The jewel of the Treasure Coast is the real Florida, filled with beauty, history, culture, and natural wonder. From riding the beach on horseback and kayaking under a full moon, to touring the spoil islands by boat and viewing wildlife, Fort Pierce.

FortPierceAuthenticTours.com

See story on page 8...
Join Us Downtown Fort Pierce for this Holiday Season

by Beth Williams

Good golly! Where did 2011 go? I can’t believe it is November and the start of two months of holidays, shopping, and probably eating way too much! While I personally may not be ready for all of the festivities, the merchants in downtown Fort Pierce are. If you haven’t taken a stroll around our beautiful historic district lately, I hope you’ll make time to visit our shops, restaurants, galleries, etc., and reserve a good portion of your holiday shopping budget for these local merchants.

Supporting our local economy is an important part of being a member of the community. While internet shopping is convenient, the experience of browsing unique shops, grabbing a bite to eat at a local café or attending some holiday event downtown is a much more rewarding experience for everyone. It gives you a better feel for our town and helps build jobs and stability for local residents.

Main Street Fort Pierce focuses our energy on supporting local organizations and businesses to maintain that healthy environment we all want for our city. Throughout the Focus we promote stores, restaurants and events that you can enjoy each month. As you read through our magazine, take note of the businesses that advertise and stop by for a wonderful shopping or dining experience. Let them know you saw their ad in the Focus and you want to support their business.

From everyone at Main Street Fort Pierce, here’s to a wonderful and enjoyable holiday season for our entire community!
Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic, Downtown Fort Pierce!

The Jazz Market — Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 1/2-mile north of downtown Fort Pierce. Library, Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299, www.jazzsociety.org.

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

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

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

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

ST. LUCIE COUNTY MARINE CENTER
For more information, please call 462-3474 or visit www.stluciecounty.gov/marine_center.

A.E. BACKUS MUSEUM
For information, please call 465-0030 or visit www.backusmuseum.com.

November 2 to December 3: 30th Annual Juried Art Exhibition “The Best of the Best.”
Friday, November 11: Opening Reception — 6 to 8 p.m.; members & invited guests are free; non-members $10.

HEATHCOTE BOTANICAL GARDENS
For information, please call 464-6672 or visit www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org.

September 8 to December 15: the Heathcote Kids’ After-School Gardening fall session. Cost for the 11-week session is a one time fee of $10. The classes, Thursday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:30, will involve children planting a pioneer garden with grains such as wheat, rye, and oats and many fall vegetables. They will make flour and nutritious sprouted treats with grains as they discover how the pioneers would have grown their own food and lived off the land. They will be harvesting and munching on veggies, enjoying games and crafts, journaling, and learning about gardening in Florida. To register contact Heathcote Botanical Gardens.

MGT? FORT PIERCE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

ST. LUCIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(6-17 years) or students (with student ID) $1.50. Fees are $4.00 adults, $3.50 seniors, children (2-18 years) $3.00, and students (with student ID) $2.50. Special rates for school tours. Members of the St. Lucie Historical Society (with Membership Cards) are free.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY MUSEUM
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FORT PIERCE JAZZ & BLUES SOCIETY
For more information, please call 490-5299 or visit www.jazzsociety.org.

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SUNRISE THEATRE
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For information, please call 466-1600, ex. 3333 or visit www.manateecenter.com.

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

“Legendary Sites in St. Lucie County” has been added to the displays at the Regional History Center, 414 Seawave Drive on South Beach. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dan Gardner conducts special tours of the historic Gardner House on Sundays only. Admission Fees are $4.00 adults, $3.50 seniors, children (5-17 years) or students (with student ID) $1.50. Special rates for school tours. Members of the St. Lucie Historical Society (with Membership Cards) are free.

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FORT PIERCE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

ST. LUCIE COUNTY MUSEUM
For more information, please call 462-0021 or visit www.artmundo.org.

Save the Date — Sights & Sounds on Second Christmas Festival & Parade
by Pam Gillette
On Sunday, December 4, 2011, Main Street For t Pierce will present the 23rd Annual Sights & Sounds on Second Christmas Festival & Parade in downtown Fort Pierce. This year’s event is sponsored by Center State Bank and Seacoast National Bank. The Sights & Sounds festival will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The parade starts at 4:30 p.m. This year’s parade theme is “Down Home Country Christmas”. Common Ground Vineyard Church will hold a Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. near the intersection of Orange Avenue.

Continued on page 6 …
Fort Pierce Seeking Donations to Provide Holiday Spirit

With recent City budget cuts and reduced ad valorem revenues, the City of Fort Pierce is seeking monetary assistance from businesses and residents with the upcoming holiday season’s decorations and holiday lights at Marina Square.

Last year, with the assistance of Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. and Fort Pierce Mayor Robert Benton, the City’s Christmas tree and holiday lights at the waterfront were made possible by the generosity of others in the community. The City Commission recently agreed to solicit donations and fund the remainder, if necessary for the annual holiday tradition.

Sponsorship for the Christmas tree in the Downtown Roundabout is $10,000 and the 100,000 red, green and white lights and music display at Marina Square is $41,000 and runs nightly from December 4, 2011 – January 2, 2012.

“This is always a wonderful hometown celebration to kick off the holiday season. The City of Fort Pierce will also unveil “The Holiday Light Spectacular.” The light and sound show will have over 100,000 lights synchronized to holiday music and will begin at Marina Square after the tree lighting ceremony. The holiday lights and music will run from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. every night until January 1, 2012.

For more information on the festival or for a parade application call the Main Street Fort Pierce office at 772-466-3880.
Barry “Chop” Lege’ is Chair of the Advisory Board for Fort Pierce Authentic Tours and was instrumental in the development of this program. He states, “FPAT grew from a small group of six exploring the availability of grant funding, to an entire program developed to showcase the natural beauty of Fort Pierce. Through cross promotion of programs offered by different entities and the opportunity to join together to create new and unique experiences, FPAT is sure to attract new folks and businesses to the area. Everyone in the community will benefit from this.”

Jon Ward, Director of Department of Urban Redevelopment, was invited to attend one of the fledgling meetings and immediately realized that the City should support an

The city of Fort Pierce has launched a new Ecotourism program. Fort Pierce Authentic Tours (FPAT) is a local association of members that include non-profits, education centers, individuals, and local businesses determined to conserve and enhance the treasure of Fort Pierce. What is Ecotourism? It is defined by the International Ecotourism Society as “responsible travel to natural areas which conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people”. FPAT’s mission is “To develop and support economically sustainable ecotourism enterprises in and around the City of Fort Pierce that contribute to conservation and serve as a model for other like initiatives; and to develop and disseminate tools that influence the broader local tourism industry towards greater ecological sustainability while preserving respect for our cultural heritage.”

Florida is a great tourist destination and on the Treasure Coast we have so much more to offer visitors than cruise lines and amusement parks. The jewel of the Treasure Coast is the real Florida, filled with beauty, history, culture, and natural wonder. From riding the beach on horseback and kayaking under a full moon, to touring the spoil islands by boat and viewing wildlife, Fort Pierce has quite a bit to offer, and is Ecotourism at its best.

In response, the city of Fort Pierce has launched a new Ecotourism program. Fort Pierce Authentic Tours (FPAT) is a local association of members that include non-profits, education centers, individuals, and local businesses determined to conserve and enhance the treasure of Fort Pierce. What is Ecotourism? It is defined by the International Ecotourism Society as “responsible travel to natural areas which conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people”. FPAT’s mission is “To develop and support economically sustainable ecotourism enterprises in and around the City of Fort Pierce that contribute to conservation and serve as a model for other like initiatives; and to develop and disseminate tools that influence the broader local tourism industry towards greater ecological sustainability while preserving respect for our cultural heritage.”
Leslie Olson is a person who practices what she preaches. As Interim Assistant Planning Director and Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Fort Pierce, she believes that downtown should be a place where people live, work and play. Lately she's had a large role in shaping this concept.

“What you and I are doing right now is a great example of a vibrant downtown,” she says. We were sitting in a downtown restaurant only a block away from where she just dropped off her daughter at Jiu-Jitsu class. Earlier in the day, Olson was in her office across the street. Her residence is only four blocks away. “A vibrant downtown should have mixed uses and be multilayered,” says Olson. “I’d like to see us go back to simpler times, something that makes things easier on people.” She promotes having downtown filled with both businesses and residences. To help draw more businesses to downtown, Olson recently crafted a new Downtown Business and Entertainment Overlay District for Fort Pierce. “We had a gentleman come in wanting to establish a wine and cigar bar downtown, but our code prevented him from doing so,” she says. A business that served alcohol had to apply for a waiver if it was to locate within 1,600 feet of a church or 500 feet from another establishment that served alcohol. A waiver could be granted, but only if the business served food that was prepared in a full kitchen. This requirement prevented the wine bar from moving into downtown.

As Olson took a comprehensive look at the city’s code downtown, she realized how fragmented it was. “We did not have downtown delineated well,” she says. “There was no clear boundary.” Also, some parts of downtown were excluded from commercial businesses. As an example, the area where the former H.D. King Power Plant used to reside was zoned for industrial uses. She describes this as a Euclidean code, one that separates the uses, where residences go in one spot and businesses go in another.

Olson set out to create a downtown overlay district to establish boundaries and clearly state the kinds of things allowed there. She received a lot of input from the public, particularly the St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce Area Council and the Downtown Business Association. The new overlay district was approved by the city commission. As a result, a business that wants to serve alcohol can locate anywhere downtown. Also, former parking and landscaping requirements have been eliminated. “We are downtown where the city has built a parking garage and is in charge of keeping up the landscaping,” says Olson. “We don’t need to put the burden on businesses to do this.”

“We want to achieve a downtown that reflects the way downtowns grew historically,” she says. “People don’t have to travel to get what they need.” Olson’s goal is to help downtown move back to a mixed-use, people-friendly city. That is why she practices and promotes a rich, vibrant, multi-layered planning concept.

Ask a Professional:
Downtown Business & Entertainment Overlay District

by Camille S. Yates

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Hey girls! Do you want to find that special gift for someone on your Holiday list? Do you want a fun event to attend with your girlfriends? Would you like to find a special something for yourself? If you answered yes to any of the previous questions, than take the night off and join us for the Main Street Fall Trunk Show & Art Wednesday in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

Come to Historic City Hall, 315 Avenue A in Downtown Fort Pierce on Wednesday, November 9th. Main Street Fort Pierce, along with local downtown merchants and friends will be at the Historic City Hall to kick off the holiday shopping season. Shopping will start at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. with a $5.00 donation, which includes shopping, libations and light snacks.

Need a little extra cash for shopping? Trew & Sons Jewelers will hold a “melting pot”: cash for gold! So look through your drawers and bring your unwanted gold for cash. Trew & Sons Jewelers will also bring a selection of Antes Silver for purchase.

Other businesses participating at the time of print are: Colleen Nash Becht, Epic Events by JT, GaGa Girls – Anita Prentice & Ginny Piech-Street, Funky Chic Kids Boutique, Main Street Friday Fest gifts, Paradise Hair & Nail Salon, Royal Palms Ornaments, Silpada Jewelry, Thirty One Gifts, Trew & Sons Jewelers, and Whimsy Clothing Boutique!

Before or after shopping at the Trunk Show, join Art Mundo and ArtBank for Art Wednesday. Art Mundo is a non-profit community arts education organization, located in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, at the ArtBank, 111 Orange Ave. Art Mundo and the ArtBank Underground Artists are located in the basement level with more ArtBank artists located in the 3rd floor. Both levels house gallery space with new shows opening Art Wednesday. In Art Mundo’s On the Edge Gallery, Skip and Saskia Fuller open a show called “The Sneaky Tiki;” the main Underground Gallery will open “Calendar Artists’ Work” with 2 pieces by each of the 36 artists who participated in this year’s Calendar fund raiser. A show of works created in Art Mundo’s spring program “Brush with Nature” will feature works by local artists created at Adams Ranch, Hackberry Hammock and Heathcote Botanical Gardens. The loft is home to 3 gallery spaces: the Foyer Gallery opens a show by ArtBank artists Charlotte Curran, Diane Medlin-Buchko; the Main Gallery will present “Flora and Fauna,” a show representing all of the ArtBank artists.

Art Wednesday at the ArtBank is open from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. and refreshments are served. Visit all the Underground Studios, the Third Floor Studios and Galleries at ArtBank. Free exhibits and art demos will be available for you to enjoy.

Sell unwanted gold for cash, buy all kinds of art, jewelry, clothes, funky kids stuff, purses, ornaments, salon items, and much more at the Main Street Fall Trunk Show & Art Wednesday. Girls night out! Bring a friend! Join us for the Main Street Fall Trunk Show & Art Wednesday! For more information please call the Main Street Fort Pierce office at (772) 466-3880.

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Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society Waterside Blues

by Gene Hull

Sunday, November 20th is a big day for Treasure Coast blues lovers. The Waterside Blues Concert Series show kicks off at 1:00 p.m. at the downtown Fort Pierce waterfront with the Jazz and Blues Society’s exciting jazz ensemble. This is the all-star group featured in most Tuesday night Jazz Jams at the Sunrise Theatre’s Black Box.

At 2:00 p.m. the blues fireworks begin as the stage is taken over by J.P. Soars and his electrifying blues band, The Red Hots. Soars has been hailed as a monster guitarist by Blues Blast Magazine. “He toured the world with heavy metal bands before settling on his early love, blues. He can play it all, metal, blues, jazz, and swing.”

Nashville Blues Magazine says he is a young man with a brilliant future and recently wrote, “J.P. soars high, long and far in his brilliant new CD album release The Back Of My Mind.”

“We are fortunate to be able to present such a remarkable talent to the Treasure Coast here in Fort Pierce,” said Don Bestor, President of the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society.

The Waterside Blues Series is sponsored by Scripps St. Lucie News Tribune and For Drummers Only and is presented free to the public by the Society, which manages the popular Crafts Jazz Market held adjacent to the Fort Pierce Melody Lane Library every Saturday. Revenues from the Jazz Market make it possible to present free public concerts like the Waterside Blues Series, school music symposiums, and support the Jazz Society’s scholarship program which will award $8,000 in scholarships next year to worthy high school seniors.

Sunday’s Waterside Blues concert is from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Refreshments and some seating are available. More information is located on the Society’s website at www.jazzsociety.org.

Trees and Fine Arts & Crafts to Fill Avenue A in December

by Jeanne Johansen

The Treasure Coast Art Association, Inc. will hold its 3rd Annual Holiday Tree and Art Festival on Friday, December 2nd to Sunday, December 5th on Avenue A in historic Fort Pierce. This year’s event will create a festive area on Avenue A with Florida arts and craft vendors and will involve shutting down the street with games for the children and family. The Treasure Coast Art Association’s Avenue A gallery will be filled with art and artists who will also fill the street between Depot Drive and North 2nd Street.

“We are excited to be doing this event outside our store,” says Vice President Ken Hoff. This will give our neighbors and our local artists and crafters an opportunity to share the season of joy and traffic to this much forgotten side of town.

The event will include the auction of holiday trees decorated with handmade ornaments by local artists.

“This year’s holiday trees will be small table top versions,” explains Treasurer Debbie Perdue. “This is a great opportunity for locals and visitors to decorate their home or office with a unique one-of-a-kind tree for years to come.”

There will be holiday music and Santa Claus will be on hand for families to have their picture taken with him. Convenient parking is available in the free city parking garage.

The public is invited to explore the year-round shopping opportunities on Avenue A at Sweet’s Jewelers; Karen’s Bed, Bath, and Kitchen; Chaney’s Florist, the Avenue A gallery, Don Rhodes Gallery and Beads & Baubles on North 2nd Street.

With the two new businesses on the street: Undercover, a skateboard shop and Zelmco’s People’s Café, there is sure to be a lot of great surprises awaiting visitors.

The festival starts on Friday night from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Avenue A Gallery during Friday Fest. Saturday, December 3rd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Avenue A will be a Holiday Festival of fine art and craft. The Avenue A Gallery will again be open on Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m. during Main Street’s annual Sights & Sounds on Second festival and holiday parade.
St. Lucie County Toy Run

The S.L.C. Toy Run is in its fifth year and is getting bigger and bigger every year. If you have a motorcycle and want to ride this year, just join us. On Sunday Dec 11th, participants need to line up by 10:00 a.m. at Victory Motorcycle located at 3525 S US 1. Kick-stands will go up at 11:00 a.m. sharp. There will be a law enforcement escort over the Jensen Beach Causeway to A1A into Ft. Pierce over the Seaway Drive Bridge to the PAL Center located at 903 South 21st Street. Upon arrival, there will be two bands, new Victory Motorcycle test rides, vendors, and plenty of food. Don’t have a bike? Come to the PAL Center from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. to enjoy a day in the park with your family and friends. Please bring an unwrapped toy to donate for underprivileged children. All toys will be given to law enforcement agencies in St. Lucie County to distribute to children during the holiday season. For more information, please call Jim or Mary at 468-6888.
People volunteer for different reasons. These reasons vary from retirees with extra time that wish to share their skills, teenagers earning credit for scholarships, parents teaching children valuable lessons, or as a chance to socialize while helping the community. Regardless of the reason why a person volunteers, their service to their community is extremely valuable to the community. Regardless of the reason why a person volunteers, their service to their community is extremely valuable to the community.

There are several organizations in the Fort Pierce area that are in need of volunteers to help with the day-to-day operations or to help with special projects. The following is a partial list of organizations with their contact information that have a need for volunteers:

**A.E. Backus Museum:** Robin Dommannower
772-465-0630 • www.backusmuseum.com
The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery, a 5,000 sq. ft. public visual arts facility, was established in 1960 by A.E. Backus and a group of local art enthusiasts. Open five days a week from October through mid-June (summer hours by appointment), the museum features the nation’s largest display of original paintings by Albert Ernest Backus (American 1906 – 1990). The museum also handles consignment sales of Backus paintings as well as other Treasure Coast artists of merit. Four additional exhibition wings feature changing exhibits of artwork by contemporary artists.

The museum is always in need of volunteers to help with mailings (stuffing and labeling envelopes, etc.) and special events (setting up, prepping and serving food), but they are also in need of people who have unique skills who would like to take on a special project (examples include photographers to shoot events, graphic artists who would like to design a brochure or writers who would like to write biographies on artists featured in shows). If someone has a talent or experience they would like to share, the Backus Museum can always find an interesting and worthwhile project for them to do. [ArtMundo: Holly Theune 766-0021 • www.artmundo.org]

The Art Mundo Center for Creative Expression is a not-for-profit community arts education organization located in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce at the ArtBank, 111 Orange Avenue. Co-founders Allie Comert, Sherry Horton, Ginny Pich Street and Deena Wynne began talking seriously about their dream in December, 2007, and refined their ideas and goals at meetings through the first part of 2008. Art Mundo was incorporated in August 2008 and obtained its non-profit status in January, 2009. Art Mundo needs volunteers to serve as greeters and committee members, serve on education, exhibit & fundraising committees, and to assist with media & public relations/marketing. [Big Brothers Big Sisters: Rachel 466-8535 • www.bbsbigs.org
Big Brothers Big Sisters is in need of role models to mentor and work one-on-one with a child in a school setting, reading to a child, or just spending time with them after school or on weekends. [Fort Pierce Police Athletic League (PAL): Officer Paul Pearson or Gabe Gonzalez 466-0606 or 370-6162 • www.fortpiercepal.com

Fort Pierce PAL’s motto is, “Filling playgrounds not prisons,” and the organization offers several programs to benefit at-risk children. The Fort Pierce PAL is in need of volunteers to help with mentoring children after school and on weekends. The organization will match up kids with adults to provide help with studies, sports, crafts, and computer skills.

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The Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society, Inc. needs volunteers to help with these events: “Waterside Blues” outdoor concerts (three festivals annually held on Sundays from 1-6 p.m. at the downtown Fort Pierce Marina Square); Weekly “Jazz Jams” on Tuesdays at the Sunrise Theatre Black Box from 7 to 10 p.m. and every other Wednesday at the Fort St. Lucie Botanical Gardens from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; “Jazz Market,” arts & crafts event held every Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in downtown Fort Pierce on Melody Lane; “Mardi Gras Parade” and after party, Jazz Week” in 2012. [Heathcote Botanical Gardens: Amy Dobson 464-6762 • heathcotebotanicalgardens.org
Heathcote Botanical Gardens consists of an assortment of specialty gardens including a Japanese Garden, Reflection Garden, Herb Garden, Rainforest Display, Native Plants Garden and a Palm & Cymc Walk. These areas convey an atmosphere of individual garden rooms. Through this type of garden design, you will see theintime of this unique botanical garden. Gracing the areas in between these specialty gardens are borders of flowering shrubs, bulbs, trees, vines and other assorted herbaceous plants. Niches found throughout the garden provide varied microclimates, which allow the use of a wide variety of plants ranging from those found in Mediterranean climates to the tropics.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens is in need of green thumbs for the garden, or black thumbs to kill weeds, but there are also opportunities in the gift shop, office, children’s programs, and for special events. They also need ambassadors – people who represent Heathcote at public events or helpers to deliver brochures. They are training tour guides at this time also. Heathcote holds quarterly volunteer orientations, but people are welcome to stop by any time to inquire about volunteer opportunities. Bonsai and general garden volunteers work Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. Organic Garden volunteers work Monday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. All other volunteers work various schedules.

[St. Lucie County Regional History Center 461-8020 • www.stlucieco.gov/history
Volunteers are needed to work the front desk, answer phones and assist with tours. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 772-461-8020 or visit www.stluchistoricalociety.org.

Manatee Center: Brandi Yancey 466-1600 x 3071 • www.manateecenter.com
The Manatee Observation and Education Center’s primary purpose is to promote and understand responsible actions for the fragile ecosystems of the Treasure Coast Continued on page 20...
and their inhabitants. They are here to educate you about nature and how humans interact with the natural systems. They teach planned educational curriculum for grades Kindergarten through fifth as a part of their educational program on subjects such as manatees, butterflies, insects, endangered species, and sea turtles. They are in the process of developing curriculum for secondary students. If you are a teacher and would like to schedule a class, call (772) 466-1600, ext. 3337. They also provide educational special events such as NatureFest, summer camps, Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series, and exciting guest speakers. For more information call (772) 466-1600, ext. 3333.

The Manatee Education and Observation Center is looking for docents (educator), gift shop attendants and greeters.

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.: Pam Gillette
466-3880 • www.mainstreetfortpierce.org

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. is a comprehensive revitalization program designed to encourage economic development in conjunction with historic preservation. Established in 1988, Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. (a not-for-profit corporation) is a local, public-private partnership funded by memberships, fund-raising projects and city government. Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. brings development, activities, recognition and an improved economy to the historic downtown area through a variety of methods. The organization coordinates downtown improvements, creates a positive image to attract customers and investors, rekindles community pride, enhances the visual quality of the downtown environment, and attracts strategic additions to the economic mix.

Main Street Fort Pierce’s track record includes the successful Friday Fest, Sandy Shoes Festival and Sights and Sounds on Second, along with other special events. Main Street Fort Pierce organizes and runs 30 events a year and are always looking for volunteers. From being on an event committee, writing for the Main Street Focus or helping out at an event; they will find the right fit for every volunteer.

Seven Gables House Visitor Center: Arlo Koletzky
468-9152 • www.stlucieco.gov/maincenter.htm

The St. Lucie County Aquarium is in need of volunteers to interact with the public and help maintain the saltwater aquariums.

St. Lucie County Library
772-462-1615 • www.stlucieco.gov/library/

St. Lucie County Aquarium: Cristin Ryan
465-3271 • www.stlucieco.gov/marine_center.htm

Fort Pierce Coffee
With The Mayor
Mayor Bob Benton invites you to join him for Coffee, Community News, Special Announcements, and more.
Friday, November 18, 2011 8:00 AM
Historic City Hall
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It’s Time to Get Ready for the Holidays!
Chaney’s House of Flowers To Celebrate its 75th Year

On May 1, 2012, Chaney’s House o’ Flowers will celebrate its 75th year serving the floral needs of the Treasure Coast. Chaney’s is the longest continuously operating florist in the tri-county area and one of only five current St. Lucie County businesses to achieve the 75 year status.

Since its beginning on May 1, 1937, Chaney’s has provided flowers for literally hundreds of weddings. “A wedding is one of the most important days in a woman’s life,” said Jill Powers, the current owner of Chaney’s. “We are always honored when we are asked to help make the occasion a special one. We frequently have brides come in whose mothers came to Chaney’s for their wedding,” she adds.

On October 22nd, Chaney’s was selected by a bride-to-be from Fort Lauderdale to provide the floral arrangements for her South Beach wedding. The bride is the niece of a longtime Fort Pierce resident and selected Chaney’s at her aunt’s suggestion after failing to find a florist in the prestigious South Beach area who completely fulfilled her vision for her wedding.

“Our head designer is fantastic at interpreting a bride’s concept of what she wants for her wedding,” Powers says with obvious pride. “One of my great joys is receiving a note from a bride after her wedding telling me how perfect everything was.”

Chaney’s House o’ Flowers is located at 139 North 2nd Street in the historic Raulerson Building in downtown Fort Pierce. Call them at (772) 461-4100 or (800) 231-6851 for all your floral needs.

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My Favorite Holiday Stuffing

The original recipe is from America’s Test Kitchen. I’ve modified it to add some of my favorite ingredients like bacon and mushrooms. For a fancier presentation make individual “stuffing cups” in cupcake/muffin tins.

¼ pound bacon, fried
8 mushrooms, cleaned and chopped
1 onion, chopped
2 ribs celery, chopped
6 tablespoons butter, melted
1 tablespoon thyme
1 tablespoon sage
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
1 loaf of dense day old Italian bread, cubed and dried
1 cup chicken broth
½ cup half-and-half
½ cup Parmesan cheese
1 egg, beaten

In a heavy pot cook bacon, mushrooms, onion and celery until bacon is done. Add butter, thyme, sage, garlic, poultry seasoning, salt and pepper. Put bread cubes in a large mixing bowl. Pour broth, half and half, Parmesan cheese, and egg over bread. Add in vegetables. Mix and add more half and half if too dry.

Place stuffing into a greased pan and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Or, for stuffing cups place in greased muffin tin and bake 30-40 minutes. Serves: 8 – 10.
2nd Annual “Reflections of the Future” Art Show sponsored by Ocean Chiropractic & Health

by Pam Gillette

When you think of a reflection you may think of the ability to reflect beams of light or the ability to transform expressions. “Reflections of the Future” art show will give you the ability to reflect and to be transformed through artistic mirrors, colorful totems and fashionable designer handbags.

Award winning artists, Anita Prentice and Ginny Piech Street, along with renowned fashion designer Sabre Mochachino, and will come together for a 3-day art show where the world of art and fashion meet seamlessly for your enjoyment!

Renowned artist Anita Prentice will bring her mosaic design to reflect the future through a series of mirrors that convey a reflective look on the world of art. Renowned artist, Ginny Piech Street will bring her painting paper and cutting skills to compose her colorful and often humorous collage totems.

Both artists will collaborate with chic fashion designer, Sabre Mochachino of LA/NY. Sabre will be showing a line of handbags that will have original illustrated artwork prints. He has accumulated the prints over the years and this will be the first time he has actually released the illustrations as a collective body of work for public viewing. This show will truly identify the bags as art pieces, bringing art and fashion together.

The exhibit will be held at the Platts/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Avenue, in Fort Pierce. The show will be revealed with a free public Artist Reception & Fashion Presentation on Thursday, November 17th, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

This event is sponsored by Ocean Chiropractic & Health. At Ocean Chiropractic & Health they take great pride in providing the finest chiropractic and wellness care to their patients. Ocean Chiropractic is located at 805 Virginia Avenue, Suite 10, in Fort Pierce, and their phone number is 772-460-9000.

If you can’t make the opening on Thursday, the artists and the exhibit will be available to the public on Friday, November 18th from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with the Artist Wrap Up on Saturday, November 19th from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Come join us as we take a reflective look into the world of art and fashion. For more information on the exhibit, visit: www.anitaprenticeart.com, or www.mochachinolany.com, or www.momultimedia.net, or contact the Main Street Fort Pierce office at (772) 466-3880.
Kat’s Southern Twang: Sassy Sauces and More
by Linda Hudson, Chair, Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce

Kathy Green has made her own “Sassy Sauce” for over 40 years. Convinced by family and friends to sell it commercially, Kathy established her sauces, dips and marinades under the Southern Twang umbrella brand.

“I love to cook,” says Kathy. Southern Twang now includes 55 items, including salad dressings, barbeque, grilling and pasta sauces, marinades and pickled items. Kathy also has catering services and “if someone wants something, I make it.” “I use local growers for my products and try to make them as healthy as I can,” says Kathy.

Customer favorites vary from week to week, according to Kathy. She loves being at the Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market. Her fellow vendors are like family, and her customers are too. Her favorite market experience is when customers tell her how they used her sauce bought at the previous Saturday market.

Most customers begin with her original barbeque “Sassy Sauce,” a medium sauce. She’s added “Sissy Sauce” (mild) and “Super Sassy” (hot). She now offers at least eight other barbeques sauces, as well as marinades, spreads, pickled vegetables and chutney and jelly. Her salad dressings include citrus, raspberry, pomegranate and spicy vinaigrette.

Kathy Green and Southern Twang can be found at the Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce every Saturday, or order products and make your catering arrangements at 772-334-9353. The Market is open Saturdays, year round, from 8 a.m. to noon, at Marina Square, between the library and the marina, at the waterfront. Contact the market at 940-1145 or www.fptiercefarmersmarket.com or find us on Facebook.

The Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce is a “Saturday Morning Tradition.”
Changing Seasons

by Dan Dannahower

We have had another lucky year so far. Although we’ve been threatened, no major storms have made landfall on or near the Treasure Coast this hurricane season. Recent heavy and frequent rain has been welcomed by most for some relief to the drought we’ve experienced the last year or two. Soon the threat of tropical storm weather will be a thing of the past for another year and we will begin to slide into our winter seasonal weather pattern. Strong cold fronts pushed by large and very cold arctic air masses can roll through as often as once a week and occasionally even more often. These systems which bring ice and snow to the northern parts of our country maintain enough energy to push on through our state and into the Caribbean, bringing us overcast skies, blustery winds and rain and much cooler temperatures. A few days after the front things generally settle down and we have beautiful clear cool days until the next system starts the cycle anew. This pattern means we have less energy and we transition to our great spring weather continues through March or April when the fronts begin to be afraid to cancel if things get worse or you’re not completely comfortable with your abilities. Be safe and have fun! Good fishing!

Chase Gardner: Sheriff of the Day at Age 13

Chase Gardner was the winner of the Sheriff of the Day silent auction item at Main Street’s Reverse Raffle fundraiser in August. Chase lives in San Diego, California, with his parents and his little brother and sister. He is 13 years old and is in 7th grade. Every summer his grandma Alana brings him to Fort Pierce to visit her for a month. He always looks forward to this visit and hates to leave her at the end of the month. The memories he gains from these wonderful summers in south Florida will remain with him always.

Chase wrote a letter to Main Street to share his experience as St. Lucie County’s Sheriff of the Day:

Being Sheriff for the day in one word was WOW! I had so much fun! I had an exciting day. From meeting Deputy Sheriff Leroy Davis to meeting all the nice people in the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office.

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