It” Committee: Over the past few months, a group of women joined forces with Main Street to start the “Finish It” project. The “Finish It” project is a special project designed by Suzie Smith to complete the renovation, the courtyard, and reduce the debt of the Platts/Backus House. Suzie Smith along with Sue Dannahower, Sue Dasso, Edi Finamore, Anne Satterlee, Joan Steel, and Beth Williams all worked together to kick off the “Finish It” project on February 10, with a gathering at the Platts/Backus House. The evening was beautiful and our supporters rallied together to help this project. Main Street is happy to be working with these women and looks forward to their continued support on future events and finishing this project.

The Great Southern Cracker Roadshow: On February 25, the Great Southern Cracker Roadshow with Janis Owens and Dana See. Claire came to the Sunrise Theatre. Main Street held a Cracker Cook-Off prior to the show and sixteen cracker chefs showed up to compete for the “best cracker chef in Fort Pierce.” The winners were:

Cracker Cook-Off Winner — Cathy Townsend
Recipe: Lane Cake

People’s Choice Winner — Dave Miller
Recipe: Brunswick Stew

Special Award — Nikolas & Diego Somoza
Recipe Nikolas: Sister Jackson’s Sausage Cheese Balls
Recipe Diego: Grilled Bourbon Chicken Wings

Main Street would like to thank Janis and Dana for bringing the show to Fort Pierce, participating as judges at our cook-off and allowing the winners to be part of the show. We would also like to give a special thanks to Fritz Henry for playing the guitar during the cook-off, the Busch Wildlife Center for letting Bea (the skunk), Cindy Economou for bringing Duckie (the pig) and Doris Tillman for bringing Giselle (the chicken) to come play with us.

Hogg Wild: On Sunday, February 27, Ms. Patty McGee opened Archie’s Seabreeze for the Hogg Wild event to benefit Main Street Fort Pierce. Main Street would like to thank Ms. Patty, Amy Cooper, Leonard Wheelley, Debbie Denning and the many volunteers who came out to make this a fun and exciting day. The weather was beautiful, the motorcycle poker run a nice ride and the large crowd had a great time at this fantastic event. Ms. Patty, you’re the best for making Main Street your chosen charity for Hogg Wild. Also a special thank you to Reach O.U.T . Community Church for their generous donation to Main Street during the event.

Main Street has some special friends and we had a fun February. Thank you again to all of our volunteers, supporters and friends!
In October of 1923, a small announcement on the front page of the *Fort Pierce News-Tribune* informed residents of the sleepy agricultural town that C.F. Raulerson had just awarded John B. Orr the contract to build the new home for Raulerson Grocery Company on the corner of Avenue A and Second Street. Raulerson, a local pioneer farmer, citrus grower and cattle rancher, worked with local architect, William Hatcher, to design a structure that would be a showpiece of craftsmanship and modern technology. East Coast Lumber procured the building materials, which arrived sooner than expected, and John Orr’s team broke ground on the building on November 1st, 1923. The selection of Orr as the builder for the project gives a hint towards the intentions of Raulerson: Orr was a renouned builder, credited with many notable works in Miami, including El Jardin, the home of John Bindley, then owner of Pittsburgh Steel. Three years prior to arriving in Miami, the paper were articles on different aspects of the building, as well as features discussing the newly-opening shops and even a piece on John B. Orr himself. Three photographs of the building were run that day, along with an invitation to the entire community to come out for the grand opening celebration on May 24th.

One of the most interesting features in the Raulerson Building’s special section was a lead article on the new space for the grocery store. C.F. Raulerson proudly announced that no expense was spared in the building of the facilities and that the 3,500-square-foot space held the “most complete” assembly of modern conveniences ever seen in the city. Visitors were awed by the truth when they arrived; the grocer had installed automatic refrigeration units throughout, the first of their kind in the community.

If you stand on the corner of Avenue A and Second Street, it doesn’t take much of an imagination to picture the scene on that bright day in May of 1924. Pioneer Drug Store was handing out balloons to the kids, giving free candy to the women and cigars to the men. Powder Puff Beauty Shop was doing a brisk business on their first day open, flanked by W.W. Edenfield’s jewelry store and Rietas’ Gown Shop, which was offering the latest in imported linens and hand-embroidered gowns. Upstairs, the staff of Saint Lucie Abstract and Tile was in charge of giving public tours, while in the grocery store they were holding a special contest. The person who came the closest to an accurate guess on the number of sales made at Raulerson Grocery Company from January through May would win $40 worth of free groceries, a windfall at a time when bread was 10¢, coffee was 40¢ per pound, cheese was 47¢ per pound and a dozen bottles of fresh milk would cost only $1.38. The Raulerson Building in Fort Pierce Today, the Raulerson Building still stands proudly on its corner, a testament to the man who dreamed of creating a showpiece to represent the town that he loved. Not much has changed about the place — there is still a jewelry store downstairs and the upper floor still features the offices first opened so long ago. The stucco work has been restored, the details recreated by Marty Limberis, grandson of the original artist. If you look closely, you can even see the shadowy remnants of the past etched into the frosted glass panes of the antique doors.
Street Art — Gets Your Attention

by Anne Satterlee

Have you ever been walking or driving down the same street for many years and just never stopped to notice what you may be passing? You cannot say that again if you happen to pass North Depot Drive in Downtown Fort Pierce and notice the large business-suited leopard and goat that grace Jon Ward’s garage doors.

Local artist (born and raised Vero Beach), Forrest DeBlois, is a muralist, specializing in detailed, site-specific indoor and outdoor paintings of varying sizes. DeBlois created the amusing figures on Ward’s home. He is also a painter and an illustrator working in commercial and fine art. As a student at Indian River State College, DeBlois wanted to liven up some walls in Fort Pierce with his talent and draw attention to public spaces.

“One of the biggest and best things about street art and public art is that the work speaks for itself without the added context of who the artist is. The thinking is that people looking at a painting I do outside somewhere, don’t have to identify with me … they just have an opinion on the piece,” DeBlois said.

He developed an interest in drawing and painting a few years ago, when he was in the hospital after minor surgery. “I got my hands on an art set, and painted for basically two months straight because it hurt so much to move for awhile,” said DeBlois.

DeBlois stumbled across street art as he was looking for subjects to paint. Because he is color-blind, he generally paints only in black and white whether it is on cardboard, wheat-pasted paper, or black paint on a wall. “Painting people, animals and things that are just intended to inhabit the areas — I put them in. Most of the time these are to draw attention to public spaces that I think people have forgotten about,” says DeBlois. Images can be just a visual joke or a painting of something that he would like people to pay more attention to, like wildlife in our local area.

Transposing animal heads on to human bodies in his paintings are easily relatable to people on a human level and gets people to pay attention to places they have stopped noticing in the community. So, the next time you are out in Fort Pierce and Vero Beach, look around and maybe you will notice some interesting new spaces filled with DeBlois’ art or visit www.forrestdeblois.com for more information.
City of Fort Pierce Mayor, Robert J. Benton announced the winners of the Mayor’s Gold Hammer Award at the monthly Coffee with the Mayor at Historic City Hall, 315 Avenue A in Downtown Fort Pierce.

The award recognizes the efforts of residents and business owners in the Fort Pierce community that have significantly improved their home or business through new construction or rehabilitation efforts. The Gold Hammer Award is presented in March and September. Nomination forms are available in the Mayor’s Office at City Hall throughout the year.

Fort Pierce Mayor Announces Gold Hammer Award Winners

Ms. Patty McGee (right) opened Archie’s Seabreeze for the Hogg Wild event to benefit Main Street Fort Pierce. Main Street would like to thank Ms. Patty, Amy Cooper, Leonard Wheeley, Debbie Denning and the many volunteers who came out to make this a fun and exciting day. (See story on pages 10–11.)
Another new business has opened on Second Street in the heart of historic downtown Fort Pierce and it is a collaboration of a trio of artists. At Studio 131, Ron Nelson Photography, Manco Studio, and Ray Zajac Photography have converged at 127 N. Second to combine fine art photos with original paintings.

Ron Nelson and his wife, Dottie, are familiar faces to historic downtown Fort Pierce. Formerly of Blue Palm Studios at the ArtBank, the photography duo has set up shop on Second Street which is their natural home away from home. Ron has been photographing the weekly Bike Night, antique and classic cars for over a year and is gaining a following for his prints. Artistically rendered and reasonably priced, Nelson captures moments and creates memories.

“The downtown car shows are a big seller event,” said Dottie Nelson. “Ron recently learned of a biker who was killed in Vero. When he checked his files, Ron had a photo of the man and was able to blow it up to be used at his wake. It was the only photo available and is titled, “Riding in the Clouds.” Jiffy Photo framed the piece which turned out to be a very touching tribute,” added Dottie.

Ron Nelson Photography is a model for small business to try new approaches to marketing and growth. While maintaining day jobs, the Nelsons are enjoying the work of following their dreams and nurturing their talents. “It comes naturally to follow our heart’s desires and not allow any road blocks along the journey,” she said.

A student of local history, Dottie loves Fort Pierce and the character of downtown. As energy sparks more interest here she hopes to see more of the businesses revitalized. The decision to move from the ArtBank to Second Street was obvious for the Nelsons: better traffic. Since their relationship with Bike Night grew, they felt drawn to the street. Additionally, the Treasure Coast Photography Club meets at the new location. Plans are to include wall space for local artists to exhibit and use the gallery for opening soirees.

“We meld art with photography … photos are art,” added Dottie. “Bike Night is very busy. A typical biker strolls in and you can see the reaction as he gazes at the photos. The memory of an emotional connection can cause a lasting impression. We want Fort Pierce to understand art and appreciate it for personal enjoyment.”

Downtowners at heart, the Nelsons are seeing repeat clients who are looking for a series like the classic cars to collect as a set. The owners of those cars are given copies of Ron’s custom art in a bookmark format. You can see the Nelson’s photography at their website, photographybynelsons.com or email Ron.M.Nelson@gmail.com. Contact them by phone: 772-332-6164.

Tom Manco is a New York City artist whose work ranges from neo-industrial original paintings to wild caricatures based on photos he takes and transforms into zany art. Aside from the canvases, his expertise is interior design and the use of venetian plaster, faux finishes, murals and custom signage. He masterfully has decorated the interior space with beautiful colour and his faux touches are adeptly crafted. His father, Pete Manco, represents Tom at the Florida studio while Tom commutes from his home in NYC. His motto — “Have brush, will travel” — suits him well and is a testament to his versatility.

Tom invites you to stop in the studio and view his virtual art slide show. Contact Manco Studio at 646-660-5062.

Ray Zajac Photography is a fine art photo studio and gallery. Ray’s photography spans over 40 years of experience beginning with the Air Force. Currently, his focus is studio portraits but he covers all occasions: beach and family portraits, anniversaries, glamour, events, dances, sports, birthdays, school photos, baptism/communion/confirmation and weddings. Studio shoots are by appointment and he can produce model portfolios. Ray says the doors are open to the public and coming soon will be photo contests. Call 772-579-0387 to schedule an appointment.
Over the years, the group has also explored a number of unique aspects of history through special meetings. Sometimes the topics can help researchers understand the process of discovering records, such as the meeting where local funeral directors Sam Gaines of Stone Brothers Funeral Home and Bill Yates of Yates Funeral Home shared inside information on how to research funeral and death records. At other times, though, the subject has ranged beyond the standard hunt for ancestral lines and instead turned the spotlight on interesting aspects of history. For example, back in 2008, Louise Jones Gopher, a leader in the Seminole tribe, gave a presentation on growing up as a Seminole in Fort Pierce.

The next meeting, which will take place on April 19th, will turn the spotlight onto the American Civil War. The public is invited to attend the free event, which will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the main branch of the Fort Pierce Library, 101 Melody Lane. The meeting will feature guest speaker Tony Young, who is President of the Indian River Genealogical Society. Mr. Young has made the Civil War a specialty area of study and will be sharing his expertise with those who attend. He will discuss the battles which took place during the War Between the States and delve into the military strategies employed by both the Union and the Confederacy.

According to Linda, “anyone interested in history — especially American history — and how it affects our lives today will want to attend this event.”

For more information on the Society and their upcoming events, please email tcgsociety@gmail.com or lindahudsonbaley@yahoo.com, or drop by the library on Tuesday or Thursday mornings.

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Excitement Abounds on your Spain Adventure

by Debra Magrann

Have you ever dreamed of visiting a 15th century palace or walk the halls of a 14th century monastery or sleep in a medieval castle? Why let your imagination run wild when you can experience these and much more with Spain Adventures!

Edi Finamore, president of Spain Adventures knows the Spanish countryside like the back of her hand because it is her exclusive destination and her tours take you to the authentic España filled with beauty, tranquility and history. She takes you to places you could only find on your own or by booking with a travel agent. And because she has not raised her rates in years, now is the time to set your sights on Andalucía, Sevilla, Cordoba and the Spanish Pyranees.

“Once you go to Spain, you always go back,” stated Finamore from her new office above Coke’s Stationers on Second Street in the heart of historic downtown Fort Pierce.

Finamore, a former Westwood High School teacher, has first-hand knowledge of nearly every region in Spain and as a tour operator and specialist, voyagers become participants in a most exciting kind of travel experience. Over the years, small groups have received Finamore’s personal attention into areas like Prado where they are met by the local historian. Customizing your tour means they can tailor-fit your destination based on your level of activity: each day includes scenery and history as you soak up Spanish culture on foot or by bike.

Many clients are repeat customers as they have found they cannot get enough of trekking breathtaking landscapes with Finamore in the lead. Imagine visiting Spain’s wine-producing regions or the home of El Cid. Antonio Gaudi’s neo-Gothic masterpiece, Palace Episcopal is a visual feast for art lovers as well as students of architecture. The Basque country is not only seeped in culture and cuisine but is home to the uber-modern Guggenheim Museum.

For nature-lovers there is an abundance of geographical variety: rolling hills, mountain passes, verdant farmland, protected zones and eucalyptus forests. From rustic manors to tiny hamlets there is charm and warmth on a Spain adventure.

Olan Ray Creel has donated a major collection of endangered Florida bromeliads to Heathcote Botanical Gardens. The collection consists of over 180 Tillandsia fasciculata, commonly known as the giant air plant or Cardinal air plant because of their tremendous size (up to 24”) and showy red blooms. Florida has sixteen species of native bromeliads, nine of which have come under attack by an exotic invasive pest weevil Metamasius calizona. While locally abundant as recently as 1989, the Cardinal air plant is currently listed as an endangered species.

Mr. Creel collected the air plants under permit while assisting with University of Florida research on the invasive “evil weevil.” Over the course of twenty years, he sorted over several thousand plants, detecting and recording over 150 unique color forms and variations. In addition to red, the blooms in the Creel collection range through various shades of pink, orange, coral, yellow, purple and maroon. While blooms normally occur in warmer months, the recently relocated collection began setting buds in late December. Visitors will be able to see the spectacular range of color as the blooms emerge from January through early summer.

The Olan Ray Creel collection has been installed in the Native Plant area at Heathcote Botanical Gardens, near the rare triple-crown Sabal palm. Mr. Creel volunteers to maintain the collection, which will require fumigation to protect it from weevil infestation. More information may be found on the Heathcote website, www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org.
Downtown Hero — Philip S. Steel

by Pam Gillette

Philip S. Steel is a man of many talents and skills, but to Main Street Fort Pierce he is a man with a big heart and a vision. The award-winning marine artist, architect and watercolor teacher resides in Fort Pierce during the winter months and has been valuable in helping Main Street in the revitalization efforts of the Platts/Backus House.

Phil has not only been a major inspiration to Main Street, but also to Fort Pierce. He has been involved in many architectural designs in the Fort Pierce area such as the St. Lucie County Library, the Renaissance Building (design only), Fort Pierce City Marina Square (design only), seven condominiums on North Hutchinson Island, restoration of Granny’s Kitchen, Lincoln Park Main Street Building, and the land use plan for 100 acres of commercial land in the port area.

Phil’s latest project is the historic Hill House at 407 N. Second Street. Along with business partner Charles Hayek, they saved the historical building from demolition and are restoring all three buildings. When talking to Phil and his wife, Joan, about their vision for the Hill House, they see the Salty Dog Gallery South on the first floor of the larger building to showcase Phil’s work and a place for guests to feel at home.

In addition to the gallery and office space for Phil and Charles, they would like to have a sculpture garden in the courtyard where local artists would display sculpture pieces for sale. They would also like a small museum on site for the photographs of Harry Hill and the history of the Hill House sponsored by the St. Lucie County Historical Museum. The remaining space would be used for additional galleries owned or leased by local artists.

Phil believes that the Hill House galleries, along with the Platts/Backus House, Main Street Souvenirs of Downtown Plein Air Paint-Out, monthly art walks, and all of the Fort Pierce downtown galleries will increase the image of Fort Pierce as a destination for purchasing art.

On February 10, Main Street Fort Pierce kicked off the “Finish It” campaign to complete the renovation, the courtyard and reduce the debt of the Platts/Backus House. Phil’s interpretation of the Platts/Backus House and the future courtyard came to life in a beautiful watercolor that was graciously donated by Phil and given away to a lucky winner at the “Finish It” kick off.

Philip S. Steel is a friend and neighbor to Main Street. He has used his talents as an artist, architect and teacher to give back to the community. His renovation of the Hill House and Main Street’s renovation of the Platts/Backus House have created a grand entrance into Historic Edgartown and a place where people will want to invest.

Thank you, Phil, for all your contributions to the redevelopment of Fort Pierce and we are proud to call you the April, 2011, Downtown Hero!
Allergies to soy and MSG started Theresa Dormi and her husband, Brian Gilligan, on the road to creating Lucky Onion, a business dedicated to all-natural food preparation. Their products are herb and spice blends for dips, salad dressings and steak rubs, and include Garden Party Spinach, Jumpin Chipotle, Chive Talkin, Zesty and Fiery Fiesta, Awesome Onion, Death Valley, Ranch, Colorado Ranch, and Hearty Garlic. The newly-developed Dragon’s Breath, with a horseradish and ghost chili peppers base, is geared for the customer who likes spicy hot flavors, while the Salsa Mexicana makes “Simply the Best” chili peppers base, is geared for the customer who likes spicy hot flavors, while the Salsa Mexicana makes “Simply the Best”

Brian, a graphic artist and photographer, has worked with fine art specialists for over 20 years, while Theresa works in her own graphic design and social marketing firm, Tandem Virtual Assistance.

Find Lucky Onion at the Farmers Market any Saturday, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the waterfront in Marina Square in Downtown Fort Pierce or visit their website at www.lucky-onion.com, or e-mail Theresa@lucky-onion.com. Visit the Market at www.ftpiercefarmersmarket.com or on Facebook.

In early 2004, Mickey (short for Maryanne) and Doug Zirkle sailed their sailboat into Fort Pierce, after living on board for several years. They lived on board at the City Marina, and shopped at the Farmers Market, until Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne demolished their home. They found a new focus managing Al’s Family Farms at the Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce, beginning in January, 2005.

A family-owned citrus operation since 1977, Al Schorner founded Al’s Family Farms and today, his son, Jeff Schorner, runs the company. Al’s Family Farms continues to pack and ship incomparable Indian River citrus fruit today, and controls quality from grove through picking, packing and sale. The gift store, located on King’s Highway in the “Big Red Barn” is a unique place, offering many products and tours of the packinghouse operation.

“We run one small department in the Al’s Family Farms business,” said Mickey. “It is our job to manage the logistics. We are responsible to have fruit and juice prepared on Thursdays and Friday, to load product and equipment (often over 5,000 pounds) into two small trucks on Friday, to set up and sell products on Saturday, to keep detailed records and to train and supervise the staff. Mickey and Doug have a crew of local high school students who work the market and provide the physical labor to transport product and set up the sales space, and learn basic business skills in the process.

Al’s is a good fit for the Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce. According to Mickey, “The venue, on the banks of the Indian River, is always beautiful, clean and inviting. Every Saturday is a celebration — of our little city, of our weather, of our citizens, and of the quality of life in our corner of the Treasure Coast. We have, by far, the best customers ever — fun, honest, patient, educated and just happy to be alive. And our community of vendors is top notch, honest business folks providing quality products.”

Find Al’s Family Farms every Saturday at the Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce from 8 a.m. to noon, Downtown Fort Pierce, between the Marina and the Library at the waterfront. Call Market Manager at 772-940-1145, on Facebook, or www.ftpiercefarmersmarket.com.
Father-daughter team Cathleen and George Horan have joined forces as the new owners of St. Lucie Restaurant Supplies located downtown at 301 Orange Avenue. Cathleen, who serves as President, with George as Vice President of the company, says the opportunity to own a business in the historic district came through long-time friend Ed Baud. “Ed was looking for someone with a passion for restaurant supplies to buy the business,” says Cathleen. “My father’s experience in the restaurant business and my extensive knowledge of running a retail business, along with my passion for cooking and kitchen supplies brought us here.” George Horan and wife Joyce were owners of Pickles NY Deli in Vero Beach, and Cathleen owned Craftmaster Printing in New Jersey prior to her move to the Treasure Coast. “He offered us the business and it was literally a dream come true!”

Prior to taking over the business on January 1st, Cathleen spent two weeks at the store to be sure this was where she wanted to be. “I loved it!” she said. That was the launch of a new and improved St. Lucie Restaurant Supplies store in Fort Pierce. “We’ve recently added a housewares section to the store with kitchen gadgets, bakeware, and some great BBQ supplies.” Horan says that additional items will be added based on customer requests. Large equipment and some parts can be ordered on behalf of customers and shipped directly to their home or business. While they don’t sell used equipment, she says they have many contacts and can help customers with certain requests.

Changes to the large glass displays on the storefront have brought many window shoppers to the business. But it’s the friendly, knowledgeable, and professional customer service team that Horan thinks will bring shoppers back time and again. “I’ve had many comments on how pleasant it is to come into our store,” she says.

As a former Main Street Chairperson in New Egypt, New Jersey, Horan knows the importance of a strong downtown Main Street program and the need for businesses to work together. “My goal is to work with all of the businesses in the downtown area, promoting everyone as much as possible,” says Horan. “Working together as a team is what Main Street is all about and how we can make the downtown work for all of us.”
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It Takes All of Us to Make Our Historic Downtown Prosper and Grow!

Main Street Fort Pierce wants to invite you to become a part of the renaissance of our Historic Downtown area. Over the past twenty years, we have worked to repair streets and sidewalks, upgrade storefronts, renovated the Sunrise Theatre, Old City Hall and the Platts Backus House, sponsor charrettes to design a downtown “Master Plan,” built the Manatee Observation and Education Center and so much more! Annually, Main Street Fort Pierce sponsors over 30 events — most which are free of charge.

Yet there is still so much more to be done! We need you to be involved in our continued planning for the area. Become a member and support Main Street financially. We rely on the participation and the voluntary annual dues from our members to accomplish our goals and complete our projects.

Whether you own a downtown business or you just love Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, we need your energy and support to continue to rejuvenate our community’s heart and soul.

Why Main Street Fort Pierce?

- Downtown Fort Pierce is an important employment center.
- The area is a reflection of the community image.
- Locally owned businesses keep profits in town and support other local businesses and community projects.
- A vibrant downtown creates a feeling of “hometown pride” and sense of place.
- The downtown district is a public gathering area, where parades, special events, and celebrations are held in a unique setting.
- Community character and historic integrity cannot be recreated.

What are Membership Benefits?

- Your membership dues are an investment in the future of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, helping us to sponsor improvements and events throughout the year.
- Members receive advanced notice and invitations to special events.
- You will receive the monthly subscription to Main Street Focus magazine and links to Focus On-Line.

As a member of Main Street you are automatically aligned with others who want to preserve the past and influence the future of Fort Pierce. You can belong to Fort Pierce Main Street at one of eight different membership levels, starting at just $15.

Main Street Membership Levels

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Please Take a Minute to Join Today!

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.

Name: __________________________ Membership Level: ______________________

Company/Organization: __________________________________________________

Street Address: _________________________________________________________

City / State / Zip: _____________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________ Email: _______________________________