First School
Fort Pierce, Florida

See “School Days …” page 6
These are Some of Our Favorite Things Downtown Fort Pierce

by Beth Williams

What a great summer we had with Main Street Fort Pierce! We had all kinds of wonderful things to celebrate — our big win of the Great American Main Street Award, Doris Tillman’s 20th anniversary as MSFP’s manager, and her 60th year on the planet. Our annual Reverse Raffle was another great time as nearly 400 MSFP supporters came out to eat, drink, bid and be merry at the Pelican Yacht Club. Thanks to all of our sponsors, auction donors, and attendees for making this important fundraiser a tremendous success.

Now that fall is officially here, we look forward to other MSFP traditions. The annual Ghost Walk is in the works along with our Halloween Golf Tournament. And plans are already in the making for the annual Sights and Sounds on Second Street event that kicks off the holiday season. Hopefully the evenings will start cooling off a bit to make our monthly Friday Fest street parties even more enjoyable.

Every one of the events I’ve mentioned is a labor of love for the staff and volunteers of MSFP. Each one takes a tremendous amount of time and effort to plan and implement — all to benefit our historic downtown district. Whether the goal is to raise funds to help with our restoration of the Platts/Backus House, or simply to get more people downtown to enjoy our waterfront city and boost merchant sales, everything we do is a significant undertaking that depends on the time and talent of our volunteers and supporters.

No matter when I stop by the Platts/Backus House (MSFP’s beautiful headquarters) there’s a buzz. Doris is on the phone hatching some new plan to help a variety of downtown efforts, Pam is hustling around the office working on upcoming events, and there seems to always be a volunteer or two assisting with some aspect of MSFP’s agenda. There’s high energy in that house and I’m sure Beanie (Backus’ nickname) would approve!

Whether you are new to the community or you’ve been here your entire life, I hope that MSFP is one of your favorite organizations. It is certainly at the top of my list. If you have time to contribute to an event, or if you’d like to help support the effort through membership or a donation, please know you are welcome at our house any time!
**Lincoln Park Main Street Presents: Regina Bell in a Gospel Explosion!**

**Sponsored by 104.7 The FLAME, WIRA 1400 AM and The Sunrise Theatre**

Four-time GRAMMY®-winning R&B/Pop songstress Regina Belle will make her debut at the Sunrise Theatre on Saturday, September 17 at 7 p.m. Even as the New Jersey native rode high in the urban charts throughout the ‘80s and ‘90s with such urban classics as “Baby Come to Me,” “I Make It Like It Was” and “What Goes Around,” faith, churchgoing, and gospel music remained at the very core of her life in the spotlight. A precocious singer since a young age, Belle launched her music career with a bang when, as an 8-year-old, she performed her first church solo. The solo was a take-no-prisoners rendition of the gospel standard “Don’t Drive Your Mama Away,” which was originally performed by none other than Shirley Caesar, one of Belle’s early influences. Belle’s musical influences include Phyllis Hyman, Billie Holiday, Donny Hathaway, and Nancy Wilson. Also making his first time appearance to the Sunrise is Steller® Award-Winner Jonathan Nelson, one of the brightest young faces in contemporary praise and worship music. In 2008, Nelson stepped from behind the shadows to reveal himself to be a charming worship leader with his Top 10 smash hit “My Name Is Victory” which spent an astounding 65 weeks on the Billboard Hot Gospel Songs chart and won him a Dove Award nomination as Best New Artist of the Year.

Then, after intermission, Fort Pierce Native, Lerel Frederick Jr. Founder of “Zoe Live” will serve as the Master of Ceremonies. During his life-long music career, he has accompanied performers such as Liza Minnelli, Kirk Franklin, Aretha Franklin, Shirley Caesar, Babbie Mason, Patty Austin, Chaka Khan, Anne Nesby, Dionne Warwick, Queen Latifah and Akon. He has written songs for elite gospel recording artists such as The Anointed Pace Sisters, Daryl Coley, Richard Smallwood, Edw-in Hawkins, .

**“Denim & Diamonds” Reverse Raffle – a Great Success**

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**Main Street and Downtown Business Association**

**Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic, Downtown Fort Pierce!**

**Friday, September 2:** Friday Fast Food Night—Bent’s Oak Tower, 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 465-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

**Wednesday, September 14:** Art Workshop at Art Bank: Art Mundo Open Studio, 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; 466-0021; www.artmundo.org.

**Friday, September 16:** Coffee with the Mayor—September Sponsor: The Pilot Club of Fort Pierce, Historic City Hall, 8:00 a.m.; 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

**Friday, September 16:** 2nd Street, Downtown Fort Pierce; Yel-low Tail Grille & Raw Bar, 468-7071.

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**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**Art Mundo Open Studio — Wednesday:** 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; The ArtBank at 111 Orange Avenue; www.artmundo.org, 772-766-0021, www.artmundo.org.

**Fort Pierce Bike Night — Thursday:** 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.; 2nd Street, Downtown Fort Pierce; Yellow Tail Grille & Raw Bar, 468-7071.

**Pt. Farmer’s Market — Saturday:** 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

**The Jazz Market — Saturday:** 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 1/2-mile north of downtown Fort Pierce; Liberty Jazz & Blues Society, 465-5209; www.jazzsociety.org.

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**ST. LUCIE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER**

For information, please call 462-1975 or visit www.stluciecohistory.org.

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY MARINE CENTER**

For information, please call 462-3474 or visit www.stlucieco.gov/marine_center.

**A.E. BACKUS GALLERY**

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

**HEATHCOTE BONITIAL GARDENS**

For information, please call 464-6762 or visit www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org.

**SUNRISE THEATRE’S BLACK BOX PERFORMANCES**

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

**MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER**

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

**FORT PIERCE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE**

For more information, please call 370-0162, or visit www.footballpolice.com.

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER**

For information, please call 462-1975 or visit www.sfluciecohistory.org.

**LEGENDARY SITES in St. Lucie County at the Regional History Center, 414 SEaway Drive on South Beach, Wed. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dan Gardner conducts special tours of the Historic Gardner House on Sundays only. $4.00 adults, $3.50 seniors, children (6–17 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.

**FORT PIERCE JAZZ & BLUES SOCIETY**

For more information, please call 460-5299 or visit www.jazzsociety.org.

**ART MUNDO**

For more information, please call 466-0021 or visit www.artmundo.org

Saturday, August 27: 4-week Saturday Morning Clay Class. Martha Cross from the Merry Potters: 4-week Saturday Morning Clay Class. Martha Cross from the Merry Potters will conduct special tours of the Hall of Gardner House on Saturdays only.

**For information, please call 466-4775 or visit www.sunrisetheatre.com.**

**Black Box Performances**

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

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**Thanks to Sponsors & Friends**
School Days in Fort Pierce, Old Main Street
by Jean Ellen Wilson

Myrtle Crooks was six years old and had been looking forward to her first day of school all summer. She knew what school was like and she loved it. On occasion, she had tagged along with her older kin for a visit. She could not wait to be an official student.

When the great day arrived she woke up with her skin aflame, and found our new school house on fire. Everything was done to save it, but of no avail. It is supposed it was set afire. The organ and a great amount of school furniture was saved."

In the aftermath of the disaster, a citizen wrote: "The site of our public schoolhouse ... is a smoldering heap of ashes. ... Adjacent property, which was for a time seriously menaced, was saved by the heroic work of the crowd. The incident quite forcibly suggests the organization of a fire department as an acquisition to the newly incorporated municipality; especially so in view of the fact that more than a score of residences and business houses have been erected during the past three months."

The new school was built on Pine Street (Second Street) between Cobb’s store and Moore’s Creek. Roylance and Klopp, the same contractors who built the Platts-Backus house, began construction in August and in November, the newspaper could report, "The school opened Monday with a large enrollment of pupils. The new school house is a thing of beauty, and places many laurels to the credit of contractors and citizens. Prof. Pomeroy is principal, and seems eminently fitted for the honorable position. Let us give him and his assistants our united and hearty co-operation in the sometimes difficult task of training young America." The school was two-story with eight rooms.

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As the population grew, two more rooms were added.

Children came to school three ways: they walked on the shell road, they came by horse and buggy or they came by boat. One observer wrote, “The people of the Indian River Country are semi-amphibious. ... Their children go to school in boats instead of on foot, and the old folks go to church in the same way.” Myrtle remembers the “facilities.” When our school was down here by the power plant is, it was right on the creek and we had a bridge going across because our rest rooms were over on the river shore and we had to go across the creek to get to the rest rooms and I have never seen as many snakes in my life as was in that creek. These big old stiff frond ferns were thick in that creek, and they would just be wrapped up with moccasins so we’d pick up oyster shells and brick bars and anything else we could find and stand on the little dock that ran across the creek and rock those snakes.”

The new school also served as a cultural center for the frontier community that was Fort Pierce in the first years of the new century. The library was open to the public and a Literary Club was organized for the local citizens.

The argument for division of church versus state had little purchase with the pioneers. Religious services were held in the building for those denominations that were yet to build a place of worship for their parishioners.

The school served as a venue for entertainment. The 1901 season opener is an example of the shows put on with local talent over the years. There was Mrs. Goodwin at the piano in a green silk dress with black net overlay. Under the light of many Japanese lanterns, Prof. Goodwin sang “Creole Sue” and other offerings. Mrs. Bachus (sic), “the charming young actress and star of the evening,” appeared in costume and sang “Just Like You,” followed by encores. Mrs. Hartstone at the piano and Mrs. Roylance at the violin provided the instrumental music. Refreshments were served after the play.

Attendance at the school diminished as the summer drew near for pupils were needed at home to help with the planting and the harvest. This would be a continuing problem. Dr. Platts, St. Lucie County’s first Superintendent of Schools after the new county was formed from the southern end of Brevard in 1905, warned, “We are experiencing the escape refrain ‘play hookey’ almost with carelessness and ignorance on the part of parents. Unless compulsory law of attendance is passed before long we will have an illiterate ... population. ... Teachers are of high grade and are paid from $55 to $100 per month.”

By June of its first year of operation, a flag flew over the school for which the girls in the primary school had raised the money. The closing exercises were held in the library; the school sang American, Ruth Alderman performed a solo, Myrtle Killer and Lowell Hill gave recitations. The three teachers—Professor Pomeroy, Aleph Mims and Mims Grace Ready—served treats. In later years closing exercises included scarf and flag drills.

Continued on page 8 ...
The summer of 1902 the new school bell arrived but would not go into the belfry until fall. It would have the name of Edith Louise Tyler engraved for her efforts in raising the money to pay for it. On September 7, 1902, over 100 pupils answered the bell which “could be heard far and near” calling the town to the opening ceremonies. (That bell is now in the belfry of the yellow brick school on Delaware Avenue.)

Myrtle Crooks nee Edwards tells us something about the school days of the time: “We liked for the weather to be kind-a storming and rainy sometimes. We were subject to gales, but we kind-a liked it to have bad weather because Cobb’s store was right there by our school and any other time, we’d have to go home to eat but if it was a rainy day, we could go to Cobb’s store and buy something.”

Another pioneer remembers that when she was a girl a wreck at sea occurred: “Yards and yards of a blue calico with pink moons on it came ashore. All the boys had shirts and girls dresses of ‘wreck calico.’ What a school room and did we hate all being alike as to dress.”

In 1903, the idea of consolidated schools was introduced. One report summed up the objections: “The school question is agitating the minds of our good people greatly. Those of us who have small children look upon the idea of sending them three miles away to school with horror, and sincerely hope the scheme will fail through. Those of us who have figured on it, with a view to transporting pupils, have decided that to get a proper covered vehicle and team, we could not possibly do the work for less than two dollars per day, and that means forty dollars per month. We only pay our teacher thirty-five dollars, so where does the economy come in?”

Contracts were awarded to transport children; James Bell carried students from St. Lucie to Ft. Pierce.

Before the consolidated school era, any settlement with a half dozen school age children could start a school. There were once schools at Bluefield, 5-Mile, Ankona, Viking, Narrows, Eden, White City and other outlying hamlets. The Catholic school on Orange Avenue opened in 1915. There was also an early “colored” school in the area of Brown’s Court.

At the “city” school in Ft. Pierce, Professor Pomeroy had 3 assistants by 1904. In 1910, J. W. Hodge, who had been teaching at Viking, ran for the position of Superintendent of Schools and won. He had taught a term and a part of another term in the old Ft. Pierce school built circa 1892.

Myrtle Crooks remembers Mr. Hodge: “Later on, then, when I got up in higher grades in school he became our county superintendent, and I used to feel real proud when he came in to visit our school and tell me, ‘Slip over, honey, I’m going to sit by you,’ because I thought well, he hasn’t forgotten me just because he’s superintendent. He hasn’t forgotten me and I was always proud to have him come to visit our schools. He was always very nice to each and every one of us.”

The school on Second Street, in sight of the Main Street Headquarters, existed from 1901 to 1915. At first it housed only ten grades. When it became a high school, the first graduate was Howard Horton. The next year there were four graduates: P. K. and Phillips Platts, the Swain twins, Fern and Jewell, and Johnnie Van Ditmar. And then in 1913 Myrtle Edwards, Theda Horton and Grace Andrews graduated.

In 1915, the yellow brick school, “way out in the country” at 10th and Delaware, opened. The old school building on Pine was sold to Mr. Faber who attempted to convert it into a hotel. A hurricane, or “gale” as they called it in those times, flattened the building in 1916, dooming his efforts.
For over 20 years, the United Way of St. Lucie County has been able to count on Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) employees to gladly provide both monetary and physical support to help those in need. Since 1999 they have contributed nearly $212,000 in payroll deductions as well as generously giving of their time by volunteering in various local events. In fact, during the 2010 fiscal year, 29 employees racked up nearly 1,300 volunteer hours and 22 have already accumulated nearly that amount in the first seven months of 2011.

One annual activity that FPUA employees participate in is the United Way “Day of Caring”. On that day, many become involved in charitable projects around St. Lucie County. In 2008, 2009 & 2010 employees helped beautify the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) group home through gardening and landscaping. In 2010 & 2011 they assisted in sprucing up the interior of C.A. Moore Elementary School by painting corridors. Each year since 2009, employees have created lovely flower arrangements to cheer up Hospice and nursing home patients in Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, adding Lawnwood Medical Center to the list in 2011.

For the past six years FPUA employees have also been conscientious about contributing to United Way’s “Stuff the Bus” campaign. This wonderful initiative provides school supplies to area children whose parents cannot afford to purchase them. Last year 40 backpacks full of items were collected and distributed to students at C.A. Moore Elementary and this year FPUA is on target to repeat this accomplishment.

The reason FPUA employees participate in United Way campaigns is for the satisfaction of helping others. Barbara Mika, Co-Chair of FPUA’s 2011 United Way campaign, said that she became involved in volunteering when her son was required to complete community service projects while in Boy Scouts. Then, when she went to work for Fort Pierce Utilities Authority in 2006 it was only natural for her to become involved in the United Way campaign that was going on at the time. Her involvement has increased and, as mentioned earlier, she’s currently serving as co-chair with fellow employee Jessica Quinters, and for the 2010 campaign she alone was Chair.

Who knows what the next 20 years will bring for the United Way of St. Lucie County. If the past 20 years is any indication, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority employees will still be serving others by contributing their time and money to this most worthy cause.

PNC – Harbor Foundation Awards Grant to Main Street Fort Pierce

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. was awarded a grant from the PNC – Harbor Foundation to complete the landscaping project at the 116-year-old Platts/Backus House. The funds will be used to install brick pavers, benches, plants, a sprinkler system, lighting and reinstalling Beanie Backus bathtub pool to create a courtyard and social area for the historic house.

Doris Tillman, Main Street Fort Pierce manager, said, “Thanks to the generosity of the PNC – Harbor Foundation, the completion of this project will be a great addition to Edgartown’s downtown neighborhood atmosphere and a great asset to Downtown Fort Pierce.”

This is the second grant that was awarded by the PNC Foundation. The first grant was used in the restoration of the Platts/Backus House. The renovation of the Platts/Backus House has stimulated others to improve their homes and other renovation projects have started in the Edgartown neighborhood.

The Main Street Fort Pierce Board of Directors and staff would like to thank the PNC Foundation for their continued support of downtown Fort Pierce and Main Street Fort Pierce.

For more information on Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. visit www.mainstreetfortpierce.org or call 772-466-3880.
The Library: Main Street’s Lifelong Learning Center

by Linda Hudson

There is one place in downtown Fort Pierce where you can see a movie, read a foreign newspaper, do your homework, learn Spanish, research your genealogy, learn how to start a business, apply for a job or apply for unemployment assistance. The Downtown Fort Pierce Library, located at 101 Melody Lane, on the corner of Orange Avenue and the Indian River Lagoon, is more than a building filled with books; it’s a cultural anchor for Downtown Fort Pierce. It’s free, and filled with opportunities to learn and do many interesting things.

Yes, the library has books and it also has computers that patrons use for research and projects, and to start a business or for applying for a job or jobless benefits. It’s easy to get a library card. Complete the brief application and produce proof of residency in St. Lucie County. Then, check out a book, use a computer, borrow a movie, audio book, music disk or a piece of art. On Friday afternoons you can see a movie. On Tuesday mornings you can research your genealogy. You can join a book club on Thursday mornings, or learn about gardening on Tuesday afternoons. Mothers can bring their young children on Wednesday mornings to hear a story and to learn sign language.

From January to April, the AARP helps you with your taxes at the library for free. The AARP also has other library offerings, like improving your driving skills. On the last Tuesday of the month, the library offers the Father and Child Connection, a program to enhance the father-child bond. If you’re a writer, and want to network with other writers, attend the Writers’ Group (second and fourth Wednesday afternoons). Bring your laptop to the library where Wi-Fi will allow you to surf the Internet in any quiet, cool corner. Students can do their homework on library computers, using word processing software, and adults can learn to read with literacy tutors.

Visit http://www.stlucieco.gov/library/ to find a program of interest to you, and to learn library hours and check out free reference databases available at the library. You can search the catalogue, renew your own books, or reserve an unavailable item you want to check out in the future. Drop by the library and pick up a schedule of events from the main foyer. You can also grab a copy of the latest issue of Focus and other information about downtown events and services.

The Library: Main Street’s Lifelong Learning Center

Main Library Hosts Monthly Poetry Readings

Contributed by Ellen Gillette

“Forget everything you ever read about poetry, it doesn’t matter—poetry is the last preserve of honest speech and the outspoken heart.”

—Garrison Keillor, Good Poems for Hard Times

Local poet William Kemmett, also an English instructor at Indian River State College, would no doubt agree with Keillor. Author of five books of poetry, Kemmett has been conducting readings at the main library downtown at 101 Melody Lane in Fort Pierce for several months. “Mr. Kemmett was here for a book signing. We’d had poetry readings a few years ago with a great response, but the program had stopped, and I asked him about doing them again,” says Delphine Newton, program assistant at the library. Kemmett started out as a songwriter, but poetry soon became his passion. His advice to would-be poets is to read poems that appeal to the individual, to learn something of the culture and history of the art form. “There needs to be a commitment. It should be what inspires your life, done with a serious bent. Poetry isn’t a hobby.” On the other hand, he says that sometimes we look too hard for the poetry in life: “It’s right before you, so accessible. Poetry evokes something that can’t be expressed through prose. It extends language, takes the ineffable and puts it into words.”

The library event reflects Kemmett’s desire to expose people in our area to the possibility of verse, getting them involved in and excited about poetry. “Not enough people recognize the importance of poetry, particularly young people.” Kemmett reads from his own works and then invites audience members to read poems of their own, or selections from other poets.

For years in Massachusetts, Kemmett did poetry readings in schools, getting grants to serve as “poet in residence.” Funds are not available these days for similar programs, making such events as the library offers even more important. The last event was held July 16. Kemmett read from one of his older books, as well as from his latest, Black Oil. Seven audience members read as well from poems covering a diversity of topics.

For more information, see http://www.stlucieco.gov/library/fort_pierce_library.htm and click on “Events,” or call 772-462-1615. Poetry readings will take a break in August, beginning again the last Saturday of September from 1–2 p.m.
Colin and Ian Lloyd are as close as brothers come. Both received undergraduate degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Next, the two went on to graduate from law school — Colin from the University of Florida and Ian from Stetson. “We both took the Florida Bar exam at the same time and passed on the first go-around,” says Ian. After becoming licensed to practice law in Florida, the brothers decided to help their dad, Vincent, at his law firm in Fort Pierce. “I came back to Fort Pierce out of respect for my Dad to work for him,” says Colin. “I thought that I’d give it a year and then move somewhere else. This was in 1999 when the revitalization of Fort Pierce was under way. I liked what was going on and ended up staying,” Ian agrees. “Before we knew it, we were knee deep into it and things fell into place,” he says.

“When we first got back to Fort Pierce, Dad emphasized that we had to give back to the community,” says Ian. “He would frown upon loaning money to us, yet he had no problem making donations to community organizations.” Indeed, the Lloyd family has been very generous to Fort Pierce. Vincent Lloyd began to invest heavily in Fort Pierce’s downtown in the early 1990s. The family now owns ten buildings downtown including the historic Fort Pierce Hotel property. “Dad bought that building and started remodeling it,” says Ian. “When he painted the building yellow, people were shocked, but now it fits in well with the downtown area.”

“As Dad’s practice was winding down, we each took the areas that we were working on and merged those into the firm at Hoskins and Turco,” explains Ian. Now partners in the firm, the brothers work downtown on Second Street at Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd and Lloyd.

As a diversion to practicing law, the brothers opened a restaurant called the Tiki in 2002 and then Cobb’s Landing restaurant in 2005. “These businesses allowed us to become more involved in the community and with the City,” says Ian. Since both pieces of real estate are owned by the City of Fort Pierce, it benefits City coffers to have stable businesses contributing to the success of the economy. In 2006, the brothers opened a third restaurant on South Beach called Bluewater Beach Grill just across from Jerry Park.

In addition to becoming fruitful businessmen, the brothers have successfully established their families in Fort Pierce. Ian and his wife Cecilia have a three-year-old son, Aidan, and a new baby girl, Mia. Colin and his wife, Sara, have three children: Sally Jane (age 8), Caroline (age 5) and Walter (age 4).

Continuing in their dad’s philanthropic footsteps, the Lloyd brothers support numerous causes such as the Guardian Ad Litem program, scholarships for graduating high school seniors, the Sunrise Theatre, and Main Street, including sponsoring the annual fireworks show.

Both brothers agree that downtown Fort Pierce is unique. “I can look out my window at work and watch my children play on the soccer field at St. Andrew’s school,” says Colin. “I like the stability that we have here,” says Ian. When asked what they would change, Colin says that he would like to see more retail. “Downtown Stuart and Vero on the beach both have thriving retail shops in a non-mall setting,” he says. “I’d like to see the same thing happen in Fort Pierce, but that is driven by the economy. We’ve made great strides in the last 12 years, but there is room for improvement.”

In summary, the numerous contributions from Colin and Ian Lloyd during the last decade have greatly benefited Fort Pierce. Main Street is honored to have Colin and Ian as its September 2011 Downtown Heroes.
17th Annual Reverse Raffle

Denim & Diamonds

Debbie Cohen & Michelle Miller

Gary Gillette & Cathy Horan

Camille Ogden, Lisa Mowers, Karen Smith

Nancy Yates, Don Yates, Barbara Debarrolmoe

Maria McKenzie, David and Maria Recor

Jane Rowley & Andy Steinberg

Cindy & Mike Mulleady

Mary Jo Tierney, Mike Wetsel, Ann & Bob Sinnat

Ingrid VanHeek, Joanne Carbone, Paul Sampson, Linda Sampson, Gary Morris, Michelle Miller Morris

Ken Langley, Debbie Langley, Keith Stephens, Angie Johnson, Gary Gillette

“Lanakilas”
A Polynesian Experience
Performed August 5
at Friday Fest – with a
Special “Thanks!” to
Southern Eagle Distributing
& Kona Beer

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Rebecca’s Organic Hair & Body Care
by Jeanne Johansen

Rebecca’s Organic Hair and Body Care located at 144 North Depot Drive, opened in August, is already taking being revitalized naturally in body and soul to a whole new luxurious, organic level.

“I am committed to using organics wherever possible,” says owner, Rebecca Belcher. “I use products that are vegan, sulfate-free, ammonia-free, are made from all natural products and do not test on animals wherever possible.”

This commitment is evident in the products she has chosen. Her hair color treatments are done with gentle oils that create lush natural color. Her make-up line and skin care products are made with natural oils and herbs that have been tested to ensure there are no pesticides, herbicides, or harmful toxins. Organic non-acrylic nail tips are part of the salon’s manicure and pedicure offerings.

This passion for being totally natural started when this native Fort Pierce Central graduate was diagnosed with cervical cancer. The cancer was discovered in 1987 around the time she was awarded a scholarship to the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida. Her search to live healthy has earned her the nickname of “Manic Organic.”

Discouraged by family from an artist life, Rebecca left town and moved first to Atlanta and then to London for six years. She redirected her soul’s creative desires when she returned to the U.S. and became a masseuse at the Breakers Spa of Palm Beach and then a hairdresser. While at the Breakers she developed a celebrity clientele.

You feel like a celebrity as she makes a point of sitting down and discussing your hair desires and lifestyle before she sculpts your hair into the best look for your face and daily routine. She is able to work with all types of hair and hair issues. She offers a more expressive, artistic cut for boys’ and men’s hair by “etching” artistic patterns in their cropped hair.

As the mother of a 6 ½ year old boy, Rebecca is passionate about helping children. In her quest to support non-chemical products for children she discovered an organic kids’ line of hair products which included a natural shampoo that eradicates lice and one that repels further nasty pests with no harmful chemicals. Over the summer she offered back-to-school cuts for children for only $5 with the proceeds going to the Fort Pierce YMCA.

Rebecca’s is the first distributor in St. Lucie County of L’Oréal organic Sénie Nuture line, which offers 99% natural origin ingredients, sulfate-, paraben-, and silicone-free hair products, making Rebecca’s an official Green Salon. All the furnishings, except five, in this cozy salon were either repurposed or reused items she found to express her good living philosophy.

“Even the luxurious microfiber towels are environmentally responsonive because they dry faster than average towels,” says Rebecca, who donates the hair clippings to local gardens and Heathcote Botanical Gardens where they are used as natural pest repellents.

Rebecca’s Organic Hair and Body Care is the third organic business and joins S&S Take-Out next door and the Nature’s Way health store a block away on the corner of North 2nd Street in bringing good health to Fort Pierce.
Helen Terry Art Show on October 15 in Downtown Fort Pierce

by Jeanne Johansen

Just over a year ago, Helen Terry’s artistic life came to halt when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The community rallied and set up a trust fund to help with her medical expenses not covered by insurance. She was able to beat the cancer into remission earlier this year, but other health issues arose to challenge her return to the art world.

This summer Helen moved back to Fort Pierce from Vero Beach to be closer to her family, doctors, and friends. She is working to get well enough to return to the Fort Pierce art scene by October and attend a show of her remaining art works, stored away for years, which will be sold to help with her expenses.

The community is invited to come meet Helen Terry and purchase a piece of this wonderful, giving woman’s artistic collection including part of the cat collection along with posters, on Saturday, October 15, at the ArtBank, 223 Avenue A, Fort Pierce. For more information on Helen Terry and the upcoming event, call Jeanne Johansen at 772-579-1529 or e-mail helen.terry34@yahoo.com.

Art with a Heart for Home and the Homeless

by Debra Magee

Fort Pierce is home to a considerable group of talented people and our cowboy heritage is one aspect of our culture that is not evident at first glance to visitors. More visible are the waterway vistas, fishing marina and the heart of our historic downtown.

Capturing the essence of our community is the aim of artist Kacey Linden who paints “Marlboro Men” nearly life-sized. With many years of travel behind her, Kacey has embarked on a career that stretches from the shores of Waikiki to the scrub of Florida’s beaches. The 12-year resident of the area is a transplant from the state of Oregon just outside of Portland.

From her 112-year-old homestead in Fort Pierce (White City), she captures her heart’s desires in acrylic on canvas. Her repertoire is vast: local landscapes, figurative portraits, still life paintings and more. “Sunday After Church” is a scene of two church ladies in their Sunday dresses sitting on 5-gallon buckets, fishing for their supper.

“I am absolutely in love with historic downtown Fort Pierce,” she commented during a recent Wednesday night Art Walk at the ArtBank where she was hosting a solo exhibit in the loft foyer on the third floor. Sunsets, cowboys, cattle and ranch scenes drew interest at the show, garnering two sales and a commission to paint a prized bull. A successful professional artist, Linden grew up on a working ranch in Idaho. While living in Oregon, Linden had 40 acres where she raised her boys and attended rodeos. Although her sons are grown and living in California, she has 2 pigs, 9 chickens, a cat and dogs to keep her company along with an occidental rooster who poses for her.

Atop her roost on the third floor of the ArtBank the eastward view is breath-taking. Her grace and gentle spirit light up her studio but Kacey has had her share of sorrows. Those who are close to her know that the depths of her soul house personal pain. Her many fans on her website draw strength from her subjects, particularly the portraits of homeless individuals.

“My boys are athletes and I had my fill of football games on Thanksgiving Day so I started a family tradition to feed the homeless and then go to the movies.”

It was the resident homeless man, picking up trash in a parking lot one day in her hometown of Seal Beach, CA, that made an imprint on her heart. Then, again, in Hawaii an incident caused her to lift up a prayer. Serving meals at the Salvation Army here gave her the inspiration to capture the homeless in portraiture. She sketched from memory the faces of those she had seen. Among her most memorable characters are “Eddie” – the fellow with a memento-clad hat and “Love in the Valleys” which depicts a shy, dignified homeless couple who were at a Thanksgiving soup kitchen in Oregon. Her composite portraits of homeless veterans are poignant reminders of those who have served but linger with post-traumatic stress.

Linden paints a variety of subjects from pet portraits to private commissions. She renders her compositions with her soul producing a unique style. You can contact her at Studio 320 in the ArtBank, 111 Orange Avenue, in historic downtown Fort Pierce, 772.801.3952 or view her works online at kclinden.com.
Eco Artist Makes it BIG at the Manatee Center

by Meredith Bennett; Buyer, Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop

David Dunleavy, a world renowned eco-marine artist, is including the Manatee Observation and Education Center in his mission to educate through art with his endangered species murals. As an avid scuba diver, David fell in love with the sea and its inhabitants but soon realized not everyone was as appreciative. David shares his awesome experiences with the public hoping to raise conservancy awareness and inspire others to get involved. His life-sized or larger murals (there are over 50 worldwide) make a BIG difference; his work at the Melbourne Aquarium in Australia is the largest on the continent!

“We are so proud to be included in Mr. Dunleavy’s collection. Our missions are very closely related. David raises awareness about the oceans and sea life and we concentrate on the Indian River Lagoon and estuary, which sad to say is home to quite a few endangered species.” said Lesley Vincent-Ryder, Education Coordinator of the Manatee Center.

During the first week of October, Mr. Dunleavy will be creating another larger-than-life mural on the outer north wall of the Manatee Observation and Education Center. Along with educational presentations and demonstrations during the week, visiting children get to paint alongside David on a special children’s canvas. The dedication ceremony for Mr. Dunleavy’s endangered species mural will be held during the Center’s seasonal kick-off: “Explore the Sea with Moe the Manatee & David Dunleavy” Saturday, October 8th, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is FREE! Non-stop fun for the entire family! Bounce Houses • Touch Tank Demos • Games & Food Arts & Crafts • Face Painting Photo Ops with the Center’s Mascot ‘Moe the Manatee’ The Manatee Center’s primary purpose is to promote understanding and responsible actions for the fragile ecosystems of the Treasure Coast and their inhabitants.

“Through hands-on, interactive programs we teach over 5,000 elementary students each year. Another 200 or so get a more in-depth experience through our summer camp programs.” stated Jann Widmayer, Manatee Center Curator.

With the help of our sponsors, David Dunleavy will be bringing attention to our area and the plight of the manatee and other species. Join us in thanking the following local businesses by getting to know them — you’ll soon love them as much as we do: AT&T Real Yellow Pages, Doughboys of Vero Beach, Hometown News, Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice Company, Waste Pro, Sherwin Williams, and Neill, Griffin, Tinney, Neill & Marquis Chartered.

The Manatee Center continues to offer exciting educational programs for children and adults:

• Brown Bag Lunch Lectures, 2nd Friday of every month, free admission. Local experts share information on ecology, science and nature.
• Art in Nature, 2nd Saturday of each month, $10. Imaginations soar as children create puppets and other types of wildlife animals from Treasure Coast habitats with instructor Gerard Saltus.
• Kayak Excursions & Bike Rentals, Check It Out! Too many to list. Through partnership with Lisa’s Kayaks.

The Manatee Center is located in the heart of Fort Pierce’s historic downtown at 480 N. Indian River Drive. For more information on all programs and events please call (772) 466-1600 x3071 (routed through Fort Pierce Utilities Authority) or visit us online at www.manateecenter.com.
Works by Picasso and Kandinsky Featured at the Backus Museum

by Robin Dannahower

The Backus Museum has out-done itself putting together a new season. The 2011 – 2012 schedule is filled with great exhibitions and wonderful special events.

The museum will open the new season on October 5th, 2011, with an exhibition honoring James Hutchinson who was recently inducted into the Florida Artist Hall of Fame. The show, Seminole Wind, will showcase historical Seminole Indian paintings by Hutchinson who lived with the Seminoles in the late 1950s and early 1960s. His work beautifully portrays them in their everyday life. Paintings and poetry by Elgin Jumper from the Seminole Tribe will also be featured.

In December the museum will host its first annual Holiday Art Festival beginning on December 7th. The event will run through the end of the year. The festival will feature nearly 20 artists from Maine to Miami. The public can enjoy the event while they shop for distinctive, one-of-a-kind holiday gifts. As part of the celebration, the museum will also host its second annual Holiday Open House on Friday, December 9th from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. A special gift valued at $75 will be given to everyone who makes a purchase of $25 or more during the open house.

To start the new year, an exciting traveling exhibition from Syracuse University’s art collection will be on view beginning in January. The show will feature the works of extraordinary artists such as Picasso, Kandinsky, Rouault and Miro along with others. The exhibition, Modernist Prints: 1900 – 1955, will also serve as the backdrop for this season’s Art in Bloom.

Back by popular demand, Art in Bloom, the three-day celebration featuring floral arrangements from garden club members and florists from around the Treasure Coast, will kick off with a lavish cocktail buffet on Friday, January 27th. The event will run through Sunday, January 29th, 2012.

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The Backus Museum is also excited to announce that it is now a member of the North American Reciprocal Museums Program (NARM). Members of the museum at the Family and Sustaining Levels can receive reciprocal
membership privileges at over 400 participating museums nationwide. Membership privileges include free admission during public hours, the same discount on gift store purchases as those offered to affiliate members of the organization, and the same discount on purchases of concert and lecture tickets as offered to affiliate members.

For a full season schedule or to become a member, please visit the museum’s new website at www.backusmuseum.com.

Become a Member

It Takes All of Us to Make Our Historic Downtown Prosper and Grow!

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

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

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

Why Main Street Fort Pierce?

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

What are Membership Benefits?

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

As a member of Main Street you are automatically aligned with others who want to preserve the past and influence the future of Fort Pierce. You can belong to Fort Pierce Main Street at one of eight different membership levels, starting at just $5.

Main Street Membership Levels

Benefactor Levels
Headline Sponsor ($15,000)
Patron Sponsor ($5,000)

Community Levels
Main Street Student Membership ($35)
Main Street Friend Membership ($25)
Main Street Family Membership ($50)

Corporate Levels
Main Street Small Business Membership (21-10 employees) ($800)
Main Street Medium Business Membership (11-50 employees) ($2,500)
Main Street Large Business Membership (51 or more employees) ($5,000)

Please Take a Minute to Join Today!

Become a Member of Main Street Fort Pierce

Three Easy Ways to Join!

1. Call Main Street Fort Pierce at (772) 461-3600
2. Visit our Website: www.mainstreetfortpierce.org, click the Membership Link
3. Fill out the form below and mail to:

Main Street Fort Pierce
122 A.W. Backus Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

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

Name: ___________________________ Membership Level: ____________

Company/Organization: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________

City / State / Zip: ___________________________

Phone: ___________________________

Email: ___________________________

2011 – 2012 Backus Museum Season Schedule

Seminole Wind
October 5 – 29, 2011
Season Opening Reception Members & Invited Guests FREE
Friday, October 14, 2011 / 6 – 8 p.m.
Non-members $20

30th Annual Juried Art Exhibition “The Best of the Best”
November 2 – December 3, 2011
Opening Reception Members & Invited Guests FREE
Friday, November 11, 2011 / 6 – 8 p.m.
Non-members, $10

Holiday Art Festival
Art Sale & Holiday Festival Open House
Hors d’oeuvres & Holiday Spirits
Friday, December 9, 2011 / 5 – 8:00 p.m.

Modernist Prints: 1900 – 1955
From Syracuse University
January 13 – February 18, 2012
Opening Reception Members & Invited Guests FREE
Friday, January 27, 2012 / 6 – 8 p.m.
Non-members, $10

The Eye of the Camera: Juried Photography Show
May 2 – June 26, 2012
Opening Reception Members & Invited Guests FREE
Friday, May 11, 2012 / 6 – 8 p.m.
Non-members, $10

Sponsors and artists may invite guests for free. Non-members and member’s guests (over specific membership level) must pay to attend opening receptions.
Big Brothers Big Sisters Looking for Mentors to Make a Difference

Every child needs a role model — someone who cares about them just the way they are. With just one hour a week, you could be that special someone in the life of a child. Big Brothers Big Sisters is looking for all types of mentors — people who will work one-to-one with kids in a school setting and willing to share their love of reading, or just to spend time with a child after school or on weekends. It doesn’t cost a cent to be a mentor, but the payback is phenomenal. Won’t you make a positive difference in the world today? Start Something … Imagine the possibilities, what will you start? Please visit our website at www.bbbbsbig.org or call Big Brothers Big Sisters at (772) 466-8535 for more information.

A Hidden Garden: Plants, With Care
by Linda Hudson, Chair of the Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce, Inc.

Ron Schaff, known as vendor A Hidden Garden at the Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce, makes sure his customers know how to care for the plants they buy from him before they leave with their purchase. His best selling plant is the “pitcher plant” because, he claims, it gets rid of “noseeums, mosquitoes, ex-spouses and mothers-in-law.” He’s increasing his herb selection to medicinal herbs and not just culinary.

Ron has been at the Market for about seven years. He sells bromeliads, palms, house plants, orchids, starter vegetable plants, larger plants and herbs. He also grows 24 kinds of tomatoes, 17 kinds of peppers and eggplants and other common (winter) and summer vegetables. His favorite vegetable is bok choy, a Chinese cabbage. According to Ron, “People do not realize that veggies should be fed weekly. They like to eat just like us!”

“My goal is to give the customers the best products and the best variety of my plant inventory, at the best price I can give them,” said Ron. “Plants have been in my life since I was a kid.”

After military service, Ron graduated from Temple University in accounting and had a 20-year career in the phonograph business. He was always interested in agriculture, and while living in Miami, he grew and sold palms starters.

Ron loves the Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce and considers his fellow vendors part of his extended family.

The Downtown Farmers’ Market of Fort Pierce is a Saturday morning tradition with a variety of vendors, like Ron Schaff, selling fresh and local products. Call Market Manager at 772-940-1145 or visit our website at www.ftpiecetfarmers-market.com or find us on Facebook.

The Market is open from 8 a.m. to Noon, every Saturday, rain or shine, in Marina Square, at the waterfront, between the Library and the Marina, in Downtown Fort Pierce.
This little piece of real estate can be your best investment!
Advertise your business on the Main Street Dining page!
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And support Main Street Fort Pierce as we support you!
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*Shows & Events will be added throughout the season. For a complete listing of all shows confirmed to date, visit www.sunrisetheatre.com.

Member Tickets on Sale Now!
Non-Member Tickets on Sale Tuesday September 6th at 10am

For information on new member benefits such as: Red carpet meet & greets, free tickets, ticket discounts, waived processing fees, & co-hosting a show, visit www.sunriseadvantageclub.com or call the Box Office at 772-461-4775.

Sunrise Theatre is located at 117 South 2nd Street in Historic Downtown, Fort Pierce