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In February 2006, the Main Street Board was fortunate enough to have Laura Lee Corbett, former Florida State Main Street Executive Director, come to Fort Pierce and assist the board in developing new goals and strategies for the 2006-2007 year. It had been three years since the board gathered to discuss the direction we were going to take Main Street Fort Pierce.

At this planning session, the Main Street Board developed an annual work plan that defined specific goals, objectives and activities for the next year. I am happy to announce that Main Street Fort Pierce has been successful in attaining the objectives and activities we set for our goals.

First on our list was funding one million dollars for the restoration of the Backus House, Main Street's new home. This year we have received over $400,000 for the historic structure in grants with a commitment of $10,000 for 3 years. We continue our efforts to raise the remaining funds in 2007-2008. Another goal was to develop Sights and Sounds on Second as a signature Christmas activity which was realized by our addition of more children's activities and more parade entries.

Main Street Fort Pierce hosted the State Main Street Annual Conference in November which had over 200 individuals in attendance that were here to see all of the positive, constructive activities that have been achieved with hard work, planning and dedicated groups and elected officials … a Fort Pierce first!

In addition, Main Street Fort Pierce received the Outstanding Florida Main Street Rehabilitation Project for the Sunrise Theatre and Outstanding Fundraising Effort for Cowboy Golf & BBQ. It is indicative of our organization's spirit and accomplishments over the last year and also over the previous 19 years that we enjoy what we do and we do it well together.

I believe this is about the 8th year that the Board has remained intact with a few individuals resigning or joining during this time. What is great about our Board is how we work together, have few disagreements and when we do, we discuss it, make a decision and put it behind us. Our Board has a supportive, hard working staff of Doris Tillman, Pam Gillette, Mimi Ewan and volunteer Joan Dodds.

Thank you to all the Board and staff for the past 2 years I served as president. I look forward to my 3rd year as president and our efforts to continue providing a valuable asset to our area. Happy 19th year!
**MAIN STREET AND DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

**Calendar**

_Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic, Downtown Fort Pierce!_

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 2ND**

_Main Street Fort Pierce Annual Meeting – 6:00 until 7:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880._

**FRIDAY, MAY 4TH**

_Friday Fest – 5:30 until 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880._

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH**

_2nd Wednesday Walkabout – 5:00 until 8:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080._

**FRIDAY, MAY 18TH**

_Coffee with the Mayor – 8:00 a.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880._

_Spring Beer & Wine Stroll – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880._

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

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

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

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

**FOR INFORMATION**

_For information, please call 462-1792._

**RESTAURANT ENTERTAINMENT**

_The Original Tiki Bar – 461-0880; Music by “Barely Broken,” Sundays, 3 to 7:00 p.m._

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

**EVENT SPOTLIGHT**

**WHO:** Main Street Fort Pierce  
**WHAT:** Annual Meeting  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 2nd  
**WHERE:** Fort Pierce City Hall Commission Chambers  
**INFO:** 466-3880


Open to both professional and amateur photographers, this show is one you won’t want to miss. The one-hundred plus images in the exhibition have been selected from over 350 entries. New this year is Seacoast National Bank’s Community Calendar. Fifteen photos from the show have been selected to be featured in Seacoast National Bank’s 2008 Calendar.

**Sponsored by JIFFY PHOTO, SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK & CANON**
Fort Pierce Acquires Federal Funding for Downtown Courthouse

by Fort Pierce Mayor Bob Benton

A Federal Court House in the City of Fort Pierce is on its way to becoming reality. It has taken years of hard work and tireless efforts. Several trips have been taken to Atlanta and Washington DC, plus countless local meetings. The diligence has finally paid off. On March 14th, I received calls from Senator Bill Nelson and Senator Mel Martinez, as well as Congressman Mahoney, explaining that 53.8 million dollars needed to begin construction, had been allocated and approved for this year’s budget. Since the property had already been purchased and the plans completed, this funding will provide for the construction and completion of the Federal Courthouse itself. We are optimistic that the groundbreaking will commence this fall.

I would like to thank and congratulate the Taskforce, comprised of Local Business leaders, Former Mayors Dannahower and Enns, City and County Commissioners, as well as the citizens who lobbyed diligently for this project.

Senator Nelson and Congressman Mahoney, visited city hall, holding a press conference with all parties involved to announce this great feat. Their support and dedication was evident, giving me great optimism that this project will be the beginning of greater opportunities for Fort Pierce.

Also, this past month, construction has commenced on the long awaited Downtown Parking garage, hopefully expanding downtown’s potential. I ask that you please bear with us, as this project may pose a few inconveniences. The good news is that the completion is scheduled for late December 2007. For those advocates of a parking garage located on the old JC Penney property, the city has requested proposals from qualifying developers to construct a parking structure in coordination with a five star hotel. This would maintain the one hundred and twenty public parking spaces currently on the location, with the addition of spaces needed for the hotel.

I would also like to congratulate the Yellow Tale Grille, Di’Michelli’s Deli and Jerome Ryant for their redevelopment projects and for being the recipients of the Mayor’s Gold Hammer Awards!

The Love Center received a Mayor's Gold Hammer award in March at Coffee with the Mayor.

Winners of the Mayor's Golden Hammer Awards at March Coffee with the Mayor

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Commercial Improvement
The Love Center
3111 Avenue D

Commercial Improvement
Di’Michelli’s Italian Deli & Catering
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New Route for Downtown Fort Pierce Trolley

There have been some recent changes in the Downtown Fort Pierce Trolley Route. The Trolley operates Monday Through Friday with two types of service on an hourly basis. Trolley stops interface with the Treasure Coast Connector to provide a wider service area. Brochures of the new route are being printing and will be distributed soon. After a short time in operation, numbers show that people are starting to take advantage of the red and green Trolley making its way through the downtown area.

*Park & Ride:* Mornings, 7 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.; afternoons, 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

*Touring:* Excursion Route to highlight Attractions & Destinations, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

*Saturday:* Farmers’ Market, 7 a.m. – Noon.

Why not park and ride? Lunchtime is also a perfect opportunity to try it out if you are in downtown. Hop on and take a ride! It’s the fun way to get around downtown, and it’s free! The Fort Pierce Trolley will also be used for certain community related events.

For special event scheduling or more information, please contact City Hall at 772-460-2200 extension 371.

A map of the route for the Downtown Trolley service is also available on the City’s website at www.cityoffort-pierce.com.
In December 1979, newspaper columnist Loyal Phillips wrote, “On a balmy December afternoon, we got zapped by a time machine which took us across the Atlantic and back 500 years to 1400 A.D.” He was writing about the Poinciana Garden Circle’s Annual Holiday House bazaar, which was held in the striking home of Fort Pierce residents Mr. William F. Willes. Since its heyday, the home lingered in the Willes’ estate. Time has not been kind to the home; the cheerful paint has chipped and faded, the stones have tumbled down. Facing neglect and nature’s fury during the years following the Garden Circle’s visit, the home held its mystery and intricacies a secret, storing them behind a facade of disrepair. Sold to Ray and Sandra Stilwell in the late 1984, the home is now undergoing a loving treatment of restoration at the hands of architect John Foster and the team of PVD Development, Inc.

In 1924 Franklind W. Tyler, a local architect who also made props for the Fort Pierce Little Theater, built his home high on a hill with the beautiful Indian River Lagoon just outside the windows. The 1930s census shows a list of

by Tamara Dourney
neighbors that reads like a who’s who in Saint Lucie County- the Tylanders, the Holbrooks, the Goodwins, the McNeils, the McCartys and the Raulersons. The Tyler family was very active within the community; they were members of the First Presbyterian Church and Mrs. Tyler was on several local committees. The couple is still remembered for hosting grand events and inviting their friends and neighbors into their home. They traveled extensively and spent four years in Italy. Those travels gave Franklind a love for Venetian architecture, influencing his design and making the Tyler house quite unusual when compared to neighboring Second Street homes.

Mr. Phillips referred to the Tyler house as, “a replica of a Venetian palace, of Moorish-Byzantine architecture,” and the reason is easily seen by any visitor. The unique style is evident

Continued on page 12 …

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in the home’s profile, which resembles that of a king surveying a court of common houses down below. A stocky building with an elaborate balcony overlooking a reflecting pool, the home draws you in, pulling you towards the wide front porch and its gracefully arched entryway. Remnants of the originally lush landscaping still peek out from the overgrown yard and cast their shadow on the mottled stucco walls. While the grandeur of the home might seem lost forever, one needs only to step inside to be transported to the past.

Each room is open and airy with small details that carry the other-worldly theme throughout the home. Warm yellow walls reflect the natural light pouring in from the many windows and interesting shadow patterns are cast by the intricate screens, each a work of art. The screens were pieced together from small cuts of wood and form patterns such as diamonds and stars in a very Moroccan-inspired motif. A large red brick fireplace with its original metalwork screen dominates the main room and Pecky Cypress can be found throughout the interior.

The bathrooms feature faux tiles which appear to be original to the home; it is quite surprising to find out that there is no tile in the room at all. The walls are actually coated in plaster and then a craftsman carves out the ‘grout lines’ to create an uncanny replica of expensive imported tile. A similar technique is used to create the elaborate crown molding which encircles each room and is easily mistaken for its wooden counterpart.

Another interesting feature is found in the dressing area between the two front bedrooms where elaborate...
cabinetry and drawers dominate the space. Seeming to be components of a modern closet system, they only reveal their age in their materials and construction. Of course, it’s difficult to concentrate on such small details when one is faced with a breezy balcony ringed by Grecian columns and a vista that simply cannot be surpassed. The inviting balcony is perched atop the front entryway and seems to be the perfect spot for spending a lazy Sunday with a good book.

Wandering through the home shows not only the love with which it was created but the true attention to every detail as it is being restored. Numerous arched pocket doors, each featuring a classic glass knob glowing softly in the warm sunlight, are not only original but have been restored through a painstaking process that has taken weeks to complete.

The back patio is adorned with a wall-mounted water feature made of coquina shells that faces off with an outdoor bar created from a sales counter that dates back to the Saint Lucie Plaza land boom. The tiles of the patio were cast in place, creating a puzzle-like floor that is enchanting. Leading off the patio is an amazing Mexican style kitchen in which brilliantly colored imported tiles still gleam. The working oven bellows is still in place and the unique find of a “Pine Shack” sign created by local artist and Tyler friend A.E. “Beanie” Backus gives the space a time capsule quality.

Walking past the kitchen into the workroom, one is greeted by rows of raw building materials neatly lined up as if their owner will return at any moment. Keeping watch over them is an intricate, original wood carving, apparently abandoned when it began to crack. Skylights that are now covered give a hint of how the workshop might once have been a bright, easy space to create in. A small doorway in the back corner of the room leads to what was originally Mr. Tyler’s office. Here the ceilings are low and have been painted in a now-faded mural of the sky.

Reclaimed materials and replica items (such as the wooden ‘screws’) are being used in every room of the home. Care has been taken to keep even the smallest detail authentic. Rocco Passero, partner in PVD Development, Inc., explained that Mr. Tyler used a lot of local materials in
Here are some easy water saving tips from Fort Pierce Utilities.

- Wash clothes only when you have a full load.
- Turn the faucet off when brushing teeth or shaving.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily.
- Dispose of tissues and other waste in the trash can instead of the toilet.
- Repair leaks in toilet or faucet RIGHT AWAY.
- Put aerators on faucets to reduce flow.
- Defrost frozen food overnight in refrigerator instead of running water over it.
- Avoid letting water run continuously in sink while washing dishes.
- Use a broom or a blower to remove dirt and debris from patios.
- Water your lawn only once a week.
- Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose.
- Water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces evaporation and waste.

- Plant drought tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs, and trees.
- Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass and use a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches, or to its highest level. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture.
- Use mulch to retain moisture in the soil. (Help preserve native cypress forests by selecting other types of mulch such as treated melaleuca.) Mulch also helps control weeds that compete with landscape plants for water.

For more information about how to save money on your utilities, visit our Website at www.fpuua.com or call us at 466-1600, ext. 3900.
his home, including sand from the lot on which the house sits. The sand was mixed with plaster and used to give texture to the ceilings in some of the rooms. Lead architect John Foster chuckled as he pointed out the extent to which the team has gone in returning the home to its original design.

“After attempting to plaster the ceilings several times with mixtures using purchased sand, Mr. Passero was unhappy with the finish. He called me one day to tell me he’d found the solution; he also mentioned he’d dug a hole in the lot to get the sand from.” Mr. Passero confirmed it with a lighthearted grin, adding, “I just sat down and thought what would I have done if I were Mr. Tyler. It was the logical conclusion.”

The creativity shown by PVD Development, Inc. in this restoration enhances the vision of the owners that is the motivating force behind the home’s renovations. Ray and Sandra Stilwell moved to Fort Pierce from Michigan in 1974. They both enjoyed employment at Saint Andrews Church, where they taught in the school and were involved with the church music programs. Mr. Stilwell also served as the chorus master for the local Opera Society.

For several years they lived in a house they didn’t own and began looking around to find a more permanent home. They were shown a stream of plain concrete block residences further in town which just did not appeal to their tastes. Their thoughts kept returning to the Tyler house. The couple had forged a friendship with Mr. Willes and had been in his home many times. It only seemed natural that when the home became available they made the decision to buy it. During the process they were given pictures of the home, newspaper articles, and even pictures Tyler himself had taken while building the house. These images have been essential to their current renovations.

Mr. Stilwell is thankful for the assistance of local architect John Foster on the restoration of his home. Mr. Foster, who is well known for his active role in the restoration of many local establishments and his community involvement, recommended Pete DeSantis and Rocco Passero from PVD Development, Inc. for the contractor work on the Tyler house.

“It’s very hard to find someone who has the ability to focus on the small details like PVD Development has done,” reports Ray Stilwell. “We had two other companies flake out on us, so we were relieved when John recommended Rocco and Pete. They’ve done a fantastic job.”

The Stilwell’s have an added interest in bringing the home back from the edge; they plan on retiring to the area as soon as it is complete. In the spirit of those who have owned the home before them, they have promised to host an open house that will allow the community to reacquaint itself with one of its most unique structures.
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The Ft. Pierce Fire Department: A Rich History of Service

by Patty Reynolds

From the great inferno, as the Chicago Fire of 1871 was, to the headlines today about the firestorms out west, each year the role of the firefighter captures the imagination of thousands of young boys and young girls.

I'm honored to call a few of our own St. Lucie County firemen and women friends and sincerely appreciate the service of the many I don't know. One new friend is retired firefighter, Jack Favorite. Jack comes from a family of firefighters. His father John F. Favorite was the first fireman in the United States to use “wet water” designed to penetrate dense objects and extinguish deep seated fires.

With this background and 28 years of service in roles as diverse as purchasing agent, Chaplin, dispatcher and firefighter, Jack is uniquely qualified to complete his newest project, a book detailing the history of the fire service in St. Lucie County.

Jack generously offered to share both his personal recollections and his painstaking research gathered from the city archives, to help me document the colorful past of our local fire department. Last Friday, while enjoying the breeze on his porch we took a leisurely look back at the early days of firefighting in Fort Pierce.

Our first fire station was located on Orange Avenue, just west of the railroad tracks. R.E. Mims is widely recognized as the first Chief in Fort Pierce. He owned the first Ford dealership in town and ran both it and a blacksmith shop out of this building. The first fire trucks were put together in the garage by Chief Mims himself. The station was run out of his shop until 1906.

On June 5th 1906 a motion was made and carried to build a 40’ x 20’ station to house the fire engine, hose reel and supply tools. It’s interesting to note that in 1904, two years before that resolution passed, our city fathers felt it was necessary to pass one erecting a dog pound for unlicensed dogs.

This first official fire station sat right next door to Chief Mims Ford dealership and remained in service until 1925 when a new one was built just east of City Hall. Jack's research uncovered the plumbing and electrical bid for this building submitted by Charles E. James offering to complete the job for $1,197. His bid was accepted and work commenced. A more unconventional bit of construction occurred when the Florida East Coast Railroad agreed to allow the use of cinders from their trains to pave the street.

Chief Mims served from 1906 until his death in an auto accident in 1930, and while he is recognized as Fort Pierce’s first Chief, Jack did turn up the election of one Chief Tylander also in 1906. His research of Chief Tylander has reached a brick wall and to give this man his rightful credit we are calling on our Fort Pierce natives to ask your parents and grandparent if they knew the family or the story. Jack tells me that some cities had

Continued on page 19 …
“Fat Cat the Master Copycat” has taken the People’s Choice Award at the fifth annual “Women of St. Lucie County” show at the Lafferandre Gallery. The voting was close with five pieces within two votes of each other but “Fat Cat the Master Copycat” by Maureen Clare Peterman won out. Perhaps it was the sense of whimsy that sparkled throughout the painting, or maybe the Backus copy theme that touched a cord in the viewing public.

This year 29 artists entered. While it included both amateur and professional artists, it was designed to encourage amateur artists to come out and exhibit. The show is an opportunity for people to see some of the great talent we have locally that they would not normally get a chance to view. All pieces exhibited are for sale and a portion of the sales goes to Bug Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie County.

The Lafferandre Gallery, 205 N. Second Street, Ft. Pierce FL 34950, is open Monday through Friday from 10-5 and Saturday from 10-3. For further information call 772 489-4255.
... continued from page 18

both a Chief and a Forman that served the same function, but who was who? What a fun mystery to solve.

In 1910, a Howe Model 50 fire engine was purchased for $1,400. With three water cylinders and 4 power cylinders it was top of the line. By releasing acid into soda water a gas was produced discharging the water. With enough energy to pump 350 gallons of water per minute the citizens of Fort Pierce were proud of their modern equipment.

A comparable model today would cost upwards of $250,000 and is capable of pumping 1,500 to 2,000 gallons of water per minute.

The Fort Pierce Fire Department operated as a strictly volunteer unit until 1913 with the first paid Chief earning a princely $100 per year.

The department moved a few more times, in 1954 to 437 N. 7th Street and in 1983 to 2400 Rhode Island Ave. This building was intended to meet the needs of our county for 50 years, but who in 1983 could have imagined the explosive growth we’ve encountered.

Today, named the St. Lucie County Fire District, the department boasts 3 battalions with 5 stations each. These 15 stations house 12 engines, 5 Quint/Ladders, 11 Brush units, a Hazardous Materials Unit, and a Confined Space Rescue Unit.

No longer just fighting fires, each station provides advanced life support and participates in regional medical protocol with Martin and Indian River Counties.

Residents in St. Lucie County can rest assured they are receiving the best care in any emergency. With the new Administration building just opened at 5160 NW Milner Dr., the St. Lucie County Fire District embraces the future and honors the past.

There is an important initiative in the works to expand and build a new home for a permanent display at the museum housing this vital heritage. Jack is dedicated to capturing our history before it fades from the minds of those who lived it. If you, your friends or family have old fire memorabilia, stories or photos, Jack would love to talk with you. Please contact him at 772-461-6990 or call Pam at the Main Street office.
Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. Annual Meeting: “Hand in Hand – Partners and Friends”

by Pam Gillette and Doris Tillman

As Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. begins its 19th year as a Main Street City, we would like to invite you to take a look not only at our accomplishments and successes, but also at our partners and friends. Without our partners and friends, we could not have achieved the many things you see in our downtown area today.

“Partners” are people that share or are associated with another in the same action or endeavor. Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. has been fortunate to have many partners in the community who have been with us throughout the years to support us in our goals and events. We say Thank You to our Yearly Partners: Boca Ven Land – Renaissance on the River, Charlie’s Dodge, Nissan, Mitsubishi, & Isuzu, The City of Fort Pierce, Clear Channel Communications, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute, National City Bank, Paragon Entertainment, Reliable Poly-Johns, Riverside National Bank, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, Southern Eagle Distributing, Inc., and St. Lucie County.

“Friends” are people who support, sympathize or patronize a group, a cause or a movement. Along with our many partners, Main Street Fort Pierce has 14 Board Members, over 150 members, and many volunteers who work with us daily to embrace the Main Street 4 Steps: Organization, Promotion, Design and Economic Restructuring in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

The cumulative success of partners and friends believing in the Main Street Approach has helped Main Street programs at the State level earn a reputation to be one of the most powerful economic development tools in the nation. Since 1980 there has been over $41.6 billion dollars in physical improvements reinvested from public and private sources in Main Street areas throughout the Nation. A net gain of new businesses in this time frame has produced 77,799 with a net gain of new jobs of 349,148.

For the State of Florida the statistics since 1986 are reported as $1,386,902,317 for physical improvements both public and private sources. The net gain of new businesses since 1988 is 3,780 with over 11,640 new jobs.

The Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. target area consists of the river front and US 1 between Citrus Avenue and

Continued on page 22 …
Local Artist Receives International Recognition

by Sue Dannabower

Colleen Nash Becht is on the fast track to becoming world-class artist. Her vibrant tropical watercolors are regular award winners at the many Juried shows and contests she enters.

Colleen enjoys the challenge and risk of working in watercolor. She thrills at the fluidity of the medium. “In watercolor there is no second chance, no painting over because it did not turn out right” she states. Focusing on the vivid botanicals that flourish locally she explores the menagerie of color and contrasts that her work affords.

Technically Colleen is just starting out in her career as a fine artist, but her work has been received with great enthusiasm. Her watercolors hang in homes and offices all along the Treasure Coast, Miami and throughout the United States.

Just over three years ago Colleen had her first art show at the Backus Studio (currently the home of Main Street Fort Pierce). She was one of four artists to display artwork in the “Local Color” show. Recently her 2006 show at the Backus Gallery was a virtual sellout. May 2007 she will show at Lafferendre Gallery in downtown Fort Pierce.

Her recent accomplishments include:

2nd Place in the International Artists Magazine “Flowers and Gardens” challenge. The April/May 2007 issue is available at Barnes & Noble and Borders. Her winning piece titled “Garden of Moonlit Mangos” was donated to John Carroll High School for a fundraiser.

Continued on page 23 …
Avenue C and a stretch of Orange Avenue west of US 1 to 10th Street. This year in reporting to the State we estimate over $82,750,000 in physical improvements both public and private with a net of 2 new businesses and a net job gain as 38. Yet, the most outstanding statistic for the year is the number of volunteer hours and the value they bring to the Main Street program. This year reported hours are 1,385 hours at a value of $8,518.

On Wednesday, May 2, 2007, Main Street Fort Pierce will present our Annual Board Meeting, open to the public, at the City of Fort Pierce Commission Chambers, at Fort Pierce City Hall, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. There will be a brief Board Meeting highlighting the accomplishments of the Downtown and the approval of the Board and officers for the upcoming year. The slated Board of Directors and officers for 2007-2008 are: Anne Satterlee (President), Britt Reynolds (Vice President), Sue Dannahower (Secretary), Dave Miller (Treasurer), Pat Alley, Edward Becht, Chris Craft, Pam Cully, Brenda Eaves, Nancy Ingle, Michelle Miller, Wanda Sapp, Eugene Sereg, and Beth Williams.

After the Board meeting Jon Ward will be available for trolley rides through the city, to showcase the many new projects in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce and the newly formed Lincoln Park Main Street. Light appetizers and music will be provided for your enjoyment and thanks for your support.

It takes many people, partners and friends to accomplish great things. Main Street is lucky to have the support of these people. Main Street looks forward to their 19th year and working together hand in hand with our partners, friends, and downtown businesses. Together we can make things happen.
Juried into the invitation only “23rd Salute to Florida Artists” at the Riviera Country Club in Coral Gables, March 2007.
- **1st place Watercolor Backus Gallery Juried Show 2006.**
- **Honorable Mention American Design Society Juried Show 2006.**

As a teenager, Colleen came to Ft. Pierce from her native Chicago. She went to East Carolina University to study Fine Art. However, it wasn’t until four years ago that Colleen, feeling something was missing from her life, decided to return to her interest in art. “I had to find a way to express myself. Eddie (her husband) bought me a gift certificate to a craft store. I bought a watercolor set — thinking that if I didn’t use it the children would. I first started painting note cards and found that I couldn’t put the paintbrush down. I felt fulfilled.”

Colleen took a formal class from Phil Steele at the Vero Beach Center for Arts. Phil said she used way too much color and water — she was out of control. “My work is about color and the use of color — I would like to be thought of as a colorist. I just want it to stay interesting.” I asked her why she decided on watercolor as her medium; she stated, “I’m really not sure, it just feels right, every time I wet my brush, I think to myself this is the greatest career ever! Colleen is married to Eddie Becht (Main Street Board member, Fort Pierce City Councilman and local attorney). Together they have three children: Brian, Ali and Drake.

She consistently gives back to the community — donating her artwork to many causes including *Main Street Fort Pierce*, St. Lucie County Education Foundation, John Carroll High School, St. Anastasia, Habitat for Humanity, Hospice, and many more.
Meet the Band: Brad Rock and The Renegades

by Pam Gillette

Main Street is proud to present Brad Brock and the Renegades to the May Friday Fest. Brad Brock and the Renegades is a familiar band to Main Street. The band has performed yearly at Friday Fest and also have played the Sandy Shoes Festivals for the last few years.

Brad Brock and the Renegades consist of 5 musicians who have been influenced by various facets of music including the Counting Crows, The Wallflowers, and Eric Clayton. Brad Brock, lead singer/guitar, began singing along with Garth Brooks CD’s at the age of 11. With his parents support he learned he loved music and performing. At 12, he picked up the guitar and at 14 he joined Brad Brock and the Renegades. The original Brad Brock and the Renegades disbanded in 2002, allowing Brad to focus on writing and recording original music. Brads pulls his music from deep personal experiences and emotions to create songs and music that connect with people on a different level. In 2003, Brad formed the new Brad Brock and the Renegades and became an official member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers.

Joining Brad Brock and the Renegades is the Gentile’s family. Bob Gentile, pedal steel guitar/ keyboards/ guitar/vocals, has been playing music for the past 22 years. Bob has played with many different bands over the years, but is happy to be playing with Brad Brock and the Renegades along with his 2 sons. Bob plays a wide variety of music from country to blues, but his favorite is the classic oldies.

Andrew Gentile, age 15, plays lead guitar. Andrew has been playing the guitar for 5 years and has had the opportunity to play with a number of great musicians. But his love of music is deeply influenced by his family. Andrew’s mom and dad are musicians and older brother Dan is the drummer in the band.

Dan Gentile, drums, started playing at the age of 10. Music just came naturally to him as he watched his family and tried to mimic their movements. Over the years he also played with many bands and musicians. He loves the feeling of being on stage and playing the music.

Rev. Blake Miller, bass guitar, became interested in music when he was 9 years old. At the age of 12 he picked up his first bass guitar and with the help of some friends started a “garage band.” Blake was active with his high school band and eventually began working with the band “MJ and the Hard Lemons”. With this band he performed at many Treasure Coast venues and events before joining Brad Brock and the Renegades. Blake is presently an active member of the IRCC Jazz Ensemble and is a Florida Certified Firefighter.

Brad Brock and the Renegades has the ability to capture small and large audiences alike and reels them in with his electric, emotional live performance. Brad has played at such prestigious south Florida venues as the Meyer Amphitheatre, the Sound Advice Amphitheatre, Palm Beach’s renowned Clematis By Night and has donated talent to various not for profit benefits. Main Street is looking forward to Brad Brock and the Renegades when they perform at the May Friday Fest, Friday May 4, 2007.

For contact or booking information for Brad Brock and the Renegades: Brad Brock - 772-359-7676; booking@brockentertainment.com; www.bradbrock.com; www.myspace.com/bradbrocktherenegades.

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

Friday Fest is sponsored by Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. For more information please call the Main Street office at 772-466-3880.

Correction to February Edition: To contact the band “Skeezix” please call Milt Kosner @ 772-335-1505 or go to their website www.skeezixmusic.com.
Downtown Hero: Darryl Bey

by John Culverhouse

Pictures of Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, and many other jazz greats line the walls of his office from end to end reflecting his love for jazz. He is a painting contractor by trade, and as if he is not busy enough, you will routinely find him attending community events and supporting the community however he can. His dedication to uplifting the community through the “universal language” of music, and for literally bringing culture to Fort Pierce makes Darryl Bey this month’s Downtown Hero.

Music has always been part of Bey’s life. The Cleveland native fondly recalls tales of “running around the house” as his parents had jazz playing in the background. Fast-forward a few years. Bey was a Music Major at the Cleveland Institute of Music and was exposed to just about every kind of music the world had to offer. After all of this music exposure his love for jazz prevailed over the other musical genres.

After growing up in Cleveland and living in Birmingham, Bey met his wife Dr. Gina Dean and moved to Fort Pierce. In 1996, Bey founded the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society with local businessman and State Farm Agent Larry Lee. At a time when a negative stigma was attached to coming downtown, the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society helped to initiate the turnaround in the perception of our city by putting on events and bringing audiences downtown.

The Jazz and Blues Society held its first meeting at Tenaj Bookstore, which was owned by Janet Mosley-Bryant. Upon drawing crowds of 150 people, the Jazz and Blues Society quickly outgrew the Tenaj location, and began to hold their meetings and jam sessions at Common Ground Vineyard Church when they were located downtown.

Lee credits community leader Margaret Benton for bringing he and Bey together. Benton introduced jazz to the Treasure Coast by bringing an annual “Jazz Spectacular” to the downtown Fort Pierce Amphitheater. The event raised money for the Teen Center in northwest Fort Pierce.

“She had a dream that one day Fort Pierce would become a jazz mecca, and under the leadership of Darryl Bey, the Jazz Society is helping to make that a reality,” Lee said.

Bey has always supported downtown causes. He attended the first Downtown Business Association meeting and has contributed to the Saturday morning downtown markets. The Farmer’s Market consists of vendors who sell items that they have grown or baked, such as plants, produce, and baked goods. Thanks to the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society, there is a venue for crafts. Adjacent to the Farmer’s Market, the Jazz and Blues Society runs the craft market. Bey says that the partnership provides a good variety and that each market feeds off of one another in a positive way.

Continued on page 27…
Main Street Fort Pierce

As Fort Pierce Main Street begins its 18th successful year, it is undertaking an aggressive Membership Drive. “The Next Big Thing” campaign took off in May, 2006. Please consider becoming a Main Street Member.

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

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

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

Main Street Membership Levels

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

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

I would like to become a Main Street volunteer.

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For information call 772-466-3880 • www.mainstreetfortpierce.org

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

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

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

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

When residents support and appreciate the business district, the businesses flourish. When the businesses flourish, the residents in the neighborhood prosper as well. We are all neighbors investing in each other’s success.

Name:______________________________________
Company/Organization:_______________________
Street Address:______________________________
City / State / Zip:____________________________
Phone:______________________________________
Email:______________________________________

Main Street Focus May 2007
Darryl is not the only one in the family to contribute to the downtown markets. His wife, Gina, is a dentist by day and a baker on Saturdays. Gina's Baked Goods features a tempting variety of sweets, from pound cakes to cookies and everything in between.

Darryl oversees one of downtown's most successful events, the Mardi Gras Parade, which sweeps through downtown Fort Pierce each February. Carnival is a cultural icon in the Caribbean and South America, and Mardi Gras is America's version of Carnival. Fort Pierce's Mardi Gras Parade began as a modest Carnival celebration, but has grown bigger and better as the years have passed. Saint Lucie County's Brazilian population is growing rapidly, and they have become a big part of the local Mardi Gras celebration. Bey is committed to making Fort Pierce's Mardi Gras celebration grander and culturally diverse with each passing year. Bey hopes to get the Haitian community involved, as well as other Caribbean locals to capture a true Carnival feel.

Bey is also proud of the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society Jazz Band, which is made up of jazz enthusiasts and professional musicians from Vero to Stuart who have retired in this area. Jazz fans can watch the band play at Jazz Jam, Wednesdays in Port Saint Lucie at Harbor Place, and Thursdays in Fort Pierce at the Fort Pierce Community Center. Jazz Jams take place from 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM, from the beginning of September until the end of May. The band works off of tips, but Jazz Jams are free and open to the public and complementary refreshments are served. The band also plays downtown at the Farmer's Market the first Saturday of every month. They routinely play at special events around the community and at family events, such as weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, and even funerals.

"This organization is doing so much to bring people from all walks together," Lee said. "The vision that was shared that Sunday afternoon in that first meeting at Tenaj Bookstore by those six original founders would not be alive and well today if it were not for Darryl."

Lee continues, "Darryl and the entire membership understand that music is a universal language and it brings people together from all walks of life. With so much war and hate in the world today, music is a way to get away from it all."

Fort Pierce is a special place to Bey, but he continues to see the need for more culture here. He recalled attending performances of the prestigious Cleveland Orchestra, founded in 1918, and other world-class institutions of its caliber, and the positive influences they had on him as a youth. Locally, he points to the reopening of the Sunrise Theater as a step in right direction, and sees the Jazz and Blues Society as a catalyst in bringing more flavor to the area in the years to come.

"Fort Pierce has beautiful beaches and great weather, but we lack diverse culture," he said. "If we can further develop this, then Fort Pierce will have something even better going on."

For more information on the Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society, or how you can become a member, call 772-460-JAZZ, or click: www.jazzsociety.org.
Sunrise Theatre May Schedule

It’s an embarrassment of riches in May as the Sunrise Theatre welcomes three stellar acts who represent the epitome of soulful sounds from the past four decades.

Does your mother still like to shake it? If so, in a special Mother’s Day Concert on Sunday May 13th KOOL AND THE GANG stand ready to rock her world and yours. Mixing Sly Stone’s funk with James Brown’s tight as a drum soul dynamics, Kool and company remain one of those acts whose songs have never left the airwaves and who despite the passage of time still rip the roof off of every hall they play.

Most bands of a certain era (especially those whose success was born mainly in the clubs) are lucky to have three or four major hits to build their stage show around. In this band’s case, however, concertgoers are treated to an evening that features ten high energy chart toppers — Ladies Night, Fresh, Hollywood Swinging, Too Hot, Joanna, Cherish, Get Down On It, Celebration, Tonight and Jungle Boogie.

Then it’s soft soul crooner BRIAN MCKNIGHT on Thursday May 17th. A chart veteran of the past 15 years, McKnight has sold over 16 million albums driven by his velvety smooth voice and silky style. His sound captures the vibe of vintage soul without sounding old fashioned or premeditated, and is best exemplified by his many hits including “Find Myself in You” from the Madea’s Family Reunion soundtrack and the lush and instantly recognizable classic “Back at One.” McKnight stops off in Fort Pierce on his way to creating his first talk show and tackling more soundtrack assignments from filmmaker Tyler Perry.

The week rounds out with what can only be called an Evening in Paradise for every Motown fan on Saturday, May 19th. Brought back to the international spotlight by the moving documentary film Standing in the Shadows of Motown, the surviving members of the original Motown studio band take the stage as THE FUNK BROTHERS. Not sure you know the name? Well, think of your favorite singles by the Supremes, Marvin Gaye, the Temptations, Martha and the Vandellas, Gladys Knight and the Pips, etc.... take away the vocal track... and that was the Funk Brothers! Having recorded more #1 hits that the Beatles, Rolling Stones and Beach Boys combined, many have come to call the Funk Brothers the greatest hit making machine in the history of recorded music.

Who better to provide the vocals for the incomparable Motown songbook on the same stage on the same night but MARY WILSON, founding member of the greatest Girl Group of all time, the Supremes.

Tickets for these shows are available at the Sunrise Theatre box office at 117 South Second Street in Fort Pierce (M-F 11AM-5PM,) by phone at 772-461-4775 or online 24 hours a day at www.sunrisetheatre.com.
Imagine a warm spring night, walking along the streets of downtown Fort Pierce with the soft breezes coming off the Indian River. Now add music, a variety of fine wines, organic beers and beverages into the stroll. Also add shopping in unique stores and you have the perfect ingredients for a Friday night stroll.

Main Street Fort Pierce, Roy’s Liquors, and Southern Eagle Distributing present the 17th Annual Spring Beer and Wine Tasting Stroll, Friday, May 18, 2007. Main Street has partnered with downtown businesses to have a Spring Beer and Wine Stroll through the downtown area. Come enjoy beautiful downtown Fort Pierce as local businesses open their doors, partner with local restaurants, and allow Main Street to present this annual event inside their stores.

Stops for the stroll are Lafferandre Gallery, Trew & Sons Fine Jewelry, Karen Kane Interiors – Bed, Bath & Kitchen, Coke’s Stationers, Picture Perfect Frame Shop & Gallery, The Gift Horse & Jiffy Printing & Graphics, Manatee Zone, and Brush Strokes Gallery & Framing. Restaurants partnering with these local businesses at the time of print are Café la Ronde, Cobb’s Landing, Pot Belli Deli and Pizzoodles.

So join Main Street Fort Pierce for the 17th Annual Spring Beer and Wine Tasting Stroll, Friday, May 18, 2007 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in downtown Fort Pierce. Tickets for the Spring Stroll are $40.00 per person. Tickets include entrance into stores for wine or beer tasting, light appetizers at each store, a commemorative wine glass and a $10 coupon good towards any purchase at Roy’s Liquors located at 720 South U.S. 1 in Fort Pierce.

Sponsors at time of print for this event include: Charlie’s Dodge, Nissan, Mitsubishi, & Isuzu, National City Bank, Roy’s Liquors, and Southern Eagle Distributing. For more information or to reserve a ticket, please call the Main Street Fort Pierce office at (772) 466-3880.
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Picture Perfect Presents
“Growing up on the River”

Opening Wednesday, May 9, 2007 (on display through mid June): Picture Perfect, 124 North 2nd Street, Fort Pierce, (772) 461-0410.

Local Artist, Jack Roberts will be displaying his series of colorful Florida landscapes from the Backus School of Art. Mr. Roberts uses a multitude of media including: Oils, acrylic, mixed media and encaustic works using melted crayon. His Impressionist style is well respected.

“My inspiration for painting comes from a lifetime of observing the beautiful surroundings we are blessed with here in St. Lucie County. Painting landscapes affords me the opportunity to attempt to capture light, shadows and movement while translating those elements onto canvas. I enjoy spending time sketching on location with fellow artist: George Rowe, Don Brown and Anita Prentice.”

Educated in Fort Pierce, Mr. Roberts was an illustrator in the United States Air Force, and received his Masters and Educational Specialist Degrees at Nova Southeastern University. Married for 43 years, he has 3 children and 9 grandchildren.
It's Greek to me! The Greeks love to eat. (Who doesn't?) Many Americans have a fear of going to Greek restaurants because they are afraid of the food. It’s not like Mexican food. Nothing is so spicy you can't eat it. The seasonings they use are the ones you have in your own spice rack. And unlike the dreadful oil that terrorizes the hearts of many Americans, Olive oil is good for you.

Yanni’s Greek Café original restaurant was on US#1 in Fort Pierce. Hurricane damage caused them to close for almost a year. Recently they reopened in historic downtown Fort Pierce.

Grandma & Grandpa Diva, Mr. Diva, and friend Delila started our eating adventure with Saganaki (fried Kefalograviera cheese flamed with ouzo) and Spanakopita (fillo dough spinach roll with feta cheese). Entrees are
served with warm pita bread flanked by three sauces: Skordalia (pureed potatoes with garlic and olive oil), Taramosalata (red caviar mashed with potatoes and olive oil) and Tzatziki (a sauce made with yogurt, cucumbers, garlic and olive oil). I could have stopped here — we had eaten every morsel and I was pleasantly full! But no, we had to continue on our culinary journey!

Our entrees included:

**Pastitsio** (a Pasta and Beef Casserole) is a Greek classic baked dish that comprises layers of long perciatelli noodles, extra-lean ground beef, extra-virgin olive oil, sweetly spiced tomato ragù and a flavorful layer of béchamel sauce. This is my personal favorite. I had this with a side of crisp, perfectly seasoned fried eggplant.

**Moussaka** (Eggplant and Lamb). Perhaps the most popular of all Greek specialties, a delectable offering of layers of eggplant, lean ground lamb richly seasoned with cinnamon, nutmeg, tomato sauce, kasseri cheese; finished with a thin layer of rich tomato ragù and kasseri cheese before baking. Delila was delighted with this dish served with a side of Green Beans & Peas Mediterranean Style and Lemon Potatoes.

Grandpa Diva, who is not much for gourmet dining, was pleasantly surprised with the Greek Salad with Chicken — lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, onion, feta cheese, topped with grilled chicken.

Mr. Diva enjoyed his Gyros — sliced gyro meat on pita with onions, tomatoes and tzatziki sauce.

We finished with Baklava, a homemade pastry with sheets of phyllo rolled with walnuts, almonds and topped with a wonderful honey - orange syrup.

For a real cultural treat visit **Yianni’s Greek Café** on Friday or Saturday when they feature live belly dancing from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Become a Member
of Main Street Fort Pierce
Today!
Call 772-466-3880.
See page 26.
Ask a Professional: Gary Roberts Nursery & Landscape, Inc.

QUESTION: What are the big Palm trees on the west end of the south bridge downtown? How do you take care of them? Where can I buy them?

ANSWER: Those are Royal Palms (Roystonea Regia). Sometimes these Palms are thought of as a native because they can be found in some native areas, but were actually introduced to Florida many years ago and they are not natives. Royals grow to be large majestic palms, sometimes reaching 60 feet with a beautiful gray trunk that resembles a Greek column.

Native Palms like the Sabal or Cabbage Palms do not need fertilizers, but Royals and other introduced exotic Palms are most often native to nutrient rich volcanic habitats and need special fertilizers, which are high in magnesium and maganese.

Royal Palms are cold sensitive and can die in severe freezes and therefore are most often grown commercially in warmer south Florida nurseries. Since coastal areas are usually about 6 degrees warmer than the western part of the county, Royals can withstand freezes better in areas like our barrier islands and downtown.

Royal Palms can still be purchased, however, by any local nurserymen or landscaper who deals with south Florida growers.

QUESTION: What are those trees with the red berries in winter that I see in downtown areas and why are they used so much?

ANSWER: The trees you are probably speaking of are most likely Holly trees (Ilex Species), probably East Palatka (Ilex Attenuata). They have a beautiful glossy green leaf about 2” long with a slight point on the tip, and the reason they are so often used in downtowns is because they are a great street tree. There are three basic types of trees:

1) **Patio tree** (usually a shrub trained to be a small tree, i.e., Ligustrum and Hibiscus) that normally fits in a patio setting and grows to about 10-15 feet maximum.

2) **Shade tree** (i.e.: Oak and Magnolia) which grows up to 60 feet and has a large root system to hold such a canopy.

3) **Street tree** (i.e.: East Palatka and Drake Elm) which has a small root system so it can survive in the small planting sidewalk cutouts and planters and it grows to about 20-25 feet overall with a narrow canopy requiring less water than shade trees.

You can see how street trees adapt best for downtown applications. The East Palatka also has a red berry on the female tree that gives color during the winter when most blooming plants don’t show their color. This berry adds to the traditional holiday flavor as well.

Gary Roberts has been a leader in the state and local nursery and landscape industry since 1979, when he began co-owning, operating and developing Haupt Roberts Nursery, Inc. In 1998 he sold his interests in that company and began Gary Roberts Nursery & Landscape, Inc. at 4200 Johnston Road in north Ft. Pierce where the company currently operates. Gary Roberts Nursery & Landscape, Inc. offers complete landscaping services as well as having a 36 acre wholesale production nursery. They also offer a professional design, sales and installation staff with over 100 years combined nursery and landscape experience. GRNL is a Florida Certified Horticultural Professional (FCHP) landscape nursery business, with landscape foreman holding their Florida Certified Landscape Technician (FCLT) accreditations and our design staff is Florida Certified Landscape Designer (FCLD) accredited. Gary Roberts Nursery & Landscape, Inc. was voted Best Landscaper: 2006 News Tribune Reader’s Choice Platinum Winner, and voted Best Landscaper: 2004 News Tribune Reader’s Choice Gold Winner. More information about this family owned Treasure Coast company can be found at www.garyrobertslandscape.com.
Fishing Update

by Dan Dannahower

Hooray! We have finally rolled from the gales of March to the calm of April. As she does every year Mother Nature has decided enough with the wind and those calm glassy days on the water are starting to show up. We may still have a few fronts roll through with some windy days but we’ve recently had some very nice boating days and more are sure to follow. My personal opinion is that April, May and June are the nicest time of the year on our local waters. Other seasons are sometimes better fishing but being out on the water in the spring with glassy conditions in the lagoon and nearly flat seas out on the ocean is a hard experience to beat.

Current reports are not much changed from the past few months. Offshore fishing has been reasonably good for Kings, Wahoo and the occasional Cobia or Sailfish while trolling. A good grouper bite continues on the deeper reefs around 165 feet. A number of nice days have been available in the past few weeks with seas at 1-2 feet and that’s sure to increase as we move into May and June.

Inshore fishing also offers plenty of opportunity. Snook continue to be on and off in the turning basin and inlet. Trout fishing has been reported hot, particularly in the early morning hours on the grass flats. Redfish are also available in 1-2 feet of water on the flats and continue to be very spooky. Live shrimp on popping corks and soft plastic baits are the most productive. Sheepshead continue to be plentiful around bridges and pilings.

I hope you fishing enthusiasts get a chance to get out in the next few months and enjoy our beautiful spring weather. Even if you get skunked it’s an awesome time of the year to be on the water and get a little “unspool” time. Remember your local tackle shops and marinas are the best bet for up to date information on when and where to go, how to fish, and what’s biting. Patronize your local merchants and they’ll be happy to help you improve your chances of landing that “big one.”

Good luck and good fishing!

Doug Wile with a 47 pound wahoo caught off Ft Pierce on April 2nd.
Star-Spangled Patriotic Light Show Illuminates Downtown Waterfront

Starting in May, over 100,000 red, white and blue lights will illuminate the Fort Pierce downtown waterfront for six weeks to recognize Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. The Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA) is sponsoring the patriotic light display beginning Memorial Day through the 4th of July holiday at Marina Square, May 28 – July 8, 2007, from dusk to 10:00 p.m. nightly.

The patriotic light display is synchronized to music that transforms trees and plants into moving, artistic, firecrackers. A similar light display lights up Marina Square during the holidays. This is the second year for the May/June light show.
Governor’s Grill

Now Open

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Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to close
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