Since the late 1880s, several piers of some fashion have stretched into Tampa Bay from St. Petersburg’s shores. The railroad pier offered unlimited opportunities for anglers, sunbathers, and the carefree who dared the pier’s toboggan slide. A few years later, in 1896, D.F.S. Brantley’s pier delighted visitors with his horse-drawn flat car used to shuttle goods and passengers from water’s edge to shore. In 1901, the Tomlinson’s Fountain of Youth attraction on his pier, promised to rejuvenate the body and soul with his curative well water. By 1906, Frank Davis had trolley lines and hundreds of light bulbs extended over his “Electric Pier.” Next came the Municipal Recreation Pier at the foot of 2nd Avenue North in 1913. To the consternation of many business minded folks attempting to cash in on docking and pier usage fees, it seemed as if the city had more piers then pelicans.

Following years of pier wars, waterfront improvements, and the devastating 1921 hurricane, which destroyed all the waterfront piers, boosters and civic leaders pushed for a grander replacement to the beloved attractions. With a name to match the construction costs, the Million Dollar Pier opened in 1926 to immediate fanfare. The Mediterranean-themed Pier, Evening Independent publisher Lew Brown’s brainchild, offered dancing, shopping, and recreation. Since the city’s birth, piers had proved popular, but the 1926 incarnation added an instant destination for money spending tourist.

During these heady years, city boundaries expanded and scores of impressive boom-time hotels rose skyward, as did land prices and census figures. St. Petersburg’s citizen count, which topped fourteen thousand by 1920, nearly doubled as the boom was in full swing four years later. By the 1960s, nearly 182,000 folks called St. Pete home. As the year 1967 appeared on the calendar, and as Martin Luther King, Jr. was preparing to protest the war in Vietnam, unprecedented and deadly race riots continued across the nation. However, the city of St. Petersburg was in the midst of its own contention. The city’s landmark, the Million Dollar Pier and Casino had just landed on the butchering block.

St. Petersburg’s Million Dollar Pier and Casino was being replaced. After 41 years of operation and subsequent disrepair, time and toil had demanded replacement. For four decades this monument to excesses and indulgence hosted ballroom dances, choir sing-a-ongs, card parties and any other event a leisured population demanded. As journalist Paul Schnitt reported of the breaking story: “The ‘Million Dollar Pier’ was the pride of Florida’s West Coast… it was a shimmering spear in Tampa Bay, and the pride of St. Petersburg… and was the center to the city’s appeal to tourists. While citizens today recall with admiration and wistful remembrance, the dissent regarding the structure’s August 1967 destruction was less than astonishing. Editorials appeared in the Independent and the Times, proclaiming sentimental shock. Just how loud or lazy the Save our Pier program was can be summarized by the minuscule 600 petition signatures presented to City Council. Not to mention the failure of any person to take City Councilmen Allison up on his willingness to reconsider by securing a $50,000 lease on the property.

continued on page 3
We would like to hear from you. Is there something you would like to see included in this newsletter? Tell us what you think at bob@griffindirectories.com.

2012 CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY:
First Friday 3
Dinner With David Price 3
Second Time Arounders Chili Cook-off 4
Bayfront On Vine 4
Super Bowl 5
Florida State Fair Opens 9
Rock N Roll Weekend 11-12
Rock N Roll Half Marathon 12
Big Tell Big East Baseball Challenge 17-18
Rays Fan Fest At The Trop 18
Young Eagles Day Al Lang 18
Big Ten / Big East Al Lang 18-20
Grand Central Annual Chili Cookoff 18
Little League Opening Day 25

MARCH:
First Friday 2
Florida Day At The Pier 3
Mobile Recycle Collection Event 3
Women’s Expo, Coliseum 3
Southeastern Guide Dog Walkathon 3
International Spring Training Start 6

APRIL:
Good Friday 6
First Friday 6
Tampa Bay Rays First Game 6
Easter Sunday 8
American Stage In The Park Starts 11
Tampa Bay Blues Festival Vinoy 13-15
Sunscreen Film Festival 13-15
Mainsail Arts Festival 21-22

ST. PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN NEWSLETTER

We are trying to include even more of your news. People who live downtown, plus the Snell Isle and Old Northeast areas want to know what is happening in their area. That is why, if you have news or events, please contact us.

This newsletter survives on local advertising. Please tell your home suppliers such as pool companies, lawn care, electricians, etc about us. If you are a resident of our mailing area and advertise, you will receive a discount.

We produce similar newsletters in four other areas: Indian Rocks Beach, Madeira Beach, Clearwater Beach and Belleair. You can read this newsletter and others online at StPeteDowntownNewsletter.com.

SEE YOU AGAIN IN APRIL!
Within a week destruction bids were announced and the pier met its demise, however the pier head would remain nothing more than a paved park for the next five years. Interestingly, the looming and essentially undisclosed piece of the puzzle came to be the question of why? Why destroy the pier’s recreational structures during the summer months when dancing and fishing could be at full swing? And many wanted to know why there were no plans already on hand as to the next phase of St. Petersburg’s landmark?

As the century closed with moon walks and Woodstock, St. Petersburg, Florida searched for its next pier, its next image. The rather hurried demolition of St. Petersburg’s Million Dollar Pier recreation pavilion loudly spoke of the city’s intent for change – it also spoke of the silent insecurity of an aged identity.

The eventual construction of a ‘Modern’ inverted pyramid was a blatant attempt to shed the old and prove the city’s commitment to a new fresh younger identity. Was it a needed catalyst for change? Perhaps it was, but probably not. The same subtropical climate and exotic terrain that lured investors and dreamers to 19th century Florida, continues to shape the Sunshine City in the 21st century. The future of St. Petersburg shows few indications of providing anything short of astonishing growth and possibilities.

To the excitement of some and the protest of others, the Inverted Pyramid – like the Million Dollar Pier – after standing as a proud city landmark for nearly four decades faces the wrecking ball. Funny how history seems to repeat itself isn’t it?
**GRAND PRIX**
The Honda Grand Prix of St Petersburg opens the 2012 IndyCar season March 23-25. The event will mark the debut of a new car design and new competition among engine makers Honda, Chevrolet and Lotus. With the recent wreck and death of St Pete favorite Dan Whelan, we will certainly be reminded of the risks involved in this sport. Tickets are on sale now ranging from $20 to $125. Paddock passes are available for $40 per day. See www.GPSTPETE.com or call 877-283-5385.

**GORDON REPLACES ULMER AT SPC**
Former Principal of Gibbs High School, Kevin Gordon, replaced Yvonne Ulmer as the provost of St Petersburg College’s Downtown St Pete and mid-town campuses. The two campuses have a total of 3,200 students. Gordon is credited with turning Gibbs from an F school into a C, just barely missing a B rating, in just one year.

**NEW SHORECREST COACH**
Former Tampa Bay Buccaneers tight end Dave Moore is the new football coach at Shorecrest Preparatory School. Moore will replace Phil Hayford who had been the coach of the Chargers since 1979. Hayford had 191 victories at Shorecrest, the second most ever in a Pinellas County High School. Dave Moore played 13 of his 15 NFL years with the Bucs and is currently on the Buccaneers Radio Network. He plans to continue his broadcasting duties.

**2012 BAYFRONT ON VINE FEBRUARY 4TH**
This event offers an array of tantalizing tastes and excitement for wine lovers and foodies, while supporting an important cause. The main event is the food, and this year there are over 20 area chefs including Tom Pritchard (Salt Rock Grill and Island Way Grill), Tyson Grant (Parkshore Grill) and others. Held at Bayfront Medical Plaza, tickets are $100 per person and $175 for the VIP fine wine tasting pavilion. Proceeds benefit Bayfront’s robotic-assisted surgery program. Visit BayfrontOnVine.org or call 893-6148 for information.

**LEARN THE KINDLE**
If you received a Kindle for Christmas but don’t know how to use it, the Sunshine Center is offering a class just for you. Wednesday, February 22 at 1pm they will attempt to simplify the use of the Kindle. You will learn how to download and manage your books, magazines, or newspapers and how to find free Kindle books. This class is open to the public and pre-registration is only $15. An annual Advantage Member Card, $15 for residents, is required. Contact Carrie Laird at 893-7074 for information.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN APRIL**
Read this issue, as well as others, online at StPeteDowntownNewsletter.com.
WANT TO BE A CLOWN?
The Suncoasters are sponsoring their annual Clown Alley Clown School, March 10th, beginning at 10am. A tradition in St. Petersburg since 1972, it is co-sponsored by All Children’s Hospital’s Education Center. Children and adults will learn the finer points of becoming a professional clown and will be invited to show off their new skills and ride on the All Children’s float in the Honda Grand Prix Illuminated Night Parade and the Santa Parade. Class will be held at the All Children’s Hospital Education Center, 710 4th Street S. The cost is $20 per person, plus $10 for each additional family member, and includes lunch and a Clown Alley T-shirt. Make up is available for purchase during class, for about $5-$10 per person. For more information, visit www.Suncoasters-StPete.com or call 821-9888

BLUE CHIPS The city of St Petersburg announced a new Website to attract developers and investors for prime parcels around the city. Called Blue Chip, the city-developed online service highlights 16 prime sites totaling nearly 350 acres and currently for sale with a value of approximately $42 million. “Blue Chip highlights prime sites in the city that have potential for larger development and job creation,” says Mayor Bill Foster. “I think St Petersburg is one of the best kept secrets in the Southeast.” Check out the service at StPete.org/Blue-Chip.

BATTLE OF THE MINDS This fundraiser for the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, held at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort is a fun evening. Every year it offers fabulous live and silent auctions, a gourmet dinner, and a competitive trivia challenge game where teams compete for the coveted Mastermind Cup. Find information at StPetersburgFreeClinic.org or call 821-1200 x 108.

THE PIER AQUARIUM The first Saturday of the month is Book Nook by the Bay Day, scheduled 10:30am-noon, featuring book readings, sometimes with the author, a Fresh Fish Theater craft activity, library time and special presentations. Book Nook is free with a paid aquarium admission. Feb. 4’s book is All the Way to the Ocean by Joel Harper and March 3 Guest Author Suzanne Tate reads her book, Teena Tortoise, A Tale of a Little Giant. For the full schedule, visit www.pieraquarium.org/2012booknook.

NEED ANOTHER NEWSLETTER? The UPS Store at 200 2nd Avenue S. or if you are in the Old Northeast area, Mikey’s Market at 1535 4th Street N. has extra copies.
COUSTEAU DIVERS SCHOOL Pierre-Yves Cousteau, son of ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, announced the Canterbury School of Florida, 1200 Snell Isle Boulevard NE, will be the first Cousteau Divers school in the world. An international not-for-profit organization, Cousteau Divers is fostering scientific programs that monitor and conserve marine biodiversity worldwide. Canterbury will be part of their global program. Students will catalog and track biodiversity in the Gulf of Mexico, create wildlife guide books and monitor water quality. Cousteau said he was "amazed by the incredible facilities and the work and education" going on at the school, which he visited last fall, especially their new SCUBA Venturing Crew, a charter under the Boy Scouts of America. The school is a local independent school for students in grades PreK-12. Students in all grades participate in a marine studies curriculum and themed community service projects throughout the year. They offer clubs like kayaking, fishing and underwater submersible robots construction. Relationships with many local resource organizations include Tampa Bay Watch, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Eckerd College and the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida.

NEW BANK NAME Whitney Bank, with branches downtown and elsewhere in Pinellas merged with Handcock Bank and you will see the name change to Handcock Whitney on March 16th. Handcock Bank started in Bay St Louis, Mississippi in 1899. They have 300 banks, mostly in the southeast. The merger was announced in December of 2010 and Whitney Bank was dissolved in the second quarter of 2011. Handcock Bank is head quartered in Gulfport, Mississippi. Whitney Bank was a major sponsor of Rays baseball and that sponsorship is expected to continue. Get more information at www.HandcockBank.com.

CAKE FACTORY MOVED The Cake Factory, located on Central Avenue, has moved north on 4th Street to 10th Avenue N., into the former home of Pinky’s Painted Cottage. They specialize in custom, three-dimensional sculpture cakes and wedding cakes. The Cake Factory also offers eclairs, cream puffs, chocolate-dipped strawberries, cookies and pies.

WORKSHOP CLOSED The Santa’s Workshop, featured in the October issue of this newsletter has now closed at 1219 MLK N. However, owner Slyvie Fafalios is still selling Christmas related things through her website, SantasWorkshop.com.

CRISLIP ARCADE The 600 Block of Central Avenue is almost full with new stores. The two newest ones are, Off The Wall featuring local photography with wall decor and vintage photos and scrabble tiles and Eugenia Woods with women’s handmade accessories and pillows upcycled from vintage fabrics. Take a walk along the 600 block and you will be surprised by all the fun stores there.

NEW BANK Fifth Third Bank is opening a new branch at 2646 4th Street N. The bank may look ready to open, but they are still waiting for Federal approval.
More Business Briefs...

NEW DUNKIN’ DONUTS STORE It’s time to make the donuts at the city’s newest donut store. A new Dunkin’ Donuts store opened at 1044 4th Street N, January 13th. If you haven’t been in a Dunkin Donuts store in a while, you will be surprised.

This is the company’s second “green” store nationwide. The other one is located at 7595 4th Street N. They employ a wide range of eco-friendly initiatives, including LED lighting, energy-efficient building materials, recycled water for landscaping and a program to provide used compostable coffee grounds to local farmers. The store even has an electric car charging station (shown here) in the back of the store with reserved parking spaces for green drivers.

They have much more than donuts, including lots of sandwiches for both breakfast and lunch and all kinds of pastries including croissants, bagels and muffins. Drinks include coffee, iced coffee, iced lattes, cappuccino, hot and cold iced tea, hot chocolate, water and sodas.

They have a “grab and go” display near the cash registers featuring healthier snacks such as fruit, cups, Greek yogurt and string cheese. You can always take home their great tasting coffee to brew at home.

This is a family run franchise owned by the Aziz family, pictured here (left to right) is Bob, Thora, and Rob.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION MEANS BUSINESS Even though it is being held in Tampa, it is expected to have a big effect on Pinellas hotels, too.

“This is as big as seven Super Bowls,” says Brian Kramer, GM, Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach. “Over 15,000 room nights are booked in the Tampa Bay area. The RNC needs approximately 15,000 room nights over that week and the larger hotels were asked to contribute block commitments for those dates,” Kramer continues. “It was necessary to win the bid and get the convention.”

Chris Atkins, Sales and Marketing Director for the Renaissance Vinoy in downtown St Petersburg says, “We were required to set aside 90% of our 361 rooms that week, and we were happy to do that. We expect to be sold out that entire week. People will check in on Friday or Saturday and not leave until the following weekend. After the convention ends on Thursday, August 30th, we know many of them will stay and enjoy our beautiful city and its many amenities.”

The Hampton Inn (90 rooms) and the Indigo Hotel (71 rooms) and Ponce de Leon (71 rooms) say that they opted out and do not have rooms reserved.
ART NEWS

MOREAN ARTS CENTER Executive Director Katee Tully left in December. Tully had been director since 2009 and oversaw the opening of the Chihuly Collection on Beach Drive. The Art Center began in 1917 as the Art Club of St Petersburg. Started by a small group of local artists, it has evolved into a cultural center that now serves thousands of adults and children in the area. Tully will be replaced temporarily by Wayne Atherholt, the current Marketing Director. Wayne is well known in local art circles and was formerly the marketing director for the Dali Museum and MOSI in Tampa. Bob Glazer, Board President, said “a search committee has been formed to find a replacement and that search will not be limited to the Tampa Bay area.”

FLORIDA CRAFTSMAN GALLERY  821-7391
501 Central Ave. FloridaCraftsmen.net
They are engaging the community to create a Crocheted Satellite Coral Reef, which will be on display this summer at their downtown gallery. Leading up to the exhibit, there will be opportunities for the community to come together to crochet, learn about the variety of coral shapes and work together to create a massive exhibition, which will include a bleached reef and a Youth reef. Get involved by attending a crochet class, a crochet gathering at a local restaurant, one of the many marine life presentations, or donate to the project. For information, email diane.shelly@floridacraftsmen.net or visit www.floridacraftsmen.net.

ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR

The 31st Annual Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, the oldest and largest of its kind in the Southeast, returns to St. Petersburg’s Coliseum, 535 Fourth Avenue N. March 9-11. The Fair features more than one hundred specialized dealers from all over the US. Visitors will find books of every age and about every conceivable topic, including modern fiction, Americana, Florida history and literature, travel and exploration, fine bindings, poetry, cooking, military history, world history, the classics, art books, religion, children’s literature, illustrated books. Additional materials found at the Fair include maps, prints, postcards, ephemera, autographs and other paper collectibles. A complete listing of the exhibitors is available at: FloridaBooksellers.com.

The Florida Antiquarian Book Fair is open Friday, March 9th, 5-9 pm, Saturday, March 10th, 10am-5pm, and Sunday, March 11th, 11am-4pm. Admission is $10 Friday, and is good for the entire weekend; Saturday’s & Sunday’s tickets are $6 per day or $10 for the weekend. Twelve and under and students with valid identification are free. Parking is free for the show’s duration. Ticket sales benefit the St. Petersburg Public Library.
ST. PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN NEWSLETTER

ST. PETE’S ARCHITECTURE
by Will Michaels

Given the excitement and debate over reinvention of the Pier, a brief note on St. Petersburg’s architecture may help put things in perspective. St. Petersburg’s signature downtown architecture is Mediterranean Revival. Borrowed from the sunny Mediterranean, these buildings were often known as “Spanish castles,” fairytale like buildings with grillwork and various decorative features.

In Ken Breslauer’s recent book on Historic Sites and Architecture of St. Petersburg, some 11 of 19 “Must See” buildings are in the Mediterranean Revival, or related Mission Revival or Moorish styles. The most outstanding example of this architecture is the Snell Arcade, the towers of which are used by Saint Petersburg Presentation for their logo. Another splendid example is the Vinoy Hotel. In many respects this style of architecture was a good fit for what St. Petersburg was all about historically, and to a large degree still is. It fit well with a city hyping health, sunshine, outdoor recreation, and the exotic. There are, of course, an exciting assortment of other architectural styles in downtown in addition to Mediterranean Revival, including Neoclassical Revival, Colonial Revival, Beaux Arts, Art Moderne, Art Deco, Italian Renaissance, and others. The 1920s Mediterranean Revival was cutting edge for its time. C. Perry Snell was responsible for St. Petersburg’s Mediterranean Revival makeover. He began to build in the Mediterranean Revival style in earnest in 1924 with the Granada Terrace neighborhood.

The Million Dollar Pier Casino Building was constructed in the Mediterranean Revival style in 1926 (demolished in 1967). The year 1924 was the major turning point for our city’s look and character. Prior to that our city’s downtown architecture was largely “vernacular” masonry and wood frame buildings, functional buildings designed for cross ventilation in an era without air conditioning.

After World War II, a number of modern buildings began to appear in the downtown and nearby commercial areas. Many of these buildings were criticized for resembling boxes or ice cube trays. A major benchmark was construction of the Bayfront Center in 1965, approximately where today’s Dali Museum stands. One local architect of the modern school who stood out from the rest was William Harvard, Sr. Some of Harvard’s landmarks include the 1953 Bandstand at Williams Park, the nearby Pasadena Community Church, the St. Petersburg Federal Building, the Central Library, and Derby Lane. And then of course there was the Inverted Pyramid Pier. Harvard was influenced by the Bauhaus school of design and architects such as Mies van der Rohe and Frank Lloyd Wright. He believed that a building’s shape should evolve from its function and site in a logical way, and that it should be sculptural without ornamentation. Like the Mediterranean Revival architecture of the 1920s, Bill Harvard’s buildings were cutting edge. The new Pier Proposals are also all contemporary and at least in that regard follow in Harvard’s precedent.

Will Michaels is the retired Executive Director of the St. Petersburg Museum of History and served as the Design Committee Chair of the City’s Pier Advisory Task Force.
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The Malowany Group

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Last Listed Price $1,299,000
Kevin Petelle

1040 MONTEREY
Last Listed Price $1,275,000
The Malowany Group

1000 CORDOVA
Last Listed Price $1,200,000
The Malowany Group

17749 WALL CIRCLE
Last Listed Price $1,200,000
Theresa Morrow

2050 COFFEE POT
Last Listed Price $1,150,000
YES-Homes

7172 MLK JR SOUTH
Last Listed Price $987,000
YES-Homes

PARKSHORE
Last Listed Price $985,000
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NEW BOAT CLUB DOWNTOWN

Enjoy boating without the cleaning and maintenance of ownership with a Senior (over 60) and Snow Bird Special for January/February 2012.

LottoBoat is a new boat club located at the Harborage Marina south of downtown Saint Petersburg. This company sets itself apart from the common boat rental or ownership people are familiar with. For those who decide to take advantage of the membership programs available, they offer all the conveniences of having a boat without the hassles, headaches, or significant financial outlays and conventional costs of boat ownership. When you consider the options and advantages of getting into boating, consider the Lotto Boat way - for little money. Call Alex or Diana at 727-230-0990 for quotes and information. Check their website www.lottoboat.net for the size and types of boats available.

Senior and Snow bird specials...

Membership
15 annual periods of use (half days 4 hours) initial $999 down and $119 (3 reservations at one time)
25 annual periods of use (half days 4 hours) initial $1599 down and $179 per month (3 reservations at one time)
Unlimited periods of use $1999 down and $239 per month (5 reservations at a time)

Fishing excursion and Sunset Trips - This is a limited offer (Tuesday’s and Thursday’s) for a 7am departure that returns at noon. $55 per person with limited seating (Maximum 6 people). Also, available are Sunset trips to the Skyway bridge, one of the largest tourist attractions in Florida. Call for prices. Reservations required.

Weekly rentals (Mon-Thurs) Morning periods 8am to noon are $89+fuel and tax; Afternoon periods, after 1pm are $129+fuel and tax.

Weekend rentals (Fri-Sun) Morning periods 8am to noon are $129+fuel and tax; Afternoon periods, after 1pm are $139+fuel and tax.

Lotto Boat Club is located at 100 14th Ave. S. and can be reached at 727.230.0990.

27TH ANNUAL AMERICAN STAGE IN THE PARK PRESENTS THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

April 11 - May 13, 2012

It’s the biggest and baddest rock ‘n’ roll musical ever! On the way to visit an old college professor, two clean cut kids, Brad and his fiancée Janet, run into car trouble and see a light down the road. It’s coming from the Frankenstein place, where Dr. Frank’n’Furter is in the midst of one of his maniacal experiments. Follow the squeaky-clean sweethearts on an adventure they’ll never forget, with the scandalous Frank’n’Furter, rippling Rocky, and vivacious Magenta. Get ready for a night of fun, frolics, and frivolity in this thrilling production of Richard O’Brien’s cult classic!

 Held in at Demens Landing Park April 11 - May 13, ticket prices range from $11 to $24. Call the American Stage Box Office at (727) 823-7529 for information. Performances are at 8pm.
THE WINNER IS - THE LENS

The jury reviewing the three proposals to replace the existing pier met Friday, January 20th and unanimously recommended “The Lens.”

This design process started about two years ago. First, three international architectural firms submitted pier design concepts. Then, a panel of experts was chosen to review the concepts from several points of view, including maintenance and operational costs. This month, a jury of five, composed of two politicians and three industry professionals, assembled to review the expert’s results.

The jury included City Council woman Leslie Curran (Chairman), County Commissioner Ken Welch, South African architect and University of California Professor Stanley Saitowitz, Tampa based Urban Designer and former USF Professor James Moore, PhD, and Harvard University Urban Design Professor Susan Fainstein, PhD. They each reviewed all three designs and ranked them. All chose “The Lens” first, “The Wave” second and “The Eye” third. “The Lens” was designed by the Michael Maltzanz Architecture group out of Los Angeles. Local architects Wannemacher Jensen were on his team.

“Rather than an independent structure, “The Lens” creates a pier that is a continuation of the city’s breathtaking waterfront,” says designer Michael Maltzan. “The circular loops will help draw visitors from downtown and the parks out toward Tampa Bay. The Pier is a central element connecting downtown with its waterfront, much like the piers of the past,” Maltzan continues. “The Lens is like a giant magnifying glass on the water. The new pier will act both as a lens looking back to the city and a window into the underwater world beneath.”

The object is to build a pier that will last for 75 years. “The Lens” is 90 feet above sea level, compared to the existing pier, which is only 60 feet above sea level. The budget is $45 million. There are concerns that certain design features may cause the project to run over that budget.

The tiara shaped design is viewed as having the lowest maintenance costs and hopefully will minimize the city’s pier subsidies, which have been between $1.3 and $1.5 million per year. It does not have any retail over the water. It will feature boat rentals and in the middle will be an underwater reef structure where people can view sea life. A proposed second phase would build retail on the new pier’s approach, but it will cost more money.

This is not the final step however. Next, the City Council will review the plans and proposals at a workshop. The Council does not have to accept the jury’s recommendation. Though, if they do accept the recommendation, the city will negotiate a contract with the design and engineering firms for plans and drawings. Then, they will demolish the pier as early as the end of this year. The city’s will work with existing tenants to find a new place to continue their businesses.

Get more information on this version on the new pier on the city’s web site www.StPete.org.
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RICKY P’S ORLEANS BISTRO
Savannah’s, which closed in October is being reopened by Rick Parsons as a Cajun restaurant. Located at 1113 Central Avenue, the food will be authentic because Ricky is from New Orleans. The downstairs menu will be more formal featuring fresh seafood, steaks and cajun classics. The upstairs loft, called the Oyster Deck, will have its own oyster bar and TVs. There are also 40 seats outside. Rick also owns the small restaurant cafe inside Bob Lee’s on 4th Street N. The new restaurant is scheduled to open in February, sometime before Fat Tuesday.

MICKEY’S MARKET VALENTINE SPECIAL
Want to stay home this year but still have a special meal? Mickey’s Market is offering a special deal you can prepare at home. Get two 6 oz. Filet Mignon, two Twice Baked Potatos, two Crab Cakes, a pint Blue Bell Ice Cream and special Chocolates for $19.99. If you pre-order, by calling 894-7751 they will take $2 off your wine purchase. They are located at 1535 4th St. N.

MCDINTON’S OPENS
McDinton’s, a long time fixture in South Tampa, opened their downtown location at 242 1st Ave. N. in Jannus Landing. In addition to the 1st Avenue S. storefront, there is sidewalk seating and a bar inside the Jannus Landing concert area to serve patrons at each concert. They plan live music seven days a week, using bands and solo acts. Food will be traditional Irish fare with a twist. There is a stage and dance floor and with access to the Jannus Live Courtyard it should make for some good after concert parties.

ST PETE BRASSERIE NEW MANAGER
Justin Chamoun is the new owner/manager at the St Pete Brasserie. Nothing else has changed. They are located at 533 Central Avenue.

SUITE 6
This new bar is open at 265 Central Avenue. Called Suite 6, it is a club and a bar with no food. It is open for business but they have not officially had their grand opening yet. They are next to Crowley’s Irish Bar.

JOJO’S
The popular Italian restaurant at 200 Central Avenue has a new owner. They plan some changes, but the name will remain the same.

PETE’S WOOD FIRED PIZZA
This new pizza store planned for the building next door to World of Beer at 336 1st Avenue S. is still under construction.

CLOSED:
THE GLOBE COFFEE LOUNGE, 532 1st Avenue N.
Bowled still coming

Michael Cecere, owner of Bowled Restaurant on 4th Street N., still plans to build a Bowled Restaurant in the Kress Building at 475 Central Avenue. He tells us he is submitting plans to the city for approval. It too will be called Bowled Restaurant, but will be larger than his 4th Street N. location.

Le Macaron

This new French styled pastry shop opened on 1st Street N, across from the center formerly known as Baywalk. It is the part of the Shops of The Plaza. They also serve sandwiches.

WOB World of Beer, a national franchise, opened in the former Paddy Burkes Irish Bar space. They also serve food. WOB is located at 340 1st Avenue S. St Petersburg Fire Department’s Fire Marshall Lt Joel Granata is a partner in this location. Another WOB is located at 5226 4th Street N.

Ruby’s Elixir

Between Central and First Ave. N at the west end of Jannus Live block, this speakeasy bar with live jazz, and an emphasis on old school cocktails with new techniques has a new part-owner, Martini Bombac. There is new decor and fine wines available by the bottle, plus great cocktails with lots of rums and whiskies. He is planning live music, of all styles, nightly.

Tequila, Taps and Poutine

Sebastian Huber, is planning to open a Tequila Bar with high end tequilas inside, and a German Bier Garden with locally brewed craft beers outside, in the spot where the DoubleWide used to be on 1235 Central Ave. The Poutine in the name is a dish of french fries and curd cheese, smothered in gravy.

Green Bench Brewing Company

Located at 1134 1st Avenue N., will be St. Petersburg’s first production microbrewery with a tasting room and an outdoor beer garden. The tasting room will have windows so you can watch the brewing process. They plan to offer a wide variety of brews including plenty of Stouts, IPAs and Scottish ales. They hope to start construction in March.

Planning a Party?

Hooters on 4th street has a private room for special events, luncheons, or any kind of party. They also will bring the party to you; their catering includes large party platters, chicken wings, buffalo shrimp, Hooters salad, sandwiches and more. Call Rachel, at 727-725-2551 to book your next event at Hooters.

Athenian Garden

This Greek restaurant, owned by Angle Gorgas opened on 4th Street N. in Dal’ Italia Ristorante’s old location. Sadly, his brother Spiros (49) died just prior to opening during routine surgery. This is the fourth in the family owned group of restaurants and is located at 2220 4th Street N.
THE HISTORY OF PINELLAS COUNTY:
AFTER THE SEPARATION

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Pinellas County celebrates its 100th anniversary on January 1, 2012. Many people were involved, and many steps taken to convert our area into its own county. This is the final part of the story that began in the last issue.

After being a part of Hillsborough County since it was officially formed in 1834, Pinellas County won the right to become a separate county in November 1911. The first Pinellas County election was held on December 15 and the elected county commissioners were: F. A. Wood from St Petersburg, S.S. Coachman from Clearwater, O.T. Raisback from St Petersburg, L.D. Vinson from Tarpon Springs and J. T. Lowe from Ozono. A school board, a superintendent of schools, clerk of the circuit court, a sheriff, county judges, a tax assessor, a tax collector, the county treasurer, a superintendent of registrations, and the county surveyor were also elected.

Pinellas officially became a county on January 1, 1912. But that was not the end of the struggles. Leaders in St Petersburg were not happy with the results of the county election. They accused Clearwater leaders of playing politics to obtain control of the new county. They claimed Clearwater politicians manipulated the election so that three commissioners were elected from the upper half of the county - they would vote together. As a result, the two St Petersburg commissioners were out voted on almost every important issue because it conflicted with the Clearwater contingent’s plans.

The large battles were over the designation of the county seat. The St Petersburg contingent wanted to prevent Clearwater from having the Courthouse. On April 3, 1912, the County Commissioners voted to levy a 5-mill tax to build a courthouse and jail in Clearwater. The St Petersburg commissioners immediately fought against the tax. The three upper county commissioners ignored them and voted to build a wooden building costing $3,750 (shown above.) The county treasurer, who was not part of the Clearwater group, refused to pay for the building saying there were no funds for that purpose.

Then, in 1913 and 1914, the county seat controversy became more heated. Petitions were circulated asking the commissioners to call for an election and allow the voters to decide where they wanted their county seat. Noel Mitchell, a well known real estate developer, and future St. Petersburg mayor, offered to give them an entire city block in his Courthouse Subdivision on First Avenue N.

After years of wrangling, the commissioners finally called for a general election to approve a $160,000 bond to build a courthouse and jail in Clearwater. On February 3, 1916, even though residents of St Petersburg voted 3 to 1 against it, it was passed 485 to 439. The results ended up at the State Supreme Court, who ruled in March of 1917 that Clearwater was the site and it would stay there for a minimum of twenty years - 1932.

While arguments went on and on about where to locate the county seat, the commission also had to govern. Needing new roads was an important issue, but there were arguments about that, too. When the St. Petersburg commissioners started pushing to build good roads, the upper Pinellas group voted against it. They finally came to an agreement and started building a system of roads out of a base of marl. They were not good, but it was better than anything they had ever had before. By 1915, after $715,000 bond issue, the building of brick roads began. Two years later, the 75 mile highway system, that created a network of nine-foot wide brick roads, was completed. It was a rough ride, but the government was proud of their new brick roadway.

The first County Commission started the process of taxing citizens and providing services throughout the county. New schools were built; bridges to the beaches were added, and a new permanent Courthouse was built in Clearwater, where it stands today. Little by little, the County Government started to transform a frontier into what we have today.
SLIM NEW YEAR

By Stephanie Schlageter, Medspa Director

It’s that time of year again - the time of year when we take a good look in the mirror and set our goals for the year ahead. For many, that look in the mirror after enjoying a joyous and plentiful Holiday season reminds us that we have some work to do before swimsuit season arrives again. While diet and exercise are always the best approach to getting the shape you want back, many people find over time that these good old fashioned efforts just don’t do the job anymore – especially, on certain stubborn body areas.

Whether you have genetics or a past pregnancy to thank for that “muffin top” or those “love handles,” you can rest assured that you are not alone in your frustration. More than 17 million people in the US get some sort of cosmetic procedure each year, and the second most popular of these procedures is Liposuction. Essentially invented in the late 1970s, Liposuction has been established as one of the best solutions for removing unwanted fat from targeted areas of the body. For decades, many Liposuction procedures have required general anesthesia, an overnight stay at the hospital or surgery center, and significant downtime from work and/or normal activities.

But, Liposuction has come a long way in the last several years. Advances in medical Laser technology have introduced Laser Lipolysis, also known as Laser Liposuction, and over the last decade, many “traditional” Liposuction procedures have been replaced with this newer approach. SlimLipo is one of the latest, most advanced liposuction Lasers, manufactured by Palomar Medical, a world leader in medical Lasers. Through a few tiny skin incisions, the SlimLipo Laser melts that stubborn fat and tightens the skin with the patient wide awake - no general anesthesia required. What’s more, because the SlimLipo Laser fiber is so small (2.9mm diameter) and gentle, scars and downtime post-procedure are minimal to none – patients can literally return to work and/or normal activities the very next day. And results from SlimLipo are dramatic – on average, patients lose 1-2 clothing sizes in a single treatment.

Sound like something that might help you achieve your New Year’s goals? Dr. Erika Francis performs the SlimLipo procedure at Radiance Medspa in Belleair Bluffs. Dr. Francis has over 3 years of experience performing SlimLipo procedures at Radiance Medspa and serves as a national trainer for the SlimLipo procedure, training other physicians on the procedure.

At Radiance Medspa, consultations are always complimentary. Visit www.radiancemedspa.com for more information on SlimLipo and the full list of other services offered at Radiance including BOTOX, Juvederm, Fraxel, and Thermage.

Radiance Medspa is located at 2894 West Bay Drive in Belleair Bluffs. 727-518-7100.
6 Tests Your Doctor May Not Tell You About

by Dr. Stacey Robinson

Advanced Cholesterol Testing: Remember when the only thing your doctor cared about was whether your cholesterol was over 200? Then, we determined that the most important number was the ratio of your bad to good cholesterol. Cholesterol testing has come a long way since. Now we know it is the lipoprotein particles that carry the cholesterol through the body and not the cholesterol within them that is responsible for the plaque production that causes cardiovascular disease. These lipoprotein groups are the gold standard in evaluating cardiac risk. And there are many other markers that can predict a higher risk of heart disease including homocysteine, cardiac CRP, Lipoprotein (a), Apo-E genotyping and HS-Omega 3 Index.

Coronary Calcium CT Score: This test is a noninvasive test using a limited heart CT scan to measure the amount of plaque in the coronary arteries. Although this test does not tell you whether the plaque is restricting blood flow to the heart muscle, it does tell you whether you are forming coronary plaque, which can help determine how aggressively to treat risk factors such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Micronutrient Testing: Have you ever wondered whether you are getting enough nutrients in your diet or whether your vitamins are being absorbed and utilized by your body? This blood test measures 29 different vitamins, minerals, amino acids, fatty acids, metabolites and antioxidants inside the cell (not just in the bloodstream) as well as the cell’s antioxidant capacity.

Urine Pyrils or N-Telopeptide: Wouldn’t it be great if we could measure in real time whether you are losing bone strength rather than wait until a bone density test shows that strength has already been lost? Your bone is in a constant dynamic state of renewal, building up and breaking down to create new, healthy bone. The breakdown products can be measured in the urine to determine the rate of bone loss. This test can be repeated to see if changes in nutrition, supplements, vitamin D levels, and exercise are improving the rate of bone loss.

Hormone Saliva Testing: Hormone levels in saliva are thought to be a better indicator of hormone levels in the tissue. Saliva testing is more sensitive for evaluating reproductive hormonal changes that occur as we age and adrenal hormone changes caused by stress. We can often alleviate the symptoms related to hormonal changes with bio-identical hormone creams or other supplements.

ALCAT Test: This blood test evaluates for food sensitivities that are often the cause of digestive disorders (such as acid reflux and irritable bowel syndrome), migraines, obesity, chronic fatigue, skin disorders, asthma, and ADD. The ALCAT Test measures the cell’s immune response to various foods, additives, coloring, molds, and environmental chemicals. Standard allergy testing only measures for the presence of antibodies, which indicates exposure rather than intolerance.

Dr. Stacey Robinson is a private physician practicing in downtown St. Petersburg. She can be reached at (727) 329-8859. Check our website: RobinsonMed.com and Connect with us on facebook at Robinson Concierge Medicine and twitter @staceyrmd.
AS I REMEMBER IT, THE INVERTED PYRAMID

by Susan M. Robertson, Pier Advertising/Promotional Coordinator

As a fifth-generation Floridian, I was raised with the Million Dollar Pier being “across the bridge” in St. Pete. As a child, my brother was on the Captain Mac Show. I remember coming to The Pier with my family and feeding the pelicans.

When the inverted pyramid was being built, I was a young military wife having my own children and living overseas in England. When I returned to Florida, The Pier, as it stands now, was here in all of its “Miami Vice” glory.

I didn’t have that much interaction with downtown St. Petersburg in those days, except to shop on Beach Drive at John Baldwin’s, which then became Westmoreland’s and was located where Cassis is now.

I held positions along the West Coast of Florida from Naples to Bradenton in property management and the media. I became the Director of Marketing for ParkSide Mall in 1998, working for Divaris Real Estate who managed the property for John Hancock. When the City of St. Petersburg put out the Request for Proposal for a new management company for The Pier in early 2001, we got busy putting together our proposal. We submitted it, went through the process and out of the five submitting companies, came in second. Just like Avis.

So, I wrote to Urban Retail Properties and expressed my interest and recent love of The Pier to them — hoping for an interview, which was granted. I began working at The Pier in October 2001 and now not only love my job and The Pier, but have brought my own children and grandchildren here for many hours of fun!

THE MONSTER UNDER THE PIER

What lurks in the shadows of The Pier, St. Petersburg’s iconic tourist attraction? There was a time when the locals were reluctant to look over the railing, afraid of what they might see. It was said a monster lived under the Pier. A monster that took the form of a man as its ghostly shadow slipped between the pilings, hiding from view, quietly stalking its prey.

Now picture for a moment, a giant of a man – seven feet tall, disheveled, crazy-eyed, and dragging his disfigured leg behind him. He carries a ten-foot spear in one hand while pushing a shopping cart with the other. Suddenly, he stops, looks over the railing, and with an unearthly grunt hurls his steel-pointed spear into the water 10-feet below. As he retrieves it, a fish frantically flops from side to side from the sharp-tipped end… its life slowly seeping away.

This was a common, everyday sight along the Pier back in the 1970s. The giant’s name was Slim, and he was part Frankenstein, part bogeyman. Nobody knew his real name but he was the best fisherman on the Pier and also the scariest. He could be found just about every day of the year fishing out at the Pier, heaving his spear from top-side or from a small boat underneath.

One day, Slim disappeared, never to be seen on the Pier again. Years passed, there were whispers of a ghostly, monster of a man lurking under the Pier, sometimes seen in a small dinghy, other times seen clinging to the side as if about to climb up over the railing.

Most recently, the ghostly figure was spotted lurking in the Pier shallows under the shadow of an October full moon.

Inspired by a 2011 article in the St. Petersburg Times. The St. Petersburg Ghost Tour departs nightly at 8pm from the Hooker Tea Co., 300 Beach Drive NE. Call 894-4678 or visit www.ghosttour.com.
TWINKLE, TWINKLE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, NOW WHAT?

by Ivy Slotnick, Wired Island

One of the best things about holiday season is the beautiful, festive lighting. A favorite tradition when I was growing up was to load up the family car and go out for a drive to see all the lights. Who hasn’t experienced a little case of the blahs after the tree, decorations and lights are taken down? After the new year our homes and neighborhoods become somewhat dark, bland and dull.

Well, there is a very smart way to enjoy the year round glow of lighting. Properly designed outdoor lighting artistically illuminates your home, its architectural features, walkways, landscaping, palm trees, lanai, outdoor decks, pool, spas, and waterfrents. And, lights aren’t just white anymore. Modern options include colorization as well.

Many objectives can be accomplished with a carefully installed outdoor lighting system including: Safety – Security – Beauty – Nighttime Usability – Energy Efficiency.

Safety: Outdoor landscape lighting not only beautifies, but also ensures safe passage throughout your property. Properly lit pathways, driveways, stairs, decks, docks, and patios help prevent slips and falls and ensures a safe and enjoyable outside experience.

Security: Most homeowners keep a light to show potential intruders that somebody’s home but true security is enhanced by effective lighting surrounding your home. Today’s landscape lighting can be connected to special astronomical timers or automation systems that will allow you to relax and know that your lights are coming on based on local sunsets or your established lighting schedule.

Beauty: One of the most compelling reasons for landscape lighting is to beautify the outdoor areas of your home, adding mood, drama and curbside appeal. Correct use of lighting will selectively reveal beauty that already exists on your property, and dramatically accentuate your home and landscape. Florida’s year-round palms and foliage come alive at night with the use of properly placed lights.

Nighttime Usability: Lighting will also extend the usable square footage of your home by expanding your living space into the outdoors creating new areas for entertaining, relaxing, even watching TV under the stars. With light you can create a nighttime putting green, meditation zone, reading area… the opportunities are endless.

Energy Efficiency: Today’s outdoor lighting can be installed utilizing low voltage and LED systems. Benefits of installing the newer lighting technologies include freedom from upkeep and maintenance since LED’s possess an extremely long life. Remarkable energy savings of up to 75-90% over traditional lights are realized as well.

So, don’t wait for Christmas 2012 to light up your home again. Instead, consider permanent landscape lighting to give your home and grounds the spotlight it deserves year-round.

Ivy Slotnick is co-founder of Wired Island, 727-596-6030, a local full-service design/build company specializing in LED Landscape and Interiors Lighting, Motorized Shades, Whole House Music, Home Theater and more.
2012 SUNGODDESS FINALISTS SELECTED

The Suncoasters of St. Petersburg selected nine young women as the 2012 Sungoddess Ambassador Program finalists. All finalists are local residents currently attending college and were selected based on academic achievement and a commitment to community service.

In addition to several community service projects held throughout the year, the finalists will participate in the annual Kids & Kubs softball game on March 15th at North Shore Park and the Honda Grand Prix Illuminated Night Parade on March 22nd.

From the nine finalists, the 2012 Sungoddess Ambassador will be announced at the Suncoasters Ball held on March 16th at the Renaissance Vinoy Hotel. Many former Sungoddesses and Mr. and Ms. Suns will attend the Ball and welcome the new Sungoddess Ambassador.

The Suncoasters of St. Petersburg annually support the Sungoddess Ambassador Program with scholarship funds raised throughout the year from events, sponsors and contributions. For the third continuous year, every finalist will receive a scholarship. The 2012 Sungoddess Ambassador will receive a $5000 scholarship and will represent the Suncoasters and the City of St. Petersburg at various events and functions throughout the year as an Ambassador. The Sungoddess Ambassador finalists will support the Sungoddess in her duties and events as well.

A tradition in St. Petersburg since 1955, the Sungoddess program was once known as the “Goddess of the Sun.” The scholarship based program was created to honor young women in Pinellas County who support their community through volunteerism, maintain academic success and embody the values and poise to represent the Suncoasters and the City of St. Petersburg as Ambassadors.

The 2012 Sungoddess Ambassador finalists are: Carolyn Brewster, University of Florida; Francesca Dickhaus, University of Florida; Avery Fox, Duke University; Lindsey Giancola, University of South Florida; Kathryn (Kit) Jesaitis, University of Florida; Mary Keegan, Flagler College; Casey McKeon, Furman University; Alexandra (Allie) Moench, Furman University; and Kristin Tellis, Howard University.

RAY'S FAN FEST

Tampa Bay Rays Fan Fest is scheduled for Saturday, February 18 from 10 am until 5 pm at Tropicana Field. Admission and parking are free.

This year’s Fan Fest will feature youth stations including clinics by Rays coaches, “Reading with the Rays,” kids running the bases, high five stations with Rays players, photos with Rays mascot Raymond and DJ Kitty, baseball interactive activities for all ages and appearances by Rays players and coaches at various stations throughout the day.

A donation to the ALS Association allows fans to receive a wristband, which grants the opportunity to get autographs from Rays players and coaches. Rays TV and radio broadcasters and more than 25 former major league players will also sign autographs throughout the day.

The Rays Yard Sale returns giving fans the opportunity to buy unique game-used and autographed memorabilia dating back to the first season. All proceeds benefit the Rays Baseball Foundation. Last year, the Rays Yard Sale raised $80,000. Proceeds were split among Rays community partners, the ALS Association, Suncoast Law Enforcement Charities and the Rays Baseball Foundation.
DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DNA
Network with neighbors at their monthly meeting Porch Parties. $10 for members; $15 for non-members. It includes 2 glasses of beer or wine, plus appetizers.

February 8th - The Craftsman House, 501 Central Ave. Catered by Apropos Restaurant. The guest speaker is Diane Shelly, Executive Director, Florida Craftsmen

April Quarterly Meeting - Thursday, April 12 at 7pm at the Sunshine Center. The public is invited and parking is free.

The DNA represents residents and homeowners in the area between MLK Blvd. to the waterfront. Membership is $15 a year and includes a quarterly newsletter. Call Marilyn Olsen at 898-8851 or visit www.StPeteDNA.org.

HISTORIC OLD NORTHEAST HOMEOWNERS ASSN
HONNA has a new 2012 president Mary Alice Lange was replaced by Jay Marshall. They meet the third Wednesday of each month at the West Minster Presbyterian Church, 126 11th Avenue NE at 7pm. The next meetings are: February 15, March 21 and April 18.

ST PETERSBURG WOMAN’S CLUB
Their Annual Flea Market is February 10 and 11th. There will be treats, treasures, a silent auction, and the bake table. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

Their Mardi Gras Dinner and Masquerade will be February 28th at 6:30pm. There will be a tasty cajun menu. It costs $18 each. Call 290-6026 for reservations.

Their 13th Annual Spring Bonnet Tea is Sunday April 15th at 2pm. Make reservations by calling 525-1615. All these events are open to the public and new members.

The St Petersburg Woman’s Club has been operating for over 80 years and is located on Coffee Pot Bayou, 40 Snell Isle Blvd NE. For more information on the St Petersburg Woman’s Club, call Joanne Walker at 822-4982 or see StPetersburgWomansClub.org.

ST PETERSBURG PRESERVATION SOCIETY
The third in a two-year discussion series called “Not In My Backyard” continues March 29th with their meeting on the third floor of the Pier, 6pm reception and 7pm program. They will discuss “What do we value enough to preserve?”

Music and Movies in North Straub Park returns in May. Help pick the movies - information will be available after February 15 at www.StPetePreservation.org. The SPPS continues their Historic Walking Tours on each Saturday morning starting at 10am. Most tours start in front of Central Cafe & Organics at 243 Central Avenue. The fourth Saturday they start at the Craftsman House Gallery at 2955 Central Avenue. Each tour takes a different path.

For more information, contact Peter Belmont, Chairman, St Petersburg Preservation at 463-4612. Get more at www.StPetePreservation.org.

SNELL ISLE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
Their new president Warren Eisenhower replaces Barbara Heck. They meet at the Women’s Club, 40 Snell Isle Blvd NE, five times a year. There are no meetings February through May. 2012 meetings will be held in January, June, October and December on the second Thursday, at 7pm; refreshments at 6:30pm. For more information, contact Warren Eisenhower at 374-6870.
ALBERT WHITTED AIRPORT PRESERVATION SOCIETY has decided to discontinue their Saturday Morning Pancake Breakfasts replacing them with monthly lunch cookouts from 11:30 to 2pm.

On February 18th, AWAPS will host the annual Young Eagles Day at Albert Whitted from 10am to 2pm where children can tour the airport with free airplane rides. Kids must be between 8 to 17 years old.

For more information on AWAPS, go to www.Awaps.org or call Terri Griner at 822-1532.

ST PETERSBURG ROTARY The Rotary helped sponsor December’s annual Bruce Watters Illuminated Holiday Boat Parade. It included the Rotary’s Holiday Festival on Spa Beach. Shown here with Jim Watters, are Gordon Norton, Chris Finch, Don Dodridge, Phil Graham Jr. and Preston Faykus. The event benefited the Children’s Dream Fund and other rotary charities. Get more information at SPROTARY.org or by calling 822-3277.

GRAND CENTRAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION The Merchants of the Grand Central District, the area just west of the Interstate Overpass, recently elected new officers. Andrew Hayes, of Hayes Cummings Architects was elected President. He previously served as President of the MLK Business District. He succeeds Kurt Donley of St Pete Media who will continue to serve as Past President. For more information on the Grand Central District Association, call Lauren Ruiz at 828-7006 or email her at GCDA@GrandCentralDistrict.org.

SECOND TIME AROUNDERS This voluntary group of band members who played in high school and or college is looking for new members. To get join, call Karen Mastenbrook, 329-000 or email her at KMastenBrook@TampaBay.RR.com. They are hosting a Chili Cookoff February 4 at Ferg’s Sports Bar from 1 to 4pm. There will be prizes, raffles and entertainment. There is a $25 entry fee to enter. Tickets for unlimited chili tasting is $10 per person. All proceeds go to the “Music To Our Ears” scholarship foundation. Contact Shelly Anderson at 813-335-5256 about this Chili Cookoff.

THE SUNCOASTER OF ST. PETERSBURG This civic organization is made up of nearly 200 business leaders who donate their time and resources to produce events that celebrate the City of St. Petersburg. They are involved in several big events in downtown St Pete during March. Since 1956, the Suncoasters have produced the annual Festival of States celebration and also produce the Honda Grand Prix Illuminated Night Parade, the All Children’s Hospital Clown Alley program, the All County Music Fest, the local Scholastic Art Awards, the Sungoddess & Junior Sungoddess Scholarship programs, the Coronation Ball and the Harvey’s 5K run.

For more information on these and other events, see their web site at www.Suncoasters-StPete.com or call 821-9888.
Designed for you, we are St. Petersburg’s only true design center. Our experienced professionals will help you realize the vision you have for your home or office, and see it through to completion. With an endless selection of products and ideas, you have infinite opportunities. Be you.