

BAYFEST 2008: *The Island at its best*

Bayfest 2008, sponsored by the Anna Maria Island Sun, was a huge success in many ways. It brought people out to enjoy the day and it signaled the unofficial start of the festival season. Those who came were treated to music and refreshments into the night, plus food, kids activities, arts and crafts, a classic auto show with an array of beautiful rides and a DJ spinning the oldies. New this year was a motorcycle show featuring colorful choppers. Bayfest was also a success because it showed how easy it is to get on and off the Island, even with one bridge closed. This is the last Bayfest for organizer Cindy Thompson, who turns the reigns over to her husband, John, while she concentrates on her new business, Thompson Preschool and Kids Club.



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"Convicts" Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce Chairman Mark Davis and LaPensee Plumbing owner Mike LaPensee "kidnap" Bayfest organizer Cindy Thompson, above. Four-year-old Laila Manza (right) enjoys blowing bubbles in the children's tent in front of Roser Church. Koko Ray and the Soul Providers (below) entertain.

Flora Webb (above) enjoys a beer and a slice of pizza while her dog watches from her bag. The 1939 Ford coupe (above right), owned by Melanie Worthington of Seminole, won a trophy in the classic car show. A clown (right) entertains the crowd along Pine Avenue.



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