Main Street Focus
122 AE Backus Ave.
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
Main Street Fort Pierce Enjoys an Exciting Downtown Summer

What a busy month! The 4th of July was filled with fireworks, celebrations and this year, it happened to fall on the same night as Friday Fest with a huge crowd. The usual summertime rain threatened to cancel the event, however, Friday Fest on the 4th turned out to be a beautiful night and one of the most attended Friday Fests ever. The scheduled entertainment, “THINK BIG LIVE” was postponed until the August 1 Friday Fest. THINK BIG LIVE is a popular band from Orlando with a diverse music style with musicians that have played with the likes of Alan Jackson, Foreigner, Jeff Beck and others.

Main Street events take place every month and on August 16, the ever popular and fun 15th Annual Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction will take place at the Pelican Yacht Club. This year’s theme is Hot Salsa Nights. Comfortable attire is required and be ready to enjoy yourself at the Pelican Yacht Club, a.k.a. Latin Resort. If you have been to this event before, you know it’s always fun and you have a very good chance to win cash prizes and pick up some wonderful silent auction items with proceeds benefitting Main Street Fort Pierce’s projects.

Coming up this fall, Main Street Fort Pierce’s Coffee With The Mayor event returns in September, the ever popular Cowboy Golf moves to October at Adams Ranch and the infamous Ghost Walk haunts Downtown. In November, along with cooler weather, the Wine Tasting event will take place and the year ends with Main Street’s Sights and Sounds 20th Anniversary Christmas Parade on December 7.

I hope to see you at all of the upcoming Main Street events! We have something for everyone … till then.
**WEEKLY EVENTS**

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

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

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

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

**Fort Pierce Library** – Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080, www.fortpierce-fl.com.

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

**Yellowtail Grill** – 468-7071.

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

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

**Downtown Fort Pierce Library**

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

“Monday at the Movies” – Held every Monday, the library will present a free film, starting at 2 p.m.; complete with popcorn and drinks.

Aug. 4 – “The Shadow Box,” (1980) starring Joanne Woodward and Christopher Plummer. Within the time span of one fresh, spring day, the members of three very different families face the one thing they have in common: the fact that one member of each family is in the last stages of a terminal illness. (96 minutes)

Aug. 11 – “Red Lights Ahead,” (1936) starring Andy Clyde and Ann Doran. There’s no place like home, but dreams of the good life drive Ed Wallace to mortgage his tiny old house and haul his wife, four kids and grandpa to a big fancy mansion, complete with a butler and maid. (70 minutes)

Aug. 18 – “Soylent Green,” (1973) starring Charlton Heston and Leigh Taylor-Young. Conjuring up “a terrifying vision of the future,” this high-tech, high-suspense classic thriller boasts enough star power to keep audience riveted while paralyzed in white-knuckle fear. (97 minutes)

Aug. 25 – “Winter People,” (1989) starring Kurt Russell and Kelly McGillis. Wayland Jackson a gentle widower and his 10-year-old daughter are stranded in the backwoods of the Carolina mountains in the ‘30s. They are given shelter by a secretive, unwed mother of a 6-month-old son. (110 minutes)

**FORT PIERCE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE**

For information, please call 370-6162 or email jupiternapa@yahoo.com.

Girls, ages 7-12, are invited to participate in the Arts & Crafts program offered by the Fort Pierce Police Athletic League. Barbara Web instructs this free class from 5:30 – 7 p.m. every Wednesday. The girls create holiday cards, decorations and other fun items. The Fort Pierce PAL Center is located at 1401 N. 2nd Street in Fort Pierce. For additional information, please call Barbara at 461-3820, e-mail at ppearson@fppd.org, or visit www.fortpiercepal.com. PAL “filling playgrounds not prisons.”
**HOT SALSA NIGHTS**

**15th Annual Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction**

by Pam Gillette

August nights in Fort Pierce are hot and steamy. These summer nights, long with balmy breezes sweeping across the water, make us desire chilly drinks and a tropical atmosphere to cool off our senses and bring tranquility to our souls. On Saturday, August 16, 2008, Main Street Fort Pierce is turning up the heat for the most anticipated event of the summer — **HOT SALSA NIGHTS**, the 15th Annual Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction.

**HOT SALSA NIGHTS** will be held at the Pelican Yacht Club at 1120 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce. The yacht club will be transformed into a Latin resort; the doors will be opening at 6:30 p.m. with registration, the silent auction, cocktails, & a light fare. The raffle begins at 7:00 p.m. counting down the numbers to the grand prize winner. Main Street’s 15th Annual Reverse Raffle begins with 300 numbers. The first number and every 50th number called up to 250 wins $100.00. While the last 10 numbers range from $250.00 to the grand prize of $2,000.00.

New to the event this year is a live auction. Leonard Wheeley will auction several large ticketed items at the midpoint of the raffle. Your raffle number becomes your auction number, so come ready to raise your hand and bid.

At 8:30 p.m. the party really heats up with music and dancing until 11:00 p.m. Want to sit outside and enjoy those balmy breezes? The Tobacco Emporium will be there to supply you with just the right cigar to relax in our outdoor smoking lounge or to take home for your enjoyment. And, don’t forget to stop by the special Margarita Bar, for a cool drink.

Don’t wait! Only 300 tickets are sold for the raffle. Each ticket is $80.00 and entitles the bearer to one number, admission for two people, light hors d’oeuvres, 2 free drinks, music, dancing, and a fabulous silent auction. Tickets are limited, advanced ticket purchase only, and no tickets will be available at the door.

Due to the heat, casual attire is requested! So join us for the hottest event of the summer the **HOT SALSA NIGHTS**, 15th Annual Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction.

The Reverse Raffle is a fundraiser for projects and goals of Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. For more information or to purchase a ticket, please call Main Street at (772) 466-3880.
Stars over St. Lucie Friday Fest – A BIG Thank You

by Pam Gillette

During setup for the Stars Over St. Lucie Friday Fest 4th of July Celebration, the rain started at 12:30 p.m. and it looked like it was not going to let up. A few vendors and crafters came and went. A few stayed, hoping for a miracle. At 4:50 p.m., the miracle came. The rain stopped, the clouds parted, the sun came out and the people came for the second largest Friday Fest in Main Street history. The fireworks were spectacular sight.

Since staff had to postpone the band until August due to the weather, Main Street would like to thank Jeff Brown, Production Manager at Clear Channel Radio Treasure Coast for stepping in and supplying the music for the night. Main Street would also like to thank the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, The City of Fort Pierce and Public Works for making Stars over St. Lucie – Friday Fest a great night for our community.

Catch “Think Big Live” at the next Friday Fest, August 1, 2008 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Lawnwood Skate Park Now Open

Thanks in part to the leadership and dedication of Rob Perkins, owner of Undercover Skate Shop, Fort Pierce residents have a new place to ride their skateboards.

Perkins was the co-chairman of the Skate Park Committee that was put together by St. Lucie County’s Park & Recreation Department and the Board of County Commissioners. The group’s goal was to build a first-class skate park. After nearly a year of planning, the end result is a $500,000 facility that some skateboarders are calling “the best skate park in the state.”

The design and build crew included Glatting, Jackson, Kercher, Anglin, Lopez, Rinehart and AWM Construction. However, the mastermind behind the final product was Team Pain — a nationally known firm that builds skate parks for skateboarding legends such as Tony Hawk and Stacey Peralta. This unique plaza-style skate park is 15,000 square feet of concrete fun, featuring banks, a mini-bowl, a snake run, curbs, humps, a whale tail, stairs and handrails.

Located on Virginia Avenue behind the new Havert L. Fenn Center and to the east of Rotary Park, the new Lawnwood Skate Park is open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk. Admission into the park is FREE! Skaters under the age of 18 are required to have a skate card to enter the facility. To obtain a skate card, a notarized waiver signed by the skater’s parent or guardian must be on record with St. Lucie County Parks & Recreation. Waivers and skate cards are available Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1302 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, in the SLC Sports & Athletics office. Shirts and helmets must be worn at all times. Elbow and knee pads are recommended. The park is open to skateboarders and online skaters.

For more details or to download a waiver visit, www.stlucieco.gov/parks/skatepark.htm.

And be sure to visit Undercover’s website www.skateundercover.com for all the latest skateboarding news and contests. And stop by the shop to get the latest gear, including a helmet for Lawnwood Skate Park.
Landscaping Changes at the Manatee Center
Sure to Make a Butterfly’s Wings Flutter

by Carol Johnson & Jann Widmayer

Upon your next visit to the Manatee Observation and Education Center, you may notice that our landscaping is looking very vibrant. Thanks to the kind efforts of several volunteer gardeners over the past few months and donations of plants by area landscape companies, we have been able to make our flowerbeds more beautiful and butterfly friendly. In 2004, Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne wiped out our butterfly population and it has still not recovered. In order to produce a large butterfly population, there must be plants available that support the growth of these beautiful creatures. These plants supply food for adult butterflies, shelter to lay eggs, food to nourish the caterpillar, ideal locations to form chrysalises and as the cycle begins again, food for the newly emerged butterflies. The adults will return to lay their eggs, thus causing the butterfly population to grow. Upon the recommendation of the How-To Gardener, Ann Marie Slattery-Loveridge, we revamped our butterfly garden and surrounding landscaping to feature native...
plant varieties and mainly those that attract butterflies. We are now proud to say that if you look closely at the Passion Vine, you’ll see caterpillars munching away on the delicate leaves. Later on they will wrap themselves in chrysalises and grow into beautiful butterflies. The Manatee Center butterfly garden is on its way to once more to become a thriving butterfly sanctuary!

As campers arrive for the Manatee Center summer camps throughout June and July, they will be able to see the differences in our Butterfly Garden’s appearance from last year. The vast improvement is sure to cause a stir among the curious attendees as they gaze at the array of beautiful butterflies flittering among the plants.

We began our project in March 2008, when a dedicated group of AmeriCorps volunteers contacted us wanting to help at the Center. They diligently weeded the flower beds preparing for new plants. Two weeks later, three students from St. Edwards Upper School in Vero Beach wanted to perform a volunteer project during their Spring Break. So, the students, along with their adult chaperones, several Manatee Center volunteers and staff, disbursed compost donated from a local horse farm and planting various plants, many of which were donated. After the planting was complete, we had 10 yards of mulch delivered, and once again our volunteers came through to help us spread it thus adding the finishing touches to our beautiful new plant beds. All of that hard work paid off, and four months later our landscaping thrives with native foliage that butterflies love such as Milkweed, Dill, Italian Parsley, Coontie, Muhly Grass, Wild Coffee and Cocoplum.

We would be remiss if we didn’t take this opportunity to acknowledge the generous donation by all of those who volunteered their time for this project and the companies that donated plants: Spencer Porteous of Everything Outdoors, located at 384 Old Dixie Highway in Vero Beach; Gary Roberts Nursery and Landscaping,

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located at 4200 Johnston Road in Fort Pierce; and Ann Marie Slattery-Loveridge, The How-To Gardener, located at 2105 Oak Drive in Fort Pierce. Manatee Center volunteers included Jordan Yancy, Barbara Gilbert, Joan Rieck, Mike Aliotta, and Alejandro Diaz. Brandi Llanas, Retail Coordinator at the Manatee Center, donated filled bags of compost to ensure healthy plants. Manatee Center staff helpers included Brandi Llanas, Carol Johnson and Jann Widmayer.

Our caring community continues to give their time, talents and resources to ensure that the Manatee Observation and Education Center remains one of the premier tourist attractions in Historical Downtown Fort Pierce and all of St. Lucie County.
Preserving a Piece of Our Past: The P.P. Cobb Building

by John Culverhouse

In the 1870s, Captain Benjamin Hogg and his wife Annie Hogg built a Trading Post in Fort Pierce. When it was built, it was located along the Indian River in Brevard County, as Fort Pierce was not incorporated as a city, and St. Lucie County was yet to be formed in 1905.

The Trading Post supplied locals with the staples they needed for daily life. The seafaring Captain Hogg would voyage throughout the Caribbean seeking exotic goods, which he would take to Jacksonville and trade for sugar, salt, flour and other basics needed in Fort Pierce. At the Fort Pierce Trading Post, locals, including pioneer families and Native Americans, would come to acquire goods and supplies that they needed in their daily lives. Fort Pierce’s Trading Post supplied pioneers across South Florida, including those in the new and developing Fort Pierce community.

The Hoggs eventually sold the building, and it had many uses over the years. For a short time, it was operated as an oyster cannery, and the area became known as “Canttow.” Just a few years later, Peter P. Cobb purchased the building and turned it into one of the most thriving general merchandise stores in the entire region. The store’s slogan was “Everything to Eat, Wear, and Use,” and as his store was one of the most comprehensive general stores as anyone could find, that was a pretty valid claim. The store sold groceries, hardware, clothing, farm implements, and just about everything in between.

The building expanded over the years, which included the addition of a post office, in which Peter P. Cobb became the postmaster.

Peter P. Cobb sold his building to Buddy Pitts and his family in 1931. The Pitts family used the building to sell furniture. Pitts owned the building until the 1980s when he sold it to David Cleveland.

Today, the P.P. Cobb building continues its legacy of being a landmark of downtown Fort Pierce and our community at large, as it is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Florida that has remained in continual use. The P.P. Cobb General Store is still in business, reminding us of days past but with a modern flair. The store features a variety of groceries, sundries, and Florida-related products. The P.P. Cobb General Store and Delicatessen serves breakfast and lunch, Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Baked goods are baked on premises, different types of coffee are served, and over 400 varieties of beer are sold.

Other shops at the P.P. Cobb Building include the Clock Shop and Bangz Salon. Upstairs are offices, 

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A decades-old picture of the P.P. Cobb Building and the band stand from the dock, with historic buildings behind, most of which are no longer standing. Photo provided by the Adams Ranch, Inc.
including engineering, insurance, and advertising firms. Tenants appreciate the history and uniqueness of the building.

The Adams Ranch, Inc. now owns and maintains the fully occupied P.P. Cobb Building. Bud Adams, Chairman of Adams Ranch, Inc., felt that it needed to be carefully preserved for the community for years to come. “It’s unique for its age and the type of construction, and the condition that it’s remained in for this many years,” he said. “It’s been a focal point of this area longer than most anything around here.”

Historic preservation is nothing new to the Adams Ranch, Inc. In the 1980s, they purchased Kenansville, Florida’s old Post Office, relocated the structure to their western St. Lucie County property and fully restored the building. The town recently reclaimed its old post office, and the building once again stands in Kenansville.

“A lot of people from Kenansville would stop by to see a piece of their history, and some of the old time families even remembered the combinations to their post office boxes,” said Mike Adams, President of Adams Ranch, Inc. “We were happy to be able to preserve the building until they were ready to take it back over.”

The P.P. Cobb Building preserves some culture of historic Fort Pierce, while conforming to the current times to remain a commercial draw for Downtown Fort Pierce. The building is fully occupied and serves many consumer needs for the community.

Once upon a time, the Fort Pierce Trading Post was the landmark that identified Fort Pierce. Captain Benjamin and Annie Hogg built the Trading Post, and over the years, the building had different uses. Today, the building is known as the P.P. Cobb Building. Photo provided by David Cleveland.
“The P.P. Cobb Building is the oldest commercial building downtown, that has remained commercially viable continuously throughout the years. That says it all right there,” Mike Adams, said. “The building was relevant as a Trading Post in its early days, and has weathered all the storms throughout the years, so to speak, and made all the transitions necessary to remain a relevant commercial center in today’s downtown Fort Pierce.”

Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, which tore through Saint Lucie County four years ago, caused no damage to the building. While numerous structures more recently built throughout the area suffered extensive damage or complete structural failure, the wood-framed P.P. Cobb Building was built to last. “That building has been through hurricanes for more than 100 years,” Bud Adams said, “and the building has withstood all of them.”

Local historical preservationist David Cleveland agrees. “The building was solidly built with hard Dade County Pine,” he said. “You can’t even drive nails through some of the material.” He would know. In the mid-1980s, he bought the building from Buddy Pitts and undertook a major historically-sensitive building renovation to restore the building into a significant downtown establishment like it was in years past.

Cleveland took on the P.P. Cobb project just after being part of the Boston House restoration, and remember being optimistic about Fort Pierce’s future at a time when downtown was at its worst state of decline.

The building was in bad shape at the time of the purchase, according to Cleveland, who completely restored the building inside and out. Though many didn’t recognize the historical significance of the building, or the potential of what Downtown Fort Pierce had to offer, Cleveland was determined to preserve a piece of history and to make a difference.

“It ended up becoming somewhat of an interesting challenge to maintain some sort of a historical dignity, but make it an economically viable project,” Cleveland said about the P.P. Cobb Building restoration.

At the start of the project, Cleveland and his crew sifted through the sand underneath the floor of the building and found abundant historical material, including ceramic pipes, old coins, and even original paper bags from Cobb’s store with the branding “Peter P. Cobb General Mercantile, Fort Pierce, Florida, Everything to Eat, Wear, and Use.”

The original Dade County pine ceilings were well preserved, and panes of glass from the original windows are now used in the hallways on the second floor. “You can see the ripples and the waves in the glass,” Cleveland said.

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“A lot of the glass we took out had actually settled towards the bottom over the years, so the glass is actually thicker at the bottom than it is at the top.”

Cleveland continues to be an advocate for historic preservation and is happy that the Adams Ranch, Inc. owns the building. “I think that they are one of the few in the community that will continue to preserve it and acknowledge its historical significance, and I think they are the best custodian to maintain the building for the community,” he said. “It’s nice to see people do things like that, just because they believe it is the right thing to do. You see some of the purest projects come out of that type of motivation.”

“As Downtown Fort Pierce continues to grow and improve, and the power plant is decommissioned, the P.P. Cobb Building will be a great contrast, depending on how that area develops right next to it,” said Peter Harrison, Vice President of Adams Ranch, Inc.

Though the downtown “skyline” of today consists of the Clerk of Court Building and the Renaissance, the P.P. Cobb Building stands tall, thanks to the efforts of its custodians throughout the years and those that fought to save this valuable link to our past.
Downtown Hero – Kia Powers

by Anne Satterlee

Oftentimes there comes along someone you meet and you know at that defining moment, they have the will, personality and fortitude to do just about anything they put their mind to in life. Well, I knew when I met Kia Hamill Powers in January 2000, who was working in the Building Department as a temporary employee, that her positive and helpful demeanor would be a great asset to the City of Fort Pierce. Needless to say, that proved to be very true and she was hired as a full-time employee in the City Clerk's Office later that year and quickly began wearing many new hats.

Born and raised in Fort Pierce, she graduated from Fort Pierce Westwood High School in 1999 and received her Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Florida Atlantic University in 2005. With family ties to the Fort Pierce community, Kia knew many individuals who came to City Hall for assistance and she took the time to be helpful and courteous to the public and was always willing to volunteer in her spare time. Busy with school, her three beagles, active with the Christmas Pageant at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Fort Pierce, serving on the school board for church, music ensemble where she plays guitar with her Dad and teaching Sunday school, Kia also managed a wedding to Eric Powers during her 7-1/2 years while at the City.

I think by now you get the picture that she is one busy person. Kia did not go unnoticed by Main Street Fort Pierce with her quick ability to accomplish many things at once working in the City Clerk’s Office coordinating all the permitting for events, parades, etc. in the City. Kia was a natural for the City’s Centennial Planning Committee in 2000 which was just the beginning of her volunteer efforts with Main Street. She continued to assist Main Street Fort Pierce with monthly Friday Fest permitting responsibilities and helped with the annual Sandy Shoes Festival.

When the job opportunity opened for another passion, preservation, Kia interviewed and went to work in the City’s Planning Department as the Historic Preservation Officer in 2005 overseeing City sponsored projects, planning and urban design work. Kia ably assisted Main Street Fort Pierce with technical expertise on the recently renovated 1895 Platts-Backus House which is now Main Street’s office. With a keen sense of community spirit, Kia defined this position with the City of Fort Pierce and was a tremendous asset over the past three years.

Recently, Kia has left the City to join the Lyric Theatre in Stuart, Florida as Director of Operations. She is responsible for building and renter contracts, and renter relations. As Kia said, “This is my dream job and I’m fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work for the City of Fort Pierce.” Possibly, one day, she will return to the City of Fort Pierce and may even work at the Sunrise Theatre. I know for now she is a goodwill ambassador to the City of Fort Pierce working in Stuart and is forever our Downtown Hero.
Looking Back

Third Annual
Cowboy Golf Tournament
Adams Ranch
April 18, 2008
at Main Street Spring Events

Main Street
Spring Wine Tasting Stroll
Downtown Fort Pierce
May 16, 2008

“Cowboy Golf” continued on page ... 18

“Spring Events” continued on pages 24-25 ...
“Cowboy Golf” … continued from page 17
Congratulations to Jernie, the 2008 County Music Awards Rising Star WINNER! Out of 200 contestants Jernie was the winner in her age group and also received a special award for “vocal talent.” They picked the top five and Jernie was announced as the winner on the Riverfront Stage during the festival. She went home with lots of “goodies” and the big prize is that in November she will be attending the CMA awards. Check her website within the week to see new pictures, www.jernieonline.com, www.myspace.com/jernieonline. Look for this local talent and support her hard work and gifted voice.

City of Fort Pierce Appoints New Finance Director

The Fort Pierce City Commission has appointed Gloria Jean Johnson to the position of Finance Director at their July 7, 2008 City Commission meeting.

Johnson has been employed with the City for 30 years, more recently as the Assistant Finance Director and is quite experienced with governmental finance and, in particular, the financial operations of the City. In her new position, her key responsibility will be to direct the day-to-day financial activities of the municipality.

Born and raised in Fort Pierce, Johnson is a graduate of Fort Pierce Central High School, Indian River Community College and Florida A&M University with a B.S. degree in Accounting.

Mrs. Johnson is a Certified Public Pension Trustee (CPPT) and serves on the board of the Fort Pierce Police Officers Pension Fund. She is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Mount Pleasant Primitive Baptist Church in Fort Pierce.

The City’s Finance Department oversees the City’s financial operating budget of $72 million which includes $41 million from the City general fund budget.

... And the “Rising Star” Award Goes to Local Talent, Jernie

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Indian Hills Golf Course Team Holds Main Street Fundraiser

The city owned and operated Edward G. Enns Indian Hills Golf Course recently held a fundraiser for Main Street Fort Pierce. The foursome pictured, left to right: Course Superintendent, Barry Lezark, IHGC Director, Greg Martzolf, Executive Assistant, Lucy Posa and Head Pro, Arden Kersey, III; Main Street President, Anne Satterlee and Main Street Manager Doris Tillman. The foursome began play at 6:00 a.m. with a combined total of 310 holes played for the event which raised over $1,000 for Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. Thanks so very much to the Indian Hills Golf Course team!
Sunrise Theatre Volunteer Opportunities Available

The **Sunrise Theatre** is increasing its volunteer usher staff for our exhilarating 2008-2009 season. We’re looking for a few good men and women who are at least 16 years of age and can volunteer 3 – 4 times per month. Ushering is a fun and easy way to get more involved with arts and culture on the Treasure Coast area and to see theatre shows for free! Volunteers serve functions such as greeting patrons, ticket tearing, guiding patrons to their seats, assisting guests with special needs, answering questions, monitoring the audience during performances, and directing patrons in the event of an emergency.

If you would like more information on becoming a theatre volunteer please contact Sue Dannahower at 772.618.0155, or by e-mail at Sue_Dannahower@Bellsouth.net.

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Recipes by the Diva

Filed Under “C” for Comfort Foods

Make this stew in a large, ovenproof Dutch oven. I have made this so many times. My former neighbor in Denver says she dreams about my stew.

**Dreamy Beef Stew**

3 pounds beef sirloin (or chuck), trimmed and cut into 1½-inch cubes

1½ teaspoons salt

1 teaspoon ground black pepper

3 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 medium-large onions, chopped coarse (about 2 cups)

3 medium garlic cloves, minced

3 tablespoons flour

1 cup full-bodied red wine

2 cups beef stock or low-sodium canned beef broth

2 bay leaves

1 teaspoon dried thyme

4 medium boiling potatoes, cut into 1-inch cubes

4 large carrots, peeled and sliced 1/4-inch thick

1 cup frozen peas or green beans (about 6 ounces), thawed

2 bouillon beef cubes

⅛ cup minced fresh parsley leaves

Place beef cubes in large bowl. Sprinkle with salt and pepper; toss to coat. Heat 2 tablespoons oil over medium-high heat in large ovenproof Dutch oven. Add half of meat and brown on all sides, about 5 minutes. Remove meat and set aside on plate. Repeat process with remaining oil and meat.

Add onions to empty Dutch oven and sauté until softened, 4 to 5 minutes. Add garlic and continue to cook for 30 seconds. Stir in flour and cook until lightly colored, 1 to 2 minutes. Add wine, scraping up any browned bits that may have stuck to pot. Add stock, bay leaves, and thyme, and bring to a simmer. Add meat and return to a simmer. Add bouillon cubes. Cover and place pot in oven. Cook for 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Remove pot from oven and add potatoes and carrots. Cover and return to oven. Cook just until meat is tender, 1 to 1½ hours for lamb and 1½ to 2 hours for beef and pork. Remove pot from oven. (Can be cooled, covered, and refrigerated up to 3 days. Reheat on top of the stove.)

Add peas, cover, and allow to stand for 5 minutes. Stir in parsley, discard bay leaves, adjust seasonings, and serve. Serves: 6 - 8.

**Summer Black Bean and Corn Salad**

1 14-ounce can black beans, drained and rinsed

1 14-ounce can corn, drained

1 4-ounce can chopped green chilies

18 snap or snow peas (par boiled 3 minutes)

4 green onions, sliced thin

2 Tablespoons chopped cilantro (or basil)

⅛ cup red pepper, chopped

Dressing

2 large cloves garlic, minced

2 Tablespoons lime juice

⅛ cup olive oil

½ cup red wine vinegar

In a medium bowl toss all salad ingredients together. Mix the dressing ingredients and pour over bean and corn salad. Toss gently. Serves 10-12.
“Spring Events” …continued from page 17

Reception
Souvenirs of Downtown
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Membership

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

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

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

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

Main Street Membership Levels

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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 20 years. The efforts of many have paid off. Downtown Fort Pierce is now recognized as one of the most desirable locations to live and work on the Treasure Coast, as well as, in the state of Florida.

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

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

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.
Selecting a Financial Advisor
Submitted by Jim O’Connor, CFP®, CIMA®, Financial Advisor

Many successful professionals don’t have the time, information, or know-how to effectively manage their finances and plan for the future. Finding someone to help is very important, but the process can involve significant risks. All too often, we hear stories of less-than-scrupulous individuals who end up taking advantage of clients. To help you on your search, here are some essential guidelines for selecting a financial advisor.

**Find a Financial Advisor With Whom You’re Compatible**

It’s important that you find someone with whom you feel at ease. Open channels of communication are imperative. You should feel comfortable enough to honestly share your goals and long-term plans, not just your financial information. In order to consult with you most effectively, your financial advisor needs to fully understand and appreciate you, your situation, and what you want for your future.

**Make Sure You Can Trust Your Financial Advisor**

Any time that you involve someone else in your personal affairs, you need to establish a level of trust. As you begin to work with your financial advisor, you should feel that you’re establishing mutual respect and commitment, as well as becoming more comfortable with the solutions your financial advisor makes available to you. While you should always be diligent about understanding and monitoring your finances, the best financial advisor-client relationships are those in which both parties know each other well and work together towards achieving the client’s stated goals.

**A Good Financial Advisor Should be a Good Teacher**

By gauging your current level of financial knowledge, your financial advisor should explain options and choices in language you understand, while also sharing new concepts that help you think more dynamically and proactively. Look for a financial advisor who has a broad level of knowledge on a wide range of financially-related topics.

**Choose Someone With a Good Team in Place**

Choose a financial advisor who can work with you and your network of specialists. The financial advisor should be able to help you coordinate the roles of your specialists such as your CPA, trust and estate attorney, insurance professional and lending specialist.

**Your Expectations**

It’s important to take the time to assess the relationship you have with your current financial advisor to determine if it is working for you. Finding the right financial advisor can make a dramatic difference in your future.

**For More Information**

If you’d like to learn more, please write in care of Main Street Focus, 122 AE Backus Ave., Fort Pierce, FL 34950.

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Main Street
Friday Fest
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June 8, 2008

Photos by John Culverhouse

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Summer on the Water

by Dan Dannahower

By now we are well into our beautiful spring/summer weather pattern. Warm days, light winds, calm sea conditions and afternoon showers and thunderstorms are the norm. It’s a great time to be out on the Indian River Lagoon or the Atlantic Ocean or even one of our many public beach or pier accesses.

Fishing in the lagoon remains good. I recently had the opportunity to fish the lagoon from my own boat with friends Pete Whitridge and his Uncle. We drifted with live shrimp on the flats and caught a variety of fish including snapper, sheepshead, a small shark, and of course catfish. We didn’t boat any trout or redfish but did see them tearing up schools of mullet. All had a great time despite a mechanical failure that resulted in a tow-in at the end of the day. Always be prepared for the unexpected on the water!

Offshore reports are typical for this time of year. Sporadic catches of Kingfish, Dolphin, Wahoo etc. The ocean waters are typically very calm during the summer and present a good chance for smaller boats to venture out or for those who don’t enjoy bobbing around in higher waves during the winter to enjoy a really pleasant day on the water. A number of professional charters are available at our local marinas and can offer a top notch experience fishing either the river or the ocean. If you want to do it on your own the marinas and tackle shops can provide a wealth of information on when and where to go.

I hope you get a chance to enjoy our world class fishing this summer while the weather is nice and the seas are pleasant. Good luck and good fishing.
30 MAIN STREET FOCUS August 2008

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