Ready to Make History Again in 2007
Several times during the year, the State Main Street Office holds a Florida Main Street 101 Training Workshop. Recently the Lincoln Park Main Street Program hosted a 101 Training Session in Fort Pierce and I participated for the first time at the 101 Training Session in Newberry, Florida. I presented information on the organization component of the Main Street Four-Point Approach. It was interesting to discuss successes and challenges with other Main Street organizations across the state. It really does make you reflect on the years you have put into your program. It was great to assist newly designated Main Street Programs and provide information to new board or staff members.

Several Main Street programs have elected officials serving on their board. These individuals realize that in-depth teamwork, at all levels, is a key ingredient for successful downtown revitalization today and into the foreseeable future.

For the most part, local elected officials seem to have developed the understanding that their downtown is important to the overall economic health and quality of life enjoyed by their constituents and it is worth investing in. No longer are people asking, “Can downtown be saved?” and “Is downtown worth saving in the majority?” As a result, more and more local elected officials are stepping up to provide positive leadership and are acting as the impetus that forms the needed downtown team.

Progressive community leaders who join with local elected officials understand that teamwork means working together to:

✔ Take a cold hard look at your downtown’s needs and potentials;
✔ Devise a realistic, pragmatic game plan that’s success-oriented;
✔ Make tough decisions;
✔ Take whatever actions are necessary — even if they are not popular;
✔ Put your money where your mouth is.

The end goal of downtown teamwork is to create a situation where all of downtown investors realize a greater return on their investments, whether it be business revenues, real estate values, local tax revenues, a better downtown experience, quality of life, or just bragging rights. Teamwork brings results and Main Street 101 provides the tools and guidance to assist communities in achieving their goal of a great downtown.

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Friday, March 2: Friday Fest – 5:30 until 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880.

Saturday & Sunday, March 3 & 4: 19th Annual A.E. Backus Art Festival (see article); A.E. Backus Gallery & Museum, 465-0630.

Wednesday, March 14: 2nd Wednesday Walkabout – 5:00 until 8:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080.

Friday, March 17: Coffee with the Mayor @ Historic City Hall – 8:00 a.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880.

Saturday, March 24: Sandy Shoes Festival (See article); Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880.

Governor's Grill – 466-6900; “Open Mike Night” on Tuesdays, 9 p.m. to closing; “Blues Night at the Grill” on Wednesdays, 8 p.m.; “Ladies Night” on Thursdays, 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.; Live Music on Friday evenings: Live Jazz with Matrix on Saturday evenings.

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For information, please call 462-2787.

SUNRISE THEATRE

For information, please call 461-4775.

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

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ST. LUCIE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

For information, please call 462-1795.

BACKUS GALLERY

For information, please call 465-0630.

SPONSORED BY SUNRISE FORD

On View through March 17 – Tribute to Backus. The annual Tribute to Backus will feature some of the best original paintings by A.E. Backus. All are part of private collections from around the country and are rarely seen by the public. Don’t miss this opportunity to nearly 100 Backus originals on view during this extraordinary event.

SPONSORED BY HARBOR FEDERAL SAVINGS, SUNRISE FORD & SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

March 3 & 4 – 19th Annual A.E. Backus Art Festival. The annual Backus Arts Festival takes over Veteran’s Park in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce with an extravaganza for the senses. Over 75 artists, musical performances and tasty food grace the museum’s oak shaded grounds for this two-day event.

SpONSORED BY HARBOR FEDERAL SAVINGS & SUNRISE FORD

March 4 – A. E. Backus Brunch & Painting Raffle. Brunch served from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Brunch tickets sold at the door, no advanced sales. Adults, $15.00, kids, $5.00. The “All You Should Eat Backus Brunch” is legendary. Feast on fresh fried mahi-mahi, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, cheese grits, fresh squeezed orange juice and much more. Then at 12:30, the ticket will be drawn to reveal the winner of this year’s original Backus painting, “Everglades Pine,” valued at $35,000. Over $1,400 in additional prizes will be awarded. Raffle tickets are $20.

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

Arts and Crafts Show & Sale – Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; north of downtown Fort Pierce Library, 460-5124.

Fort Pierce Bike Night – Thursdays, 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.; 2nd Street, Downtown Fort Pierce; Yellowfin Grill & Raw Bar, 468-7071.

FORT PIERCE COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES

For information, please call 462-7071.

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466-1600, ext. 6307
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The City of Fort Pierce is progressing in many areas and the month of February was a very busy month behind the scenes. Meetings in Tallahassee with the legislative delegation over many issues facing residents of Florida hope to prove to be fruitful. Last year, at our request, the state allocated grant money to help in the relocation of the Wastewater Treatment plant from Hutchinson Island. This year we are requesting additional funding to be added. The FPUA rate payers cannot be expected to solely fund this relocation. The move is needed for the protection of the Indian River Lagoon, the future public use of the area, and the need for a larger, more efficient plant.

Another project in progress is the reconstruction of A1A. Additional A1A funding has been requested for the final phases of the project. The first phase of reconstruction, from US #1 to South Bridge is completed and has enhanced the area greatly. For those wondering why the expensive Royal Palms, the funding came from the state and the city is responsible for maintenance. Royal Palms are very low maintenance, which will save money in the long term.

Other topics of discussion in Tallahassee were insurance rates in the state, the transfer of the existing Homestead Exemption, and the protection of the Indian River Lagoon and its tributaries. Discussions of solutions are ongoing. Our state and local leaders are working hard to give you the best results. I will bring you updates as solutions are found.

Upon my return from Tallahassee, Commissioners Coke and Alexander, City Manager Mr. Beach and I left for Washington DC. We went to meet with our congressmen and senators. The Federal Court House, to be built in Fort Pierce, was our main topic of discussion. The project, which has been in the process for many years and has been at the top of the list for the last two years, may now become a reality. It had been placed on hold due to funding of the war in Iraq. Our different approach to funding has made this possible. The senate appropriations committee has been very helpful in our endeavor. The court system is a valuable tool in the continuing redevelopment efforts of the City of Fort Pierce and will prove to be a mechanism to spur further growth in downtown and the surrounding areas.

As we continually work to progress Fort Pierce in a direction of growth with a long-term approach, the key is balance and common sense. This is paradise and it is important to preserve and promote the beauty we have for today and future generations. Welcome and enjoy Paradise!
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Darryl T. Bey
19th Annual Backus Art Festival to be Held on March 3rd & 4th

by Robin Dannahower

The A.E. “Bean” Backus Museum will host the 19th Annual Backus Art Festival on March 3 and 4, 2007. The annual event takes over Veterans’ Park in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce with an extravaganza for the senses. Over 75 artists, musical performances and tasty food grace the museum’s oak shaded grounds for this two-day event. The hours of the festival are Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Fort Pierce Trolley will operate during the weekend to help alleviate parking and congestion problems that sometimes plagues events at the park.

On Sunday, March 4, the museum’s legendary “All You Should Eat Backus Brunch” will also be held as part of the festival. Attendees can feast on fresh fried mahi-mahi, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, cheese grits, fresh squeezed orange juice and much more. Brunch will be served from 9 a.m. to noon and tickets are sold at the door only. There will be no advanced ticket sales. Adults $15.00, kids $5.00. Then following the brunch at 12:30, the ticket will be drawn to reveal the winner of this year’s original Backus painting, “Everglades Pine” valued at $35,000. Over $1,400 in additional prizes will also be awarded. Raffle tickets are $20 and can be purchased at the festival or before at the Backus Museum or by calling 772/465-0630. Only 2,500 tickets will be sold.

Along with the festival and brunch, the annual exhibition A Tribute to Backus will also be on view in the museum galleries from February 21 – March 17, 2007. The show will feature some of the best original paintings by A.E. Backus. All are part of private collections from around the country and are rarely seen by the public. This is a great opportunity to see nearly 100 Backus originals on view during this extraordinary event.

Sponsors for the event include Harbor Federal, Sunrise Ford, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspaper, WPSL, Nelson Family Farms, St. Lucie County Cultural Affairs Council, City of Fort Pierce, TLC Carpets, Abernathy Family Foundation, East Coast Lumber, Gold Coast Printing, Budweiser, Core Communities, Yates Funeral Home, Grimes Heating & Cooling and SpringBoard.
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Restoration Preserves Charm and History of Fort Pierce Homes and Residents

by Patty Reynolds

I’ve always been drawn to old buildings — wood-framed, dry and dusty or slightly damp, smelling of earth and built of stone. I like them best a little shabby with a few cobwebs and faintly smudged windows, not quite obscuring the small daily dramas once played out within their view. The ones still sheltering clues secreted away inside. Pieces of lives tucked in the rafters, old books, old linens, old toys, each fragment a miniature window on the past.

I imagine walking through history in the footsteps of people who lived hundreds, even thousands of years ago and find it both comforting and a bit disconcerting to consider that through our shared past we forge a common future.

It’s exciting to see the revitalization taking place in our town. Michael Menard and Peter Cook of Cook and Menard Architecture, Inc. are two men playing an important role in reclaiming our historic treasures, one building at a time. Together they have quietly restored and returned to commercial use, three homes on Delaware Avenue and are now in the process of refurbishing four more on 7th Street.

One house Mike and Peter have restored is 1115 Delaware Avenue. This house is wood framed and was

Continued on page 12...
nearly lost in a fire. Mike and Peter have returned the home to her boom year’s splendor. Built in 1925, with a gracious front porch where naive young flappers surely sat chatting excitedly about the next dance, you can still see the original builder’s craftsmanship. The house was built to last through whatever our Florida weather could dish out including the 1928 hurricane personified in Zora Neale Hurston’s “Their Eyes Were Watching God”. It also survived hurricanes in 1944, 1948, and the big one of ’49. After weathering storms for 82 years it is not surprise that when Michael and Peter checked on her after our current spate of storms, the house stood proudly unscathed despite tree limbs scattered far and wide.

Two other homes renovated by Mike and Peter are 806 and 808 Delaware Avenue. Both of these houses were built in the 1920’s and faced an uncertain future until this team stepped in and reclaimed another bit of our past. The house at 808 Delaware was in such a dilapidated state that the City bulldozer hovered on the horizon and the home would not be here today without the men’s intervention. The home was completely refurbished and on March 15th 2002, Mayor Edward G. Enns bestowed upon them The Gold Hammer Award. This award is designed to recognize the efforts of residents and business owners who notably improve their homes, businesses and the community at large through restoration or new construction. It was a well deserved honor for both Peter and Mike.

The house on 806 Delaware Avenue is the current home of Cook & Menard's Architectural office. It is an example of the best in refurbishment and renewal. The building was heavily remodeled in the 1950’s requiring extensive removal before restorations to keep the home’s bungalow style architecture could begin. On May 6th 2002, 806 Delaware Avenue was designated a Historic Property and a Locally Significant Site.

Today the office is filled with character and an enviable... continued from page 11
display of vintage collections and period pieces. My favorite hands down is the conference table, a 1926 claw foot tub saved from renovations on neighboring 808 Delaware Avenue. With a custom cut glass top it is an awesome addition to their office. There is even a rumor floating around that adaptations to include an aquarium are a possibility. What an ice breaker and conversation piece that would be!

Moving around the corner to 7th Street, the two men collectively own 4 buildings. With thanks once again to the research efforts of Pat Fessel in the Clerk of the Court’s office and the massive abstract of title Mike bravely lent me, for a brief moment we can look through windows, some still a bit smudged, some crystal clear, and breathe new life into lives long forgotten.

Our first stop on 7th Street is 315 which is a wood framed home with a classic tin roof. Arthur William James purchased the property from The Board of Public Instruction of St. Lucie County on February 18, 1913. In 1915 his daughter Edna married Beany’s brother Rodman Backus. She was 19; he was 21. On May 20th 1916 A.W. sold the property to Edna for $1 and other valuable considerations. The home was built that same year on what was then called West Street perhaps by the young couple or possibly by a doting father as a wedding gift.

Baby Edna M. arrived in 1918. Courtesy of the 1920 census, we know that Rodman built boats and Edna was a musician for the movies. With the Sunrise three years from opening its doors, we are still searching for the name of the theatre where Edna entertained moviegoers with her musical talent.

By 1930, Edna and Rodman’s family had grown to include Edna M. now 12, daughter Laura age 6, and baby Mary Francis who was 8 months old. To accommodate

Continued on page 14 …
their larger family they moved to 10 Sunrise Blvd in a home valued at $4,000. One bit of information, back then our government felt fit to ask if the family owned a radio. They did, and we can imagine them all gathered around to hear “The Mercury Theatre on Air” with Orson Wells. Rodman became proprietor of the boat shop and his father George, now living with them at age 61, was still actively building boats.

Meanwhile back in 1920, Edna’s Dad A.W. along with her mother Clara, her sister Francis and her brother Curtis owned and ran a boardinghouse on Palmetto Avenue, know today as Avenue A. Indicating perhaps an ongoing relationship with The Board of Public Instruction, their lodgers consisted of six city school teachers and the bookkeeper for the News Tribune. I imagine dinner conversation would have been lively as the teachers discussed the escapades and scrapes their young charges must have gotten into.

Across the street and to the north of Edna and Rodman’s first home is 212 South 7th Street. Hugh Montgomery purchased the land on April 13th 1909 for $400 and the home was built in 1910. Hugh was an Irishman who immigrated to America in 1897. Not much else is known about him. In 1920 there are two Montgomery families living in Ft. Pierce but neither seems to fit with the information we have for Hugh. So who lived at 212 South 7th Street in 1920?

Fortunately we know where the Backus’ lived because Pat at the Clerk of the Court found the original deed for me. We also know Edna and Rodman lived across the street from 212 South 7th Street, making this an easy mystery to solve. A quick look at the census should do it, which brings us to Mrs. Daisy F. Horton. Mrs. Horton was the enumerator for that district. She began with her own home. In 1920 she and husband Frank have been married for 20 years. They have two children Fern age 12 and Richard age 9. We know she’s a homemaker and Frank is a janitor for the high school.

Just northwest of 212 South 7th Street are 127 and 125 South 7th Street. Thanks to Mike Menard’s generosity, I have a treasure trove of information about the 125 address. When Mike purchased the home it was in poor condition but was filled with hidden treasures. One little gem was the original abstract of title.

The property on which these homes stand was originally an 80 acre parcel purchased by William A. Shleppy on June 14th 1890. William sold the property to D.L. Futch on June 4 1893 for $1,000 and for the same $1000 D.L. sold it back to William on September 28th of the same year. By which time the amount of land had expanded to contain 116 acres. A note on this deed brought a chuckle as I read it “Celibacy of D.L. Futch not stated.”

So as not to confuse the issue, on April 4th of 1914 D.L. signed an affidavit stating that he did indeed sell the land back to William on September 28th 1893. That he was unmarried at the time and continues to be so today!

The Shleppy’s lived an interesting life. At the turn of the century we find them settled in Key Largo. William, age 39 and born in Kansas, was married to Sarah, 24 a white woman born in the Bahamas to Bahamian parents. Married in 1882 at age 16, Sarah immigrated to America a year later in 1883. With two children: Benjamin age three, born in Florida and Hattie 8 months old, born in Kansas, adventure is
never far away. William’s life as a seaman probably played a role in his selection of a bride.

William and Sarah sold the land to Wilbur A. Stevens of Jacksonville who in turn sold it to Thomas D. Hawthorn of Thomas County, Georgia. Thomas (unmarried) sold it to Charles Toben McCarty on August 9th 1904. Charles died on January 30th 1907 and his will reads “I hereby give, bequeath and devise to my beloved wife Lizzie B. McCarty, ½ of all the real estate and personal property of which I may die possessed” The other half of his property was split between his three sons Daniel, Charles, and Brian.

On March 14, 1907 while living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, McCarty’s son Charles, grants Lizzie power of attorney. In June of the same year, Daniel, Brian and Lizzie, acting on Charles’ behalf, sell to Olive R. Totten one acre of the land for $200.

On December 7th 1912 Olive and her husband Gilbert sell one half acre of the property to John M. Sample, who along with wife Mary, sell it to A.N. Sample on June 15th 1915 holding a promissory note in the amount of $1000 payable in 12 months at an 8% interest rate. A satisfaction of mortgage was filed on July 31st 1919. In June of 1920 the land returns to the possession of John and Mary for the sum of $1200.

John and Mary sell two-tenth of an acre to James Hillis Lane on April 29th 1922. In 1927 the City of Ft. Pierce assesses John $875.96 to cover the following improvements; paving, curb & gutter, storm sewer, sanitary sewer and water system.

James and his wife Ivy build a home on their property in 1928. At age 49, James and his 45-year-old wife Ivy have been married 27 years. He is working as a manager for the local lumber company and she is a homemaker.

James and Ivy own the home until 1956 when Robert and Alice Kilvington purchase it for $12,000. After Robert and Alice, the home changed hands many times.

Continued on page 16 …
By 2003 when Mike Menard purchased the home it had been chopped up into apartments and maintained a rather uncertain reputation. While the abstract gave me direction to find past owners, the home itself exposed tantalizing mysteries, some of which may never find answers.

Who installed the koi pond that wanders gracefully through the front yard? Could it have been the Lanes in a fanciful expression of yard art? Excavations revealed the unusual feature which Mike is restoring to its original glory, including the bridge guiding visitors to the front door. Intriguing all who hear it is the mystery of the missing urns. While removing debris Mike found three urns. There were dates with no names and names with no dates, nothing to conclusively identify them. Hoping to someday track down the owner, they were stored in the garage. While waiting for a new garage door to be installed, the garage was temporarily unsecured and the urns disappeared. It would be nice to think they might turn up again someday to be reunited with the right family.

Mike continues restoration with an eye to selling the property when he’s done. Zoned for mixed use he is installing an exterior spiral staircase that will lead to the second floor allowing the option of down-stair commercial and up-stair residential space. Once this project is complete let’s hope Mike continues restoring at risk properties and returning them to active service!

The last home on our tour, 127 South 7th Street, was built in 1924 and is owned today by Peter Cook. The 1930 census lists 123 South 7th Street where we would expect to find 127 South 7th Street. Either 127 was skipped, renumbered or written in wrong. With no evidence that there was ever a 123, I’m opting to believe it was an error in enumeration. Allowing for this potential discrepancy we will learn about the Vernon family who was renting 123/127 for $25 a month in 1930.

Born in Virginia, Ludwick and Alice were married 21 years and had two daughters Virginia, 20 and little sister Mary, 14, at the time of the census. Ludwick was a manager and Alice was an operator at the telegraph company. Working for a local family as a private duty nurse, Virginia is a valuable addition to the community.

Once A.W. James sold 315 7th Street, I could have dropped him from my research, but the possibility Edna R. “James” Backus was his daughter sent me to Wisconsin in search of proof confirming my hunch. Following A.W. to Palmetto Avenue brought the boardinghouse filled with school teachers to life and struggling to determine which neighbor lived in each house introduced me to Miss. Daisy. Out of curiosity, I looked her up again in 1930. There she was: the head of the house and teaching in the public school. Taking a closer look at her past, I found that Daisy’s mother was born in India. I wonder if stories of grandma’s childhood were passed down to young Fern and Richard and are still circulating among their family today.

Representing more than just a location, then and now, is our community which is defined by the places we frequent, the people who populate them, and the actions we take. As the future unravels, I hope that wherever possible we continue to save bits of our collective history. Like charity, preservation begins at home. Let us continue what Michael, Peter and so many others have begun and give our Great-Grandchildren a place to enjoy their childhood, plan their future and explore their past.
Save the Date – 2nd Annual Cowboy Golf Tournament

by Pam Gillette

Howdy Cowpokes!
Brand your calendars now for the 2nd Annual Cowboy Golf Tournament and BBQ. Adam’s Ranch has generously agreed to let us return and Main Street Fort Pierce is very excited about this very special event.

So grab your partners, search your closet for your best cowboy/cowgirl attire, and join us for the wackiest golf tournament on the Treasure Coast.

Save the date: Saturday, April 28, 2007 for the most fun you can have with a golf club! Don’t delay. Send your application (on page 18) today to: Main Street Fort Pierce, 122 AE Backus Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34950. See you at the Ranch!

Saw It, Loved It — Had to Have It!

by Anne Satterlee

What’s made out of a boot, embellished, and unique? Cowboy boot purses! The Lafferandre Gallery on North Second Street has the latest look in “Cow Couture.” Artist Leslie Chapman who has a ranch in Kenansville, Florida brings her creative and functional accessories to Fort Pierce. Yes, the purses are all branded with her ranch brand and assigned a number, just like the Brahma Bulls they raise.

Chapman was looking for something to do when her daughter received a gift that inspired her. She had always loved and collected stones, so working with stones to make the handles was a natural. All handles can be removed and used as necklaces when the purse is not in use. The cowboy boots are all recycled — something else that Leslie is passionate about.

You can chose from one at the Lafferandre Gallery or bring in your favorite pair of old boots and Leslie will restructure them into a custom purse for you.
“COWBOY GOLF & BBQ”

at Adam’s Ranch

The Most Fun You Will Ever Have With A Golf Club!

Saturday, April 28, 2007

Four Cowboy Team ♦ Shotgun Start:
9:00 AM ♦ $100.00 per Cowboy
Fees include: 9 holes of Cowboy Golf, Goofy Bag, Breakfast Grub, BBQ and Ho-Down

☐ Full Team (four Cowpokes) Team Name__________________________
Cowboy/Cowgirl 1___________________ Cowboy/Cowgirl 2___________________
Cowboy/Cowgirl 3___________________ Cowboy/Cowgirl 4___________________

☐ Single Cowpoke (you will be put with a team)

Registration begins at 8:00 AM ♦ Cowboy Golf begins at 9:00 AM

Music, Games, Lunch
Best Dressed Cowboy/Cowgirl, Closest to the Pin, Longest Findable Drive

Clubs limited to: 5 Irons

Come dressed in your best cowboy golf attire!

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Extra BBQ Tickets: Adults ($25.00): _________ Children ($10.00): ________
Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the restoration of “The Backus House” All donations are tax deductible. -
Thank you for supporting Main Street Ft Pierce.
Meet the Band: The Rose Hill Band

by Pam Gillette

Main Street Fort Pierce is welcoming back an old time favorite to Friday Fest. The Rosehill Band was formed in the spring of 1990 as an outlet for five local musicians and friends to get together. The Rosehill Band is not your average Top 40 band. Patterned after some well known Southern Rock bands, they began to play and record original music. The band, influenced by such groups as the Allman Brothers, Molly Hatchett, Wet Willie, and The Black Crows, soon developed a unique sound all their own.

The Rosehill Band consists of Gary Brown on drums and vocals; Gary Nicholas on lead guitar and vocals; Lee Miller on Bass and vocals; Glenn Phillips on guitar and vocals; Tom Shoaf on percussion; Tom Patrick on lead vocals; and Rex Engle as sound engineer. Each combines their special talent to bring us that good old southern rock music we love.

The Rosehill Band has opened for several national acts such as Kansas, Edgar Winter, Marshall Tucker, Hank Williams Jr. and David Allen Coe. The band released their first CD Bringing Back the Angels in 1995 at the old Capricorn Studios in Macon, GA. Following the release of the CD the band played at The Elizabeth Reed Music Hall in downtown Macon. During that period they shot a video in Rosehill Cemetery which is listed on the National Register of historic places.

Two years later, The Rosehill Band released the bands second CD, Almost Alive, which was also recorded in Macon, GA. The Rosehill Band is happy to be back in Fort Pierce for the April Friday Fest. If you are interested in contacting The Rosehill Band you can call Gary Brown at 772-562-4947 or Gary Nicholas at 772-589-9267.

Friday Fest is held the first Friday of every month. Friday Fest can be postponed to the following week due to weather. Friday Fest is held at Melody Lane and Marina Square, Fort Pierce, FL 34950.

Friday Fest is sponsored by Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. For more information please call the Main Street office at 772-466-3880.
2007 Sandy Shoes Festival
presented by Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. and The Tribune

by Pam Gillette

In 1957, the Sandy Shoes Festival was conceived to entertain the tourists and locals, while keeping alive the history of Fort Pierce. Following the traditions of the past, Main Street Fort Pierce and the Tribune reintroduced the Sandy Shoes Festival in 2002, after the success of the Fort Pierce Centennial Celebration. Today, the Sandy Shoes Festival remains true to these same ideas and values, bringing music, local business competitions and fun back to the tourists and residents of our community.

The Sandy Shoes Festival will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2007 at Veteran’s Memorial Park, 600 North Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, FL from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The festival and concert are free to the public and offers a wide variety of music, arts and crafts, unique foods and children’s activities. This year’s featured entertainment is the country band BlackHawk.

New to this year’s festival will be “Laser Shot”, sponsored by Budweiser. Laser Shot is an exciting and interactive virtual shooting experience. Also included will be a classic car show and motorcycle “PokerRun”. Back by popular demand, the Grapefruit Squeeze Off, sponsored by Riverside National Bank and the Iron Chef Competition, sponsored by the Tribune will be held during day for community bragging rights. Both competitions are always a favorite among the crowd.

If music is your love, The Sandy Shoes Festival will have a variety of music for all ages. Starting at 11:30 a.m. from Sea World in Orlando, FL will be the “Groove Chefs”, a trio of busboys who create rhythmic percussions with pots, pans, spatulas, grills and trash cans. This talented group recently awed crowds at the St. Lucie County Chili Cookoff last October. The “Groove Chefs” will perform at approximately 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.. Sandy Shoes will also provide local talent throughout the day along with karaoke.

At 6:00 p.m. Storm Rider will take the stage. This versatile group of musicians brings combined talent and experience to the stage for a foot-stomping, heart stopping event. Like rolling thunder, Jim Cook, Lead Guitar/Lead Vocals; Randy Massey, Bass Guitar/Lead Vocals; Robert Hill, Drums/Backup Vocals; and Glenn Smith, Keyboard/Backup Vocals; bring their Country/Southern Rock style to us that is exciting to watch and an experience to remember.

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Family history is a funny thing. At first glance our old photos and memorabilia seem tied only to our immediate circle. When I was given the assignment to write about the history of our Sandy Shoes Festival I had no idea it would flesh out photos and add missing details to my personal family scrapbook.

But there, I’m ahead of myself.

Before I begin, I’m obliged to confess that I’ve never been to the festival. I tried a few years ago. I really wanted to drive up from Jensen to see it, but I could not get away. That was the year the Bellamy Brothers played. I wish I had gone. I might have met my Husband a little sooner. Britt handles the main stage during the festival and hit it off with the band so well they decided to do him a favor and announced he was unattached and available! Luckily for me, we met shortly thereafter.

Last year I planned to go. The main act was the Atlanta Rhythm Section, but thanks to a scheduling snafu I was in Philadelphia that weekend. So this is the year. I’m going to Sandy Shoes! Before I do, let’s look back at how it all began.

The Cattlemen’s Parade Sets the Stage 1956 - 1957

In 1956 Fort Pierce hosted the first Cattlemen’s Parade. Honoring Wright Carlton, B.E. Alderman Sr., L.A. Raulerson, Alfred Cleveland and Nathan Holmes, five country cattlemen each celebrating 50 years or more in business, it was a rousing success. From this humble beginning a tradition was born.

The St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to create a celebration that would compliment the parade, amuse our tourists, entice them to stay awhile longer and entertain visitors and homefolks alike with a bit of Fort Pierce’s unique history, keeping our local legends alive.

A naming committee was formed and they held a contest offering a $10.00 prize to the person suggesting a name that was catchy, unique and best expressed the spirit of the new festival. Sixty-four names were suggested. The committee met on October 27th 1956 and selected a name meeting each requirement and the winner was “Sandy Shoes” referring to the old Cracker legend: “if you get sand in your shoes - you’ll have to come back.”

Truly personifying the character of the new celebration, “Sandy Shoes” was submitted by 17-year-old Gail McManus, a senior at St. Anastasia’s High School. Gail later became the first “Miss Sandy Shoes” Theme Girl.

Conceived as a week long event, the inaugural festival ran from February 19th through February 24th, 1957, and was packed with events including: a historical pageant rolling back the pages of time and revealing the romantic background of St. Lucie County’s pioneers who got “sand in their shoes;” sightseeing trips on the Atlantic Ocean and Indian River along with boat and ski races; Citrus Day, bringing residents and visitors alike the opportunity to stroll through groves laden with “famous premium Indian River fruit” sample free citrus juice and feast on delicious, unusual, citrus dishes and celebrate the crowning of “Miss Delicious Dish;” a rip-roaring barbecue held at the Farmer’s market and an “exciting tomato auction” gave you a chance to see how your fruits and vegetables were graded, packed, canned and shipped.

Highlighting the week was the Cattlemen’s Parade with over two hundred horses and riders. Two big-time, bang-up rodeos featuring the finest riders in the country, a golf tournament and an art exhibit rounded out a week truly filled with something for everyone.

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At 7:00 p.m. BlackHawk will take the stage. BlackHawk is a powerhouse vocal trio, which took the country music world by storm in 1994 with their debut single “Goodbye Says It All.” Over the next ten years, the group chatted a string of hits and received numerous awards. Now three years after the loss of co-founder Van Stephenson, Henry Paul and Dave Robbins have made BlackHawk complete once again with the addition of Anthony Crawford.

BlackHawk’s repertoire consists of 15 Top 40 hits, including “Every Once in a While,” “That’s Just About Right,” and “I’m Not Strong Enough to Say No”. Their discography includes the multi-platinum debut album BlackHawk, platinum Strong Enough, Love & Gravity, The Sky’s The Limit, Greatest Hits; and Spirit Dancer. Robbins refers to the 2002 release Spirit Dancer as a “stepping stone, a spiritually introspective collection of music that signaled a turning point in BlackHawk.” Paul adds, “It was a record we had to write, putting closure to the loss of our friend and band mate with the tribute title track.” Today, BlackHawk’s legacy continues, and the group is ready to move ahead with its unique, organic style of country music.

BlackHawk has received numerous awards including TNN/Music City News “Group of the Year”, Performance Magazine “Best New Country Group”, and Radio & Records Readers’ Poll “Group of the Year”. They have also performed at many special events such as the “Night of Healing” benefit concert/Comcast cable event, the National Anthem and halftime show at the AFC playoff, and the 1997 NFL Pre-game show. They made their debut at the Grand Ole Opry on February 10, 1996 and Farm Aid ’95 (w/ Willie Nelson, Neil Young, and John Mellencamp). Main Street Fort Pierce and the Tribune are proud to announce BlackHawk as our feature entertainment for the 2007 Sandy Shoes Festival.

Immediately following BlackHawk, the sky will light up the night with a spectacular fireworks display over the Indian River Lagoon. Come join family and friends, as we kick off our shoes, dig our feet in the sand and enjoy a great day of music, food and fun.

For more information, sponsorship or volunteer opportunities on the Sandy Shoes Festival call the Main Street Fort Pierce office at 466-3880.

The Main Street Fort Pierce and Tribune Sandy Shoes Festival sponsors as of print date include:

Main Event Sponsors: Budweiser, Clear Channel Communications (WAVE Country 92.7, OLDIES 103.7, STAR 94.7), Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and St. Lucie Medical Center, Long Branch Saloon and Scripps Howard Newspapers
Supporting Sponsors: Charlie’s Dodge, Nissan, Mitsubishi, & Isuzu, Harbor Federal Savings Bank as a National City Company, Lennar Homes, and Riverside National Bank
Special Thanks To: The A.E. Backus Gallery, the City of Fort Pierce, the Manatee Observation & Education Center, the Seven Gables House and St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation.
Heydays for Sandy Shoes
1958 - 1965

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Ed. Klueppelberg “The Man in Red” who alternately served as President, Chairman and Member of the Sandy Shoes Festival Committee and his extensive collection of programs and memorabilia, I’m able to bring you highlights from these early years.

After the enthusiastic response to that first festival in ’57 the momentum continued in 1958 when the committee invited you to “Get sand in your shoes and … Stay awhile!”

Visitors were treated to the historical pageant “Along These Waters” written and directed by Ada Coats Williams. Billed as “A stirring outdoor drama depicting the opening and settling of the lower East Coast of Florida … clothed in a mantle of beautiful organ and choral music, the characters and events are drawn from actual historical records and from stories told by those who pioneered the area … portraying with vivid realism the lives of the typical pioneer man and woman who cast their lot and lived and died here – along these waters … many of the characters are played by their children or grandchildren and the parts of the Florida Indians are played by Full-blooded Seminole Indians.” With so much local talent and sets designed by Beanie Backus it must have been quite a show.

The Cattlemen’s parade boasted balloons brought in from the New Year’s Orange Bowl Parade. Measuring 110 feet in length and 14 feet in height, they were supplied courtesy of the Fort Pierce New Car and Truck Dealers Association. More than 300 horses and 1,000 people participated that year in a parade of staggering proportions for our small town.

The 6th annual art exhibit hosted by the Soroptimist club was held in conjunction with the festival Saturday and Sunday and all were invited to visit the A.E. “Beanie” Backus’ studio 103 Avenue C to sample art described as leaning “predominantly toward local color” much of it known today as “Highwaymen Art.”

Tales of our hometown festival reached across the nation with an article in The New York Times on February 16th, 1958, proclaiming “almost every tourist spot in Florida has an annual festival, but this one in Fort Pierce has two distinctions: It signalizes that Fort Pierce has come of age as a resort city and it offers visitors an opportunity to become acquainted with the area … The Florida Development Commission has twice selected the waters near Fort Pierce for making color movies of deep sea fishing.” This was quite a bit of recognition for a sleepy little town.

The Sandy Shoes committee met at Simonsen’s Restaurant at noon Wednesday, December 30, 1960. Among other things they discussed adding a “Band-a-rama” with music furnished by the high schools and local groups. Dan McCarthy High School Band offered to stage the event, the motion was passed and another much loved tradition was born.

Continued on page 24 …
In 1961, the Pancake Breakfast, Science Show and “Grand Ole Opry” Ft. Pierce style was added to the list of festival events. The Paddle Wheel Queen was a 100 passenger stern-wheeler that offered Show Boat Entertainment and refreshments at a reasonable cost. To take the family aboard it cost only $1.00.

The Cypress Garden Ski Show was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club South and was “a sight you’ll never forget, with a hundred boats forming a breakwater” The admission price was $1.50 for adults, 75 cents for students, children six and under free when accompanied by a parent.

With so many amazing events and such positive community support, it was a bit unexpected when the festival committee announced there would be no Sandy Shoes Festival in 1962 due to lack of funds. The committee stated, “If we can’t give St. Lucie County citizens and guests the best, then we shouldn’t compromise by giving them less”. The Sandy Shoes committee immediately began planning the 1963 season and the festival came back stronger then ever. Thanks in part to Indian River Junior College students who sold advertising for the Sandy Shoes program helping both Sandy Shoes and an IRJC Scholarship Fund which received a solicitor’s percentage.

The 1963 program included a history of Fort Pierce, and it contained a time capsule of local companies. Advertising helped to pull the festival out of the red. The event lasted ten days from March 1st to March 10th and the highlights included; a Western Fashion Show, Gala Coronation Dance for the Sandy Shoes Queen and Royal Court of Honor, a Turkey Shoot, Junior High Basketball Game, a week long Carnival, and The St. Lucie Story – a 90 minute spectacular featuring music, dancing and comedy, plus free fireworks.

There were two building dedications, one for the St. Lucie County Courthouse and one for the City Utility Building. The St. Lucie Cowboy Club put on a rodeo and the Lincoln Park and Dan McCarty Glee Clubs hosted a show entitled “Brotherhood of Man.” A staple of the festival, the Bar-B-Que and the traditional Cattlemen’s Parade also took place.

Some facts published in the program - Out of 376,320 St. Lucie County acres, 200,000 were devoted to raising cattle. Beef cattle were valued at $3,000,000 and dairy at $200,000.

Ending the program was the story of Saint Lucie, the young martyr for whom the county was named detailing the blessings she bestowed upon us:

“She was famed as the saint who ended winter. Wearing a white gown and a crown of lights, she came to chase away the cold.

She must have been around and on the job in 1894-95 when a hard freeze gripped and badly injured citrus groves in other sections, and left our area safe. A big boost to St. Lucie grove growth came from that ’95 freeze, as growers moved into the area for safety. The second big boost came in 1915 when the drainage district was organized, opening up vast new grove land.”
In 1964, Miss Johanna Brandon was in New York representing Fort Pierce as the Sandy Shoes Theme Girl. The whole community got in on the action with Dress-up Days when the women wore pioneer clothes, and the men donned cowboy and western regalia.

There was alligator wrestling and stock car races, an Indian pageant and outboard motor marathon races. When the guests got hungry everyone headed on over to the Fireman’s “Cracker” Fish Fry then rounded out the week with a Florida Folk Minstrel Hootenanny.

In 1964 Merkle Motors and Radio WIRA sponsored a treasure hunt for the entire Sandy Shoes Festival week recommending you “Forget your Geiger counter or electronic devices – it just won’t work! A strong back and a long shovel, remember?” Clues to twenty separate treasures were announced daily on Radio WIRA and in the local papers. There was $320.00 in cash prizes – all yours for the digging! And that wasn’t the only treasure up for grabs, the Sandy Shoes Committee raffled off a 1965 Volkswagen for just $1.00 per ticket.

There was even a beard judging contest that encouraged the men to “put away your razors and let those whiskers grow”!

Where are we Now?
2007

The fun and festivals continued through the 1970’s but as times changed and folks left the downtown area for malls and more hectic lives, attendance fell off and the year came when Fort Pierce quit hosting the “festival of festivals”.

But in 2001, with vision and the rebirth of our amazing downtown, Main Street Fort Pierce decided to bring back the Sandy Shoes Festival tradition after the very popular and successful Fort Pierce Centennial Celebration took place.

During the past six years the new Sandy Shoes festival has hosted such acts as Sister Hazel, Joe Nichols, Colin Hays, Blue County, the Bellamy Brothers and Atlanta Rhythm Section. This year’s feature entertainment is the band, Black Hawk, and it is sure to draw record crowds during the day long celebration.

Still known for our citrus and cattle, the Cattlemen’s Parade persevered through the years and is now held in early February. So if you missed that event, or even if you were there remember that was just half the fun! Get some sand in your shoes and join us March 24th for an old fashioned celebration of community spirit and friendship!

Oh, and what of that personal connection I mentioned earlier? Even for a girl who has never attended a Sandy Shoes festival, community and family are intermingled.

My father passed away when I was four. When I turned 30 a box arrived in the mail with hundreds of his photos that were found tucked away in my grandmother’s basement. I had been puzzled as to what some of the pictures were of until I read the 1959 Sandy Shoes program describing the Citrus Feast at Flamingo Restaurant, Shamrock Village, South Beach. I knew that my dad managed Shamrock Village for some years before I was born. A quick call to my mom confirmed that these were indeed “Miss Delicious Dish” contestants serving delicious, unusual, citrus dishes.

You never know when the memory you’re making today will become part of the cherished history of tomorrow’s children. Come make some memories with us!
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Downtown Hero: Peter W. Busch

by Dan Dannahower

This month’s Main Street Fort Pierce Downtown Hero, Peter W. Busch, has been a Treasure Coast resident since 1984. A descendent of Adolphus Busch, founder of the Anheuser-Busch companies of brewing fame, Peter moved to Vero Beach in 1984 to assume ownership of the local distributor, Southern Eagle Distributing, Inc. Since then, Busch has grown the business to over 150 employees and 65 million in annual sales.

While growing his piece of the Anheuser-Busch empire, Peter and wife Joan have also raised their family. They are the proud parents of six children, three of whom are native Floridians. They also believe strongly in giving back to their community. Over the years, Southern Eagle Distributing and the Peter W. Busch Family Foundation have contributed many dollars and volunteer hours to over 500 local nonprofit organizations. Peter and Joan also sponsor the Thanksgiving Jubilee, which feeds over 5,000 less fortunate individuals in our area. Peter also gives generously of his time having been on numerous Boards of Directors for local charities and organizations, including the Sunrise Theatre Board.

Which all brings us to why Peter Busch is this month’s Downtown Hero. Peter Busch and Southern Eagle Distributing are currently Main Street’s primary sponsor for all major events including Friday Fest, Sandy Shoes, the Reverse Raffle and many others. For a long time now, Peter, his company, and his employees, have donated both monetarily and given their labor for the betterment of Main Street Fort Pierce. He believes in the benefit of partnering with the community and in the returns we all reap when we give a little for the place we call home.

Main Street Fort Pierce would like to thank Peter Busch for his unwavering commitment toward sponsoring the projects and events that have made the revitalization of downtown Fort Pierce so successful over the years.
As Fort Pierce Main Street begins its 18th successful year, it is undertaking an aggressive Membership Drive. “The Next Big Thing” campaign took off in May, 2006. Please consider becoming a Main Street Member.

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

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

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

### Main Street Membership Levels

**Private:**
- Student ........................................... $15.00
- Friend ............................................. $25.00
- Family ............................................. $50.00

**Corporate:**
- Small Business (less than 10 employees) . $100.00
- Medium Business (11 - 50 employees) . $250.00
- Large Business (51 or more employees) . $500.00
- Patron (all others) ............................... $500.00
- Sponsor ........................................... $1,000.00

- I would like to become a Main Street volunteer.

Name: ________________________________

Company/Organization: ____________________________

Street Address: ____________________________

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Email: ____________________________

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Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., a 501©3 not-for-profit corporation, has encouraged and participated in the revitalization efforts of downtown Fort Pierce for the past 18 years. The efforts of many have paid off. Downtown Fort Pierce is now recognized as one of the most desirable locations to live and work on the Treasure Coast, as well as, in the state of Florida.

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

The success of Main Street Fort Pierce over the past 18 years is due to the faithful commitment of current and past members of the Main Street board of directors, the City of Fort Pierce, local community organizations, local businesses, and general public support. Currently, the program consists of twelve volunteer board members and two full-time employees. During its existence, Main Street Fort Pierce has held approximately twenty-six downtown promotional events each year, educated public school children about the history of the area, won numerous local, state, and national awards, restored historic buildings including the Sunrise Theatre, recruited businesses to the downtown area, held downtown charrettes to encourage the public participation in revitalization efforts, created outdoor art programs, and helped fund an award-winning image campaign along with the Downtown Business Association, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and the City of Fort Pierce.

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**Membership Benefits:**
- Subscriptions to Main Street Focus and Website Links to Focus On-Line
- Advance Notice and Invitation to Special Events
- Membership to St. Lucie County Preservation Association
- Listed on our On-Line Membership Page (Corporate & Private)
- Networking & Volunteer Opportunities

When residents support and appreciate the business district, the businesses flourish. When the businesses flourish, the residents in the neighborhood prosper as well. We are all neighbors investing in each other’s success.
Sunrise Theatre March Schedule  In Beautiful Downtown Fort Pierce

Richie Havens  
Saturday, March 10

One of America’s most beloved folk artists, a central figure during the glory days of Greenwich Village, the first performer on the stage at Woodstock, what can one say? For four decades Richie has used his riveting guitar style and instantly recognizable voice to convey messages of brotherhood and personal freedom to generation after generation.

With more than 25 albums under his belt and following a schedule that would kill a younger man, his performances are masterpieces of passion and commitment.

Fleetwood Mac’s Lindsey Buckingham  
Sunday, March 11

A multi-platinum enigma — massively successful and still somehow an enduring, intriguing mystery. As an individual artist, Buckingham has remained a curiously low-profile figure, despite decades of high visibility as a member of Fleetwood Mac — the legendary band for which he has long served as a visionary leader and bold sonic architect.

The classic rock anthem Go Your Own Way, “Dreams,” Don’t Stop and You Make Loving Fun are all from the Rumours album that has sold over twenty million copies.

Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks  
Thursday, March 22

Asking the eternal question How Can I Miss You When You Won’t Go Away, Dan Hicks always delivers an evening of unsurpassed musical hyjinks. In cosmic combination with his lovely and talented cohorts, Dan’s legend has endured for over three decades and promises a show you won’t want to miss.

For more information please visit www.sunrisetheatre.com or call (772) 461-4775.

Society Legends Concert: Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society Presents Jazz Legend David Sanborn, April 14

by Robin Dannahower

The Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society’s 2007 Jazz Legends Concert will feature six-time Grammy award-winning artist David Sanborn. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society and Alzheimer’s Community Care.

Sanborn is the most prolific and emulated pop, rhythm & blues, and crossover/fusion saxophonist of the past 30 years. In the early days of his career his uniquely passionate, emotional alto sound supported many Chicago blues greats, such as Albert King and Paul Butterfield.

After playing with Gil Evans’ band in 1973, Sanborn joined pop and rock acts, including Stevie Wonder, The Brecker Brothers, David Bowie, James Taylor, The Eagles, The Rolling Stones and Aretha Franklin, as a featured soloist. As America’s first-call alto sax session player, his expressive performances — such as his immortal solo on Bowie’s Young Americans — have graced countless artists’ recordings.

This year’s Jazz Legends Concert is scheduled for April 14, 2007 at 8 p.m. at the Sunrise Theatre, which is located at 117 S. Second Street in Fort Pierce. Ticket prices are $50 and $75 and will be available for Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society members on February 23, 2007 and for the general public on March 8, 2007. Tickets can be purchased at the Sunrise Theatre’s box office by visiting in person, online at sunrisetheatre.com or by calling 772/461-0775.
March brings a new dimension to the Lafferan-dre Gallery. While they have always carried the calligraphy of Leslie Lafferan-dre, Leslie has invited some of her friends to exhibit their work along with her. All are worthy calligraphers and all have had work exhibited in the Smithsonian in Washington DC.

Barbara Brandt, from Margate, is a freelance calligrapher with a B.A. in Fine Arts. She is an active member of the South Florida Calligraphy Guild and has taught guild workshops in addition to courses at local museums and schools. Her work may be found in many collections including the Smithsonian and the Jaffe Collection at FAU. She is the associate editor of Uncommon Numbers, A Source Book for Artists.

Gloria Eckart, from Plantation, has a B.A. in English Literature. After taking calligraphy classes, she joined the South Florida Calligraphy Guild, and has held various guild positions. She also contributed articles and artwork to “Furor Scribendi,” the guild’s newsletter. Her real love is combining calligraphy, with flower quotations, and flower illustrations. She now does calligraphic originals on paste paper or charcoal background. She writes her own short stories with illustrations for her books.

Continued on page 32 …
“Indian River Aquarelles” at Picture Perfect

by Sue Dannahower

Inspiration for landscapes and wildlife depictions comes easy on beautiful Hutchinson Island, Florida, where Karen spends her winters. Her summers are spent painting in equally beautiful northern Michigan. A life-long art enthusiast, Karen now specializes in watercolors as the most satisfying medium in which to capture the colors and ambiance of both locations. She is a member of the Treasure Coast Art Association, the Mid Michigan Art Guild, and the Crystal Lake Art Center of Michigan.

During the month of March local, Karen Allen, will be showing her artwork at the Picture Perfect Gallery. The gallery is located in historic downtown Fort Pierce at 124 North 2nd Street. To request more information about the gallery, please call (772) 461-0410.
Marilyn Gray, from Gainesville, spent her formative years in Hawaii. She has a Master's Degree in elementary education and was teacher. In 1988, her husband and family were transferred with his job to Australia and the life of a calligrapher was born. She first studied calligraphy Down Under, and continued her studies in Toronto, Chicago, Florida, Hong Kong and Singapore. Marilyn's artwork and manuscript books have been exhibited at the National Postal Museum as part of the “Graceful Envelope” exhibit, the Oregon Book Arts Guild, and “Turning Pages” Exhibit at Miami Dade College. In addition, her work is also in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution and the Jaffe Collection at Florida Atlantic University. Because of her travels, the Asian and tropical influences are an important part of her work.

Leslie Lafferandre, from the Lafferandre Gallery in Fort Pierce, has exhibited at prestigious art festivals around the east coast. Leslie has studied calligraphy with calligraphers known world wide by taking classes and workshops in South Florida and attending national conferences. Leslie has been involved in the art community as a member of numerous professional organizations. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institute as well as in private collections throughout the United States and in Argentina, Belgium, Canada, England, Germany, Japan, and South Africa.

Because each has a different niche in the calligraphic field, the exhibit brings a wide range of work together. Opening night is Wednesday March 12 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Lafferandre Gallery located at 205 North Second Street, in historic downtown Fort Pierce. The exhibit will run through March. This coincides with Second Wednesday Walkabout, which is always a fun night downtown. For further information call 772 489-4255.
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The Coffee House with a view! Opened for business for over a month, The Coffee House has joined the ever-growing list of unique downtown establishments. The Coffee House, overlooking the beautiful Indian River Lagoon, is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Owner Ellen Giancola cheerfully serves both breakfast and lunch daily.

The Coffee House boasts specialty coffees, espresso and hot chocolate. Breakfast includes fresh Italian pastries and hot breakfast sandwiches. Lunch consists of daily sandwiches, wraps and soup specials.

I visited The Coffee House with my friends Anita Prentice & Ginny Piech-Street (the GaGa Girls). For lunch we munched on Turkey, Bacon & Cheese sandwiches ($3.00), Chicken Noodle Soup ($2.00) and freshly brewed Hazelnut Coffee ($1.50). Daily Specials include:

- **Monday** – Turkey, Bacon & Cheese Sandwich/Wrap, Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup.
- **Tuesday** – Ham & Swiss Sandwich/Wrap.
- **Wednesday** – Chicken Salad Sandwich/Wrap, Vegetable Beef Soup.
- **Thursday** – Roast Beef Sandwich/Wrap, Spinach Soup
- **Friday** – Tuna Salad/Wrap.

Cobb’s Landing Serves Breakfast
by Sue Dannahower

Open for just over a year, Cobb’s Landing ventures into the world of breakfast. Relax on the patio overlooking the Marina while enjoying farm fresh eggs, omelets, Belgian waffles, French Toast, oatmeal and much more. Entrée’s are served with a choice of home fries or grits and toast. Most offerings are under $7.00. Bloody Marys and Mimosas are available with Saturday breakfast.

**Banquet and Catering**

Let Cobb’s Landing host your next birthday, rehearsal dinner or office party. Their banquet facilities, overlooking the beautiful Ft. Pierce City Marina, can accommodate seating for 60. They offer a variety of menu choices using only the freshest ingredients and prepared in house by their Chef. Cobb’s offers a professionally trained staff to help make your event memorable.

**Saturday & Sunday**, 7:00 – 11:00 a.m.; 200 N. Indian River Drive; (772) 460-9014, cobbslanding@bellsouth.net.
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Something for Everyone at the Manatee Observation and Education Center

The Manatee Observation & Education Center celebrated its 10th Anniversary in October 2006 and kicked off our 11th season in style! From our mascot, Moe the Manatee’s, Birthday Bash to our 10th Anniversary Reception, held in honor of those who have supported us throughout our 10 years, we had something for friends of all ages!

At the Manatee Center, we pride ourselves on our education. In our Exhibit Hall, we have displays and programs that provide education on a variety of topics. We offer programs for grades K – 5 on a many subjects, including manatees, mangroves and sea turtles. Not only do we provide education for groups from St. Lucie County, they come to us from surrounding counties, as well. One of our most popular programs, seining, will resume in March. If you are not familiar with seining, school groups travel to the Indian River Lagoon, where they are instructed on how to seine for small marine life in nets. Then the specimens are identified and released, unharmed, back into the lagoon.

And the excitement continues! In March we start the month with one of our ever-popular kayaking adventures, the Moonlight Paddle on March 2. Our monthly Brown Bag Lunch Lecture is on Friday, March 9. Then on March 10 and 17, Education Coordinator, Lesley Vincent-Ryder will conduct a two part Naturalist II Class for those who are interested in learning more about our local ecosystems. Participating in the Round Island Kayak on March 17th, is a learning adventure as well! For those of you who would rather photograph those ecosystems, we have a Photo Safari Workshop on March 17th, conducted by Instructor Gerard Saltus III. The Jim Island Kayak is scheduled for March 26th, and rounding out an exciting month, will be the TCMF 3rd Annual Bayou Blast, a 100 Clay Family Fun Shoot! There are still teams available, so call us for all the details!

And let’s not forget the Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop. It is one of the best in the area. Over 800 square feet of unique, nature related gifts. Whether shopping for yourself or a loved one, young or old, you are sure to find the perfect gift inside. And, this is where you purchase tickets for our educational Indian River Lagoon Boat Tours. These tours delight all who participate! So, treat yourself to a day of fun and discovery by visiting the Manatee Center and the Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop.

With all of these events going on, naturally there is a variety of volunteer opportunities! Whether you enjoy helping others learn about the environment and our local wildlife, staying youthful by assisting with school groups as an education volunteer, or being surrounded by beautiful items in the Vanishing Mermaid gift shop, there is an opportunity available to you! As a Manatee Center volunteer you meet people from around the world, earn great rewards, take volunteer trips to unique and interesting places, and best of all, receive a feeling of satisfaction that only helping others can bring!

Please call us at 772-466-1600 ext. 3071 for more information on any of these opportunities and we will be more than happy to help you! You can also visit our website at manateecenter.com and our online gift shop at manateegiftsgalore.com.
Fishing Report
by Dan Dannahower

The last of the big billfish tournaments wrapped up in January. Winners, from first through fifth place were as follows: **Bone Shaker**, **Hotty Toddy**, **Viking 64**, **Sight-Sea-Er**, and **Cookie Too**. For full coverage and photos go to www.pelicanyachtclub.com.

With the constant barrage of fronts we have had coming through, the weather has been changing frequently. Some Kingfish and Dolphin are being taken in deep water. Mackerel and Bluefish are running closer to shore. Watch the weather and be ready to go when the wind is down. Local tackle shops and marinas can help with current conditions. The new satellite weather system at the Fort Pierce Marina is great for viewing real time wave conditions.

Inshore, the lagoon continues to provide a variety of species. Snook, Trout, Sheepshead, Snappers, Bluefish, Jacks and even a few Grouper have been reported. Again, your local vendors can provide many time saving tips on what to use and where to go. Be sure to know size and bag limit laws before you head out. Regulations can be found at www.myfwc.com. A license is required to fish from a boat.

Doug Wile and Kevin Gillette fishing off the Fort Pierce Coast November 2006 using ballyhoo.

If you are a boat owner and have not been out for a while, this is a good time of year to do some “spring cleaning” in preparation for our upcoming spring weather. Spring is normally the best time of the year for boating. A good scrub and rinse, a battery charge, a check of all mechanical systems and safety gear will ensure that you are ready when those flat, calm days start to show up in a month or two. Do not forget to check your boat and trailer registrations are current. This is also a good time to inventory the tackle box!

Good luck and good fishing!

Doug Wile and Kevin Gillette fishing off the Fort Pierce Coast November 2006 using ballyhoo.

Emelia Nunn with a nice grouper she caught with her dad.

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National City: Your Newest Neighbor

Mike Brown, Sr., National City Chairman and CEO of the Central and Northeast Florida Region

Harbor Federal is now National City. Or, better said, National City is Harbor Federal.

Why do I say that? Because Harbor Federal customers are discovering that everything they appreciate about their bank – the attention to detail and superior customer service, for example – will remain unchanged. Also unchanged will be the faces in the branches that you have come to know and trust; only now they will offer the products and capabilities of a large financial institution.

For years, we’ve understood that to be successful we must nurture similar successes for the communities where we live and work. National City understands this as well. As one of our country’s leading financial services companies, National City shares our values and promotes a similar culture of good corporate citizenship, one of the reasons why we like to say National City is Harbor Federal.

We also share a rich history of serving the financial needs of customers from all walks of life.

National City was founded in 1845 – the same year Florida achieved statehood – on the banks of Lake Erie in Cleveland, Ohio, where it is still headquartered. So sound was National City’s investment philosophy in those early years, the bank was able to weather the Great Depression. After the banking moratorium in 1933, when most banks were providing five cents on the dollar to their banking customers, National City, which kept its doors open throughout the moratorium, was the only major bank in Cleveland giving 100 cents on the dollar.

Today, National City is a leader in consumer and business banking. It ranks as one of the top 10 financial holding companies in the United States, with assets of $140 billion and more than 1,200 branches in seven states: Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and Pennsylvania. By mid-2007, National City will add more than 100 branches along Florida’s Central East Coast.

Like Harbor Federal, National City believes in local investment – and local involvement. National City has already established a $2 million charitable fund to support the communities in its Central and Northeast Florida region. Use of those funds will be directed to benefit those who live and work in our communities.

The changes that have taken place benefit our customers and the business community. More importantly, customers will be able to take advantage of National City’s full suite of financial products and services, making banking simple for lives that are not. Customers also will find life more rewarding, through points from National City, the bank’s industry leading rewards program.

Next month we will cover more about all the great products and services – checking and savings accounts, lending services, mortgages, investments and retirement planning and wealth management – which National City is bringing to our communities. It’s an exciting time, and Harbor Federal is proud to bring a renewed commitment to our communities.

Better still, Harbor Federal is proud to be National City.
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