Summer Fun in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

by Beth Williams

With the beginning of June we get to usher in another wonderful Fort Pierce summer! Main Street Fort Pierce staff and volunteers are busy planning a fantastic two-day July 4th celebration that will tie Independence Day to our monthly Friday Fest. It will be a downtown extravaganza that includes fireworks, entertainment and all of the festivities you’ve come to expect from one of MSFP’s public events. We hope you’ll plan on spending that red, white, and blue holiday with us in the historic district.

Each month I have the opportunity to talk about some terrific events that MSFP has put together to draw visitors to the heart of our city; and each time I am grateful for the number of volunteers and supporters that allow our organization to successfully present these fun, family oriented festivals. Without our members, volunteers, donors, sponsors, vendors, and attendees, none of our efforts would bring the results you see downtown throughout the year.

For those of you who are already members, I want to thank you for your continued support. For those of you who haven’t joined yet, I want to invite you to become a part of this great organization. To join fill out the membership form in this month’s Focus and send it in. We’ll welcome you with open arms!
Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic, Downtown Fort Pierce!

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

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SUNRISE THEATRE
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MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER
For information, please call 466-1600, ex. 3333 or visit www.manateecenter.com.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER
For information, please call 462-1795 or visit www.stlucieco.gov/history.

Legend: Sites in St. Lucie County have been added to the displays at the Regional History Center.; 414 Seaway Drive on South Beach. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY MARINE CENTER
Please call 462-3474 for more information or visit www.stlucieco.gov/marine_center

A.E. BACKUS MUSEUM
For information, please call 465-0630 or visit www.backusmuseum.com.

Indian Hills Junior Golf Summer Camp
June 17th – July 5th. Ages 9 to 15. Three sessions per week at a cost of $202 per session. Golf clubs are available for those who may not have their own. Call the golf shop at 465-8110 for details and registration form.

Calendar

June 7, Friday: Friday Fest — Music & Entertainment by The Ohana Band; 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

June 12, Wednesday: Art Wednesday at Art Bank — Art Mundo Open Studio, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.; The ArtBank at 111 Orange Avenue; Artmundo.org@gmail.com; 766-0021, www.artmundo.org.

June 22, Saturday: Treasures in the Town — Downtown Fort Pierce 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Treasure Coast Art Association, 335-3776, www.treasuresintown.com.

WEAKLY EVENTS
Tuesdays: Weight Watchers Meetings — 5:30 p.m. at Anytime Fitness; 461-2348.

Wednesdays: Fort Pierce Green Market & Food Co-Op — 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Marina Food Co-Op Wednesdays: Rinelli’s Yellowtail Restaurant, 466-5474.

Thursdays: St. Lucie Junior Golf Summer Camp — Indian Hills Junior Golf Summer Camp June 17th – July 5th. Ages 9 to 15. Three sessions per week at a cost of $202 per session. Golf clubs are available for those who may not have their own. Call the golf shop at 465-8110 for details and registration form.

FORT PIERCE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

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

T’ai Chi Classes: Every Tuesday 9 a.m. with T’ai Chi instructor, Charlie Ottesen; $10 per person; Free beginners T’ai Chi Classes: Every Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

FORT PIERCE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

Save the Date – July 4th and Friday Fest

Stars Over St. Lucie: City of Fort Pierce, Main Street Fort Pierce, Cobb’s Landing and the Original Tiki Bar will come together on Thursday, July 4, to present Stars Over St. Lucie – a 4th of July Celebration at Fort Pierce City Marina Square on Melody Lane. We are proud to partner with these businesses to bring to the community together for a night of great music, food, arts, crafts, children’s activities and a dazzling fireworks display.

Cobb’s Landing & the Original Tiki Bar and Restaurant will sponsor live entertainment on stage from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The festival kicks off at 4:00 p.m., rain or shine, with a live band (to be announced). On stage from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. will be Ben “One Man Band” Prestige. Ben’s interesting approach to instrumentation, finger-style guitar, harmonica, banjo, lap-steel, fiddle, resonator guitar, foot-drums, vocals, and his award-winning original songwriting has earned him invitations to perform across North America, Europe, and as far as North Africa. All awards aside, he has proven himself through his live performances, to be the future of American Blues, Roots Music, Americana and is one of today’s most talented outsiders. He will definitely leave you blown away and screaming for more.

The fireworks, sponsored by the City of Fort Pierce, begin at approximately 9:00 p.m. Come early to find your spot to watch the fireworks shine bright over the beautiful Indian River. The fireworks, sponsored by the City of Fort Pierce, begin at approximately 9:00 p.m. Continue your evening with a nightcap at the Original Tiki Bar, Restaurant. They will have live music from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Party with Wondeorman—a band with Pop, Top 40 and classic party sounds. Jackie O’Connell, Jordan Dupree, Jesse Lee, Stephen Dupree, and Bradley Watts from West Palm Beach will have you dancing in the aisles. All in

Main Street Fort Pierce (772) 466-3880.
Back to the Future: Train Stops in Fort Pierce

The following was published in the Florida Star, a Titusville newspaper, February 2, 1894:

Flagler Railroad Opened to Fort Pierce: Monday marked the opening up of the East Coast Route by rail as far south as Fort Pierce. The south-bound afternoon trail, leaving here at 4:03, makes the through run to Fort Pierce, arriving there at 7:55. There is no change in the former schedule north of Rockledge. The through train from the south leaves Fort Pierce at 7:30 a.m., arriving at Rockledge 10:30, and at Titusville 11:27.

South Florida was later than most other areas of the country to be reached by rail. Prior to the building of the railroad, the only way to reach Fort Pierce was by water.

Over a hundred years later, Fort Pierce is about to see a renaissance in rail traffic that could mean stops in Fort Pierce. A Fort Pierce stop is definite if AMTRAK funding is realized. In another development, All Aboard Florida, a private high-speed rail project between Miami and Orlando, will increase the number of trains by about 15 per day. Fort Pierce is working with the All Aboard Florida group to arrange for some of these north and south bound trains to stop in Fort Pierce. Further into the future, the Tri-Rail that currently runs between Miami and West Palm Beach could be extended to Jupiter and then beyond that to Fort Pierce.

Three opportunities now exist for Fort Pierce to become a rail transportation hub in the future. What is absolutely necessary for these important developments is for Fort Pierce to be ready with a train station. After all, the train can’t stop if there is no station. The City Commission has taken that first step and allocated transportation impact fees to design a station within the current parking garage. This is an attractive spot because the City owns the garage property and also property on Depot Drive directly east of the parking garage.

What does having a train stop in Fort Pierce mean? The economic impact would mean more jobs and an increase in travelers to Fort Pierce. With ten to fifteen thousand workers commuting south from St. Lucie County daily, the rail stop would provide an alternative to the automobile. Area attractions would see an increase in visitors and Indian River State College would be a very attractive higher education destination for students along the rail line.

The rail stops could make Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County the transportation hub for the Treasure Coast region. You could say we’re taking a step back to the future with our excitement about the possibility of rail stops. About 120 years ago, the railroad first came to Fort Pierce; in the coming years, we could be a new-age railroad town again.

Mayor’s Message — Back to the Future: Train Stops in Fort Pierce

by Mayor Linda Hudson

Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation Summer Sailing Schedule

Let’s go sailing! The Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation has announced the schedule for its seventh season of summer sailing classes, starting June 10 at Jaycee Park in Fort Pierce. One week beginner and advanced sailing classes are offered for children 7 to 14 years of age. Those applying for beginner class must be able to swim and have their own life vest.

Instruction is given by Captain Jaye Melanson and Jim Al exander, both certified sailing instructors, in Oppi prams provided by the Foundation. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Each class is limited to 10 students, but students may apply for multiple classes. Cost for a one-week class is $210, and lunches can be added for $25. A limited number of free tuitions are available for children from qualifying low income families. Applications for class reservations and financial aid are available on the Foundation’s web site: www.tcysf.homestead.com. Applications may be completed on the web site, then e-mailed to the Foundation, or printed and mailed, to reserve a class.

The Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit public charity sponsored by the Fort Pierce Yacht Club and the City of Fort Pierce. It is supported by tuition fees and donations by individuals and businesses on the Treasure Coast. All donations are tax deductible. For more information call 772-971-8350 or 772-465-7720, or go to www.tcysf.homestead.com.

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2013 Reader’s Choice Fort Pierce Winners & Favorites

by Sue Dannahower

Sponsored by Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, this year’s winners were chosen by their readers. With over 100,000 votes, Historic Downtown Fort Pierce was a winner in a multitude of categories. Main Street Fort Pierce’s Friday Fest is the proud winner of the Local Event Category. Friday Fest is the longest running street festival and a favorite of local resident and visitors alike. Friday Fest is held on Melody Lane in Downtown Fort Pierce, along the waterfront, on the first Friday of every month. Folks get together for food and beverages, entertainment, arts and crafts, and much more. On Friday, May 3rd, Main Street Fort Pierce celebrated the kickoff of our 25th year. For more information call (772) 466-3880 or visit our website at mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Listed below are the Historic Downtown Fort Pierce Winners and Favorites. Congratulations to Main Street Fort Pierce sponsors outside of Downtown Fort Pierce: Archie’s Seabreeze, Chuck’s Seafood, Gator Trace, Louden Pools, Michelle Miller – Miller’s Insurance, Nelson’s Family Farms, On the Edge, Publix, Roy’s Liquors, Seacoast National Bank, Spunky’s Surf Shop, TLC Expert, Wada Wash, and White’s Tackle Shop.

LOCAL EVENTS
Friday Fest – Winner
Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market – Favorite

PERFORMING ARTS
Sunrise Theatre – Winner

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS
Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market – Favorite

CHARTERED FISHING BOAT
Fort Pierce Lady – Winner

ASIAN RESTAURANT/SUSHI
Bangkok Downtown – Winner

BREKKFAST
Captain’s Galley – Favorite

DESSERTS
Uncle Carlo’s Gelato – Favorite

FRENCH RESTAURANT
Brewer’s Café – Winner

FRESH MARKETS
Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market – Favorite

CAKES
Vera’s Delicious Cupcakes – Favorite

CARPET
Louden Floors – Winner

DEPARTMENT STORE
Louden’s – Winner

DRUG STORE
Rite Aid – Winner

FURNITURE
Jones Furniture – Winner

GARDEN CENTER
Waddell Nursery – Winner

GROCERY
Publix – Winner

HAIR SALON
Roberto’s – Winner

CITRUS COMPANY/FRUIT STAND
Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice – Favorite

AUTO SERVICE & OIL CHANGE/TIRES
St. Lucie Battery & Tire – Winner/Favorite

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION
PNC Bank – Winner

FLORIST
Chaney’s House O’Flowers – Favorite

GIFT SHOP
Sentiments – Winner

INTERIOR DESIGN COMPANY
Karen Kane Interiors
**Fort Pierce Toastmasters Hosts Open House at Riverwalk July 18**

*by Ellen Gillette*

At some point in almost everyone’s life, a public speech will need to be made: at a funeral, a work presentation, PTO, a wedding. The possibilities are endless. For many people, these possibilities are surrounded with fear. In fact, fear of public speaking consistently ranks high on lists of common phobias.

Fortunately, there is a group in downtown Fort Pierce dedicated to transforming that particular area of weakness into a personal strength. One of eleven Toastmasters Clubs from Vero to Stuart, Fort Pierce Toastmasters meets twice a month at Riverwalk Center, 600 North Indian River Drive, on the first and third Thursdays of the month from noon until 1:00 p.m. at Riverwalk. The public is invited to see how the meetings operate in a relaxed atmosphere; refreshments will be served. New members who join that day will receive a special discount on membership fees. For more information, please call Ed Cox, (772) 466-1600 ext. 3250.

Fort Pierce Toastmasters is the local chapter of a much greater organization known worldwide as Toastmasters International, a nonprofit dedicated to teaching and helping its members to develop leadership and public speaking skills. There are 13,500 clubs throughout 116 countries, all of which share the goal of empowering individuals to become better communicators and leaders.

“At our semi-monthly meetings,” says Mika, “members are given the opportunity to plan, prepare, and practice speaking in front of a small group. Each person’s skills develop at their own pace through mentoring and effective encouraging evaluations.”

**The Passing of Legend Ossie Wright Jr.**

*by Darryl Bey*

The Treasure Coast has lost a true musical legend but with his passing we have been given an abundant legacy of music. On April 21, the Treasure Coast lost one of its most talented musicians, Ossie Wright Jr. Ossie Wright was a seasoned professional jazz pianist who traveled throughout the U.S. and Europe performing at storied festivals and venues. Like many jazz greats Ossie Wright began his love affair with the piano as a classically trained artist at Florida State University’s school of music, which is regarded as one of the best classical music programs in the South.

Ossie’s musical talents included a broad variety of musical styles including contemporary and traditional gospel, jazz, classical, popular, Latin, and R&B music and was well known throughout the Treasure Coast for his musical talent on the piano, organ and keyboards. He managed the Groove Division Band, a versatile group of musicians who in 1997 – 1998 won the Black Entertainment Television (BET) International Jazz Competition. The Groove Division Band was also a Main Street Fort Pierce Friday Fest favorite.

Ossie Wright was a profoundly effective educator who taught in the Indian River County School system for 35 years. Ossie also instructed and mentored many students and adults in their musical pursuits, many who are performing artists around the Treasure Coast.

Ossie was an original member and the musical director of the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society for more than 5 years performing and directing many local jazz & blues events. Ossie’s passion for music was intoxicating and his ability to connect with musicians was uncanny. Ossie was my friend and associate for more than 18 years. He was a soft spoken man of few words who let his musical abilities speak volumes for him. We have truly lost a legend that left us an abundance of memories and lessons for life.
Be Prepared this Hurricane Season

by Sue Dannahower

National Hurricane Preparedness Week 2013 ran from May 26th through June 1st. The first forecast for the 2013 hurricane season doesn’t look much different than what happened in 2012. Experts predict the Atlantic basin can expect 18 named storms. Last year for the season that runs from June 1 to November 30, there were 19 named storms, nine of which attained hurricane strength. Even though we haven't felt the force of a strong storm for seven years we need to be reminded of the 2004 hurricanes that devastated the area.

Lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common among all major hurricane disasters. Knowing your vulnerability and actions you should take, can reduce the effect the hurricane has on you and your loved ones.

Hurricane hazards come in many forms, including storm surge, heavy rainfall, inland flooding, high winds, tornadoes, and rip currents. The National Weather Service is the organization responsible for protecting life and property through issuance of timely watches and warnings, but it is essential that your family be ready before a storm approaches.

Before the Hurricane Season begins, develop a plan. Know your homes vulnerability to the threat of surge, wind, and flooding. Check your supplies — water, batteries, food. Develop a Hurricane Supply kit. Know where you can evacuate to — friends, relatives, or a hotel.

This hurricane season be prepared. If you choose to ride out the hurricane in your home always notify loved ones of your decision and get contact information on where they will be as well. By preparing a hurricane safety checklist and using a little common sense, you can protect yourself and your family from any disaster—even one Mother Nature throws at you.

Lincoln Park Main Street Presents Community Carnival

by Amy Lawson

Come one, come all to the first of what will become an annual Community Carnival, presented by the Lincoln Park Main Street Organization. The event will take place on Saturday June 8, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The location of the carnival is at the intersection of Avenue D and 25th. The carnival will feature something for everyone including bounce houses and games, food and craft vendors, live entertainment, and much more throughout the day.

Seven students from Indian River State College’s Bachelor’s Program have been working hand-in-hand with the Lincoln Park Main Street organization. The IRSC students all anticipate graduating in May with their BAS in Organizational Management. Over the last few months the students have been helping to organize and plan this family-friendly carnival. The LPMS program is focused on revitalizing the areas around Avenue D in historic downtown Fort Pierce. All of the proceeds from the carnival will be going to the organization to help in these improvements. The goal of this event is not only to enjoy of day of fun and entertainment, but to also involve, raise awareness, and generate support and excitement about the positive works that the LPMS organization has done for the community and for the future projects and improvements they are planning.
Two Landmark Businesses Welcome New Owners

by Pam Gillette

In April of 2013, two landmark businesses in Fort Pierce were sold to new owners — Office Products & Services, Inc. and Roy's Liquors.

Office Products & Services: In 1950, Claude C. “Sprucy” Tillman and his wife Peggy started their family business in downtown Fort Pierce. Fort Pierce Typewriter Company was established as an office machine company. The family-owned business believed in quality sales and service.

In the 1970s the store changed the name to Office Products & Services and added office supplies and office furniture, as well as, services to back up everything they sold.

The new products and services accommodated their customers and made the store what it is today.

Sixty years later Office Products & Services still serves the Treasure Coast from their distribution center located at 136 N. 2nd Street in downtown Fort Pierce and, as of April 2013, they serve the community under new owners.

In April, Ford Schick, originally from Iowa, purchased Office Products & Services. In an interesting circumstance, Mr. Schick purchased Tylander’s Office Solutions in West Palm Beach three years ago to the day of purchasing Office Products & Services. Bill Tylander who owned Tylander’s Office Solutions has family ties in Fort Pierce through Tylander’s Lumber. The new owners are happy to be in Fort Pierce and at this time there are no plans on changing anything at Office Products & Services.

The Tillman’s and their staff will remain at the business and continue to provide the quality sales and services we have to come to know and depend upon. Office Products & Services is always striving to improve the products and services they provide by meeting the new challenges of the office supplies, furniture and equipment markets every day. They believe that the business sale will provide new opportunities for further growth and they will be able to maintain their position against their competition.

Roy’s Liquors & Fine Wines: Roy’s Liquors & Fine Wines has been family-owned and operated in downtown Fort Pierce since 1955. Roy Andersen opened Roy’s Liquors in January 1955 in a 12’ x 12’ storefront on Orange Avenue. The store has since grown into an 8,500-square-foot freestanding building located at 720 S. Highway 1. In addition to the package store, the Boozgeois Saloon, was added in 1965 and has become the oldest continuously run bar in St. Lucie County.

Roy’s son, Keith Andersen, became a partner in 1975 and later 100% owner, continuing the family dream. Keith has brought together a remarkable collection of exquisite and rare wines. The store offers wine tastings every Thursday night for a nominal fee which includes a store credit for any purchase on the day of the tasting. Tasting hours are 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Light hors d’oeuvres are included.

On Friday nights the in-house beer professionals offer a beer tasting from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. There is always an eclectic array of craft beer, ales and stouts for your tasting pleasure and it is always a “no charge” event. The store also offers a large selection of liquors and liqueurs and they will be happy to special order anything not in stock, usually arriving in 48 hours.

In April 2013, Roy’s Liquors & Fine Wines and the Boozgeois Saloon were sold. Keith Andersen will stay on as manager and the same friendly, knowledgeable staff will continue to provide the Treasure Coast with great personal service that has been for over 58 years. Keith says “We feel that even though Roy’s is under new ownership the sale of the business will be an asset to the company allowing us to offer our clients a new look, a larger selection of wines and lower competitive prices. The Boozgeois Saloon will have the same staff and the new owner plans an overhaul and expansion for the saloon in the future.”

Roy’s Liquors & Fine Wines was voted the winner of the 2013 Reader’s Choice Awards – Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers – St. Lucie County and is a landmark in our community.

Main Street Fort Pierce welcomes the new owners to the neighborhood and wishes them success in the community.
Storm Protection Islands for Fort Pierce Marina Nearly Completed

by Anna Townshend

In 2004, Hurricane Frances made a slow approach as a Category 2 storm, lasting approximately 34 hours. It did catastrophic damage to the city marina in Fort Pierce, Fla. It destroyed many docks with boats still moored on them, totaling $28 million damage to the marina alone.

Rather than rebuilding in-kind, the reconstruction plan included 13 manmade islands, which would protect the marina. Construction began in February 2012 and will be completed in May of this year.

Maccaferri Inc. provided the materials to form the islands. At the end of March, Jenna Phillips, technical manager and coastal engineer for Maccaferri's Coastal Protection & Dewatering Business Unit, conducted a webinar to outline the development and construction of the islands, using Maccaferri’s GeoTubes, large geotextile tubes, and marine mattresses, compartmental structures, composed of a high density, flexible, UV-stabilized, polypropylene grid.

Fort Pierce Marina is located on the western shore of the Indian River Lagoon, just south of the Fort Pierce Inlet. The islands are built to protect the marina from large open sea storms. The islands are located within the flood tidal delta, so strong tidal currents (22 km) with fairly shallow water depths. The marina is also located near the Indian River Lagoon, just south of the Fort Pierce Inlet.

In December 2012, the contractor continues building the man-made storm protection islands for the city marina in Fort Pierce, Florida. (Photos by Steve Irwin of Island Marine Electronics)

The 12-inch mats required a filling frame, fabricated by the contractor. The panels came pre-assembled with the exception on the side panel, through which a front-end loader placed the stone fill. Then, the side panel was attached and loaded into the stockpile.

In December 2012, the contractor continues building the man-made storm protection islands for the city marina in Fort Pierce, Florida. (Photos by Steve Irwin of Island Marine Electronics)

The marina mattresses were filled on-site. The smaller ones were placed on a flat surface and filled by hand to reduce the void space.

By January, water conditions had improved. The mean tide range for this area was about 1.5 feet, with the highest tides occurring in the fall and the lowest lows in the spring. The water level elevations had the greatest effect of the placement, water quality and current velocity did. This of course affected the speed and accuracy, and did require some reinstallation.

The strong current velocities also played a role in installation. The dredging contractor could pump around 450 cubic yards in approximately four hours, and divers in the water, who ensured the accuracy of the final placement, had to wear 40-pound weights to combat the current.

For installation of the tubes, the scour protection went first, then the tubes were deployed, rolled out and stacked into place. Using a hopper dredge and submersible pump, contractors filled the tubes from both ends to anchor them during the tidal change. To prevent the tubes from acting like a sail, they had to be deployed during slack tide, so contractors had a short window in order to get them in place and staked down every 10 feet on center. The tubes also had seat belts-like straps sewn in to the side seams of the tubes. Originally, the belts were placed every 25 feet and eventually put every 10 feet on center.

For the mattress installation, PVC stakes guided the placement, and a crane and lifting bar did a rough placement on the mattress. Divers made the final adjustments.

The mean tide range for this area was about 1.5 feet, with the highest tides occurring in the fall and the lowest lows in the spring. The water level elevations had the greatest effect on the armor stone installation. Contractors had to transport the barge half full and wait for high tide to begin installation. For the construction of the shallow groins, which happened during fall at the high water levels, contractors were able to mostly transport full barge loads. Upon final completion in May, the island structures should allow the marina to increase capacity, as well as provide additional space for eco-tourism and recreation in the area. [Reprinted with permission from Marina Dock Age, April 2013.]
Second Annual Fort Pierce Oyster Festival a Success!

The numbers are in and the 2nd Annual Fort Pierce Oyster Festival, which took place on April 6th, is deemed a success by event planners. “We had an increase in the number of attendees, served more oysters, increased the number of local vendors and increased our bottom line by more than 30% over our inaugural year,” says April Price, the festival coordinator. “We knew we needed to increase our shucking capabilities and we did. We also added three cooked versions of oysters and they were all well received. Some of the best “shuckers” on the Treasure Coast put in a full day work allowing us to serve 31 more cases of oysters than in 2012,” said Price.

The Indian River Lagoon will also benefit from the festival. More than 600 gallons of oyster shells were collected from the festival and will be used in the St. Lucie County Oyster Reef Restoration Projects, along with the new marine habitat that will be created in the Lagoon with the Ft. Pierce City Marina project. “It’s great when we can give back to the environment,” says Andy Brady, President of Sea-Life Habitat Improvement Project, Inc. (aka SHIP), who owns the festival. “There are plenty of things we do every day that are detrimental to our marine environment, so anything we can do to mitigate our negative impacts, we need to be a part of those efforts.”

SHIP truly appreciates the support of the community who came out to the festival, our vendors, sponsors and volunteers. SHIP would also like to thank our festival partners: the Manatee Observation & Education Center, COSEE Florida, who coordinated our Indian River Lagoon Speaker Series, Capt. Chop Lege and his crew from Swampland Tours, City of Fort Pierce, Fort Pierce City Marina, Fort Pierce Yacht Club and the Sunrise Theatre. For more information contact April Price (772) 285-1646 or go to our web site at www.FtPierceOysterFest.com.

Sea-Life Habitat Improvement Project, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 public charity and is dedicated to sinking a large Navy type ship for an artificial reef and the enhancement to our artificial reef systems on the Treasure Coast of Florida.
Art Mundo Awards $1,150 at Third Annual High School Art Show

Art Mundo was pleased to sponsor the St. Lucie County High School Student Art Show for the third year in a row. Every year the students’ work gets better and better. This year over 100 pieces were exhibited in a variety of mediums and were judged by three area artists: Lori McNamara, Doug Macon and Marie Morrow. Under specific criteria, each student received one of three awards – Award of Excellence, Award of Merit or Award of Emerging Artist.

Each year a different high school volunteers to act as liaison between all of the high schools and Art Mundo to set up the art show. This year, art teacher Icaza Jones was the liaison, representing Treasure Coast High School. In honor of those efforts, Treasure Coast High received a $1,000 gift certificate to Blick Art Supply to order supplies for their art program.

Additional cash awards were for students’ work chosen by “People’s Choice” votes. During the show opening on April 10th, each person who attended voted for their favorite work of art and three “People’s Choice” awards were presented from the votes counted.

Ailynda Ho, a 12th grade student of Eileen Di Tullio at Lincoln Park Academy received first place for her work in clay, “Neptune’s Glory.” Andrea Vasquez, an 11th grade student of Heather Sullivan of Fort Pierce Central High School, received second place for her conte crayon drawing, “Leader of the Pack.”

Kelsey Mills, a 12th grade student of Martha Cross at John Carroll High School, took third place for her work in clay, “Aaay.” These students each received a $50 gift certificate from Blick Art Supply and a Blick wish book catalog to select art supplies from.

These awards were made possible by generous donations. Donors were Judy Coffman, the Arts and Cultural Alliance of St. Lucie County, Janet Fuller, Leo Enriquez, Jack Shelton, the A.E. Backus Gallery and Museum, Blick Art Supply, Allie Comer and Georgina Love.

This is an annual show and if you are interested in participating as a donor in next year’s show to help keep art alive in our schools, please contact Art Mundo.

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.artmundo.org to find out about upcoming shows, calls to artists, classes and special events. Our phone number is 772-766-0021.
Ion Cleanse…

by Joanne Augusto, Owner, Nutrition World

We are living in the most polluted environment in Earth’s known history. We are continually inhaling, ingesting and digesting toxins, heavy metals, residue from plastics, pesticides, processed foods, chemicals and trans fats. All of which negatively affects our bodies mentally, physically and especially financially. (taking into consideration outrageous medical bills, procedures and daily prescriptions that continue to grow, every time they come up with a new “trial drug”!! Sounds pretty scary when you stop and think about it; which is why most people prefer not to. Well, it doesn’t have to be that way, we can choose to do something positive. Begin to educate ourselves and take a stand or a soak, so to speak!

We’ve all heard over the past few years about Ion Cleanse, Detox foot soak and or Detox Cleanse. They all basically do the same thing, assist the body in braking up and flushing out toxins that otherwise continue to be sedentary, build up and produce unhealthy symptoms and side effects, long and short term. The Ion Cleanse/Foot Soak is exactly as it sounds. It’s a relaxing foot soak in warm water with sea salt and an Ion Cleanse machine, where many colors and objects may appear depending on what areas and organs in the body may be struggling or functioning in distress due to toxic build up and an in-balance between acidic and an alkaline dietary intake. Now that may sound a little heavy, but here’s the good news — the cleanse itself will identify what areas of the body could use some additional attention, awareness and effort. Nutrition World is not only a nutrition store, we are now a complete Wellness and Balance Center, offering a variety of specialty services that cater to the mind, body and soul as a whole. At my store we focus on every aspect of total body healing, in a relaxing atmosphere with a family of expert Health and Wellness specialists and services (Chiropractor, Acupuncturist, Massage Therapist, Lifestyle Coach, Nutritionist and Ion Cleansing) all available to assist you on your journey of balance and health. If you approach your journey with a mind, body and spirit connection the healing happens naturally. It’s just providing your body the tools it needs to reach its optimal health!

Captain Planet Foundation Awards Education Grant to Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation

The Captain Planet Foundation, an international environmental education foundation for youth based on the successful Captain Planet cartoon, is proud to announce that Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation has recently been awarded an educational grant of $2,500.00. Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation will use these funds toward the Manatee Center’s Manatee and Mangrove program.

“We are thrilled to present this award to Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation,” says Lesa Carter, Executive Director of the Foundation. “We receive hundreds of submissions each year and have to be very selective to whom we award funding. This is one of the few projects from across the country that we chose to fund. We wish the Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation and the Manatee Center great success as they work to implement this important project. It is our hope that our combined efforts will educate, empower, involve and invest today’s youth to cultivate a better tomorrow.”

About the Program

“This grant from the Captain Planet Foundation is an important benefit to us that will allow us to broaden our educational programs for students through the Manatee Center,” said Bruce Murray, Chairman of the Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation. “With this help we will be able to provide four, absolutely free, two day educational and outdoor learning activity programs about our unique Indian River Lagoon ecosystem to those who might otherwise not have this opportunity. It is a meaningful expansion of our support to both in school outreach and Manatee Center based education about the special area in which we live.”

The Manatee and Mangrove Educational Workshops will promote environmental awareness and stewardship of vital natural resources and endangered species to students of all ages. Mangroves are very important to the Indian River Lagoon estuary and manatees are just one of the endangered species that calls the estuary home. Participants in the workshops will learn about conservation, restoration, and the sensitive connection between manatees, mangroves, and the estuary through this educational series.

“We are very fortunate to have funding from the Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation and Captain Planet Foundation in support of our environmental education workshops,” said Jann Widmayer, curator of the Manatee Observation and Education Center (MOEC). “This will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many of the students that will participate in the Manatee and Mangrove program. Hands-on exploration of local habitats and the animals within them helps participants develop a deep connection with their environment.”

The Manatee Observation & Education Center is a fun-filled, family-friendly, environmentally based education center that celebrates Florida’s incomparable natural resources and wildlife! MOEC hosts approximately 40,000 visitors from around the world and over 5,000 local school children per year. Connect with MOEC’s education coordinator, Lesley Vincent-Ryder, at www.manateecenter.com or call 772-466-1600 ext. 3337.

About The Captain Planet Foundation

Founded in 1991, CPF was created to support hands-on, environmental projects for youth. CPF’s objective is to encourage innovative projects that empower today’s children to become environmental stewards. For more information, visit www.captainplanetfoundation.org. The Captain Planet Foundation (CPF) is located at 133 Luckey Street NW in Atlanta, Georgia. It can be reached by phone at (404) 522-4270.
The Cake Lady’s Relocation Celebration

by Brandi Stover

The Cake Lady, a local favorite, has recently relocated and opened a “dessert café” in the heart of historic downtown Fort Pierce. Now located at 207 Orange Avenue, the Cake Lady welcomes everyone with a sweet tooth.

Gourmet cupcakes, such as key lime with key lime curd, Pina Colada, S’mores and red velvet are just a few of over 50 fabulous flavor combinations to choose from. With complimentary WiFi, customers are able to sit and enjoy a cup of Barnie’s coffee and a cupcake while being greeted by a friendly staff, or they may choose to just get it to go.

Overlooking the café area are two French doors which lead to the studio where customers can get a peek at the cake decorating process coming to life. Both cakes and cupcakes are made daily resulting in delightfully fresh and moist flavors.

Owner, and self described cake-ologist, Staci Dunn, Fort Pierce’s own Cake Lady has captured the hearts of her customers not only with her original cupcakes, but for her elaborate and hand crafted cakes. No cake idea is out of reach for this cakeologist and her dedicated staff.

The Cake Lady create cakes and cupcakes for birthdays, club events, weddings and much more, accommodating every one and any kind of budget.

For more information you can call 772-882-8869 or go to www.thecakeladybakes.com where you can see pictures of dozens of her favorite custom creations.

Whether it is a big event, or just to satisfy a sweet craving, The Cake Lady is guaranteed to get the job done.
Developing Positive Strength
by Angel Lugo, Anytime Fitness Manager and Personal Trainer

Change can be scary for everyone. When you make the decision to be fit and healthy, it may leave you feeling unsure, overwhelmed, and anxious. As a trainer and gym manager, I know from speaking with clients and members that switching to a healthy lifestyle can be intimidating.

If you're new to fitness, the first thing you need to recognize is that you are your biggest obstacle.

One of the problems that occurs at the beginning of a fitness journey is a fear of failure. Am I following the right program? You are constantly fighting yourself! It is important to remember that desire outweighs fear. In time, you will develop confidence and want to give up, hit the stop button. Remind yourself again of all the positives and develop your self worth.

Give Yourself an Honest Chance
We all have days when we're going to make mistakes, miss workouts, and have a not-so-healthy meal or a special treat. Just because you skip the gym for a night does not mean you've just destroyed any chance at success. Expect curve-balls, because they're going to happen; but don't use them against yourself to prove that you're incapable of doing what you want.

As yo get down on yourself for what you didn't do, always celebrate your victories. Before you know it, you will be having more victories than setbacks.

Positive People
How many negative people influence your life? Surround yourself with positive people. Find people who are going through the same changes you are. Network with people who are motivated, encouraging, and have positive things to say. Discover people with drive and ambition who are willing to share it with you.

In time, your changes may influence the negative people in your life.

You're telling yourself you're not worthy of the effort because you think you'll probably fail. We all have the right to try to better ourselves. It doesn't matter if you're extremely overweight, need to drop 10 pounds, or want to fit into a certain size. Stop caring what others think; believe in yourself and your ability to make progress.

Next time you're struggling with your lifestyle change and want to give up, hit the stop button. Remind yourself again of all the positives and develop your self worth.

You are Worthy of Your Goals!
I have been around individuals that talk themselves right out of their goals: “I just don’t know if I can do that … I’m not sure I’m cut out for it.” What you say is what you will believe.

It’s a fact. Whenever you hear the words olive oil, your mind immediately goes to the cartoon character Olive Oyl, the long-time girlfriend of Popeye the Sailor Man. Created in 1919, the tall and skinny gal was actually based on a local from Chester, Illinois. And then, of course, there is also olive oil, which is commonly used in cooking and salads.

The Emery’s take great pride in their family business and brag about the incredible employees that are part of the extended family. They attribute the Fort Pierce Farmers Market in part for their expanded clientele and their great success. From the very beginning, Cheryl has believed in the power of local markets and festivals to get the name out there and introduce their products. The Olive Tap came to the Fort Pierce Market because it is the best market around. Their first Saturday at our market still holds their personal record for single-day sales at any other market or festival they have done since.

The flavors of olive oils vary due to the region the olives are grown in and the time of year they are pressed. When other flavors are infused, the possibilities seem endless to find that perfect blend for each and every customer. And you can’t forget to pick up some of the balsamic vinegar that will add that perfect touch.

When you stop by on Saturday morning, don’t be surprised to get a good recipe for bruschetta or baroque sauce using their products and things you can find at other vendors right there at the market. The Olive Tap is worth the visit. You will enjoy both the quality and the personal service they offer.

Here is a last thought to ponder. Olive Oyl is based on a character from Illinois. The Olive Tap started in Illinois — both huge successes!
**Fort Pierce City Marina Update**

by Dan Dannahower

Phase one of the Fort Pierce City Marina island project is nearing completion. It is time for an update. The project has been the subject of much discussion recently, both in written articles and in discussions I hear around town. Opinions seem mixed with some looking forward to the upcoming major expansion of our marina and others concerned about the islands’ effect on the lagoon’s ecosystem. Let me pass along what I know.

This project has been in the works for quite some time and is a result of the damage done to the marina and shoreline during the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005. For those who are somewhat new to the Treasure Coast, the marina was virtually destroyed by back-to-back major hurricanes in the fall of 2004. All the floating docks that extended from the seawall into the lagoon were destroyed and dozens of boats were piled on top of each other in the center of the marina west of the seawall.

Since that disaster the current island project was developed as a way to protect the marina from future storm surges and allow rebuilding of the floating docks extending east from the seawall into the lagoon. Several years of engineering and design occurred before a final plan was approved and construction began. The entire island layout was duplicated in one of only three scale model water flow tanks that exist in North America. Storm surge, tidal flows and other eco-sensitive parameters were studied extensively to ensure the project would result in a truly “green” new marina.

The physical construction of the twelve islands is nearly complete. Thousands of linear feet of oyster beds have been installed around the islands’ perimeters. Oysters are highly desirable in the lagoon for their water filtering qualities. When phase one is complete, in the next month or so, mangroves will be planted around the islands’ perimeters. Mangroves provide breeding grounds for numerous species of fish and protective cover for small fish as they mature.

Completion of the islands will allow for bids to go out in May or June for construction of new floating docks which will be protected by the new islands. Construction on the new docks should begin in early fall and will add a huge number of new boat slips.

A number of municipalities around Florida are watching our innovative new marina plan and if successful ours may become a prototype for other marinas. I believe when this project is finished we will have a truly “green” marina which adds, rather than detracts to the health of our lagoon’s ecosystem.

**Recipe Corner**

by Sue Dannahower

I made this recipe for a Southern Country Boil themed gourmet we had at the home of Pam & Gary Gillette. The recipe is modified from Paula Dean’s fried pickles. The breading is light and the oil is very hot, so the pickles do not absorb much oil, therefore no greasy taste. If you don’t like spicy use less Durkey sauce.

1 24-ounce Jar Kosher dill pickle slices
1 teaspoon garlic powder
½ cup Durkey (or Crystal) hot sauce
½ cup buttermilk
1 gallon peanut oil

**Flour Mixture:**
2 cups House Autry Seafood Breader
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper

Drain the juice from the pickle jar and refill the jar with the garlic powder, hot sauce, and buttermilk. Marinate the pickles for at least 30 minutes.

In a Dutch oven over medium-high heat, heat the oil to 375 degrees F. Drain the pickles. Put the fry mix into a large mixing bowl (or gallon sized plastic bag), and toss the pickles to coat thoroughly. Shake off the excess mix by tossing lightly in a strainer and deep fry the pickles in batches for 3 to 5 minutes, or until golden brown.

When golden brown, remove the pickles from the oil with a slotted metal spoon (or spider) and place on paper towels to drain off any excess oil. Serve immediately.

Use breader to coat chicken, seafood, calamari, and vegetables.

**Dip:**
1 cup Ranch Dressing
2 + tablespoons Hot Sauce
Mix, add more hot sauce as needed.
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It Takes All of Us to Make Our Historic Downtown Prosper and Grow!

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

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

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

Why Main Street Fort Pierce?

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

What are Membership Benefits?

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

As a member of Main Street you are automatically aligned with others who want to preserve the past and influence the future of Fort Pierce. You can belong to Fort Pierce Main Street at one of seven different membership levels, starting at just $25.

Main Street Membership Levels

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Please Take a Minute to Join Today!

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

Name: ____________________ Membership Level: ____________________

Company/Organization: ____________________

Street Address: ____________________

City / State / Zip: ____________________

Phone: ____________________ Email: ____________________