“Big Band Bang” Swings Into Downtown Ft. Pierce

By Doris Tillman

When the City of Fort Pierce was asked to produce the 4th of July fireworks show for St. Lucie County this year it was a natural for Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. to volunteer to assist the City. St. Lucie County gave the City of Fort Pierce the money for the fireworks show, the City paid for the entertainment and Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. organized the event. The result of this coordinated effort was the exciting “Big Band Bang” Independence Day event that brought thousands of people to the downtown area.

After the last threatening storm cloud passed around 5:00 PM, the event began with a wonderful performance by the Avenue D Boys Choir. Their unique sound warmed the audience up for the feature act, an eighteen piece orchestra known as The Atomic Big Band. Michael Andrew, director and singer of the band, had the audience up and dancing on his first number. Regardless of the fact the temperatures were in the 90s, people could not resist tapping their feet or, in some cases, dancing to the popular swing music that surrounded the Fort Pierce Amphitheatre.

Wafting through the air was the aroma of a variety of foods. In the background of the music were the sounds of laughter from children and the chatter of friends as they caught up on what they had been doing for the long holiday weekend. The grassy knoll was covered with chairs and blankets as a sea of people relaxed and spent the afternoon enjoying the music and waiting for the fireworks.

As the explosions of fireworks ended, a perfect evening came to a close. “Big Band Bang” and the partnership between St. Lucie County, the City of Fort Pierce and Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. was a success.

See Photos p. 12
Main Street Events: Something for Everyone

W hat a busy month! The 4th of July was filled with fireworks, celebrations, music from the Big Band & String Orchestra at the Amphitheatre.

With the summer heat and family vacations, remember that Main Street has much more in store for you in the coming months!

Not only are there physical changes in Downtown Fort Pierce—road reconstruction, landscaping and new brick paver sidewalks—but plans are taking shape on several retail/housing projects, parking garage, etc. Main Street events happen every month and on August 20, the ever popular and fun Reverse Raffle will take place at the Pelican Yacht Club. This year’s theme is “Boots & Pearls”—Yee Haa!

For some, like me, I don’t know the first thing about what to wear, but if you don’t have a pair of boots or pearls for that matter, don’t worry, come on out for an enjoyable time! If you have been to this event before, you know it’s always fun and you have a very good chance to win cash prizes and pick up some wonderful silent auction items to “boot”...

Friday Fet was a week late this month, but we nevertheless pulled it off despite the weather! Volunteers are always welcomed and we have had numerous non-profit groups volunteering to collect tips throughout the evening event. This helps the Main Street organization. If you are interested, please contact the Main Street office for more information at 466-3880.

When cooler weather arrives, you are certain to know that it must be time for the bi-annual Main Street Wine Tasting. October brings out the best in a change of temperature and the wine tastings are a great way to catch up with your friends over a glass of Pinot Noir while reminiscing the summer months.

I hope to see you at one of the upcoming Main Street events soon! We have something for everyone... till then.

Main Street Events

Welcome to the Main Street Focus, the official monthly newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce! In July, 2005, the staff, board and volunteers of Main Street began in-house production of its monthly newspaper for this, our premiere issue.

This is an exciting new venture for everyone involved, including our readers. The Main Street Focus will continue to cover news about the events, people, businesses, and redevelopment taking place within the Main Street Fort Pierce boundaries. In addition to its familiar articles, the Focus will have a brand new look, new features, and more articles.

Organizations and businesses are welcome to send press releases or event notifications related to downtown Fort Pierce to MainStreetFocus@aol.com to be published. Our deadline for the following month’s edition is the 15th of the current month. The Focus is also looking for fresh stories and writers. Any writer with a story idea may contact the Main Street office at (772) 466-3880 or send an email to the address above: Main Street Focus articles must be factual, positive, and related to the downtown Fort Pierce area or Main Street programs. To receive a copy of the Main Street Focus by mail, please contact the Main Street office by phone or email.

Main Street’s monthly newspaper is an important way to keep our members and the public informed about the revitalization efforts in downtown Fort Pierce. The newspaper highlights the people, places, and events that work together to make our community a desirable place to live and work.
Main Street Calendar

- **December 5**
  - 5th Annual Sidewalk Sale – Opening to 8:00 PM
  - Downtown Businesses, 772-595-0026

- **December 10**
  - 2nd Wednesday WALKABOUT – 5:00 to 8:00 PM
  - Downtown Businesses, 465-7080

- **December 20**
  - 12th Annual Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction
  - M ain Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880

Weekly Events

- **Saturday**
  - Ft. Pierce Farmers Market – 8:00AM to Noon

- **Thursday**
  - Fort Pierce Bike Night – 6:00 to 9:30 PM

Dine, Shop and Enjoy beautiful, historic downtown Fort Pierce

~ Event Spotlight ~

**Who:** M ain Street Fort Pierce

**What:** 12th Annual Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction

**Theme:** “Pearly & Boots”

**When:** August 20, 2005

**Where:** Pelican Yacht Club

**Why:** Proceeds will benefit the projects of M ain Street Fort Pierce

**Cost:** $80 per ticket

Each ticket admits 2 people.

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GEORGE L. WILLIAMS, III

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772.465.5705

The Manatee Observation & Education Center

**SUMMER HOURS**

- **August 6**
  - Kayaking Adventure 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM
  - $35, with snack

**AUGUST 6**

Kayaking Adventure

- **8:00 AM – 11:00 AM**
- $35, with snack

The Manatee Observation and Education Center is hosting a kayaking adventure in the Indian River Lagoon. This guided tour includes a kayak (either one or two-person), paddle, life jacket, instruction and lunch. For more information, call 1-888-652-9257. A portion of the proceeds benefit the educational programs at the Manatee Center.

**AUGUST 16**

Island Kayak

- **9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**
- $40 includes lunch

Take a gentle paddle through the Indian River Lagoon, one of America's most diverse estuaries. The trip's destination is an island where participants may view abundant wildlife. Once on the island, your guides will serve lunch. For more information, call 1-888-652-9257. A portion of the proceeds benefit the educational programs at the Manatee Center.

**AUGUST 19**

Moonlight Paddle

- **6:00 PM – 9:30 PM**
- $40 includes dinner

See the full moon rise over the Indian River Lagoon while you kayak through the beautiful waters of Ft. Pierce. On the trip, the tour includes a kayak (either one or two-person), paddle, life jacket, instruction and lunch. For more information, call 1-888-652-9257. A portion of the proceeds benefit the educational programs at the Manatee Center.

**AUGUST 20**

Kayaking Adventure

- **9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**
- $40 includes lunch

Explore the beautiful St. Lucie River by boat. The Manatee Observation and Education Center is hosting kayaking adventures for ages 6 and higher. This guided tour includes a kayak (either one or two-person), paddle, life jacket, instruction and lunch. For more information, call 1-888-652-9257. A portion of the proceeds benefit the educational programs at the Manatee Center.

**JULY, AUGUST, & SEPTEMBER**

- **1 Hour Tours**
  - **Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays**
  - Departing times: 10:30 AM, 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM

**Indian River Lagoon Boat Tours**

- **The Manatee Observation and Education Center**

- **Fort Pierce, FL 34950**

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of Fort Pierce

Celebrating 24 Years on Avenue “A” Your Time Keeper

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The P.P. Cobb Building
Historic Downtown Fort Pierce
772-465-2746

**“THE CLOCK SHOP”**

of Fort Pierce

Celebrating 24 Years on Avenue “A” Your Time Keeper

100 Avenue A • Suite B
The P.P. Cobb Building
Historic Downtown Fort Pierce
772-465-2746
by Marti Reno

It’s a must to stay “cool” at all times, so skip the pool and head for the Arcade Shops of Ft. Pierce. I’m serious! I strolled through some surprising shops in the Arcade that would make anyone look (and feel) cool! The Arcade building combines modern shopping with the best of our architectural history.

We’ve all driven by the Arcade and admired the perfection of the renovation and life-like people in the murals. It’s a must to stay “cool” and ice cream… does life get any better when all is said and done? Not in my book!

My next visit was with Ana and her client at Salon de Ana Bernal. I was so impressed when Jamie (a Harbor Federal employee is all I can give out) said, “we couldn’t live without Ana.” She then opened her purse and gave me Ana’s business card. Jamie said she also loves Ana’s day spa. I left them to the privacy of this gorgeous salon for manicures, pedicures, massages and other “grille” things. By this time, I was really feeling cool.

Another big surprise awaited me at O’ing’s Jewelry & Fashions. It’s the place to go to find the latest in trendy sandals and slip-on shoes at a very discounted price or more like Boca shoes with hometown prices.

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No children, blessings from her great-grandchildren, blessings from her great-grandchildren and a host of neighbors and long-time friends. A special highlight was a call from her sister Dorothy. Continued on p. 10…
Downtown Heroes: Dan & Anna Fuller

By Doris Tillman

When seeking help sometimes you have to be a little creative. In the late 1990's, Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. needed an appraisal of the Sunrise Theatre to use for purchasing the theatre and for various grant applications. Rather than just call the offices of Fuller, Armfield and Wagner and ask for assistance, I left a message for Dan Fuller to please call “Olga” about a large property purchase using my best Scandinavian accent. When Dan returned the call he was so taken back by my approach how could he have said no? The appraisal helped Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. secure a grant valued at $202,500 to offset the Sunrise Theatre purchase price.

Since that day, Dan and Anna Fuller have been wonderful supporters of Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. Fuller, Armfield and Wagner have been in business since 1987 and have been located in downtown for about 13 years. Anna Scharfschwerdt Fuller was born and raised in Fort Pierce and Dan, originally from Vermont, moved to this area when he was a young boy. “Olga” once again gave Dan and Anna a call to help with the recent purchase of the Backus House. Without hesitation, the Fullers agreed to help. Once again, Main Street will use the appraisal to seek grants for renovations and to offset the purchase price.

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Irene Dent, cont. from p. 7

who resides in England. A summer breeze kept the revelers cool under shade of a large oak tree. Stories and reflections of Irene’s life not just in Fort Pierce, but her experiences in Virginia and during WWII where she served in the Women’s Air Corps in Great Britain, took center stage. Tales evoked laughter and sometimes tears in remembering the best of nine decades of life. Irene spoke of her meeting with many local business people that frequented Antiques Etc. Many attending the party mentioned items in their own home that they had purchased from Antiques Etc.

But most importantly, the celebration honored a wise, courageous, kind and wonderful woman who touched so many lives in the neighborhood where she has resided since 1978 and the many business associates she became so fond of in downtown Fort Pierce. Her spirits were buoyed to have so many there to extend their blessings on her birthday and wishes for many years to come. Irene currently resides at Broadmoor Assisted Living in Fort Pierce. Those wishing to send belated congratulations can forward them to her care of Broadmoor, 200 Dixieland Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34982.

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"Big Band Bang" Brings Legendary Music Downtown

(Top left) Michael Andrew woos the audience with his “Sinatra-like” mannerisms. (Top right) The Atomic Big Band keeps the crowd moving with exciting swing music. (Center) Members of the Avenue D Boys Choir performed several meaningful songs to kick off the “BIG BAND BANG” event. Various audience members danced to the lively music. Mayor Bob Benton (bottom, center) introduced the feature entertainment.

The Hemmings & Andrews Law Firm building. Approximate date of construction would have been shortly after the first courthouse was built in 1909.

New coffee and refreshment business, The Grind House, now occupies the building located directly across from the St. Lucie County Courthouse on 2nd Street.

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Happenings at the Library

What is Waggin’ Tales? It is a reading program designed to help children increase their reading skills. Children will read to a therapy dog for a period of 20 minutes. Our volunteers will assist the children as necessary in learning to read. Children may bring in their own books to read or one will be selected by the volunteer.

Computer Classes

“Basic Windows and the Internet” M onday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:15-10:45 AM. For additional information please contact Reference Services at 772.462.2187.

Children’s Programs

Pre-K Jamboree for Ages 4-6 years, Wednesdays 1:00-1:45 PM.

Toddler Time for Ages 18 months-3 years, Fridays 10:00-10:30 AM.

Great Expectations Book Club
1st and 3rd Thurs. 10:00 a.m., Ft. Pierce Branch Library. Call Beverly Klemenc, Adult Services Librarian for more information.

Lakewood Park Book Discussion Group
First Mondays at 3:00 p.m., Lakewood Park Branch Library. Call Mary Beth Pickett, Branch Manager, for more information.

Free Monday Movies @ your Library
Every Monday at 2:00 PM. Classics, Literary based, Foreign and Suspense films. Ft. Pierce Branch Library.

Young Adult Book Club
Third Saturdays of the Month. Sponsors lively discussions including favorite fantasy novels, mysteries, renaissance literature, Florida history, writing workshops. For readers 9 years old and up. Get a schedule at the Ft. Pierce Branch! 772-462-2787.

“Featured” Local and Florida Author Book Signings
Authors vary locations and times; please check with the library to see who will be visiting next.

T reasure Coast Writers’ Guild
Guest Speakers interested in publishing, marketing or locating editors for your writing? 4th Fridays at 2:00 PM.
Sunrise Memorial Gifts Honor Gail Reck

Staff and members of the Sunrise Theatre Board of Directors were saddened by the recent passing of Doris Tillman’s sister Gail Reck. Since 1997, Doris has led the effort to restore the Sunrise Theatre along with directing Main Street Fort Pierce.

Michael Horowitz, chairman of the theatre’s board said, “We are very grateful to have a piece of the theatre named as one of the ways to remember Gail. Many donations have already been received, which make adding Gail’s name to the recognition wall possible.”

Giving a gift to the Sunrise Theatre in memory of or in honor of someone serves a two-fold purpose. Not only do you commemorate and honor someone, but you also help contribute to the economics and culture of our community. All memorial and honor gifts will be acknowledged through a personal letter sent by the Sunrise Theatre. If you would like to find out more about setting up a memorial or honor gift fund, please call the theatre at 772.461.4662.

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Downtown Fort Pierce Welcomes Sunrise City Carpets

Brian and Angela Campbell have their hands full. The young couple are the proud parents of four girls (all under the age of 8), owners of a flooring installation company, and are preparing to open a new retail store in downtown Fort Pierce. Sunrise City Carpets, Inc. will officially open on Friday, August 5. The new business is the first to occupy the redesigned first-floor retail spaces in the Historic Raulerson Building located at 131 North Second Street. Sunrise City Carpets will specialize not only in carpeting but also in a variety of flooring options that include tile, hardwood, vinyl, laminate, and engineered wood. This is great news for area homeowners because Sunrise City Carpets will join Bed, Bath, & Kitchen, East Coast Lumber, The Clock Shop and several quality art galleries to provide one-stop shopping for all household maintenance and decorating needs. An additional bonus of shopping with these individually owned businesses is the friendly, personalized service they offer to their customers.

Brian and Angela are very familiar with the brands they plan on selling. They currently own and operate First Step Floor Coverings, a 23-year-old floor installation business. Since carpet and flooring trends frequently change, customers will be able to special order the latest flooring options.

“Sunrise Carpets” cont.

by Marti Reno

“Sunrise Carpets” cont.

Citizen of the Year Award winner and former Bible teacher Angela said, “We have a variety of selections from the Masland Brand, a quality, high end carpet to Anything Goes, which is a kid, pet, and torture resistant brand,” says Angela. Most customers will experience a turnaround of two weeks or less from the order date for their flooring to be received and installed. The Campbells moved to Fort Pierce from Grand Junction, Colorado nine years ago to raise their family. Brian was also raised in Fort Pierce and three of their four children now attend St. Andrews Episcopal School. “I come from an area where everything you needed was in one central location. We were looking for that same type of setup and found it in downtown Fort Pierce. We love the fact that we will be able to walk a short distance from work to eat, shop, and visit our children at school,” says Angela.

To advertise in the next issue of Main Street Focus, call Delila at 772.466.3880

Knighted Master Glass Maker to Visit Downtown Fort Pierce

by Marti Reno

Susan Barette is correct when she says “getting Cavalier Luigi Cattelan is a coup for Historic downtown Ft. Pierce!” It took her months to arrange for such a famous artist to come to Ft. Pierce.

On August 2, 3 and 4, Luigi Cattelan will demonstrate the craft that has been a family tradition for over 500 years: Glass Maker. The title of “Cavalier” is the Italian equivalent to being knighted in England. Mr. Cattelan recently received this honor from the Italian Republic for his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the Glass Industry.

Sue’s well-known shop on Second Street, Beads and Baubles will host this intriguing art form and the man who is a Master. Sue worked long hours to secure a personal appearance from Luigi.

Come in and watch as Luigi creates beautiful lamp work, blown beads, perfume bottles, clowns, hearts and vessels. “He is a master of chevron, flowers, gold and silver foils, and unique Cavaignis beads,” explains Susan. There will be a trunk show of his creations by Marti Reno

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Continued from p. 6

Qing, owner of the shop, is a fun “girlfriend-type” person to help you browse the jewelry, hats, wraps and clothes. She says, “my customers like the unique look of my jewelry.” I was so enjoying the Arcade, the people and the items for sale. I almost forgot it was time to walk over to the monthly Wednesday Night Art Walk. There was no time to shop at Extravagances and I could see owner, Bernadette, was stocked with great gift ideas. My sister was waiting for me in front of the Governor’s Grill. She headed in, with me in tow, for a cool drink before our tour of the art galleries.

The theme was “Christmas in July” for the art gallery sales. And I was told by a number of the shops they would keep the stores stocked with great gift items for sale, I almost for-sure! The Barkery had a bubble machine decorating the air and a Santa greeter. If you have a pet, you already know how great The Barkery is for fun, unusual pet gifts and necessities.

I missed getting over to see two streets of art galleries, like Shade Tree Studios, Picture Perfect, Brin Strokes (and I miss R.L) and D. Rhodes Studio. I had to leave because I had spent so much time enjoying the shops it was getting late. I headed home with the “coolest gifts” and feeling really “cool” having made new friends at Shops of Historic Ft. Pierce! See, cool with no pool!

The Lafferandre Gallery is a favorite around town and everyone knows that Luff and Leslie always go all out for any occasion, so of course they had decorated their Christmas tree.

We crossed the street to Parties and Petals where owners Ursula and Patty were certainly in a festive mood. Their art and gifts are unmatched at a mall. I bought a tea set called Tea Forte. My daughter-in-law is a tea connoisseur and this is for sure! We continued outside where The Barkery had a spinner to grab a new token to hand to Tom. This friendly exchange continued until, out of three hundred tokens, there is only one number left to call. Whose number will it be? Who will be the grand prize winner?

To find out the answer to these questions I recommend buying a ticket to Main Street Fort Pierce’s 12th Annual Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction. “Pearls and Boots” is this year’s Reverse Raffle theme. The event will take place on Saturday, August 20th at the Pelican Yacht Club located on 1120 Seaway Drive. The $80.00 ticket price includes admission for two people, two free drinks, hors devours, live music and entertainment, a fabulous silent auction, and of course, the famous Reverse Raffle.

What exactly is a Reverse Raffle? Well, it is a raffle in reverse. Main Street’s Reverse Raffle begins with three hundred numbers. The first number and every 25th number called up to 250 wins $100. That covers the ticket price plus $20 extra. The last ten numbers called is where all the excitement begins. The prizes for each of these numbers range from $250 up to $2,000. So, the object of this raffle is to be one of the final numbers drawn instead of the first. The Reverse Raffle is a fundraiser for the projects and goals of Main Street Fort Pierce. Past revenues from fundraisers have gone toward the restoration efforts of historic City Hall and the Sunrise Theatre, as well as, various economic restructuring and image campaigns. Main Street’s latest project is the purchase of the Backus Estate.

The Barkery was built in 1896. The house was also built by Fort Pierce’s first physician in 1896.
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Brett W. Browning, LUTCF
Eileen Myers, CSR
Catherine Browning, Accounting

Alice Iannarelli, CSR

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