

MARY PINAK

M meet Mary Pinak, community events manager for West Palm Beach. Her job: making fun for everyone. Pinak and her team produce and coordinate more than 300 annual events, including Clematis by Night, the West Palm Beach GreenMarket and 4th on Flagler. As a second-generation native, Pinak has had a front-row seat to the stunning growth of Downtown West Palm Beach. Here, she shares the view:

How I've seen downtown grow:

"When I started with the city in 1989, Clematis Street was one-way and a complete ghost town after five. No one lived downtown, and there were only a handful of annual events. Today, downtown has transformed into a thriving, vibrant and exciting location for people of all demographics to live, work and play. In addition to a multitude of fabulous restaurants on Clematis Street, there's numerous hip locations on Datura Street, Olive Avenue and other downtown streets.

What makes downtown unique:

"Downtown West Palm Beach has made its mark by always being original through its diverse merchants, art offerings and calendar of unique events. Our team motto is 'Every remarkable event begins with a crazy idea and ends with a courageous lunatic.'

Where I eat downtown:

"My go-to for healthy lunches is Field of Greens. They're also a popular West Palm Beach GreenMarket vendor. After hours, my family and I head to Duffy's. It's absolutely the best spot to watch college football, NFL and MLB games. We're definitely Duffy's regulars. Our passion for sports has earned us 'Hall of Fame' status."

Where I shop downtown:

"Clematis Street News Stand has THE best selection of cards for all occasions, a ton of quirky gift items



Mary Pinak, Community Events Manager for the City of West Palm Beach. PHOTO BY JIM BERIAU

THE DOWNTOWNERS

West Palm Beach business owners dish about why they're downtown – and why you should be, too!

and a fabulous selection of touristy tee-shirts, hats and more. If you forget a birthday, it's a one-stop shop lifesaver!"

Where I play downtown:

"My team orchestrates everyone's play on the Waterfront. Nothing makes us happier than being a part of making memories for local and visiting families. I've made many family memories of my own at our City events. Just about every family Christmas card has featured

Downtown West Palm Beach and my kids have never missed a Fourth of July at 4th on Flagler."

Why I want to be downtown:

"What really makes Downtown West Palm Beach special are the people. Local families and visitors of all ages and demographics unite to play on our waterfront. This diverse population, engaging and enjoying our waterfront together, transforms our beautiful landscape into a living work of art."

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Why you should

"When I travel to other cities, I like to experience what locals love – amazing activities, scenic views, and unique culture. West Palm Beach is all of these things. The scenic waterfront, diverse cuisine, appreciation for art, and beautiful destinations and events are what make it so special. I love to live here and celebrate our unique, fun, family-friendly community."



For more information on DowntownWPB and the West Palm Beach Arts & Entertainment District, visit downtownwpb.com

The next profile in **THE DOWNTOWNERS** will run on March 13th.