New City Leaders Focused on Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

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Tom Perona, Commissioner see page 10
Eddie Becht, Commissioner see page 11
Robert Bradshaw, City Manager see page 12
Nick Mimms, Deputy City Manager see page 14

A Tribute to A.E. Backus see page 5

Clewiston by Jackie Brice
Happy New Year everyone! As Main Street Fort Pierce, we know that 2013 is going to be an eventful and positive year for our beautiful historic downtown district. One of the most encouraging signs for me personally was the opportunity to sit down with four of our six key city leaders in December and talk with them about goals for the future. We’ve included those interviews in this month’s Focus and I hope you’ll enjoy reading them.

City Manager Robert Bradshaw, Mayor Linda Hudson, and Commissioners Tom Perona and Eddie Becht all shared their passion for our city, their desire to celebrate all of the things that we have to be proud of, and their commitment to working towards improvements in areas that can make us an even better city. I appreciated their time and candor with me as they discussed their ideas to ensure this truly is the best place to live, work, and play. I did reach out to Commissioners Rufus Alexander and Reggie Sessions but did not hear back from them prior to our publication deadline. We will work to include them in a future edition of the Focus.

One of the common themes in each of my conversations was their appreciation for Main Street Fort Pierce and the role this organization has played in the past and will continue to provide in the future. But we couldn’t have accomplished any of the successes we’ve had on behalf of the district without our wonderful volunteers, donors, sponsors, and members. While the dynamic duo of Doris Tillman and Pam Gillette are the most committed and hard-working staff members any organization could hope for, they will be the first to say that without the dedication of our volunteers it would be impossible to realize so many successes for the city.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you all so much for the impact that you have had on Main Street’s ability to influence the improvements we’ve seen and for your commitment to the future. Together, and in partnership with city leaders, businesses, and residents, we will continue the momentum that makes Fort Pierce such a special place to call home.
A View Through the Hammock by Jackie Brice

January 23 to January 11, 2013: Holiday Art Festival.

January 16 to March 8: Tribute to Backus with Students of Backus — Opening Reception on Friday, January 16 from 6 to 8 p.m.; members free, guests $10.

January 27, Sunday: Noon to 4 p.m., Brunch & Auction at the Inn at Ocean Village.

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ART MUNDO
For more information, please call 766-0021 or visit www.artmundo.org

A Tribute to Backus: Honoring the Master Through the Work of His Students

Since A.E. "Bear" Backus, Florida’s seminal and most acclaimed landscape painter, passed away in 1990, the museum he founded has hosted an annual Tribute to Backus exhibition. Some of the nation’s finest Backus paintings, coming from a veritable who’s-who of Florida art collections, have graced the walls. This year, the museum has something different in mind. Rather than pay tribute to Backus by exhibiting his own works, of which there are an estimated 7,000, the Museum will instead exhibit the work of some of his most talented students. Backus’ generosity was legendary; he freely gave to all his time, his talent and his funds. The exhibit will pay visual homage to that generosity.

Generations of aspiring artists took up paint and brush in Backus’ studio, hoping to learn to emulate Backus’ subtle technique and mastery of light. Beginning in 1950 Backus welcomed literally hundreds into his studio. He shared freely of his philosophy on art and life. Rather than formal lessons, they were lessons by osmosis with artists soaking up the bohemian atmosphere, egalitarian environment and countless conversations on art, religion and philosophy. Backus encouraged his students to see things rather than simply look at them.

With Backus’ encouragement and gentle critiques, his students began to explore the subtle light and color values that define Floridiana. Not all students went on to become artists. Some took what they learned from Backus and found their own artistic voices as photographers, sculptors and painters of portraits and abstracts. The Museum’s exhibit will feature contemporary paintings from a small sampling of those whom Backus influenced to paint the Florida landscape, as well as selected paintings from the Museum’s collection of Backus students’ work.

Paintings in the exhibition will come from Florida Artists Hall of Fame inductee, Jackie Brice, Don D. Brown, Jackie Schindehette, Rick Kelly, Camille Ogden, Susan Campbell, Paul Arsenault, Judy Fuller and DeLorets Hucheson who recently passed away. These accomplished students have created works for purchase especially for this exhibit. Paintings from the Museum’s collection and private collections will highlight the artwork of Theres Knowles, Julie Enders, Tom Fresh, Leslie Szakacs, Duke Merwin and Bruce Tomlin. With so many students to choose from space was the exhibit’s only limiting factor.

On Exhibit: January 16 – March 8, 2013

Museum Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday.

A.E. Backus Museum
500 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, 772-465-0630, backusmuseum.com

Overflow parking behind the Museum in Veterans Memorial Park.

For additional information contact: Kathleen Fredrick, Executive Director, e-mail to director@backusmuseum.com.

MAIN STREET FOCUS january 2013

January 4, Friday: Friday Fest — Music & Entertainment by Anderson Council, 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Main Street Fort Pierce, 468-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.


ART MUNDO OPEN STUDIO, 5 p.m.

Sunday Fest — Art Bank open studio, 5 p.m.

Main Street Fort Pierce
500 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce
772-465-0630, backusmuseum.com

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

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ART MUNDO
For more information, please call 766-0021 or visit www.artmundo.org

A View Through the Hammock by Jackie Brice

Please call 462-3474 for more information or visit www.stlucieco.gov/marine_center.

For information, please call 489-6473 or visit www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

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

For information, please call 304-2791 or visit www.stlucieco.gov/marine_center.

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

For information, please call 766-0021 or visit www.fortpiercepal.com.

For more information, please contact Paul Pearson or Gabe Gonzales 772-460-0606.

For information, please call 414 Seaway Drive on South Beach.

For additional information contact: Kathleen Fredrick, Executive Director, e-mail to director@backusmuseum.com.

For information, please call 766-0021 or visit www.fortpiercepal.com.

For information, please call 462-1795 or visit www.stlucieco.gov/history.

For information, please call 462-1600, ex. 3333 or visit www.manateeecommunitycenter.com.

For information, please call 464-6775 or visit www.sunrisetheatre.com.

For information, please call 462-2787 or visit www.jazzsociety.org.

For information, please call 461-4775 or visit www.sunrisetheatre.com.
Meet Linda Hudson, Fort Pierce’s New Mayor

by Beth Williams

As a Fort Pierce native, newly elected Mayor Linda Hudson has a passion for our city. While she left as a young adult to graduate from the University of Florida, and later work with the American Medical Association and Illinois State Medical Society in Chicago, Fort Pierce has always been home.

“About two years after the death of my first husband, I returned to Fort Pierce in 1994 to take care of my ailing mother and sister,” says Mayor Hudson. “I began volunteering with various organizations such as the downtown library, Harbor Branch, and the Genealogical Society. She was appointed to the county’s Library Advisory Board and developed an interest in the workings of local government.

“I started attending the city’s budget meetings,” she says. “Back then it was staff and Commissioners in the room. I think they wondered who I was and why I was there.” Hudson began asking for the back-up materials being reviewed by the Commission so she could better understand the process and recommendations being made to the city commission. “I think they figured out I wasn’t going away.”

Hudson served on the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee in 2010 and 2011 before launching her campaign for Mayor.

Her personal experience as a volunteer is fundamental to her belief that citizen input and volunteerism on boards and other city activities is key to truly representing the citizens. “When we solicit input, it needs to be appreciated and utilized,” says Mayor Hudson. “We need citizens who are interested, will participate, and be knowledgeable about the issues. And when they do speak out, we as the City Commission need to take it to heart.” Hudson points out that when citizens aren’t involved, the commission makes decisions based on the information they have. “Many times, you don’t hear from the public until a decision is made and then there is an outcry. But if we receive input in advance, our decisions can better mirror what the constituency really wants.”

Along those lines, Hudson says a major goal is to ensure that what happens at city hall and throughout government is relevant to what’s happening in the community. “Our citizens shouldn’t have to connect the dots to get through processes such as permitting. That’s our job. I really want city staff to understand what it’s like to be in the private sector and work towards making things better for business.” Hudson says demonstrating a strong work ethic and ability to take actions that bolster a positive environment for business is vitally important for the growth of the city.

“Not only do we need to ensure a positive business experience, we need to have sound financial footing that provides a base for moving forward. As a city, we have debt that we have to deal with,” she says. “We have to keep expenses low — like taxes and utilities — so that businesses can thrive which increases revenues to the city. We need businesses to succeed in the city.”

Mayor Hudson says organizations like Main Street Fort Pierce play an important role as well. “Main Street has done an incredible job of gaining volunteer support for events and other promotional efforts that have a positive impact on the city. MSFP plays an important role in creating an environment and reputation that allows businesses to flourish. Working together we will continue to see good things happen in the city.”

Mayor Hudson married John Bailey in 1999. They have one son and three grandchildren who live in Vero Beach.
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Fort Pierce City Commissioner Tom Perona
by Beth Williams

While City Commissioner Tom Perona was born in Illinois, he's lived in Fort Pierce for over forty years and has seen a lot of change. “I moved to Fort Pierce in 1970 when my father re-located here to open an automobile dealership,” he says. Over the years, Perona has been involved in the local business community and has served on several city committees which eventually led him to a run for the Commission.

“I served on committees including the Civil Service Benefits Board and the Utilities Authority. I saw a large disconnect with the Authority and City and felt that I could help bring reso- lution to some of the issues impacting our citizens,” he said. “At the same time, we had a national economic downturn and knew the city was going to have to make some tough decisions and be resourceful in doing more with less while mitigating the impact on services for our residents. I wanted to bring my personal experiences with expense control to city government.”

Perona took office in 2010.

Looking to the future, Perona wants to see a bustling Second Street corridor. “I want businesses competing for space and shoppers looking for parking spots on a daily basis, not just during special events,” he said. “We’ve made tremendous progress downtown but we can build on that and re-energizing the business district is one of my top priorities.”

“Another key issue is building a seamless community,” he said. “I feel that Fort Pierce is an evolving city, but we won’t be dy- namic until we have better connections throughout the commu- nity, particularly between the northwest section and downtown. I want to see the Commission push towards that goal.”

Perona says that both of these goals are impacted by percep- tion. “We have incredible assets in Fort Pierce. We offer more public access to the waterfront — river and ocean — than most other communities. It really sets us apart. We have rail, water, turnpike and interstate access to the city,” he said. “But we need to do a better job of promoting ourselves both within the city and to non-residents so they know what a real treasure this community is. We need to really show off the crown jewel which is our historic downtown district.”

And finally, creating high paying, sustainable jobs that keep our children here or wanting to return after going away to col- lege is something that all local governments are focused on according to Perona. “Efforts such as build- ing on biotech and research developments can go a long way to helping achieve that goal,” he says.

The Commissioner says that Main Street Fort Pierce has played a major role in the improvements we’ve seen so far. “I can’t imagine any of these goals being achieved without Main Street Fort Pierce,” said Perona. “It is a proven fact that Main Street delivers. It is a valuable tool for everyone on the policy side.”

The Commissioner sees the organization as a vital sounding board and catalyst for getting things moving. “They are passionate about this city and I’m really glad they are here.”

In his third term on the Commission, Becht says that finding revenue sources for city services in these tough economic times is a key goal of his. “We need to identify sustainable revenue derived from as many different sources as possible so as not to ‘punish’ any one group,” he says. One third of the city’s revenues come from real estate taxes, another one-third from revenues generated by the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, and the remainder comes from a variety of fees and taxes. “The idea is to broaden our base so more people are paying in order to lighten the burden on everyone.”

Commissioner Becht says the city also needs to provide rational and market-sensitive benefits to all city employ- ees, especially our police officers. “Without this we will lose or be unable to retain competent and loyal employees, the backbone of city government services.” And like his fellow Commissioners, Becht says continuing to work on improving perceptions about the city is a key goal. “Changing the nega- tive perception of our fair city, to match the positive reality of work- ing, playing and raising a family in Fort Pierce is vital to good economic growth here.”

When asked what he sees as our city’s greatest assets, Becht rattles off a list that includes “our residents, IRSC, FAU, Har- bor Branch, Smithsonian, Research Park, our natural re- sources, the airport and port, proximity and geographical lo- cation to the majority of the growing population of Florida, and a viable transportation system (rail, automobile, and boat) connecting us to that population.” He points to events and places as another draw — Farmers’ Market, Friday Fest, Sun- rise Theatre, Black Box, Jazz Fest, Manatee Center, Backus Museum, and other seasonal family-friendly activities. Becht feels that our community’s cultural diversity, historic preserva- tion efforts, and a beautiful waterfront downtown are all assets that make our city unique.

When it comes to Main Street Fort Pierce, Becht says its involvement in revitalizing our downtown during its twen- ty-plus years in the historic district has been a key to the improvements we’ve seen over the last decade. “I sit as the city’s representative on the Board of Directors and I know first-hand the tireless efforts of that organization to make im- provements on behalf of the entire city,” he says. “Main Street Fort Pierce was really the driving force behind renovations of the Sunrise Theatre, old City Hall, and our entire downtown district. Raising private-sector dollars, finding state and fed- eral grants to help pay for the projects, and really rallying the private sector to support these improvements can be directly attributed to the folks at Main Street. We have one of the best organizations in the nation.”

Commissioner Becht and his wife, renowned local artist Colleen Nash-Becht, have two sons and a daughter.
Fort Pierce’s New City Manager, Robert Bradshaw
by Beth Williams

For Fort Pierce’s new City Manager, Robert Bradshaw, taking on the leadership role is a homecoming of sorts for him and wife, Alexandra. A sixth generation Texan by birth, the majority of his years of service with city and county government has been in Treasure Coast communities.

Bradshaw first came to Florida in the mid-90s and served as City Administrator for the City of Okeechobee. He then moved to Fort Pierce and worked as Assistant County Administrator for three years before moving to Indian River Shores where he served as Town Manager for eight years. With his daughter heading to college in Texas, the Bradshaws returned to their home state to be close to her. “When the position of City Manager for Fort Pierce opened, we jumped at the chance to return,” said Bradshaw. “We always loved this city and wanted to come back. I am very grateful to have been appointed to this position.”

Bradshaw says the strides made within the city over the last decade are “phenomenal.” He points to improvements made west of U.S. 1 along the Avenue D corridor, the commitment to Lincoln Park through its new Main Street organization, and the incredible gem that is the historic downtown district. “When you’ve been gone for a few years and return, the changes are obvious,” he said. “We have so many positive things going on; I want to keep things moving and build on the successes we’ve had over the last several years.”

Bradshaw acknowledges there are challenges facing our city just as there are in every city across the nation. But staying positive and appreciating what we do have rather than what we don’t have is key to keeping the momentum going. “Like every other municipality, we are facing a tough budget year and need to create a solid balanced budget without cutting services. We need to continue working with businesses and organizations like Main Street Fort Pierce and the Redevelopment Agency to build on economic efforts that strengthen local businesses and create jobs.” Bradshaw also sees a need to focus on intergovernmental relationships with other cities, the county, and institutions like IRSC to better utilize untapped resources that are already here in the community.

When it comes to Main Street Fort Pierce, Bradshaw says he’s amazed at the impact it has had on the historic district over the last 25 years. “What I see with the members of MSFP is great pride in our community and a drive to make things happen that continue to build on what they’ve already done.” Bradshaw points to the Sunrise Theatre and the role of MSFP in raising the initial funds for renovation as one of its biggest successes. He sees the Theatre and the more than 34 public events produced by the organization annually as a vital source that brings people from all over the region to our city which is a major economic force for local businesses.

“Main Street Fort Pierce is one of the best in the nation,” (referring to MSFP’s recent Great American Main Street Award) Bradshaw recalls during his stint with Okeechobee inviting Doris Tillman and other MSFP leaders to share expertise on how to begin improvements in that City. “Even back then, this organization was seen as a resource statewide for how to launch a program that would make a difference in the community.” Whether renovating historic homes like the Platts/Backus House which provides impetus for other neighborhood improvements or drawing thousands downtown for the monthly Friday Fest, he sees MSFP as an important element of the continued redevelopment and revitalization of the district.

“This city is a gem,” says Bradshaw. “We need to stay positive and be thankful for the assets we have while moving forward. That’s my goal — to build on the many successes this city has already seen and keep us on the right track to benefit all of our residents.”
Fort Pierce Native Becomes Deputy City Manager

Fort Pierce City Manager Robert Bradshaw recently announced that Nick Mimms, a 15-year city employee, has accepted the position of Deputy City Manager. Mimms began the position on December 24, 2012.

The Deputy City Manager position was advertised internally with three candidates applying. Bradshaw states, “Two of the three candidates had the strongest qualifications, whereby Mimms’ broad municipal government experience and filling the Interim City Manager position proved significant.”

Mimms will continue overseeing the Public Works Department and will handle special projects determined by the City Manager. “A city of this size with the opportunities and challenges needs to have a Deputy City Manager to provide support and keep us growing and moving in a positive direction,” states Bradshaw.

The new Deputy City Manager is a Fort Pierce native and is excited to continue working for his beloved city in this new capacity. “The City of Fort Pierce is filled with hard working people that are hospitable, caring, and kind. The efforts of previous leaders within this region have created a beautiful waterfront community with vast resources. Our vision is to capitalize upon our location, natural resources, and existing infrastructure to continue to revitalize the City of Fort Pierce and eliminate the negative perceptions that surround us,” states Mimms.

Nick Mimms believes Main Street Fort Pierce and the Lincoln Park Main Street have an integral role in this community and are partners with the municipal government of the City of Fort Pierce. He states, “The exposure and promotional activities of the two Main Street organizations have drawn residents and visitors to our commercial and historic districts creating economic growth for our businesses. The cooperation of these organizations should be an example for the future as we continue to strive for community unity that will improve our quality of life.”

Enjoy a Sunday in Key West — Right Here at Home

What do Ernest Hemingway, Mallory Square and six toed cats have in common? They can all be found while enjoying a lazy Sunday in Key West; and so can you. Join the Friends of the A.E. Backus Museum for a Key West style getaway right here at home. Come to the Museum's ocean side brunch on Sunday, January 27 from noon to 4 p.m., at the all new Inn at Ocean Village. Enjoy a lavish brunch buffet, flowing libations, unexpected surprises, outlandish characters and an incredible auction. One lucky guest will even take home an ounce of gold. That's right… solid gold.

No other area restaurant offers a better view of the beautiful Atlantic Ocean than the Inn at Ocean Village. What better way to turn your Sunday into a tropical getaway than to spend a Sunday in Key West supporting the arts? Get in the spirit of the event and dress in your favorite tropical apparel. Put on your flip-flops, don your straw hat and sip on a tropical cocktail while you help to support the Treasure Coast’s oldest arts facility. The Backus Museum was founded by A.E. ‘Bean’ Backus in 1960 and if there was ever someone who understood a casual good time, it was Bean Backus. There may even be a special appearance by the “ghost of Backus.” Just remember, what happens in Key West, stays in Key West.

Brunch attendees will have an opportunity to search for a bit of the Atocha’s gold. Who wouldn’t want to win an ounce of gold? In addition to the lure of golden treasure, there will be incredible, one-of-a-kind auction items to bid on. Six of the former students of Backus, including Don D. Brown, Jackie Schindehette, Rick Kelly, Camille Ogden, Judy Fuller and Paul Arnautuk, as well as other area artists, have created hand-painted furniture just for the event. No place on the wall for another painting? Not to worry — these little gems will surely find just the right place in your home. Museum supporters are creating incredible experiences for your bidding pleasure. You might enjoy a progressive dinner through St. Lucie Village or partake in an all-Florida wild foods adventure on the Adams Ranch. How about spending a long weekend with 10 of your friends or family in an oceanfront home in the sleepy town of Wabasso? There will be something to suit every taste and budget.

Pre-paid reservations are required so reserve your spot at the Sunday in Key West Brunch contact the A.E. Backus Museum at (772) 465-0630. Tickets are $45 for Museum members and $50 for non-members. The A.E. Backus Museum is a 501(C)3, not-for-profit arts organization. All donations are deductible as allowed by law.
2012 Sights & Sounds on Second Parade Winners

by Pam Gillette

Main Street Fort Pierce, the City of Fort Pierce, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Park’s Rental, Reliable Poly Johns, Scripps of the Treasure Coast, Seacoast National Bank, & Waste Management would like to thank the community for participating in the 24th Annual Sights & Sounds on Second Festival & Parade. This year’s parade had 77 participating organizations!

**Congratulations to the winners!**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1st Place</th>
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<td>Float</td>
<td>Fort Pierce Yacht Club</td>
<td>Tri-County Animal Hospital</td>
<td>Reach Community Church</td>
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<td>Life House Youth Center</td>
<td>Treasure Coast Vintage Car Club</td>
<td>Center State Bank</td>
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<td>Equestrian Group</td>
<td>Turn &amp; Burn 4-H Club</td>
<td>Spurs &amp; Stuff 4-H Club</td>
<td>Midnight Riders 4-H Club</td>
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<td>Center State Bank</td>
<td>Christopher Burns</td>
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<td>Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float)</td>
<td>American Legion Riders Post 318 Port St. Lucie</td>
<td>American Legion Honor Guard</td>
<td>St. Lucie Ballet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float)</td>
<td>Fort Pierce Utilities Waste/Water Department – Saint Lucie</td>
<td>American Legion Riders Post 318 Port St. Lucie</td>
<td>St. Lucie Ballet</td>
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<td>Best Music Performance/Marching Band</td>
<td>St. Anastasia Royal Ram Band</td>
<td>Fort Pierce Westwood FFA</td>
<td>Samuel Gaines Academy</td>
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<td>Best Governmental/Public Agency Entry</td>
<td>Fort Pierce Utilities Waste/Water Department – Santa</td>
<td>Fort Pierce Westwood FFA</td>
<td>Downtown Window Display Winners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Commercial Entry</td>
<td>The Cake Lady, Custom Cakes</td>
<td>Fort Pierce Utilities Waste/Water Department – Santa</td>
<td>1st Place Commercial Entry – The Cake Lady, Custom Cakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best St. Lucie School Entry</td>
<td>St. Andrews Episcopal School</td>
<td>American Legion Riders Post 318 Port St. Lucie</td>
<td>1st Place Governmental/Public Agency Entry – Fort Pierce Utilities Waste/Water Department – SANTA</td>
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<td>Best Dance/Cheer Group</td>
<td>St. Lucie Ballet</td>
<td>Fort Pierce Westwood FFA</td>
<td>1st Place Boy Scout/Cub Scout Group – Cub Scouts Pack 479</td>
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<td>Best Commercial Entry</td>
<td>The Cake Lady, Custom Cakes</td>
<td>American Legion Riders Post 318 Port St. Lucie</td>
<td>1st Place Girl Scout/Brownie Group – Girl Scout Council SE</td>
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**Downtown Window Display Winners**

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<th>1st Place</th>
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<tr>
<td>Champy’s House ‘O Flowers</td>
<td>Office Products &amp; Services</td>
<td>Trew &amp; Sons Jewelery</td>
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Save the Date for next year’s 25th Anniversary Parade, Sunday, December 1, 2013!
Main Street Fort Pierce Golf Tournament & Beer Bash

Hurricane Sandy decided to pay Fort Pierce a visit on October 29th pushing the Main Street Fort Pierce Halloween Golf Tournament and Beer Bash to November 18, 2012. Main Street Fort Pierce would like to thank all the sponsors, players, volunteers, Beer Bash Babes and Gator Trace Golf Club for supporting this year’s tournament. Here are the results of the tournament:

1st Place: Team Uncle Carlos Gelato
Carlo & Stacy Sacco, Kimberly Clarizio, & Gary Gillette

2nd Place: Team Stephens
Keith Stephens, Jerry Carl, Sidney & Willie Jerger

3rd Place: Team Budweiser
KJ Johnson, Billy Padrick, Paul Raymond, & Nick Sama

Longest Drive: Stacy Sacco

Putting Contest: Kyle Holman

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Thank you to our Tee Sponsors
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Thank you to Fire Equipment Services for donating a Basket worth $200.00 for the putting contest and to Staci from The Cake Lady for providing cupcakes for all the players.
Home is Where the Art Is — Art Mundo’s FUN Fund Raising Events

by Holly Theuns

Do you enjoy going out on a Saturday night, having great food and drinks, meeting old and new friends who share your interest in the arts? If this is something you enjoy then join us for Art Mundo’s upcoming series of exciting fund raising events which take place in the homes of local art collectors. Each event is very different and will continue the tradition of a great night out! Previous hosts who shared their homes and art include Doug Macon, Jon Ward, Dan and Sue Dannahower, Kathy and Yogi Krueger and Gus and Janvier Miller.

Here is the spring lineup: The January “Home is Where the Art Is – Art on the River” will be Saturday, January 26th, at Kenn and Cary Schott’s beautiful White City home and garden. A short pontoon jaunt is included from their dock. The food and beverage will have a Mexican theme and the art collection includes Highwaymen and work by Cary and her family. The event is limited to 20 people and the cost is $60 per person. Please make your reservations on line at www.artmudo.org.

The February “Home is Where the Art Is – Art at Historic Casa Caprona – a Progressive Evening.” This will be Saturday, February 9th from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., and includes a progressive evening at the Historic Casa Capron located at the corner of St. Lucie Boulevard and 25th Street on the northwest side of Fort Pierce. The evening will start with cocktails on the front lawn and an overview of the history of this 1926 building which is listed on the Historic Register. Hos d’ oeuvres will be served in the home of Edgar and Vicky Straeffer, Apartment #4. Edgar Straeffer is a well-known landscape artist, and the Straeffer’s collection also includes the work of other local artists. Be sure and ask Vicky and Edgar about their recent five year adventure traveling as the band for the Kelly Miller Circus – you know there are some stories there.

The evening continues with the main course enjoyed in Apartment #1, the home of mosaic artist Anita Prentice. Ani-ta’s collection of mosaic portraits of Zora Neale Hurston will be on display in addition to the art collection she started when she owned the Rue d’ Art Gallery in Jensen Beach in the 1980s. Next, on to Apartment #6 – “The House of Mochachino” – home to fashion designer Sabre Mochachino and Chris Wilkes, writer, as well as, Mochachino collaborator and educator – will be the location for the evening’s dessert finale.

This evening will be as much about history as it is about art. The Casa has been the home to many musicians, artists and writers throughout its 87 years. The writer and painter Julie Enders, of “Arts About Town” fame, lived for many years in Apartment #2 – now the home of Anita’s mother Dru Merrill. Visit the website www.artmudo.org to reserve a space in the February “Home is Where the Art Is – Art at Historic Casa Caprona – a Progressive Evening.” Tickets are $60 per person and include food, drink, art tours and stories in three Casa Caprona apartments. The event is limited to 26 people so please reserve your spot early to avoid disappointment.

Joel and Deena Wynne are opening up their tree house home to Art Mundo’s March “Home is Where the Art Is – Art in the Tree House.” The evening at the Wynne’s is planned for Saturday, March 16th, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Joel and Deena have an eclectic contemporary art collection. This evening is $100 per person and limited to 20 people – so please make your reservations early at www.artmudo.org – this event is guaranteed to sell out.

Additional details about this event will be available on the website. Please plan to join us for one or more of these FUN Fund Raising Events: Saturday, January 26, 2013 – “Home is Where the Art Is – Art on The River.” Hosts: Kenn and Cary Schott. Saturday, February 9th, 2013 – “Home is Where the Art Is – Art at Historic Casa Caprona – a Progressive Evening.” Hosts: Edgar and Vicky Straeffer; Anita Prentice; Sabre Mochachino and Chris Wilkes.

Art Mundo is a center for creative expression located at 111 Orange Avenue in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please visit our website www.artmudo.org to find out about upcoming shows, calls to artists, classes and special events. Our phone number is 772-766-0021.
The Flower Patch Moves to US 1 in Fort Pierce

The Flower Patch TLC has been in Fort Pierce for 31 years. In December, the Flower Patch moved to a new location at 300 S. US 1, Fort Pierce.

Whatever your floral needs the Flower Patch has it for you. They specialize in home décor, weddings, special events and gourmet baskets. They carry silks arrangements as well as live indoor plantings. Cynthia or one of her staff will be happy to go to your home or business to assist with making plants a part of your décor or will set up a monthly maintenance plan to take care of your existing home or office plants.

Cynthia said that the move to the new location offers more accessible parking for her customers the Flower Patch has also added a new feature to their business — airbrushed t-shirts. Stop by the Flower Patch and check out their new location or call today for a special arrangement at 772-466-3540.

New Year, New You

by Joanne Augusto, Owner, Nutrition World

Many of us choose the New Year to turn over a new leaf. Smokers vow to kick the habit for good this time. Self-appointed shop-a-holics decide to mend their ways and their wallets. Most of us, who indulge in unhealthy food and beverages on a regular basis, wholeheartedly hop on the latest diet fad. Then there’s those who simply decide it’s time for a change, time to start a whole new and improved healthy lifestyle. The New Year symbolizes the birth of hope, and the renewal of life! As for me, moving forward I am choosing to take an exciting journey of exploration, communication, acceptance, forgiveness, and unconditional love for everyone in my life including myself (which could be the most challenging yet rewarding experience and accomplishment of all!)

I am one of those people who have decided it’s time for an overall change. Time to let go of the past (being totally honest, is not so easy to do), forgive myself (again not a very common practice) and begin again! By choosing to change the thoughts, beliefs and habits (internally and externally) that have occasionally weighed me down and not always served me well. I have decided it’s time, my time, to take life changing action to achieve the life I truly desire by embracing my purpose for wellness and restoring my health and vitality, naturally.

I am inviting you all to do the same … how ready are you to listen to your desires, renew your hopes and dreams and see the world, your world not as it is, but as it could be? How ready are you for change? “When we change the way we look at things, the things we look at begin to change.” ~ Dr. Wayne Dyer.

Now of course I’m getting help with this journey. I’ve recruited the assistance of a Lifestyle and Motivational Coach, Annette M. Robbins. She has also committed to offering inexpensive workshops at the store. Naturally I will always have Bach Flower Rescue Remedy on hand for the “emotional moments.” I am also taking cordyceps, for the internal energy for my body to keep up with what my mind wants to do!

If you are the parent of a child that has played sports in Fort Pierce you are familiar with Varsity Sport Shop. Mike Picano Sr. decided to open the sports shop after being let go from the LA Dodgers in 1972. Over the next 40 years, he made it his goal to bring all sports to the children of St. Lucie County, until his passing in October 2011.

I stopped by the new location of Varsity Sport Shop, at 211 Orange Avenue and spoke to Mike Picano Jr. I went there to interview him on the move to downtown Fort Pierce and instead I was caught up in the Picano family history and their passion for the community. With pride in his voice, Mike Jr. spoke often of his father and the accomplishments he had made in his life. Mike Sr. was the founder of Pop Warner in St. Lucie County, coached baseball at John Carroll and Babe Ruth, he was treasurer for Fort Pierce Little League, and served on many athletic boards and booster clubs. He played baseball at the University of Florida and later started and served as the President of Gator Club in Fort Pierce. He was very active in the community and wanted to pass this on to his son.

Mike Picano Jr. was raised at Varsity Sport Shop. After high school, he attended FSU (which probably crushed his father) and then moved to Colorado. After receiving a call from his father, Mike Picano Jr. returned back to Fort Pierce and Varsity Sports Shop. He told me that his father once said “You will never become a millionaire owning a sports shop, but you will always have a job in the community.” Mike Picano Jr. wants to keep the family traditions alive, but with one big change — location.

After 40 years of being off Okeechobee Road, Varsity Sport Shop is now in downtown Fort Pierce. On December 1, 2012 after celebrating the shops 40th anniversary, they began packing up and moved to 211 Orange Avenue. Mike is excited about being downtown and how he can help show people the beauty of Fort Pierce. He believes that Varsity Sport Shop brings a large number of people into their shop and he wants everyone to see what Fort Pierce has to offer.

Come on down to the new location of Varsity Sport Shop. The shop specializes in custom trophies, plaques & awards. They do custom embroidery t-shirts, jackets, and uniforms for all team sports and schools. They carry sports apparel and accessories. With Anytime Fitness right down the street, the shop is planning to expand the inventory to include cross fit training apparel. “Everything is done on site,” says Mike and “We pride ourselves in having orders ready on time, perfect the first time and service after the sale.”

Varsity Sport Shop is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., closed on Sundays. You can check out the website at: www.variessportshop.com or call the shop at 772.465.1396.

Special Note: When Mike told his Grandmother about the new location, she told him that the upstairs was a Speakeasy in earlier times. Main Street is looking forward to another article on the history and the interesting stories the building holds.
Fitness for the New Year
by Angel Lugo, Anytime Fitness Manager and Personal Trainer

Everyone wants to look and feel their best. January 1st — holidays are over and the New Year begins. It’s time to stop thinking and start doing what you have been putting off. Move forward this New Year, grab hold of your resolutions and make a lifestyle change at Anytime Fitness of Fort Pierce.

At Anytime Fitness of Fort Pierce, General Manager and Head Trainer Angel Lugo thinks making changes is easy if someone will help you through the process. Angel has been in the fitness field as a personal trainer for the past seven years. One of his personal goals is to help as many people possible achieve their personal goals. He believes every day is new day. All you need to do is take the first step and walk through the door.

If toning or getting healthier is your goal, Anytime Fitness of Fort Pierce offers a full facility with a wide variety of cardio, strength training and free weight equipment to ensure your best workout possible. As a new member you will receive a free fitness consultation. A certified personal trainer will go over your health history, body assessment, and discuss personal goals, exercise form, safety, and a workout.

If you want a challenge, Anytime Fitness of Fort Pierce has classes that are included with your membership. They offer classes, Zumba Gold, Tuesday and Thursday from 10-11 a.m., Zumba Fitness Thursdays from 6-7 p.m., and if you want an intense full body workout, try Ripped & Lean with Angel on Monday 5:30-6:30 p.m. and Wednesday 5-6 p.m. We also have a Yoga group that meets on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Anytime Fitness of Fort Pierce is a National/International franchise and has many things to offer members. Members are provided an account to Anytime Health website. Website tools include nutritional plans, exercise videos, and health information. After 30 days, full memberships can use any of their facilities around the country and world. In January 2013 the gym is offering a discounted personal training rate.

If you just want to try us out, stop in, and get a free 7 day pass to visit the club, get a tour and check out our equipment and classes. Anytime Fitness of Fort Pierce is located at 111 Orange Avenue in downtown Fort Pierce, or contact Angel (Manager/Personal Trainer) or Veronica (co-owner) at 462-2348 for membership options. Don’t wait to start New Year 2013 resolution, start your journey with Anytime Fitness of Fort Pierce.

Healthy Spinach Rollups

by Sue Dannahower

Leafy green vegetables like spinach provide more nutrients than any other food. One cup of cooked spinach provides more than 100% of the daily recommended values of Vitamins K & A as well as high percent of over twenty additional vitamins and minerals. Also, spinach contains flavonoid compounds that function as anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer agents.

Fresh vs. Frozen: Fresh is always best. However, when in a crunch I substitute frozen NOT canned. Fresh spinach should be boiled for 1 minute to free up acids; this brings out a sweeter taste.

While spinach won’t make you super strong the minute you eat it, as it did for Popeye, it will promote your health and vitality in many other ways.

Spinach Rollups

12 uncooked whole wheat lasagna noodles, cooked and drained
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup part skim ricotta cheese
1 cup 2% cottage cheese
2 cups shredded part skim mozzarella cheese
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
1½ pounds fresh spinach leaves or 10 ounces frozen chopped spinach
1 tablespoon dried dill weed
Salt & Pepper to taste
4 cups homemade spaghetti sauce or 1 jar (32 ounces) spaghetti sauce

*If you need meat, like I do, to round out your meal; fry ½ pound of lean sausage or ground beef, drain on a paper towel & squeeze out excess fat, then add to spaghetti sauce.

In a 4 quart pot bring water to a boil. Add spinach and boil 1 minute. Drain & cool. Squeeze out excess water by wrapping spinach in a kitchen towel and twisting over the sink.

In a large bowl, combine the eggs, cheeses, spinach, salt, pepper and dill. Spread ½ cup cheese mixture over each noodle, carefully roll up. Pour 1 cup spaghetti sauce into an ungreased 13-in. x 9-in. baking dish. Place roll-ups seam side down over sauce. Top with remaining sauce. Bake, uncovered, at 375° for 20-25 minutes or until heated through.

Uncooked rollups freeze well. Serves 6 (serving size is 2 rollups).
Marina Update …

Tern Island perimeter connections and armoring should be completed on November 16th. This connection will prepare the western half of Tern Island for internal sand filling operations which started on November 20, 2012.
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Friday: prime rib & red wine specials. 20% off select bottles of wine.
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Sunday: Enjoy live music 1-4. Choose our in-house fish dip or po’ boy and eat shrimp & two Bloody Mary’s for just $17.

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Thursday, January 24 at 7pm

2013 Happy New Year

Teatro Lirico di Roma's
The Barber of Seville
Saturday, January 26 at 8pm

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Sunday, January 27 at 7pm

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