Main Street Fort Pierce to Host Annual Florida Main Street Conference

by John Culverhouse

On the First of November, more than 200 people from across the state will arrive in Fort Pierce as the Florida Main Street Annual Conference begins. Attendees, representing roughly 50 Main Street designated cities, will come here to talk strategic planning, community partnerships, historic preservation, and cultural heritage — and they will be doing so amidst proven results from a powerful, thriving Main Street organization. For the past 18 years, Main Street Fort Pierce has been a driving force in the downtown renaissance, and today, no matter where you go or what you do downtown, there is no doubt that Main Street’s hands have been all over it.

“Fort Pierce is a model Florida Main Street community — one of our gems, actually,” said Joan Jefferson, Florida Main Street Program Coordinator. “Fort Pierce has achieved great success with downtown revitalization and the rehabilitation of historic buildings. Our attendees will have the opportunity to visit some of these historic structures, and learn how project and program successes were achieved.”

Continued on page 8 ...
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Since the hurricanes of 2004, I cannot remember when there was a relatively large conference to visit Fort Pierce. As you may recall, the Radisson Resort on North Hutchinson Island, which accommodated all sizes of groups with hotel rooms and dining facilities, fell victim to Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. Needless to say, what the hurricanes did not destroy, the bulldozers took care of when the prime beach front property was sold to a condominium development.

Recently, the Main Street staff and I worked with several hotels in and around Fort Pierce to find room space for approximately 200 or more attendees for the Florida Main Street Annual Conference. The City and Main Street Fort Pierce is extremely honored and excited to host the conference and show other main street cities what can be done when you have significant partnerships in the community. By “Paving the Way,” this year’s conference theme, Fort Pierce showcases its successes with reinvestment by the City and redevelopment from the private investor. The quaint and beautiful waterfront city now draws visitors, new residents and businesses to take a second look at what has occurred in only 12 years.

The Main Street Annual Conference will give conference attendees a great opportunity to visit our historic city and gain insights from the speakers that they, in return, can share with their own communities. With an opening night reception at the restored Sunrise Theatre, a tour of downtown, the 2006 Awards Dinner, and the conference keynote speaker, Rick Segel, Main Streeters will have a non-stop experience at this year’s conference. We, the Board Members and Staff of Main Street Fort Pierce, love showing off our beautiful City and look forward to showing our fellow Florida Main Street enthusiasts how we “Paved the Way” in downtown Fort Pierce.
Calendar
Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

Annual Florida Main Street Conference - Wednesday to Friday, Nov. 1 to 3; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880

Friday Fest - Friday, Nov. 3; 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880

2nd Wednesday Walkabout - Wednesday, Nov. 8; 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080

Coffee With the Mayor - Friday, Nov. 17; 8:00 a.m. at Historic City Hall, Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880

Arcade Building Wine Tasting, “An Evening in Paris,” Friday, Nov. 17; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880

COMMUNITY CENTER
For more information on the Fort Pierce Community Center activities listed below, please call 462-7071.

Slimnastics - Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Jazzercise - Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.
Adult Flamingo Class - Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Adult Social Dance Class - Wednesday, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Pilates Class - Monday, 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.
Kozy Crafters - Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Jazz Jam - Thursday, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Country Line Dancing - Monday, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Belly Dancing - Tuesday, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
After School Tutoring - Monday & Wednesday, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

“Ladies Night” on Thursdays, 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.; Live Music on Friday evenings.

BACKUS GALLERY
For more information, please call 465-0630.

Vultures for Culture Scavenger Hunt - November 12

Annual Four County Juried Show - The Best of the Treasure Coast; October 18 to November 11, 2006; Sponsored by SunTrust Bank

The Bold and the Beautiful - November 14 to December 6; The works in this show are colorful, lively, vivid and awe-inspiring — classic definitions of things one might expect from the title of this show.

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY
For information, please call 462-2787.

Who: Main Street Fort Pierce
What: Fall Wine Tasting “An Evening in Paris”
When: Friday, Nov. 17
Where: Historic Arcade Building on U.S. 1 and Orange Avenue
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Cost: $40.00 per person
Info: 772-466-3880

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, north of downtown Fort Pierce Library, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

RESTAURANT ENTERTAINMENT
The Original Tiki Bar, 461-0880 - Music by “Barely Broken” on Sundays, 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Governor’s Grill, 466-6900 - “Texas Hold ‘Em” on Tuesdays, call for times; “Blues Night at the Grill” on Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m.;

The 19th Annual Sights and Sounds Holiday Festival and Parade, “A Storybook Christmas,” will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2006. The festival is from 1:00 - 6:30 pm, with the parade beginning at 4:30 pm. Following the parade the Mayor will light the Christmas tree in the roundabout, followed by the start of the Holiday lights in Marina Square. For more information on the festival or for a parade application call the Main Street Fort Pierce office at 772-466-3880.
A Message from the Mayor: Good Things are Happening in Our City
by Bob J. Benton, III

I am honored to be your Mayor, and as your Mayor I feel communication is the first key to success. The great volunteer staff of Main Street Focus is welcoming a column in their periodical to inform you, the citizens, of issues affecting us all. You are aware that Fort Pierce is growing, along with that comes growing pains. I feel the Fort Pierce City Commission and City staff is focused on bringing positive and prosperous change. So shall we begin on what I hope is a great informative message.

In recent weeks, many decisions have been made concerning our downtown. One of which I feel is a big win for the public; the Marina Square project has been halted. The original group planning to build the project was unable to proceed and the last group, Catalfumo, withdrew their proposal. Feeling that the public should have access to their waterfront, I now see the Farmers Market, Friday Fest, art festivals, fishing tournaments, holiday festivities and more remaining along the water. I have always felt, public lands in public hands. Without the project being built, we addressed the parking garage. A vote to move the parking garage to the City Hall parking lot is a good one. The retail community should benefit from this decision as it is centrally located between the Arcade building and Second Street. Shoppers will be able to walk either direction to shop and this will hopefully entice more retail in the area. This decision allows the old J C Penny parking lot to remain open while the parking garage is being built and will only inconvenience city employees, allowing downtown to still function. The parking garage at City Hall is on target to be built by the end of 2007. Jon Ward, our Redevelopment Director, is on task to make it happen. I am also working on opening parking by the cooling towers of the King power plant to assist with parking issues.

As we begin the holiday season, my wish to you is a happy and healthy one. See you downtown!

Good things are happening in the City of Fort Pierce and I hope this will help to keep you informed. I would also like to congratulate the Lincoln Park Main Street Program! Welcome to the good things of Fort Pierce.

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Meet the Band: 4 Steps Closer
by Pam Gillette

Coming to Friday Fest in December is 4 Steps Closer. A local band comprised of singer-songwriter, acoustic rhythm guitarist, Jeannie Blatus; lead guitarist, Leo Burke; bassist/vocalist, Sheldon Shrum; and drummer, John Aughinbaugh. Their sound blends a rock groove with pop, blues and sprinklings of country. Jeannie’s songs are intimate and sometimes uncomfortably honest. Echoes of Bonnie Raitt, Sheryl Crow, and Etta James certainly reflect in her expressive voice. Very diverse, one moment she conjures up the vein-popping, sweaty, powerful rock siren within, next it’s her sweet, smooth, sultry side. Hook laden and catchy, her music is the kind you wake up singing and hear in your head when you’re trying to sleep; you’ll be cursing her name for sure.

Leo Burke’s guitar work adds an edgy excitement to the music. His poignant playing tastefully weaves throughout the songs. His leads are melodic and suggest a whole other voice harmonizing with Jeannie’s. Influenced by rock fusion guitarist such as Steve Morse and Jeff Beck, Leo’s close relationship with his instrument (guitar that is) gives him the ability to either melt face or gently soothe. In addition to 4 Steps Closer, Leo and Jeannie perform as a regionally touring duo under the name Sleepin’ Dogz.

Sheldon Shrum is a vocal chameleon. His diverse voice can transform from soft and gentle, to thunderous and strong. With his roots firmly planted in country music,
he adds sweet southern feel to the songs. His bass playing is solid and complimentary to the songs.

John Aughinbaugh is the human metronome of the band. Influenced by drummers like Carter Beauford his steady beats keep the whole band grooving together. 4 Steps Closer have performed together since 2001. They won the 2004 Budweiser True Music Battle of the Bands earning them a slot opening for national country band, Blue County. In 2004, they also were the “Pick of the Week” on 104.1 Real Radio with “MayDay” the first track of their CD entitled “Soon...” They continue to jam around Florida earning new fans everywhere they perform.

Contact: Jeannie at 772-913-1177 or visit the website: www.myspace.com/4stepscloser. 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 Veteran's Memorial Park, 600 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34950. Friday Fest is put on by Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. For more information please call the Main Street office at 772-466-3880.
Twenty-five years ago, the National Trust for Historic Preservation launched the National Main Street program to combat the decline of America’s downtown areas. Fort Pierce was a microcosm of Anytown, USA. Folks who have lived here since the 1940’s may recall strolling along the streets of a bustling downtown. Memories might include shopping at Ross-low’s, picking up sundries at Canaday's Drug Store, grabbing an ice cream soda at the Whizateria, or catching a show at the Sunrise Theater. Fond recollections might also include stopping by Beanie Backus’ house to have a chat, or perhaps watch him paint a sunset over a pristine Florida swamp. It was a nice life here in River City.

In the 1970s, a new way of life emerged. People began going to malls and shopping centers. On-street parking was done away with as two-lane roads gave way to four-lane highways. As urban sprawl became the new norm, rapid decline of downtown areas followed. Many rich, historic downtown buildings were abandoned, and cities became ghost towns at the end of each workday.

The story of our downtown renaissance dates back to 1988. Fort Pierce City Commissioners, city staff, and concerned citizens applied for, and was designated a Main Street city. Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., is now a 501©3 not-for-profit corporation. The four-step Main Street approach, used by more than 1600 communities nationwide, consists of the following steps: organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring.

Tom Kindred, Jr., became the first Main Street manager. Kindred and his board of directors’ first grant amounted to $10,000, which they put towards a façade improvement grant for downtown businesses. If businesses painted or improved their storefront, Main Street...
matched their expenses, up to $1,000. Fifteen downtown storefronts were refurbished, dramatically improving the aesthetic value of the district.

Kindred’s idea of a family festival to bring everyone downtown began on Second Street. Over the years, Friday Fest outgrew its location and grew into the largest, most well attended street festival along the Treasure Coast. Friday Fest now takes place along the beautiful waterfront. Due to construction along Indian River Drive, however, Friday Fest is temporarily held at Veteran’s Memorial Park.

Although the first board of directors set high expectations from the beginning, Kindred said that it is very rewarding to see this much success. “For myself, the Main Street manager’s position will always be the most challenging and rewarding job I will ever hold,” said Tom Kindred, Jr., former director, Main Street Fort Pierce.

Continued on page 16 ...
Weekly Jazz Jams held every Thursday
at the Fort Pierce Community Center
600 Indian River Drive 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm.
Free admission and complimentary refreshments.

Watch for our 7th
Annual Jazz Masters Concert Series
held during the month of February.
Some of the artists who will be performing are
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Enchanted Paris Evening - Wine Tasting Event

By Kate O'Connor

On Friday, November 10, Main Street Fort Pierce and Keith Andersen from Roy’s Liquors will host an Enchanted Paris Evening Wine Tasting at the Arcade Building in downtown Fort Pierce. Support of sponsorship from Longwood Medical Center. As early as 6 o’clock guests will enjoy a toast to autumn with live jazz music, and demonstration of the rules of wine tasting and the art of pairing food with different types of wine.

Whether a glass of Chardonnay or Pinot Noir, guests of the Enchanted Paris Evening will find some delicious and inspiring ways to entwine autumn meals with favorite types of wine. Wine makes every meal an occasion and every table more elegant. Samples of multiple flavors will be available.

If you are seeking to experiment with a new varietal, then talking with our local wine merchant about wines, styles and labels and asking for specific recommendations should provide sufficient direction for another great find at our event.

And if you want a little touch of French you should know that in France, wines are typically named for the vineyard or growing region in which they were produced rather than for the grape that was used.

So come join Main Street Fort Pierce and Keith Andersen for an “Enchanted Paris Evening” on November 10th at the Historic Arcade building in downtown Fort Pierce. Please call (772) 466-3880 for more information or for reservations.
Downtown Hero — Gary Gillette

How many people do you know that volunteer their time where their wife works? Well, probably not many, but one such all-round, super volunteer is Gary Gillette. Gary is married to Pam Gillette, Marketing and Special Events for Main Street Fort Pierce. If it is after hours and a Main Street event, you will always find Gary – that is if it does not interfere with his golf game.

Gary moved to Fort Pierce from Miami, Florida in 1982, after his mother and father retired to the area. Gary has worked for the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) for over 24 years, as a Maintenance Mechanic and now also with the Industrial Pretreatment Department. He enjoys working and giving back to his community by volunteering. Over his career at the FPUA, Gary had an award named after him. The Gary Gillette Award of Innovation was established to recognize the efforts and creativity at the Wastewater System Department. Being modest, Gary has won the award not only once, but twice!

If work occupies his time during the day, evenings and weekends are busy and involved with Boy Scouts of America where he has been volunteering for the past 18 years. Gary was named Chairman of the Treasure Coast Eagle Board in 2002 and has been awarded the prestigious Silver Beaver for scouting which is the highest award given as an adult volunteer in 2001.
Yet even with his busy life, Gary still finds time to assist Main Street. Gary has been volunteering for Main Street for around 10 years. He is always there with a hand, hammer, table or constructing some new item to make the Main Street event run smoothly. Did I mention he also loves to build things?

Gary and Pam are the combined parents of four boys, Gary’s 2 boys, Kenny and Kevin, and Pam’s 2 boys, Doug and Erik. In February, they were blessed with their first grandson, Aidan and are expecting their second grandchild in November.

With the busy lifestyle Gary has, he is always at the Main Street events and willing to lend a hand. He is a true friend of Main Street and one of our strong supporters. Thank you Gary for all the hard work you do for our organization.

Pam and Gary Gillette are very dedicated to the organizations they volunteer with.
The Pink Floyd Experience
Thursday & Friday, November 16th & 17th

As it’s quite clear that the real Pink Floyd will never again grace our shores, the Sunrise will bring you what’s regarded in the concert industry as the next best thing. Their evening of stunning sounds and sights prompted the Toronto Sun to say “PFX might be the closest thing to capturing the real deal!” As the Boston Symphony Orchestra is to Beethoven, PFX is to Pink Floyd in their solid and faithful recreation of rock’s most moving classics. An evening you’ll never forget.

Renee Taylor & Joseph Bologna
Saturday, November 18th – 8 p.m.

Don’t miss this winning evening of Marital Bliss and Blunders, headed for a permanent home in Las Vegas after it’s boffo Broadway box office success! “The Timing? Exquisite. The cumulative effect? Essential entertainment. Watching these two lobbing lines back and forth is like seeing Venus and Serena Williams square off on the tennis court, or savoring George Burns and Gracie Allen in their heyday.”

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... continued from page 9

“I would like to think what I did in those first few years was to give people a vision, a vision of the big picture, what Downtown could be. The best part is that Main Street today has, and is implementing and creating what was just a vision almost 20 years ago,” Kindred said. He added that positive results were evident from day one, and that anything they did was well received in the community.

The first members of the Main Street Fort Pierce Board of Directors were trailblazers, setting brilliant goals and standards. In 1991, Kindred stepped down as Main Street’s director. Doris Tillman took over, and she remains at the helm today.

One of Tillman’s first projects was the renovation of the Historic Fort Pierce City Hall, built in 1926. In 1993, Historic City Hall was restored to its original splendor and now serves as a place for meetings, weddings, parties, and other special events.

The Sunrise Theatre was built in 1923, featuring Spanish Mediterranean architecture that was characteristic in structures built at that time. Downtown entertainment revolved around the Sunrise until it closed its doors like many other downtown establishments.

Over nine years, $12 million was spent restoring the theater. Tillman’s skillful grant writing techniques earned over $3 million in state and federal grant money, and more than $2 million was raised in private donations with help from the Sunrise Theatre, Inc. Board of Directors. Normally, a major project of this proportion is handled by local governments, but Main Street—a small non-profit agency— took this project head on,

Continued on page 18 ...
"A STORYBOOK CHRISTMAS"
SIGHTS AND SOUNDS ON SECOND FESTIVAL AND PARADE

by Pam Gillette

Twas the night before Sights and Sounds and all throughout downtown. Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis were scurrying around. Setting up parade routes, float assignments and more, the excitement was building as we got closer to morn.

Morning approaches as Main Street volunteers arrive, to set up a festival right before your eyes. Common Ground Vineyard Church leads the way, with scripture and songs to start off our day.

The festival begins promptly at one, with children's activities for your family fun. Holiday crafters, food vendors galore, pictures with Santa, pony rides and downtown stores.

A Storybook Christmas is the theme of the day, and at 4:30 pm the Honor Guard will lead the parade. Floats, officials, horses, music, and more, the children all nestled in front of the stores.

Marching down Second Street, Avenue A and the Drive, the streets are joyous and the people alive. Then what to our wondering eyes should appear, but a big red truck and eight tiny reindeer.

Santa Claus sits high on top of a Kauff Tow Truck, waving and wishing everybody good luck. He looks very festive all dressed in red, with a bundle of toys he holds in his sled.

What a wonderful day as the parade comes to an end, but wait there is more as the truck rounds the bend. The Mayor will light our beautiful Christmas tree, and the Marina comes alive with lights by the sea.

Sights and Sounds is now over and the folks are all leaving, with music in the air and the light show blinking. And as you return to your homes very far out of sight Main Street wishes Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!
and despite criticism and negative press, the Sunrise reclaimed its status as the cultural events hub of the Treasure Coast. The community is just now realizing the vast positive impact that this reopening will have on the community. Thanks to the vision and determination of Tillman and many others, what once was a dream is now reality.

“It isn’t just about culture. It isn’t just about the arts. It’s about creating an engine for downtown development, tourism, growth, jobs, and a whole new image for this community,” said David Jenkins, Executive Director, Sunrise Theatre, in a previous interview.

The 1,200-seat auditorium is the largest performing arts center from Melbourne to the Palm Beaches. Every seat was filled for the grand reopening, as Dionne Warwick delivered a stunning performance. The Sunrise continues to showcase world-renowned talents, from Earth, Wind, and Fire, and Jefferson Starship, to Little Richard. For more information on coming attractions, visit the Sunrise online at: www.sunrisetheatre.com.

With the sensational conclusion of the Sunrise Theatre project, it is on to the “next big thing” – the restoration of the Backus House. This cultural landmark, on the National Registry of Historic Places, will function as a permanent home and office for Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. The home was built in 1896 and purchased in the early 1960’s by famed local artist Beanie Backus, for use as his residence and art studio.

Main Street is currently restoring the Backus/Platts house. The house is the permanent office of Main Street Fort Pierce.

Continued on page 20...
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Beanie’s doors were always open to the public, and people of all races, ages, and backgrounds were known to gather there. Beanie, a gentle soul and a free spirit, advocated tolerance at a time in our history when tolerance was not widely accepted. The house is stop #8 on the Zora Neale Hurston Dust Tracks Trail, which encompasses several places throughout Fort Pierce where world-renowned author Zora Neale Hurston spent her time when she lived here.

People who want to observe and learn about marine life in their natural habitat can visit the Manatee Observation and Education Center. The Center, which is visited by more than 100,000 people annually, was built by funds raised by Main Street Fort Pierce and is operated by the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority.

Aside from the infrastructural improvements, Main Street Fort Pierce is known for its signature events: the Sandy Shoes Festival and Sights and Sounds on Second. Sandy Shoes is an annual daylong celebration featuring a concert and fireworks. Sights and Sounds on Second Street is an annual holiday celebration held the first weekend in December, which includes a parade and Santa Claus lighting the downtown holiday Christmas tree.

Early risers on Saturday mornings can enjoy the Farmer’s Market on the downtown waterfront. Market goers are treated to heavenly aromas of fresh baked goods, coffee, and not to mention a nice breeze off of the river. The downtown Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market features about 40 vendors which
sell everything from fresh locally caught seafood, to locally grown organic produce, and everything in between. Plants of all kinds, from orchids to exotic Asian fruit trees can also be purchased.

For nearly two decades, Main Street Fort Pierce’s 12 volunteer board members and two full time employees have spearheaded major projects. The aforementioned highlights are merely the tip of the iceberg of Main Street’s community involvement. They now look forward to welcoming the 2006 Florida Main Street Conference!

“It’s great that we have this opportunity to show the state what we’ve been able to accomplish,” said Doris Tillman, Manager, Main Street Fort Pierce. “Our success is due to our partnerships with the City of Fort Pierce and local businesses partnering to make a change. Without them and without the support from the general public, success would not have been possible.”

Main Street is always looking for new members. Membership is open to the public for anyone interested in preserving our unique heritage, or helping to make downtown a prosperous destination. Donations to Main Street Fort Pierce are tax deductible and are reinvested into the community.

With Main Street Fort Pierce a proven entity, the curtain rises on a new Main Street chapter. The City of Fort Pierce and concerned citizens came together once again, in support of another local business district. This past August, Florida Main Street designated Lincoln Park-Fort Pierce as a Main Street community, making Fort Pierce only the second city in Florida to have two main street designations.

“I know that in a few years we will be celebrating success in Lincoln Park, too,” Joan Jefferson said from Tallahassee. “Folks in Fort Pierce are special, and they seem to know how to get things done!”

The Annual Sandy Shoes Festival, held in March, draws hundreds to the downtown Fort Pierce area.

Before choosing a lawyer, ask for written information about the lawyer’s legal qualifications and experience.
Main Street Fort Pierce

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.

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.

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

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: ____________________________
Company/Organization: ____________________________
Street Address: ____________________________
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Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. • 122 AE Backus Ave., Fort Pierce, FL 34950
For information call 772-466-3880 • www.mainstreetfortpierce.org

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.
Local Boy Scouts to Honor Alto “Bud” Adams, Jr. as Distinguished Citizen on November 7, 2006 at the Pelican Yacht Club

The Treasure Coast District for the Boy Scouts of America, Gulf Stream Council, is honoring Alto “Bud” Adams, Jr. as its Distinguished Citizen for St. Lucie County for 2006. The banquet will be held on November 7, 2006, reception at 6pm and dinner and toast at 7pm at the Pelican Yacht Club on Hutchinson Island.

The Distinguished Citizens banquet is held to recognize the efforts of a dynamic public servant to the community, to put Scouting youth in association with such role models and to raise funds to support the character and leadership building programs of Scouting.

Alto “Bud” Adams, Jr. was born and raised in St. Lucie County. His father Alto Adams, Sr. founded the Adams Ranch located in Fort Pierce in 1937. Upon graduation from the University of Florida in 1948, Bud began managing the Ranch. He has become a prominent figure in Florida’s cattle and citrus industries. One of his most notable accomplishments was developing the internationally renowned Bradford breed of cattle, which was recognized as a new breed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1969.

Committed to maintaining a balance between cattle production and the environment, Bud has served as President of the Florida Cattlemen’s Association and was honored by the National Cattlemen’s Association for his stewardship of natural resources. His conservation efforts include pioneering natural plant and pest control on his ranchlands.

Mr. Adams has always been glad to lend his knowledge and expertise to civic and community organizations. He has served on the Boards of the Indian River Community College Foundation, Harbor Federal Savings Bank, Sun Bank, Backus Art Gallery, Heathcote Botanical Gardens, and United Way. In 2003, Indian River Community College named him the Dan K. Richardson Entrepreneur of the Year.

In concert with his love of cattle, wildlife and the land, Mr. Adams has captured the beauty of life on the ranch as a photographer. Over 65 years of his photography can be seen in his four books, several magazines and on postcards.

Bud has been married to Dorothy for 57 years. They have three sons and all work for the Ranch Corporation. Bud and Dot also have thirteen grandchildren.
Vultures for Culture Scavenger Hunt

Explore the carnivore within at the First Ever Vultures for Culture Scavenger Hunt and Steak Dinner Sunday, November 12. A reincarnation of the Backus Museum’s incredibly popular Steak Rattle & Roll Dinners, the Museum has added a new element of challenge and fun.

The event will start at 3:00 pm at the Museum. Participants will assemble into teams of four and provided with a list of items to find or facts to verify in and around downtown Fort Pierce. A bit of cunning and sense of adventure are all that’s required for a bird brained afternoon of fun, fabulous dining and dancing.

At 5:30 p.m. the Scavenger Hunt participants will return to the Museum roost to peck at tasty morsels and enjoy cocktails. Laughter will fill the air as teams compare their tales of acquisition. A hearty dinner cooked by Chef Bob Varn and his crew of buzzards consists of the Museum’s specially seasoned 12 ounce New York strips, sinful potato casserole, sautéed onions, lavish salad bar, crusty rolls & butter and a make your own brownie sundae station.

Continued on page 26 ...
Tickets are $50.00 per person and include the scavenger hunt, dinner, drinks and dancing with Moonshadow. Prizes and bragging rights will be awarded for high points, tallest tales and best team spirit. So gather your flock and come on down to the Backus Museum for an event that is certain to tickle your funny bone and fill your belly. Call 772/465-0630 to make a reservation. Proceeds from this event benefit the not-for-profit A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery, Inc.
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**Question:** Do we have availability for the holidays?

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**Question:** Do we have entertainment?

**Answer:** Yes! Our restaurant features live entertainment on the weekends, including many different styles of music. Our customers can enjoy their favorite music while sitting under the stars on our waterfront patio.

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Nicole, Krystal, Renne, Billie Jean and of course Chef Bob are ready to plan your private function or just serve you lunch or dinner seven days a week at Cobb’s Landing Restaurant.
Marina Marches Forward

By Dan Dannahower

An anchor point of downtown Fort Pierce and known to boaters as one of the best marinas on the east coast, our city marina was reduced to near rubble after the double hurricane whammy of 2004. Newspapers and magazines nationwide ran front page photos of the “boat pile” that had been a thriving marina business just months earlier. Before Mother Nature did her work 280 boat slips existed. After she departed only 16 remained!

After the storms, Marina and city management went to work. The rubble was cleared and the docks and slips west of the seawall were quickly re-built to new modern standards; stronger and more readily repaired in case of damage from future storms. A long term refurbishment project was begun to return the marina to its pre-storm state with a number of improvements.

Marina Manager Dean Kubitschek reports that work on a comprehensive plan to expand the marina east of the seawall is progressing well. The city is partnering with FEMA to create spoil islands that will provide protection from future storms to marina expansion to the east. A protective lagoon would be created around docks and slips east of the seawall and would add habitat for an abundance of shallow water river life.

Significant FEMA funding for this project has been approved and an exciting next step will begin within the next few months. A company in Kingston, Canada, one of only of handful capable of this level of modeling, will begin a physical modeling study of our marina project. An exact scale model of the proposed marina project will be re-created in a sophisticated tank. Winds, waves, and other environmental stresses will be applied to the model which will give city and FEMA project managers a good feel for the plans long term viability. It’s a way to ensure the engineering is correct before millions are spent on the actual project. Assuming a positive result this testing will provide the
impetus to move forward with project implementation. Sea grass studies that have recently been completed on the entire area east of the existing marina have come back positive for implementation of the new barrier island lagoon.

In addition to the big expansion project Manager Kubitschek is moving forward with other plans to keep our marina at the top of the list. In the near future existing metal fuel tanks will be inerted and replaced with a new state of the art 20,000 gallon fiberglass tank that can be re-filled with almost no impact on vehicle traffic. The new slip structure combined with the new main tank will allow for fueling boats at their slips rather than having to move to the fueling dock, a major convenience.

The old steel seawall that runs from the fuel dock south to the city park in front of the Library will also be replaced in the near future. It was installed nearly 20 years ago with a known 20 year estimated useful life. At the time the city couldn’t afford to install much more expensive concrete. The new seawall will be concrete with a much longer, useful life.

A new state of the art weather system known as “Weather Worx” is being installed as this article goes to press and will provide real-time weather and sea-state information to boaters. Weather data and wave heights will be available with just a phone call or visit to the marina office. This should greatly facilitate safer crossings to the Bahamas and help boaters decide whether or not to burn the gas to check out sea conditions or just wait for a better day. No more driving over to the beach to see what the waves look like! Dean also plans to install an external antenna which will provide wireless internet to many areas around the marina, a great addition for visitors and “live-on boaters.”

On the fishing scene things remain good inshore. Snook, snapper, trout and redfish have been cooperating. Check your local tackle and bait shops for info. Debrooks Tackle Shop reports that Dolphin are being taken off and on offshore and other species are spotty. Don’t miss the Southern Kingfish Association’s National Finals to be held in Fort Pierce for the second year in a row November 15-18. Numerous events surround the finals, check the SKA’s website at www.fishSKA.com for details.
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