

Get ready for Bridging the Gap

Bayfest 2008 joins Gap campaign

By Pat Copeland

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SUN FILE PHOTO

A classic truck is on display at last year's Bayfest on Pine Avenue in Anna Maria. Organizer Bill Mergans has more than 75 vehicles signed up so far for this year's display.

ture, jewelry, clothing and arts and crafts from 80 to 100 booths lining the street, and local non-profit organizations such as the Island Community Center, Turtle Watch and Anna Maria's Environmental Education and Enhancement Committee will offer information.

Auto aficionados won't want to miss the classic and customized vehicles that will be on display amid sounds of oldies playing in the background. Organizer Bill Mergans has more than 75 signed up. There will be trophy presentations between 4 and 6 p.m.

New this year will be a motorcycle

show from 4 to 6 p.m. that also will include trophy presentations.

While moms and dads shop and groove to the music, children can take part in games and activities including a rock wall, bounce houses, a racetrack and a balloon game. Thompson preschool will feature a Fall Festival catering to the preschool age group, and all of the proceeds will go to the hurricane victims in Texas.

Anyone interested in participating in Bayfest can call Thompson at 761-4766, the AMI Chamber at 779-9412 or e-mail Islandfestivals@aol.com.



Bridging the Gap

Yesterdayze to play Concert in the Park

Yesterdayze, a high-energy, six-piece band with great vocals, will bring its 60s nostalgia to the Concert in the Park on Saturday, Oct. 4. The concert will kick-off the Bridging the Gap events from noon to 7 p.m. in the park north of Holmes Beach City Hall.

In addition to Yesterdayze, the musical lineup includes the Dr. Dave Band, the Billy Rice Band, Koko Ray and Eric von Hahmann. Comedian Brian Hamilton will emcee and entertain between acts.

A few booths are still available for arts and crafts and food vendors and non-profit groups. To reserve a booth, call Mark Kimball at 518-6329 or Steve Bark at 720-3200.

Come compete in karaoke contest

If you think you can warble with the best of them, you're invited to the Gap's karaoke contest, which begins Thursday, Oct. 2, at the Elks Lodge, 2511 75th St. W., Bradenton at 7 p.m. There is no advance sign up or entry fee.

The contest will continue every Sunday in October from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Drift Inn, 120 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach; Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Anchor Inn, 3007 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach; and every Wednesday in October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at D Coy Ducks, 5410 Marina Drive, Homes Beach.

Two winners will be chosen at each contest and on Friday, Nov. 8, from 7 to 10 p.m., they will face off in the finals at the original Rotten Ralph's, 902 S. Bay Blvd., Anna Maria. The winner will receive a cash prize.

For information, call Ed Lyon at 201-5436.

Fish Hole hosts mini-golf tourney

Great prizes are lined up for the Gap's miniature golf tournament set for 10 a.m. Oct. 4 at the Fish Hole on Bridge Street in Bradenton Beach.

The first place finisher will receive \$200 cash, Costa del Mar sunglasses, Sanuk sandals and a trophy. Second place finisher gets \$100 cash and Sanuk sandals; Third place prize is a \$50 gift certificate to Bridge Street Bazaar. Registration is \$20 and includes two rounds and lunch. You can either pre-register by calling The Fish Hole on Bridge Street in Bradenton Beach at 778-3388, or register the day of the tournament.

Softball tourneys set for October

You can hit it out of the park for Bridging the Gap in a pair of softball tournaments set for Sunday, Oct. 12 and 26, at 2 p.m. Personal trainer Jeff Levine is seeking teams to play on the Holmes Beach ball field and bring home some funds for the Island Community Center.

"There is no fee to play," Levine said. "It will be a fun family day. It's really neat when everybody comes together like this."

At the Oct. 12 games, the most valuable player will win a free massage at Body and Sol Spa and Wellness and at the Oct. 26 games, all members of the highest scoring team from both days of play will win a one-month health club membership and three personal training sessions with Levine.

The Center's teens will be cooking burgers and dogs and banking the funds for their upcoming ski trip. The teens, joined by massage therapists and instructors from Body and Sol, will also lead the stands in cheering for their teams. Any donations of money and equip-



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ment will go to the Center's youth programs. To sign up a team or for information, call Levine at 744-6883.

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See Page 9 for a complete list of
Bridging the Gap contacts.