

Jennifer Trefelner: Port St. Lucie celebrates its cultural diversity

By Jennifer M. Trefelner

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Make plans this weekend to attend the grand finale of Port St. Lucie's 50th anniversary celebration.

This past week our community has been enjoying festivities honoring the founding of Port St. Lucie, including a proclamation at City Hall, a time capsule ceremony, the release of the city's history book and docudrama movie, a tailgate party, baseball game and golf tournament. On Saturday, the city is hosting the most exciting event yet.

The Multicultural Street Festival starts at noon April 30 at the Civic Center. You can enjoy an array of entertainment options showcasing the diverse people of Port St. Lucie.

"We invited the different cultural groups in the area to participate in this event. The Sons of Italy, Sons of Norway, Friendly Sons and Daughters of Ireland, and German American Club are a few examples," recreation specialist Allison Kohler said.

"I have been excited to be a part of the planning and implementation of this week's activities. I was born and raised here, so it means a lot to me personally."

The festival will include arts and crafts, food representing each culture, a parade and a walk of flags. From 3 to 6 p.m., the band Thunder Road will perform in Village Square, and Nina Baranski, the author of "Port St. Lucie at 50: A City for All People," will be on hand to sign editions of the book, which details the city's history.

And I am sure children will enjoy the special 50th anniversary cupcakes!

Make plans to stay for the parade, which will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The real grand finale will take place at 9 p.m., when fireworks light up the night.

"More than 30 sponsors made this past week possible," said Bonnie Cruz, administrative secretary to City Council and a member of the anniversary events committee. "These generous donors help to pay for the fireworks and the numerous needs that arise."

Everything takes place at the Port St. Lucie Civic Center, 9221 S.E. Civic Center Place, located on the southeast corner of U.S. 1 and Walton Road. For more information, call 772-807-4488 or visit www.cityofpsl.com.

It is interesting to ponder the significance of this special week celebrating Port St. Lucie's 50th anniversary.

I asked Communications Director Ed Cunningham what events were most important to the city's first 50 years. He noted the creation of St. Lucie West in 1980 and the recruitment of Torrey Pines in 2006.

I'm wondering what people will be talking about in 2061 during the 100th anniversary celebration.



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