

Movie about Port St. Lucie to debut as part of city's 50th anniversary celebration

By Cathy Reeder

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PORT ST. LUCIE — Movie tickets go on sale Monday at the Port St. Lucie Civic Center for the April 27 premiere of "Port St. Lucie: City of Dreams," a highlight of the city's 50th Anniversary Celebration week.

Make that a movie and a sock hop.

Tickets are \$5 and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

"City of Dreams" is a professionally produced dramatic documentary of Port St. Lucie's history since it incorporated in 1961. It includes re-enactments of key points in city history, oral interviews with residents and a look back at families and businesses that grew over decades with the city, said Richard McAfoos, head of the Port St. Lucie Historical Society, which oversaw the project.

McAfoos helped produce the movie and served as co-chair of the city's 50th Anniversary Celebration executive committee with Vice Mayor Linda Bartz.

"City of Dreams" will be shown at 7 p.m. on April 27 in two rooms at the Civic Center — in the 1,400-seat Emerald Ballroom and the 600-seat Ruby Conference Room, McAfoos said.

Just before the showings, those rooms will transform into sock hops from the 1960s, McAfoos said. He wants to get the crowd in a 1961-kind-of-mood.

So from 6 to 7 p.m., ticket holders will be able to dance to tunes from the '60s, '70s and '80s, and snack at 1961 prices on 50-cent popcorn, hot dogs, potato chips, candy and soda.

"We're really encouraging everyone to wear '60s outfits, too," McAfoos said.

Just before 7 p.m., the dance floor will be cleared and chairs put in place for the movie.

The movie also features original music by Mark Burns. Grammy nominee Carol Connors, who wrote the theme from "Rocky," wrote lyrics for Burns' song "City Within a Dream." It was sung by Port St. Lucie sensation Alana Ferraro and her church children's choir from Holy Family Catholic Church. They will be on hand as the movie closes to meet the audience.

"We kept almost everything local, and we found amazing talent here," McAfoos said.

The movie DVD, with separate tracks of the theme song and an instrumental version, will be on sale after the movie.



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