The True Spirit of the Season is Bright in the Hearts of Many

by Britt Reynolds

For 21 years, the Board members and volunteers of Main Street Fort Pierce and the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis have organized our town’s largest Christmas event, the Sights and Sounds on Second Festival and Parade, on the first Sunday in December. This year’s theme “Christmas Through a Child’s Eyes,” promises to be a spectacular family event.

My wife, Patty, volunteers for several local organizations, runs our office, and attends classes at Indian River State College. The idea for this month’s President’s essay came to me one evening as she was editing an essay she wrote for school. I asked her if she would mind if we reprinted it here to give you a glimpse behind the scenes at what it takes to make one evening as she was editing an essay she wrote for school.

Please join us for the 21st Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Festival & Parade on December 6th. As you read her essay, I hope you’re inspired to line the lane and enjoy the handiwork of our many volunteers.

This is what Patty read to me the other evening:

Crisp, winter air heralding the arrival of the holiday season is as expected as the appearance of the first robin in spring to one season is much like the next, we are as likely to enjoy the subtle odors of the scent of the ocean carried on a balmy winter breeze, as we are the occasional cold snap. In Florida, where one season is the arrival of the holiday season is as expected as the appearance of the first robin in spring to the offering of guidance from both organizations, I was eager to go out and get involved! Downtown Fort Pierce is a picturesque collection of businesses and vintage homes, situated along a scenic waterfront. Laid in paths created by turn-of-the-century wagon wheels, the streets are short and intersect frequently. This creates a true neighborhood feel, but can be challenging when the streets are clean after the horses ride by. One year we even had the Grinch with a wheelbarrow and pitchfork following the bands several entries away from the horses, and make sure the streets are steady behind the horses ride by. One year we even had the Grinch with a wheelbarrow and pitchfork following the bands several entries away from the horses, and make sure the streets are steady behind the horses ride by.

One of the things I enjoy most about volunteering for the annual parade is the sense of camaraderie that builds between the different organizations who put the event together and those who come out to support the community by participating in the parade. We have everyone from civic and community leaders to small family-owned businesses throwing themselves into the spirit of the season to create a magical moment for our kids, including those both young and young at heart. From insight I’ve gained through critical thinking classes to the application of simple math calculations that allow me to determine how many entries of what size will fit on a street that is less than a block long. I use the skills I’ve gained in college to make my task as staging coordinator easier and ultimately more rewarding. While community college is only a highlight of the holiday season; being part of the team takes to pull the event together. Watching the parade is a magical moment for our kids, including those both young and young at heart.

I hope you’ve enjoyed her essay and a look at what it takes to pull the event together. Watching the parade is a highlight of the holiday season; being part of the team that makes it all happen is priceless, but no team is complete without you.

While 2009’s parade preparations will be wrapping up by the time you read this, there is always next year, along with a multitude of opportunities to join us throughout the year as we raise awareness for our grand old town. Get out and watch the parade, then — get out and get involved!
Main Street and Downtown Business Association

Calendar

Friday, December 4: Friday Fest — 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Sunday, December 6: 21st Annual Sights & Sounds Christmas Festival & Parade — 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Wednesday, December 9: Artwalk — 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Assoc., 465-7080, www.fortpierce-fl.com.


Friday, December 18: Coffee With the Mayor — Historic City Hall; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Friday, November 30 to Friday, December 18: Deck the Walls at the Platts/Backus House — Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Receptions on Thursdays, December 3 & 10, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Fast & Fabulous Dancing Lessons — Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Cobb’s Landing Restaurant, upstairs; 215-7600.

Art Mundo Open Studio — Wednesdays, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; The ArtBank at 111 Orange Avenue, www.ginnypiechstreet.com.

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

Arts and Crafts Show & Sale — Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; ½-mile north of downtown Fort Pierce Library; Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299; www.jazzsociety.org.

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

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

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

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

ST. LUCIE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

For information, please call 462-1891 or visit www.st-lucie.fl.us/museum.

SUNRISE THEATRE

For information, please call 481-4775 or visit www.sunrisetheatre.com.

Sunrise Theatre’s Black Box Performances

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

BACKUS GALLERY & MUSEUM

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

November 25, 2009 – January 2, 2010: Under the Mistletoe. For many years, mistletoe has been part of holiday decorations; if only to provide an excuse for a stolen kiss. This holiday season, just like mistletoe, make the Backus Museum part of your holiday tradition. When you give the gift of art, you give a meaningful gift that lasts a lifetime. Artists include Martin Cushman, Ahmed Eltemtamy, Therese Ferguson, Rome Heyer, George Paxton, Suzanne Ritter, Ada Swenson, Peggy Thomas and Barbara Dodge Zarrella.

Sponsored by Riverside Bank & Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers.

HEATHCOTE BOTANICAL GARDENS

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

3rd Annual Holiday Non-Profit Market — Saturday, December 12 (rain date Dec. 13) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission! Shop for special gifts offered by Treasure Coast charities and nonprofit organizations.

FORT PIERCE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE


December 6: St. Lucie County Tip Run Volunteers needed for Ft. Pierce Police Athletic League. Persons interested in teaching the fundamentals of sports, mentoring and tutoring should contact Paul Pearson or Gabe Gonzales 460-0606.

FORT PIERCE JAZZ & BLUES SOCIETY

For more information, please call 460-5299 or visit www.jazzsociety.org.
Sights and Sounds on Second Christmas Festival & Parade Promises to Deliver “Christmas Through a Child’s Eyes”

by Pam Gillette

Whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, these holidays hold special memories of family gatherings, the smell of the holiday foods and traditions passed on from prior generations. Take a step back, slow down the pace, and remember your holidays as a child. I guarantee it will put a smile on your face.

Take a moment during the holidays to watch a child; the wonder and excitement that fills a child during this time is something special. The theme for Main Street Fort Pierce 21st Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Christmas Festival & Parade is “Christmas Through a Child’s Eyes” and we are excited to make this year’s festival all about children.

Christmas is a time of great joy and anticipation for children of all ages. Join Main Street Fort Pierce as we kick off the weeks before Christmas with children’s activities, entertainment, downtown shopping and the much anticipated Sights and Sounds Parade. This year, Main Street will be bringing in some special guests for the children. Santa will be arriving by fire truck at 1:30 p.m. and will stay until 3:00 p.m. At 3:30 p.m. Ronald McDonald will arrive for a short meet-and-greet before kicking off the parade as the Grand Marshall. Also joining us this year is the Nesquik Bunny and McGruff the Crime Dog.

Children are also the theme for our Community Entertainment. True Crew Dance Academy of Port St. Lucie, Star City Dance Academy, and Showtime Entertainment and the Showtime Boys will be entertaining the crowd at the corner of Second Street and Orange Avenue with holiday performances.

The Sights & Sounds Christmas Parade will begin at 4:30 p.m. The parade begins at Tickle Tummy Hill on North Second Street and continues along Avenue A, Indian River Drive, and Orange Avenue. Sponsored by the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis, the parade is always a highlight of the Sights & Sounds event. This year’s theme is “Christmas Through a Child’s Eyes.” Photo certificates will be given in several categories.

Immediately following the Christmas Parade will be the lighting of the City of Fort Pierce’s Community Christmas Tree located at the Avenue A and Indian River Drive Roundabout; followed by the “Holiday Light Spectacular.” The “Holiday Light Spectacular” will have over 100,000 lights synchronized to holiday music and will play at Marina Square from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. every night until January 3, 2010. The “Holiday Light Spectacular” is sponsored by the City of Fort Pierce and the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency.

Main Street Fort Pierce’s 21st Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Christmas Festival & Parade is the scene for a day of fun and family entertainment. Join us on Sunday, December 6, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce at the corner of Orange Avenue and Second Street for the Sights and Sounds Festival & Parade. Sponsor: Seacoast National Bank.

For more information on the festival and parade call the Main Street Fort Pierce office at 772-466-3880.

Schedule of Events

Common Ground Vineyard Church
Open Air Service
1:30 p.m.

Sights & Sounds Festival
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Community Entertainment
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Santa Arrives
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ronald McDonald Meet & Greet
3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sights and Sounds Parade Begins
4:30 p.m.

Lighting of the Christmas Tree immediately after Sights & Sounds Parade

Holiday Lights Spectacular immediately after Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sight and Sounds Recitals

Advent Lunchtime Organ Recitals
Trinity Lutheran Church
201 S. 13th Street, Fort Pierce

Wednesday, December 2, 12:05 to 12:30 p.m.
Dr. Keith Paulson-Thorp from St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Delray Beach
Charpenier • Franck • Guilmant • Dubois • Fiery

Wednesday, December 9, 12:05 to 12:30 p.m.
Baden Griffin from Port St. Lucie
Campra • Bach • Daquin • Kuihkin • Beelmann

Wednesday, December 16, 12:05 to 12:30 p.m.
Dr. Kristin Haliman from Trinity Lutheran Church, Delray Beach
Dandrieu • Pachelbel • Bach • Dupre

A Soup and Sandwich Lunch will be provided immediately after each recital. Call 461-7272 for more information.

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Lighting the Christmas Tree immediately after Sights & Sounds Parade

Holiday Lights Spectacular immediately after Tree Lighting Ceremony

Yard Sale - 2nd Saturday every month, October - May
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Please visit our website for more information:
www.mainstreetfortpierce.org
New Year Friday Fest on Friday, January 8, 2010

The New Year Friday Fest on Friday, January 8, 2010, which will be hosted by the Main Street Fort Pierce, will feature a concert by the home grown band from Treasure Coast. Bird (sound, monitor), Kevin (lead guitar, vocals), and Harold (drums, vocals), have teamed up with Main Street Fort Pierce to provide children's activities during Friday Fest. The children's activities include a giant slide and a bounce house. Have your photo taken with a reptile at the St. Lucie County Herpetological Society booth, get a henna tattoo from Jennifer Harris or have your face painted by Masquerade Expressions. Arts & crafts vendors will line up in front of the Indian River in Marina Square.

Make sure you bring your appetite when you come to Friday Fest. The food variety includes Greek, Caribbean, Mexican, barbecue ribs & chicken, seafood, American, and various snack items. Admission is always FREE at Friday Fest and there is always plenty of food, music, and activities for all ages! The City of Fort Pierce Parking Garage is open and free for your parking convenience!

Seacoast Distributing is kicking off the New Year at the Specialty Beer Tent with a beer tasting. For $5.00 you can participate in sampling some of the newest craft brands in the Southern Eagle Distributing portfolio. Vote for your favorite and Main Street will feature the winner at the February Friday Fest. Jeff Brown, from Clear Channel Radio, will also be at the New Year's Friday Fest entertaining the crowd with Top 40 music.

Children are welcome at Friday Fest. All in Fun, Inc., has teamed up with Main Street Fort Pierce to provide children's activities during Friday Fest. The children's activities include a giant slide and a bounce house. Have your photo taken with a reptile at the St. Lucie County Herpetological Society booth, get a henna tattoo from Jennifer Harris or have your face painted by Masquerade Expressions. Arts & crafts vendors will line up in front of the Indian River in Marina Square.

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The Adams Ranch, located 13 miles west of the Florida turnpike off of Orange Avenue (Highway 68) is host to a variety of wildlife as well as its signature product, the Bradford cattle. Ever mindful of nature’s delicate balance, the family serves as protectors of the land. In his own words of wisdom, Bud Adams says, “No one takes care of the land like the owners.”

Calling 20,000 acres “home” may be a bit beyond comprehension, but the family is keen on conservation. Over the years, Adams Ranch has won numerous awards like the state’s “Pioneer Award” for promotion of Florida history and conservation of the state’s natural resources. A Special Commendation from the Florida Audubon Society recognized Bud Adams’ efforts in preserving native wildlife habitat on ranchlands in Florida. The area is rich in game — deer and wild turkeys which the family has developed in a comprehensive management program roam freely without boundaries or fences.

The father/son photo hobbyists have produced their own individual views through the lens; Bud’s pieces at the gallery feature birds, creatures and scenic aerial views while Robbie adds a technical touch to his photos, applying limited digital enhancements. Both are united in a common goal of sharing the beauty of Florida through their art and carry a camera every day.

“I learned from my dad with a camera that he gave me,” said Robbie who now shoots with a digital Nikon. One particular photo of his son, Stewart, focuses on a typical day at work. “Here he’s doctoring the cows,” said Robbie, pointing to a large syringe in his son’s hand. The stark image stands against a fence backdrop of a bull pen. The black-and-white print looks like a pen-and-ink drawing. “I played with that a little bit, first dropping out the color. It took very little manipulation.”

These hard-working ranchers make the most of their leisure time, too. “Dad has produced over forty-thousand images,” commented Robbie. “I organized them and helped to produce books for my dad.” Those books, A Florida Cattle Ranch, Beautiful & Rare Birds of Florida, and A Child’s Guide to Wildlife are available through their website, adamsranch.com.

Although many of their pictures sold quickly, selected photographs are still available for sale at the Lafferandre Gallery, located in Historic Downtown at 205 N. 2nd Street. For more information call 772.489-4255.

Anyone who has lived in the area for any length of time and loves art, nature and photography may also be a fan of the wildlife photos of local rancher, Alto “Bud” Adams, Jr. In mid-November, Lafferandre Gallery welcomed family members, patriarch Bud Adams and his son, Robbie on the opening night of the duo’s first-ever public showing of stunning portraits taken on their property. Dubbed “Home on the Ranch,” the family celebrated living on a working ranch through 32 original photographs. Most striking were close-up scenes of an approaching bald eagle inches from its nest, a young deer in the grass and an oversized panorama of cattle being herded. Titled When the Cows Come Home, the narrow, six foot-long, horizontal view captures a day in the life out in the “backcountry.” One lone cowboy sits perched as a sentinel while the herd flows like a lazy stream toward their pens.

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE PHOTO EXHIBIT AT LAFFERANDE GALLERY

Photos and story by Debra Magrann

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“That one is six or seven photos linked together,” explained Robbie. “I had it done by a guy out of Atlanta and he had to send it to Chicago where it was printed. It is on a type of billboard film that is weather-resistant and the colors will never fade,” he added.

Other scenes capture the tranquility of nature: a rainbow arching over the grasslands, spoonbills prancing and the majesty of birds of prey at rest. The scenery seems to pose for these photos; the effects of fog on a marsh was the subject of a misty morning moment and the fauna appear to be somewhat aware of the lens, making the relationship between artist and species a special one indeed. A giant gator resting its torso looks at the camera and snickers.
Main Street Fort Pierce Welcomes New Board Member Dana McSweeney

by Beth Williams

Dana M. McSweeney is the latest addition to the Main Street Fort Pierce Board of Directors. Dana has longstanding ties to Fort Pierce having worked in the community for nearly eighteen years. As Associate Vice President and Branch Manager of Seacoast National Bank’s U.S. 1 branch in Fort Pierce, Dana has seen a lot of positive changes in the community but has also seen the effects of the economic downturn on clients and friends.

“I’ve watched the magnificent work done by Main Street over the years and have a particular interest in the organization’s mission related to economic development,” says McSweeney. “I want to make a contribution toward helping to improve Fort Pierce to its potential greatness!”

While her day job at Seacoast includes new business development and working with existing clients, managing loan processes, and managing the branch staff, Dana says she’s always looking to have some fun. Along with husband Roy, and daughters Kaitlyn and Makayla, they enjoy the local beaches, spending time with family and friends, and as often as possible she and Roy enjoy dancing the night away.

Welcome to the Board Dana and thank you for your continued commitment to our beautiful community!

Downtown Hero: Sue Dannahower

by Camille S. Yates

It’s been said that 10% of the people do 90% of the work. Sue Dannahower falls into the 10% category. She is a mover and shaker in the Fort Pierce not-for-profit world working energetically for Main Street Fort Pierce, the Sunrise Theatre, the Boys and Girls Club and other local organizations.

Dannahower, who was raised in Fort Pierce and graduated from Fort Pierce Central High and Indian River Junior College, met her husband, Dan Dannahower, in 1975. She worked as a dental assistant for Dr. William Dannahower, her father-in-law, until Dan, a commercial pilot, was hired by United Airlines, and the couple moved to Chicago. They returned for a brief period to campaign for Dr. Dannahower’s successful run for mayor of Fort Pierce and later moved to Denver where they remained for 20 years.

As a self-starter and opportunist, Dannahower saw that the computer training market had great possibility for new jobs. She began in the computer industry as a marketing support representative and eventually became involved in training. She was the first person to become a WordPerfect certified instructor in the Western U.S. She started a computer training franchise which became successful, but Dan’s successful run for mayor of Fort Pierce and later moved to Denver where they remained for 20 years.

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In 2004, Sue and Dan moved back to Fort Pierce. Because she was used to filling every waking hour with an activity, she started volunteering for the Sunrise Theatre. She helped with a gala fundraiser before the theatre opened, and that is where she met Doris Tillman. Dannahower became a volunteer writer for the Main Street Focus and helped coordinate Main Street events.

Due to her leadership skills, Dannahower currently serves as Secretary of Main Street. Chairperson of the Sunrise Theatre Foundation, and Secretary to the Sunrise Advisory Board, a city board.

Dannahower is responsible for establishing two very successful programs at the Sunrise Theatre. At the request of Mayor Benton, she started a volunteer usher program at the theatre and now has approximately 150 ushers with 50 on the waiting list. She is responsible for coordinating and scheduling the ushers for all Sunrise performances.

Since she loves to teach, Dannahower initiated the Missoula Children’s Theatre Camps at the Sunrise. All three sessions were full this year. The Missoula Children’s Theatre Camp is a week-long residency that begins with an open group audition and culminates in two public performances.

Fifty to sixty students grades K-12, or a combination of these ages, are cast and well-rehearsed throughout the week, learning lines, songs and choreography to perform as an ensemble on the waiting list. She is responsible for coordinating and scheduling the ushers for all Sunrise performances.

Besides loving to teach, Dannahower is keen on cooking. She donates her time catering events for a few of her favorite non-profit groups such as the Boys and Girls Club, Fort Pierce Rotary Club, Manatee Center, Sunrise Theatre, and Main Street Fort Pierce.

In the last five years, Dannahower has contributed greatly to Fort Pierce. All of those who know her appreciate her drive and dedication to the organizations that she serves. Main Street Fort Pierce is honored to have Sue Dannahower as its December 2009 Downtown Hero.
Halloween Golf Tournament — A Ghoulish Time for All

by Pam Gillette

On Saturday, October 31, 2009, the ghosts and goblins (a.k.a. golfers) came out to play for the Main Street Fort Pierce and the Sunrise City Foundation Halloween Golf Tournament. Twenty teams showed up bright and early to tee off at Gator Trace Golf and Country Club to compete for prizes and to have a ghoulish good time.

Main Street Fort Pierce and the Sunrise City Foundation would like to give a big “Thank You” to our Haunting Host Sponsor TLC Cleaning, Restoration and Remodel. “This was a huge success!” said Linda Sampson, CEO of TLC. TLC Cleaning, Restoration and Remodel and TLC Carpet & Upholstery Care Restoration has serviced the Treasure Coast for more than 20 years and they are a supporter of Main Street Fort Pierce and the Sunrise Theatre Foundation. The first Halloween Golf Tournament was a resounding success thanks to TLC’s support.

After a morning of serious golfing, the Bad Boys of Mike Defrancesco’s Team came out on top with first place. Second place went to Conkling and Lewis Construction Team, and third place went to St. Lucie Medical Team. “Closest to the Pin” was won by Lori Hargrave; “Longest Drive” by Justin Kosis; and the “Putting Contest” by Perry Diamond.

Edgartown Revitalization Continues with Restoration of Coral House

by John Culverhouse

Downtown Fort Pierce’s Edgartown neighborhood has been going through a steady renaissance trend that includes the revitalization of many historic properties. One of those properties is the vibrant coral house located at 518 North Second Street, on the corner of North Second and Cedar Streets.

Keith Lustig, a teacher, and Matt Hurley, who works for a major trade publication, own the property, and their recent restoration of the property earned them the 2009 Gold Hammer Award for residential improvement from the City of Fort Pierce.

The property’s ownership traces back to Alexander Bell and his family in the 1880s. Bell’s family was one of only a few families that settled in Edgartown, present-day Fort Pierce’s first settlement. Elizabeth McCarty purchased the property in 1902. Elizabeth and her husband, Charles moved to Fort Pierce in the late 1800s. Charles was a lawyer and a fruit grower, and along with Elizabeth, owned many properties in the area. They were the grandparents of Daniel Thomas McCarty, Florida’s thirty-first governor.

The house, which Elizabeth McCarty built in 1910, was the home of a local fisherman and his family for a number of years. Several decades later, the McCarty family sold the property.

Keith Lustig and Matt Hurley purchased the property when they moved here from the Chicago area just over a year ago. They restored the home inside and out, repainting the exterior, replacing the roof, and a full-scale renovation of the garden. The home’s interior was restored while preserving much of the original interior, including the original windows and walls.

During the restoration, neighbors and complete strangers drove by, waved, and would yell thank you and give a thumbs up for the good work being done to the property. The home has separate entries for both the upstairs and downstairs, and was designed to contain rental units. The second floor might be used as a rental for out-of-town visitors who sail to the Fort Pierce City Marina and want to stay on land. There is a downstairs wall that can be made into an archway leading to the second floor, opening the possibility of a nice two-story home.

Lustig and Hurley are optimistic about Edgartown and Downtown Fort Pierce, pointing out the Backus House, and several other residences and businesses along Second Street that have recently been completed or are currently undergoing restorations.

“One day, our project will help serve as a catalyst for the rest of the neighborhood,” said Lustig. “Being able to live in Downtown Fort Pierce, and walk right from your house to restaurants, the Sunrise Theatre, Farmer’s Market, and Friday Fest is awesome.”

Lustig and Hurley are enthusiastic about the vision of Fort Pierce. “There is a lot of character here,” Hurley said. “We wanted to make a positive contribution to this neighborhood and an investment in Fort Pierce. Edgartown is going to be a great neighborhood again.”
Migration Matters!

by Lesley Vincent-Ryder

Migration means different things to different people. For sociologists, migration is the movement of persons from one country or locality to another, or a group of people migrating together (especially in a given time period).

To biologists and ecologists, migration is the periodic passage of groups of animals (especially birds or fishes) from one region to another for feeding or breeding purposes. Being a biologist, I will focus on animal migration, specifically manatees.

In Florida two things signal to me that winter is upon us: “snow-birds” from up north venturing to our warm slice of paradise for the season and more manatees! Manatees thrive in warm water. At temperatures below 68 degrees Fahrenheit, manatees stop eating, but they still breathe and move about. In anticipation of these migratory manatees, the boat ramps at Moore’s Creek close on November 15th and remain closed through March 31st to create a safe passageway.

In the winter, usually November through March, the manatee population is concentrated in southern Florida. As the northern water discharges. One of the most often asked questions here at the Manatee Observation & Education Center is “What will you see?”

Manatees also converge around power plant outfalls and warm-water discharges. One of the most often asked questions here at the Manatee Observation & Education Center is “What will you see?”

This is why they migrate to the coastal areas, rivers, canals and estuaries in Florida during winter. They especially prefer the slow-moving rivers and shallow coves and bays where there are warm springs and lush sea grass beds.

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1600, x 3071. Learn more about the Manatee Center, monthly events and special holiday events at www.ManateeCenter.com.
Diva Devoir
Christmas Recipes

Quiche is always a great breakfast option. Using store bought pie crust makes these tasty pies a simple alternative to the standard Christmas fare.

Mexican Quiche
1 frozen deep dish pie crust
1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
½ cup onion, minced
1 small can green chilies, drained
2 tomatoes, sliced thin
4 eggs, beaten
2 cups heavy cream
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Lay tomato slices evenly on the bottom of the pie crust. Sprinkle chilies, cheese, and onion in bottom of pie crust. Beat eggs and add the remaining ingredients. Pour into pie crust. Bake 15 minutes. Reduce the temperature to 300 degrees and bake 30 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serves 8.

Quiche Lorraine
Another one of my old standbys for Christmas breakfast.
1 frozen deep dish crust
12 slices bacon, fried
1 cup Swiss cheese, shredded
1/3 cup onion, minced
4 Eggs
2 cups heavy cream
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon sugar
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Sprinkle bacon, cheese, and onion in bottom of pie crust. Beat eggs and add the remaining ingredients. Pour into pie crust. Bake 15 minutes. Reduce the temperature to 300° and bake 30 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serves 8.
Ask a Professional:

**Question:** What is the benefit of having a financial advisor versus investing on your own?

**Answer:** A financial advisor can provide enhanced service through experience, breadth of investment support with respect to research, strategy, and products. Some do it yourself investors do not invest with a plan in mind; the approach is can be unstructured, speculative, and/or based on the investment flavor of the month. Financial advice is typically based on a plan, unemotional, unbiased, methodical, and continuously updated. The financial advisor creates and implements an investment plan, reviews results and measures the results against the plan and selective performance benchmarks. The financial advisor can also leverage the experience and capabilities of his or her firm.

**Question:** How can we simplify our finances and get the most out of our investments?

**Answer:** First and foremost develop a written financial plan. Having to write out a plan forces the individual to examine where they are financially, where they want to go, and how different decisions will affect the outcome. The financial plan and results should then be reviewed periodically. One might also want to consolidate their investment accounts with one financial advisor. At the very least, choose one individual who will have overall knowledge and input with respect to your investments and goals. Many times investors over-diversify with respect to advice and get numerous contradictory suggestions. This can cause information overload and in my experience, at times causes investor paralysis.

**Question:** How much savings should we have before we start investing?

**Answer:** This answer depends largely on the individual’s circumstances. The typical investor should have at least three to six months expenses held in cash or money market instruments.

**Question:** Should a person continue investing in their company’s 401(k) plan?

**Answer:** In most cases, the answer is a resounding yes. A good rule of thumb is to always pay yourself first. Saving monthly via a 401(k) contribution accomplishes just that and allows the individual to build a retirement nest egg over time with tax deferred growth potential. All contributions to a 401(k) are pretax with the exception of Roth 401(k) plans. These pretax contributions allow the employee to reduce their taxable income in the year they make a contribution. Numerous companies also provide matching contributions for participating employees so the company match is essentially free money. The recent market weakness over the last year and a half has made people question the wisdom of saving for retirement by contributing to 401(k) plans. Keep in mind that people saving for retirement ultimately seek to buy their investments at low prices with the intent of selling at a higher price at some future date. People not planning to retire in the short term have the ability to view market weakness as an opportunity to purchase long-term investments at attractively low prices which have the potential to increase in value over time.

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Creative Energy Blossoms at Studio 207

Photos and story by Debra Magrann

Tucked around the corner from the Sunrise Theatre is an upscale salon and spa that is the creative outlet for Andi Larroude, its owner and operator. Studio 207, at 207 Atlantic Avenue, is footsteps from City Hall and just a brisk walk from the waterfront.

Inside the converted law office, Larroude has whipped up a fashionable salon that is well-appointed with thrifty, repurposed finds and over-sized decorative pieces that blend to make for a contemporary style. The intimate interior spaces are home to a trio of stylists and a licensed medical esthetician – a highly skilled, professional team offering a variety of services in a family-friendly atmosphere.

Larroude, a Fort Pierce native, has a wealth of experience gleaned from her travels and has worked at some of the area’s best hair design studios. Trained at a San Francisco-area school of cosmetology, she has lived in Hawaii, California and West Palm Beach, prior to returning to Fort Pierce where she met her husband and is now raising a family of two small children. Motherhood has proven to be both a blessing and a challenge which brought about her venture into sewing. Being home for the first years after her second child was born, she needed an outlet for her creative energies. Sewing gave her the opportunity to express a talent that was dormant and birthed it into a blossoming sideline of stylish carry-alls and jewelry.

“I love my sewing,” stated Larroude who marketed her wares at the arts and crafts show at Fort Pierce’s Marina Square. “I did very well there.”

When she returned to hair styling, Larroude met co-worker Glynna Godbout and the two became fast friends. Soon the two were making plans for a new business which brought Larroude to the heart of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. “It all happened very fast,” she recalls. “I’m a big dreamer from a small town.”

After finding a location, she went to work remodeling the interiors from ceiling to floors and opened the doors in three weeks. The ability to set her own hours and do something her heart is into is gradually becoming a smart step for the trendy entrepreneur who is happy to create custom orders for any special occasion. Investing in the community is a priority, too. Studio 207 has been tapped to hold fundraising events to support non-profits.

The combination of beauty services with artistically crafted gift items makes for a one-stop, shopping experience for her clientele. As well as jewelry and handbags, there are organic soaps and lotions, Redken hair products and Pureology Colour Care, a eco-sensitive line of hair care that contains a blend of potent antioxidants and non-sulfate-based shampoos.

Not for women only, Studio 207 services range from cuts for women, men and children to full-process coloring and highlights, perms and conditioning. Other services include waxes, French manicures and pedicures.

For quality skin care, a select group of facials including European, glycolic/lactic and Jessner peels along with microdermabrasion treatments are available from Sharon Scalone by appointment.

Hours are Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., evenings and weekends by appointment only. Closed Mondays and holidays. Walk-ins are welcomed. To contact Andi Larroude at Studio 207, call 772/468.3005.
Holiday Charitable Giving Offers Tax Benefits

Submitted By: Jim O’Connor Vice President Financial Advisor CIMA® CFP®

With the holiday season just around the corner, now might be a good time to begin thinking about a year-end charitable gifting strategy. Show your appreciation to charities you admire while receiving tax savings and other benefits.

How do you develop a successful year-end gifting strategy? Here are a few suggestions:

§ Establish a clear goal for your gift-giving.
§ Compare the tax savings from different gifting options.

To help you start thinking about developing a strategy, we have provided some basic information about philanthropic gift-giving.

Giving To Charities

Most charitable gifts also provide you with a current year income tax deduction. There are several types of charitable beneficiaries, including public charities, pooled income funds, private foundations, donor-advised funds and Charitable Remainder Trusts.

Charitable Remainder Trusts: A Smart Way to Leave a Legacy

One effective and popular choice for individuals who wish to leave a lasting legacy to their favorite charity but also reap various financial benefits is the charitable remainder trust. In exchange for a future gift to charity, the charitable remainder trust provides you with several major tax and economic benefits. A charitable remainder trust allows you to:

§ Defer capital gains taxes.
§ Increase diversification and cash flow.
§ Receive a current-year federal income tax deduction.
§ Reduce future estate tax liabilities.

Remember, a charitable remainder trust is irrevocable. Assets in the trust eventually pass to charity, not to your family. You should work with your tax and legal advisors so that a charitable remainder trust, or any other year-end gifting strategy, fits into your overall estate plan. If it does, you could potentially enjoy significant tax and economic benefits as well as leaving a lasting legacy to your favorite charity.

For More Information: If you would like to learn more about year-end gifting, please write to: Jim O’Connor @Morgan Stanley Smith Barney 3525 Ocean Drive Vero Beach FL 32963 or call 772-231-3900.

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Congratulations to Main Street Fort Pierce, a 2010 GAMSA Semifinalist

The 2010 Great American Main Street Awards® (GAMSA) semifinalists have been selected from a nationwide pool of applicants and now move to the final round for consideration. The National Trust for Historic Preservation will present this year’s five winners at the Main Street Awards Ceremony during the National Main Streets Conference in Oklahoma City on May 4, 2010.

The National Trust Main Street Center’s annual GAMSA winners are recognized for their exceptional accomplishments in revitalizing the nation’s historic and traditional Main Street commercial districts by using the proven Main Street Four-Point Approach®.

The ten 2010 Great American Main Street Awards semifinalists are:
• Downtown Aledo, Aledo, Ill.;
• Main Street Columbus, Columbus, Miss.;
• Downtown Fairmont, Fairmont, W.Va.;
• Farmland Downtown Historic District, Farmland, Ind.;
• Downtown Ferndale, Ferndale, Mich.;
• Downtown Fort Pierce, Fort Pierce, Fla.;
• Downtown Lee’s Summit, Lee’s Summit, Mo.;
• Historic Downtown & Lower Town Arts District, Paducah, Ky.;
• Pontiac P.R.O.U.D., Pontiac, Ill.; and
• Downtown Rochester, Rochester, Mich.

The winners will be selected by a national jury composed of former award winners, community development professionals, representatives from government and foundations, and journalists who are active in community economic development and historic preservation.

“Community leaders and local volunteers have dedicated their time over many years to bring profound, positive change to their communities. These semifinalists have demonstrated a commitment to building sustainable, vibrant Main Streets with successful businesses and exciting events that can weather this recession,” said Doug Loescher, director of the National Trust Main Street Center. “They are models for others to follow.”

GAMSA semifinalists and winners demonstrate exemplary achievement in the process of strengthening their downtowns and commercial districts based on the following selection criteria:
• Active involvement of the public and private sectors;
• Broad-based community support for the revitalization effort;
• Quality of achievements over time;
• Innovative solutions to significant problems;
• Commitment to historic preservation;
• Evolving track record of successful commercial district revitalization;
• Comprehensive revitalization effort: activity in all four points of the Main Street Four-Point Approach® to commercial district revitalization;
• Economic impact of the revitalization program; and
• Successful small business development.

The 2010 Great American Main Street Awards are sponsored by Chesapeake Energy, one of the leading producers of natural gas in the U.S. and the most active driller of new wells in the country. The Oklahoma City-based company has long been in the forefront of promoting increased use of clean-burning, abundant and domestic natural gas.
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Lakewood Park
461.3000

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President, St. Lucie County
462.4100

Lynette Rodriguez
St. Lucie West
871.6683

Cheryl Regan
Port St. Lucie
878.1100

Donna Greene
Ohio Avenue
464.4900

Back Row:
Cooie Newman
Okechobee Road
466.1200

Crystal Nelson
Lakeside Center
878.3112

Diana Miskow
Regional Manager
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