ST PETERSBURG
DOWNTOWN
including Old Northeast and Snell Isle
Newsletter
MARCH / 2016 ISSUE 37

TOURIST SEASON IS NOT NEW

"For a great part of our country, Florida is the one winter resort," reads the first sentence of a book promoting the state's wonders, published in 1912.

Yet, swaying palm trees and warm sunshine were an impossible dream for the vast majority of Americans until two entrepreneurs opened the door to winter tourism in the late 1800s, at least for those who could afford it.

The two Henrys, Plant and Flagler, built an infrastructure that would provide accessibility and bring the comforts of home to the remote Florida wilderness. Henry Plant chose Tampa as the termination point of his railway system in 1884, later extending the line down the west coast as far as Naples. On the route, he built the Tampa Bay Hotel, a fantastical Moorish castle on the banks of the Hillsborough River, and the fashionable Swiss Chalet-styled Belleview on Clearwater Bay.

The rich and famous would now share the warmth and sunny days with the few adventurous sportsmen and determined invalids who had roughed it in previous decades to reach paradise on earth.

The Belleview, later Belleview Biltmore, would play host to heads of state, including three U.S. presidents, the Duke of Windsor, sports superstars from Babe Ruth to Arnold Palmer and industry titans Henry Ford and Thomas Edison. Edison and Ford would come up from the winter residences in Fort Myers. The Tampa Bay Hotel in its glory years would become headquarters for the Spanish-American War campaign led by Rough Rider Teddy Roosevelt.

Winter enjoyment of Florida was not exclusively limited to the well-to-do or the ritzy hotels. The automobile age brought middle class "adventurers" from up north who were willing to brave less than first-class roads in rickety, breakdown-prone vehicles. "Tin can tourists" even arrived with their winter homes (trailers) in tow.

City residents in Tampa and St. Pete constructed cottages along the shore for both winter and summer enjoyment, and real estate sales boomed along the beaches in the early 1900s. A number of those cottages along the beaches have been preserved and passed along though the generations.

A series of hurricanes in the 1920s and the Great Depression wiped out many Florida dreams. But a great tourism revival blew in following World War II on the cool winds of a miraculous new invention: air conditioning.

Indoor comfort, the allure of refreshing gulf breezes and a first class federal highway system brought thousands of baby boom families southward to enjoy an extended family vacation… in the summer. The era saw Florida's coming of age as a year round tourist destination.

by Wayne Ayers whose book , "*Florida's Grand Hotels from the GILDED AGE",* is available at area book stores and selected gift shops. Photo by the Museum of Natural History

Or Current Resident

CREDITS

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ST. PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN NEWSLETTER

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area. We want it to be a Neighborhood Newsletter primarily about your neighborhood - Downtown, Snell Isle and Old Northeast. That is why when you have news or events, contact us.

This newsletter is printed every other month and mailed to every occupied house, business & PO Box in the area.

We hope you enjoy our newsletters. We want your news and input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us your comments, or take our survey at beachnewsletters.com.

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at the local UPS Stores at 2nd St and 2nd Ave South or 38th Avenue North next to Publix.

Thanks for reading,

Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997
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SEE YOU AGAIN IN MAY!

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First Friday Street Party
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SWEET DREAMS: CASA'S "GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP"

Dessert Luncheon May 13 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Nearly 300 area residents are expected to attend CASA's 13th Annual "A Good Night's Sleep" fundraising luncheon, at the Mirror Lake Lyceum. CASA is mixing things up this year, with a fun, light program, lots of desserts and a good time.

"Our domestic violence center currently houses more people than at any other point in CASA's history-- three times as many as last year," said CASA's Executive Director, Shandra Riffey. "We need your support more than ever. At the Good Night's Sleep you can help CASA while having a fabulous time with tasty treats! "

While CASA's new 100-bed domestic violence center has been open for only 8 months, it is in full force, at full capacity and saving even more lives from dangerous abusers than before. Along with the increase in shelter services, costs have grown considerably. One cost that most people do not think about is the price of linens for all the beds. Each person living at the shelter is given their own sets of new sheets, blankets and towels. The "Good Night's Sleep" Dessert Luncheon will raise funds to help pay for these linens.

For event, ticket and sponsorship information, speak with Tuesdi Dyer at (727) 895-4912 x114 and tdyer@casa-stpete.org or visit www.casa-stpete.org/AGoodNightsSleep.

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Family Medicine
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Family Medicine
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Walk-ins welcome.

Daniel Eckstein, M.D.
Family Medicine
603 7th St. South, Suite 400
St. Petersburg
Walk-ins welcome.

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Did You Know...

TEACHER OF THE YEAR Sarah Dobes, an eighth-grade teacher at East Lake Middle School Academy of Engineering, was named Pinellas County Schools' 2016 Outstanding Educator. After having lived in Palm Harbor for a few years, Dobes and her husband moved to "the 'burg" in December. Now, she can be found most Saturdays at the Saturday Morning Market, or browsing the books and petting Teacup the cat at Haslam's Book Store on Central Avenue. "I just love St. Petersburg," Dobes says. There's so much culture and lots of events taking place every weekend. There's no place else I'd rather kick my feet up and relax after a week of teaching!" Dobes, who currently teaches language arts and English I Honors, will now be entered into the state Teacher of the Year competition

MORE BOAT SLIPS COMING SOON The City is moving forward with plans to add 25 transient boat slips in the Municipal Marina off of 2nd Avenue N. The City will pay half of the $632,000 cost while the other half will be paid for by a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission grant. The proposed slips are designed to attract more day visitors to downtown. The completion of the new floating docks is expected to coincide with the opening of the new pier in 2018 and other waterfront improvements called for in the downtown master plan.

TAMPA BAY BLUES FEST The 22nd annual Tampa Bay Blues Festival will take place on April 8, 9, & 10. Aaron Neville, JJ Grey & Mofro, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, and Walter Trout headline three great days of blues music. The festival benefits PARC. Buy tickets tampabaybluesfest.com.

DEVOTED DOCTOR REMEMBERED John Hamilton owned a lot of Beach Drive real estate, but he is most remember as a trusted doctor and philanthropist. Dr. Hamilton, an accomplished surgeon, practiced over 50 years. He was also a savvy businessman with a vision for Beach Drive, where he maintained an office at 424 Beach Drive. For 50 years, he bought along the block. "He had a plan to transform the street," says son John Hamilton Jr. "He wanted it to be like Rodeo Drive." He also volunteered his time at the St. Petersburg Free Clinic. "He really just wanted to help people," adds Courtnay Hamilton, his daughter. Hamilton died January 24 at he age of 90.

READING ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM The City has created a new Reading Achievement Program, known as RAP, that is being offered at the Shore Acres Rec Center. The program consists of five parts: phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension and is designed for students demonstrating skill deficits in reading. There is a free assessment screening provided. Classes are held Monday through Thursday but times may vary. The cost is $25 per session. Call 893-7758 or visit www.StPeteParksRec.org.

and More...

LONGEST TABLE WUSF Public Media Presents The Longest Table. This spring event showcases prix fixe menus from the area's finest restaurants on April 14th beginning at 5:30 pm. The epicurean experience will be right down the middle of Bayshore Drive, in St. Pete. The party continues at the Museum of Fine Arts with friends from WUSF Public Media and the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. For more information and tickets visit www.wusf.org/longesttable or call 800-661-0823.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The 41st Mainsail Art Festival is April 16 and 17 in Vinoy Park. Volunteers are needed for t-shirt and poster sales, information tent, and beverage sales. To sign up, visit www.mainsailart.org, contact the Mainsail Art Festival Volunteer Coordinator at 727-641-1616 or email volunteers@mainsailart.org.

SPRING BREAK TIME This year's Spring Break will probably feel more crowded than last year's. Because Easter is early, Spring Break is being compressed into four weeks instead of last year's six. The University of Florida's break began February 27th. Other local colleges closed the following week (SPC, FSU, and UCF). USF closed the week of March 12th. Pinellas Public Schools are closed March 21-25. This means, you can expect heavy traffic for several weeks until they head home at the end of March.

PAPER IS BETTER The U.S. alone discards 500 million plastic straws & stirrers - enough straws to wrap around the equator two and a half times every DAY! 175 billion straws fill our landfills each year. The rest litter our land and oceans. Plastic straws are made from a petroleum bi-product that does not degrade easily in nature and have been banned in many places. Plastic straws always make the Ocean Conservancy's top 10 most collected items at beach cleanups. In 2014, they ranked the fifth most commonly found item. Who knows how many were missed left to float on the surface of the ocean where they are consumed by confused marine animals. What can you do? Buy paper straws for home use. When out, simply request "no straw." Encourage your favorite restaurants to provide straws only when requested and to switch to paper straws. This simple change will result in less consumption, less waste and less straws.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS MAY Read this, as well as other issues, online at stpetedowntownnewsletter.com

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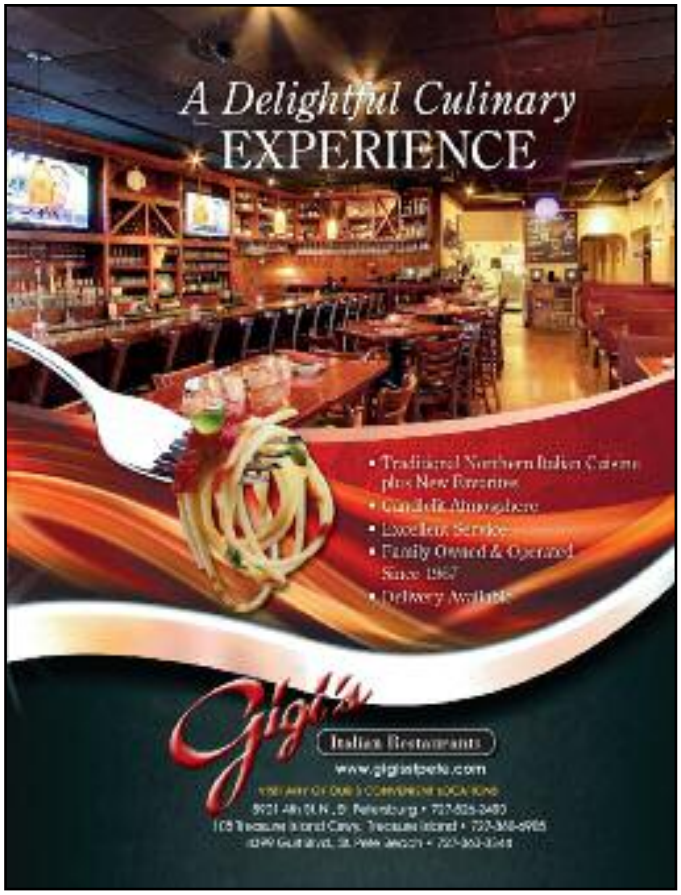

YOU MAY HAVE ONLY TWO MINUTES TO ESCAPE A FIRE

Take two easy steps to help protect your home.

The biggest disaster people face is a fire in their home. Home fires happen quickly - devastating lives and property. Unlike other disasters, most home fires can be prevented.

The American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign is underway across the U.S., aiming to reduce the number of home fire deaths and injuries by 25% over five years. Since the starting, the Campaign has been credited with saving 69 lives as of mid-February 2016. Volunteers have installed 170,000 smoke alarms in more than 4,100 cities across the U.S. Locally. volunteers have installed over 3,900 smoke alarms.

Since October 2014, the Red Cross with fire departments and organizations, churches and concerned citizens to go door to door in at-risk neighborhoods offering to install free smoke alarms and to educate the families on fire safety. Residents receive a personalized diagram showing designated emergency exits and meeting places outside the home.

"We are so grateful for the support of our donors and the community volunteers powering our Home Fire Campaign," Central Florida Red Cross Chief Executive Officer, Linda Jorge Carbone. "Every day, Red Cross volunteers step onto a family's doorstep in the moments after they have suffered a fire to help them through one of the worst times in their life. This campaign puts us on that doorstep before the unthinkable happens in the hopes that we can give them the tools to know how to safely survive and prevent the larger tragedy you can never fully recover from: the loss of a loved one. We know we're doing something important- every escape plan we write and every alarm we install has the real potential to save lives".

Fire experts agree that people may have as little as two minutes to escape a burning home before it's too late to get out. The Red Cross recommends two easy steps to help protect your home and to increase your chances of surviving a fire: get a smoke alarm and create a fire escape plan.

SMOKE ALARMS Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.

- Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, including inside and outside bedrooms.
- Test smoke alarms once a month and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Install a new battery immediately if an alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear it.
- Never disable a smoke alarm.

FIRE ESCAPE PLAN You may only have two minutes to escape when a fire occurs, but most people mistakenly believe they have more than twice as long to get out.

- Home fire plans should include at least two ways to escape from every room of your home.
- Select a meeting spot at a safe distance from your home where family members can meet after a fire.
- Discuss the plan with everyone in the household and practice it at least twice a year.
- Make sure that you practice that plan until every member of your household can escape in less than two minutes.

To learn more about how to protect yourself and your loved ones from home fires, including the Red Cross home fire safety checklist, fire escape plan worksheets and more, visit http://www.redcross.org/homefires.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

MARCH

International Baseball Invitational 20
Coliseum Clothes Matter Luncheon 17
St. Patrick's Day 17
Mahaffey Sings Sinatra 17
Bus Driver Appreciation Day PSTA 18
Great American Clean Up Day 19
Booker Creek Clean Up Day 19
The Paladium Ukulele Orchestra 19
Spring Beer Fling 19
Historic Preservation Walking Tour 19
Mahaffey Two Man Group 19
Spring Begins 20
Waterfront Parks Fun Day 20
Orchid Festival Sunken Gardens 20
Public Schools Spring Break Begins 21
Historic Walking Tour 21
Florida Orchestra Coffee Concert 24
Good Friday 25
The Paladium JB Smoove Show 26
Coliseum Gluten Free For Life Expo 26
Jelly Bean Fling Vinoy Park 26
Historic Preservation Walking Tour 26
Easter 27
Tampa Bay Rowdies Lunch 31

APRIL

Paladium Tribute To Louis Armstrong 1
First Friday 1
Rays Spring Training Ends 1
Heroes Memorial 1
Pinot In The Park 2
Rowdies First Home Game 2
Historic Preservation Walking Tour 2
Florida Orchestra Mahaffey 2
Festival Of Speed 3
Rays First Home Games 3-6
Holocaust Museum Woman In Gold 7
Tampa Bay Blues Festival 8-10
Historic Preservation Lunch Tour 8
Relay For Life Run 8
Flea Market Grand Central 9
Artwalk 9
Historic Preservation Walking Tour 9
Florida Orchestra Mahaffey 9
Woman's Club Spring Bonnet Tea 10
Theater In The Park Opens 13
Coliseum Job & Career Fair 11
Longest Table For USF 14
Federal Taxes Due 15
Rowdies Home Game 16
Florida Orchestra Mahaffey 16
Mainsail Art Festival 16-17
Historic Preservation Walking Tour 16
Florida Orchestra Mahaffey 21
Regata Del Sol Al Sol 21-22
Earth Day 22
Great Explorations Earth Day 22
Historic Preservation Walking Tour 23
Rowdies Home Game 23
Earth Day Festival Williams Park 23
St Anthony's Meek And Mighty 23
Green Thumb Festival 23
Honna Roaring Twenties Gala 23
St Anthony's Triathlon 24
Painting In The Park 24
Florida Orchestra Sing Out! 26
Retro Beach Bash 27
Administrative Professionals Day 27
Movie At Admiral Farragut 28
Take Your Child To Work Day 28
Coliseum New Beginnings Breakfast 28
Sunscreen Film Festival Opens 28
Arbor Day 29
Take Back The Night Walk 30
Florida Orchestra Mahaffey 30

MAY

Sunscreen Film Festival Closes 1
Teacher Appreciation Week 2-6
Spring For The Arts Creative Clay 4
Holocaust Remembered Day 4-5
Movies In The Park 5
Cinco De Mayo 5
Florida Orchestra The Police 6
First Friday 7
Running For All Children 7
Derby Day 7
Mother's Day 8
Happy Hour With Historian 12
Movies In The Park 12
CASA's Good Night Sleep Luncheon 13
Art Walk 14
Postal Workers Food Drive 14
Rowdies Home Game 14
Florida Orchestra Mahaffey 14
Theatre In The Park Closes 15
Stone Crab Season Ends 15

BREAKFAST OPTIMIST CLUB OF ST. PETE
Your First Friday Host and More

On the first Friday of every month, the heart of downtown becomes St. Petersburg's biggest block party. First Friday St. Pete is a showcase for the great bands, great drinks, and great food that make this Florida's most exciting city.

First Friday is put on solely by the Breakfast Optimist Club Foundation (a 501c3 non-profit). They do all the planning and all the work. The Foundation depends on selling their beer and wine in the street to be able to continue to fund the monthly event, as well as to support their many charitable projects. They are grateful for the community's support each month and realize they are fortunate that some nearby restaurants make donations to the event, allowing them to attract more people and potential customers to the area that evening.

The Breakfast Optimist Club of St. Pete started in the 1960s and recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. Currently they have about 50 members. All of the charities that they work with or donate to are for the good of children. Last year, the Club was named an "Honor Club" by Optimist International an international service organization with 2,900 clubs and almost 87,000 members in more than 35 nations throughout the world. The Optimist International motto is "Friend of Youth" and the organization refers to themselves as "Bringing Out the Best in Kids."

First Friday was run by the Exchange Club until 2001 when the Breakfast Optimist Club took over. This month is their 15th year of sponsoring First Friday. That is a lot of Friday nights spent on the street! Kenton Smith and Walt Swan are the event Co-chairmen. Club members volunteer to set up, tear down, work throughout the evening selling beer and wine, and helping to take care of everything that needs to be done.

There is an awful lot that needs to be done each month to make sure First Friday happens. They have to arrange for and pay: the band, police officers, security, portable toilets, beer and wine, supplies and street closures permits. Optimist volunteers start setting up the street during the afternoon with fencing, tents, tables, lighting and signage. Once the event starts, some volunteers sell the beer and wine tickets and while others serve the wine and beer. When the event closes, all of the tents, tables, fencing, etc. must be taken down so the street can be reopened.

Each ticket table has a tip jar. Those tips are donated to different organizations such as Camp Boggy Creek which is a medically equipped camp, where children with serious illnesses can enjoy a camping experience like healthy children.

In addition to First Friday, the Breakfast Optimist Club sponsors the Citizen of the Month Program in 17 Pinellas County Schools. The purpose of the program is to promote good citizenship. All over town, you will see their yellow bumper stickers on parents' cars proudly proclaiming "My Child is Citizen of the Month at ---xxx School".

The Club holds a fish-a-thon each Spring at John's Pass. About 70 children are given rods, donated by "Fish Florida," then for the next two hours they fish from the dock at Gators. About 300 fish are caught each year (many of them over and over since they catch and release.) At the end of the fishing, each child receives a trophy or medal; bikes are given to the boy and girl who caught the biggest fish. The afternoon ends with kids and their parents enjoying a hot dog and hamburger lunch at no expense to the families. Billy Quinton has been in charge of this favorite activity for the past 10 years. Again, it takes a lot of Optimists volunteering their time to make this a successful event.

Last month, the Optimists brought back the Bicycle Rodeo in conjunction with All Children's Hospital and the St. Petersburg Fire Department. It included a riding skills course, bike check-ups, information, lunch and two bikes were given away.

Another way the Breakfast Optimist Club supports the community is by providing and serving dinner at the Ronald McDonald House each quarter. They also support the Optimist Zone 9 Easter Egg Hunt by donating filled plastic eggs, bikes, and volunteers.

Optimist International sponsors various contests for students which the Breakfast Optimist Club supports. Students submit entries aligned to the designated topic. One competition is Oratorical, including a competition for the deaf and hard of hearing. There is also an essay contest and a "say no to drugs" poster contest. The club also participates and sponsors candidates at the Optimist 's "Respect for Law" and "Youth Appreciation" Banquets

First Friday St. Pete gets rolling on Central Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Street the first Friday of the month. The party starts at 5:30pm and goes until 10. Your admission is free, the music is live, and vendors and restaurants offer a wide variety of food and drink. Come enjoy a fun evening while supporting a great organization, The net proceeds go to their charitable efforts, with a focus on youth education and children's health. Visit www. firstfridaystpete.com for information and the upcoming band schedule.

The Breakfast Optimist Club Foundation meets the first, second, and fourth Thursday mornings at Kissin Cuzzins. On the third Thursday, they meet in the evening at The Hangar. The Breakfast Optimist Club would love for you to join them. Contact President Karen Toth, ktoth5@gmail.com or visit www.breakfastoptimist.org for more information.

Where their Money Goes: (Many of these are part of every year's budget, but some may be a one-time donation.) • Pinellas Doorways Scholarship • Citizen of the Month • Shriners Children's Hospital • Fish-a-thon • TASCO • Christmas Toy Shop Law Scholarship • Pack-a-sack • Salvation Army Children's Home • Bike Rodeo • Suncoast Voices for Children • Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services • Ronald McDonald House • Challenger Baseball League • Easter Egg Hunt • Contests and Prizes • Respect for Law and Youth Appreciation Banquets • Camp Boggy Creek

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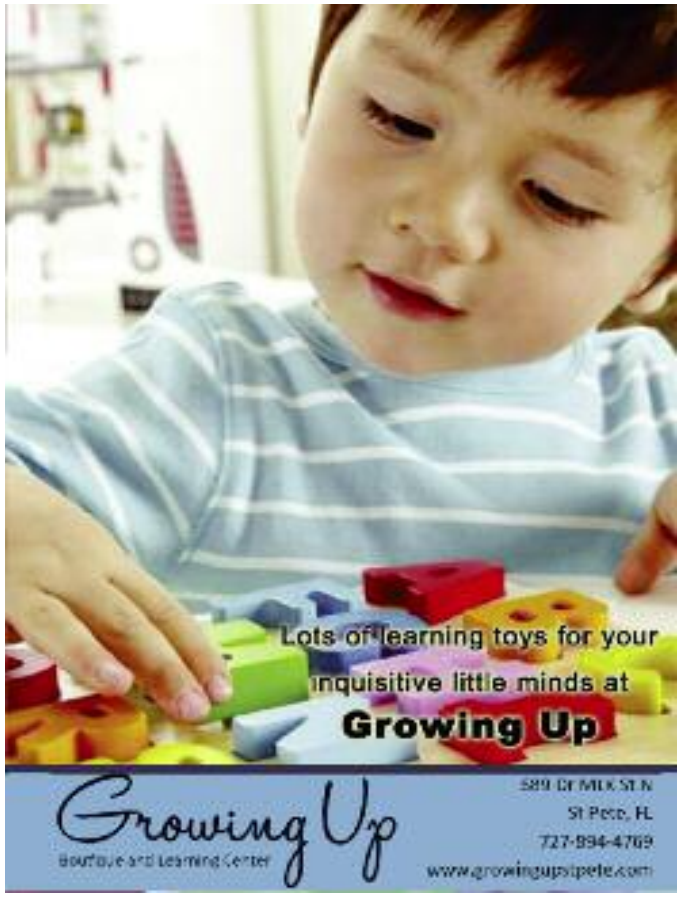

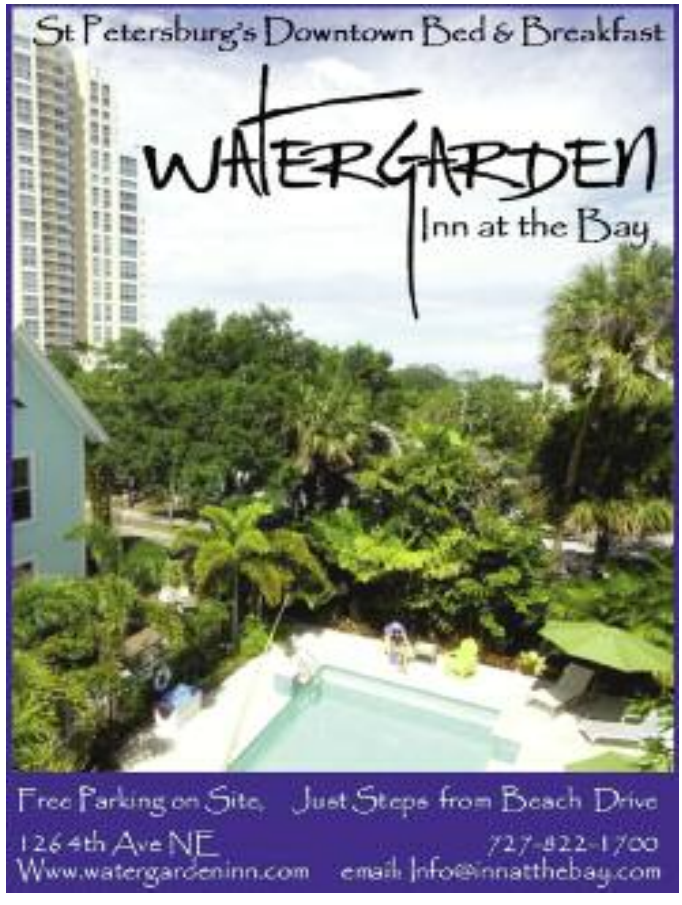

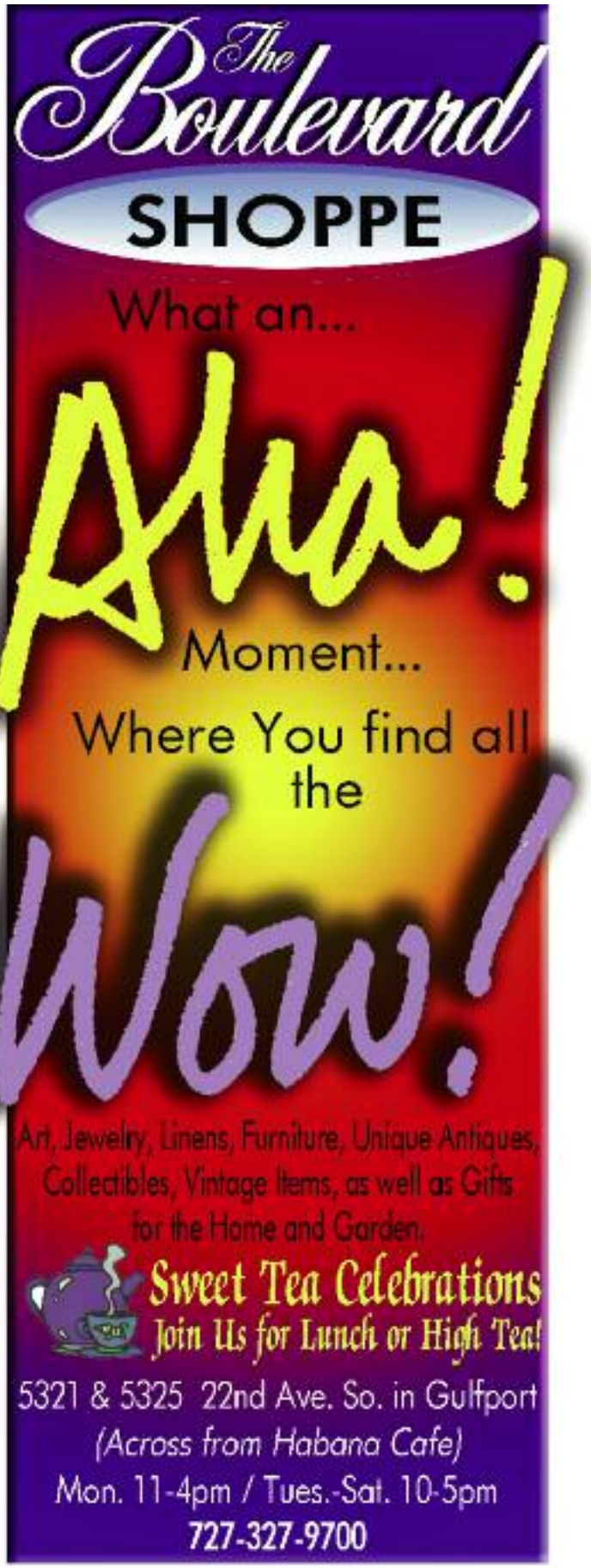

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FLORIDA CraftArt **821.7391**
501 Central Ave. FloridaCraftArt.com

Through April 23, "Slices of Life", curated by award winning artist and owner of the Duncan McClellan Gallery, explores the intricacies of the "cold work" process on blown and cast glass, and how this process transforms glass work, taking it from its initial incarnation to a whole other level. Each artist approaches this aspect of sculpting glass in their own unique style and produces works that range from minimalist to intricate.

The works in this exhibition also share the artists' views of the world in which they reside, translating it through the colors, textures, and forms of this unique medium.

WALKING MURAL TOURS The downtown Central Arts District is proud to present Walking Mural Tours Saturday mornings from 10-11:30am starting at Florida CraftArt. Visitors will hear the inside stories of the making of over 30 murals found in the four block tour. Who is Woo? Why Frida and Twiggy?

The cost is $19 for adults, $11 for children ages 6-18, under 5 is free. Tours can be booked by calling 727-821-7391 during business hours. Groups can arrange for special tours and pricing by calling or emailing info@floridacraftart.org. Reservations are required so enough tour guides are available for you. Wear comfortable shoes.

BROCANTE VINTAGE MARKET 2200 Second Avenue S.

This once a month weekend market features vintage finds.

SECOND SATURDAY ARTWALK StPeteArtsAlliance.org

Meet the artists and gallery owners during this casual, festive evening as over 40 studios and galleries in the Central Arts District, Waterfront Arts District, EDGE District, Grand Central District and the Warehouse Arts District come together as one destination. It is the second Saturday of the month from 5-9 pm. Download the map and list of participants to plan your art evening.

CRAFTYFEST **324-3878**
2030 Central Avenue ArtPoolRules.com

This monthly market includes local arts, Etsy crafters, vintage and retro goods, jewelry and plants. It is held Saturday and Sunday at the Art Pool Gallery

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS **896-2667**
255 Beach Dr NE www.fine-arts.org

Art In The Park - Sunday, April 24, Noon-4 pm, Free on the North Lawn of the MFA. Inspiration abounds at this annual art "happening." Explore unique methods of painting with hands-on activities for everyone that include: Kite Flying, Remote Control Car Murals, Face Painting, and more. Delectable bites created by Local Buds Artisan Collective available for purchase.

MOREAN ARTS CENTER **822.7872**
719 Central Ave. MoreanArtsCenter.org.

Summer Camp 2016 registration is NOW OPEN! Boys & girls ages 4-15 have a blast immersing in art, clay, glass camp and more.

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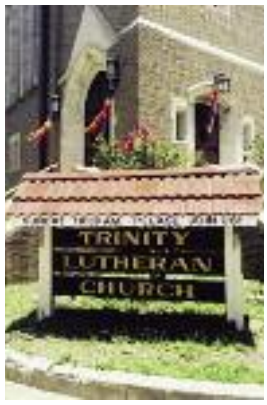
TRINITY HITS HIGHER NOTES



Trinity Lutheran Church, on the corner of Fifth Street and Fourth Avenue North, has long been known as a beautiful venue for weddings. It's classic 1920s architecture also makes it suited to the most traditional forms of Lutheran worship.

Music features strongly in Lutheran churches, and Trinity looks for opportunities to show what its Moller pipe organ, built in 1968, can do. A number of professional musicians have joined the church's choir in recent months, making it possible for them to present the best church music from the Baroque era to the 20th century.

On Easter Sunday, March 27, Trinity's worship will include three of Mozart's church sonatas, performed by an ensemble of violins, cello, flute, oboe, and organ. The choir will offer the Stanford anthem "Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem." Schubert's Mass No. 2 in G will be presented on May 15.

Recognizing that traditional Lutheran liturgy and classical music are not everyone's preferred way of worshiping, Trinity is adding a Saturday supplement to its Sunday worship that will feature a more casual atmosphere, permission to eat and drink while participating in discussion of scripture, and the music that is current on Christian radio stations.

"Saturday Elevation," so named because participants will have to use the church's elevator to reach its third-floor fellowship hall, will be launched on Saturday, April 30, at 5 pm, with a celebratory event led by contemporary Christian recording artist Shawn Thomas.

Trinity invites you to see what is happening on the corner of Fifth and Fourth, where they are creating a community of faith committed to unconditional welcome, full inclusion, and the work of justice.

FRIENDS OF STRAYS SHELTER SOIREE

Friends of Strays Animal Shelter, located at 2911 47th Ave. N is holding its first formal fundraiser on Saturday October 1st at the Mirror Lake Lyceum in downtown St. Petersburg. A Roarrring '20s night with auctions, food, drinks and more is being planned. Details will be forthcoming over the next coming months, but sponsorships are available now by e-mailing FoSSoiree2016@yahoo.com

THE DALÍ PRESENTS THE 5TH ANNUAL LOS VINOS DE DALÍ

Sunday, April 10th, 4–7pm, The Museum will present the 5th Annual Los Vinos de Dali where you'll experience a wide variety of both Old World & New World wines – curated to pair with Salvador Dali's iconic works, plus gourmet tapas tastings from the area's top restaurants, and live music in the picturesque setting of The Dali's Avant-garden on the downtown waterfront. Guests are also invited to view the galleries including the special exhibition, Disney & Dali: Architects of the Imagination.

Los Vinos de Dali is co-hosted by Beverly & Carlos Yepes and The Guild at The Dali's, with proceeds benefiting the Museum and The Dali's Education Endowment Fund.

Tickets are $75 and available at www.thedali.org.

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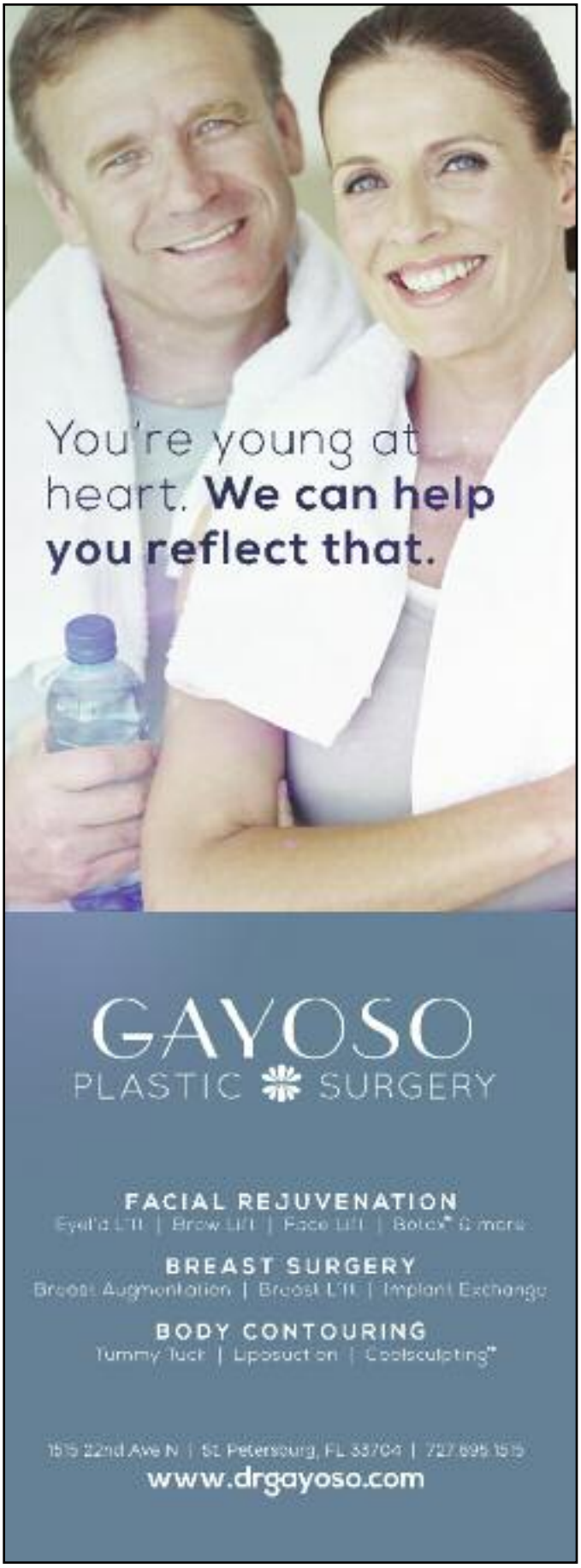

Business Briefs...

NEW AIRLINE DOWNTOWN Tropic Ocean Airways, St. Pete's new premier schedule and charter service with a fleet of seaplanes and wheeled caravans, began service out of Albert Whitted Airport last month with flights between St. Petersburg and Fort Lauderdale.

Tropic Ocean Airways' guests receive a high level of personized service and no lines, no TSA and no lengthy check in. As Tropic Ocean Airways' route continues to grow, it will bring more tourists to St. Pete, to enjoy our culture, art, history, and feel. They hope to expand services throughout Florida including cities like Key West, Tallahassee, Jacksonville and The Bahamas. The Monday and Friday schedule allows for business day trips, weekend travel or extended stays. The flight from St. Petersburg to Fort Lauderdale connects with the airlines service to Abaco, Bahamas. Flights can be booked online at FLYTROPIC.COM or by phone 1-800-767-0897.

ONE BREAKS GROUND Mayor Rick Kriseman and city officials celebrated the groundbreaking of the 41-story condominium tower, ONE St. Petersburg, on Friday, March 4. When complete, ONE will be the tallest building Downtown and will include 253 luxury condominium homes from 1,400 square feet to up to 2,500 square feet and starting at $600,000, a 40,000 square foot elevated resort deck featuring a fitness center, swimming pool, private cabanas, whirlpool and spa, and a 173-room Hyatt Hotel with over 17,000 square feet of retail space.

The groundbreaking is 90 days ahead of schedule, and the entire project is expected to be an economic boom to St. Pete. Construction will generate over $90 million in employment and labor wages, primarily for Tampa Bay area businesses, and employ between 350 and 500 workers on a daily basis. The completed project will create 150 full-time employment positions and increase the property tax revenue to the City of St. Petersburg by over $5.5 million annually.

ONE St. Petersburg, developed by the Kolter Group and designed by SB Architects introduces a new standard of contemporary condominium living with stunning water views and luxurious amenities. With sales topping $110 million to date, ONE St. Petersburg is the #1 selling condominium in the Tampa Bay Area. "Since we began sales at ONE in July 2015 every other day someone decided to make ONE their new home," said Dave Traynor, Director of Development Services at Smith and Associates Real Estate. ONE St. Petersburg is the exclusive listing agency for ONE St. Petersburg.

In addition to the residences, there will be a 174-room Hyatt Hotel, slated to open in 2017, restaurants, bars, meeting spaces and retail space. For more information on ONE St. Petersburg, visit www.onestpetersburg.com.

Business Briefs...

NOW OPEN John Craig Clothier opened at Sundial. The award-winning men's store is known for unparalleled quality, selection and personalized service. John Craig Clothier carries brands and fashions not found anywhere else in St. Petersburg such as Canali, Robert Talbott, Peter Millar, Zanella, Eton, Donald J. Pliner, Hickey Freeman and Samuelsohn. The retailer also offers custom shirts by Skip Gambert, made-to-measure suits and a wide array of accessories including shoes, belts, ties, sunglasses, cologne and watches.

C1 BANK TO BECOME BANK OF THE OZARKS
C1 Banks, a St. Petersburg-based company, agreed to a $402.5 million stock buy out by the larger Bank of the Ozarks, headquartered in Arkansas. C1 Bank was chartered in 1995, and opened its Belleair Bluffs location, four years ago. C1 is the 18th largest bank based in Florida. Trevor Burgess, founder of C1, will serve as The Ozarks' chief innovation officer and President of Florida operations. He was named Community Banker of the Year in 2014 by the American Banker newspaper. For now, all the employees are expected to stay with the new company.

NEW PUBLIX It has been announced that Publix will build a pocket store in the 700 Block of Central Avenue, near the Morean Arts Center and the Hermitage Apartments under construction. The store will be about 30,000 square feet, much smaller than the traditional Publix. The store five blocks west on Third Street South is also small at 29,000 square feet. An average store is about 50,000 square feet.

TRUNK SHOW Florida Jean Company will be hosting a Robert Graham Trunk Show on Thursday April 14th from 4-7pm at 169 2nd Ave N. The newest merchandise from the Summer Collection will be available and Vice President of Robert Graham, Sean Hieter will be there to answer questions. Refreshments and Special Gifts for all that attend. Call the store at 202-6922 for more information

BODY RECALL HEALTH AND WELLNESS
Owner Janet Anderson has a method to permanently remove fat. She uses LED light to open fat cells and allow the fat to escape into the subcutaneous layers of the body. Patients see immediate results as measurements are taken before and after the first treatment, however, it takes at least ten treatments for it to become a permanent loss. Sessions are $230.00 each, but if you pay for all ten in advance, the cost is $1900.00. Right now they are offering readers of this newsletter a 15% discount when you mention you found them here. Call 727-577-9435 for information.

CLOSED
LULULEMON, Sundial Shopping Center - This is the first retail store to close in Sundail. Lululemon sold women's yoga related clothing. Another tenant has already been lined up to take their spot.

GUSH JUICE - Located at 1100 Fourth Street N.

POSTAL FOOD DRIVE:

May 14, the second Saturday in May, is the annual Food Drive by the U.S. Post Office and your local Mail Carrier. That day, leave your donated food by your mail box for pick it up and they will get it to the local food bank.

Here are a few FAQ's about the food drive.

Can I donate baby food, too? Please do not donate any *individual* baby food items (including formula, jarred vegetables and fruits, meals, snacks, infant cereal). Baby food may be donated by the case or pallet, but single item donations present potential contamination risks.

Can I donate toiletries or other personal care items? The Food Drive is primarily a food drive, but if you also want to give personal care items (such as diapers, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper and household cleaning items) in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or put them to good use with organizations that also provide help to those in need.

Does my food donation stay local? Yes—all food stays in your local community. It's not shipped off to some regional distribution center hundreds of miles away. If you want to know where yours is going, call your local post office and ask to speak to your local food drive person.

Can I give money in addition to (or instead of) food? While we strongly encourage food donations over money donations, we won't turn away any donations. If you want to give money, please avoid donating cash (for everyone's protection); just write a check made out to your local food bank, food pantry or shelter, seal it in an envelope (no postage required), write "Letter Carriers' Food Drive" on the envelope, and leave it by or in your mailbox.

Are my donations tax-deductible? Please contact your local food bank. The food drive person at your local post office should be able to help connect you.

How can I help (besides donating food)? If you would like to volunteer with food distribution and sorting, or in any other capacity, call your local post office and ask to speak to the local food drive person there. You can also contact your local Feeding America member food bank. Many food banks have a great need for volunteers on Food Drive Day as well as all throughout the year.

When will we know the results of this year's drive? All locals must have their results mailed in to the Letter Carriers' national headquarters in Washington, DC, by the end of May. Typically, the tabulated results are expected to be revealed the first week of June, and they will be posted online as well as on Facebook and Twitter.

CREATIVE CLAY'S "SPRING FOR THE ARTS"

Local non-profit Creative Clay, Inc., invites the public to join them May 4 as they celebrate their 21st Anniversary of making the arts accessible to all in St. Petersburg.

Creative Clay's third annual "Spring for the Arts" at Duncan McClellan Gallery, 2342 Emerson Ave. S, St. Petersburg, will feature a repertoire of events throughout the evening, including awards, live music by Lounge Cat, spirit tastings by the St. Pete Distillery, free swing dance lessons, an art exhibit by Creative Clay artists, magician Cory Van Valin, a silent auction, and a VIP experience with a chance to participate in a glass-blowing demonstration.

Regular priced tickets: $75; VIP tickets: $125. Complimentary valet parking will be available. Sponsorship packages and ticket information can be found at: www.creativeclay.org/events/spring-for-the-arts-2016/

THIS EL NIÑO WEATHER PATTERN IS STRONGER THAN USUAL

by Richard Walker, Department of Emergency Management Pinellas County Florida

The name El Niño was originally given by fishermen off the west coast of South America to the warm current appearing around Christmas. Spanish for "The Child", it is the name climate scientists use for the occasional periods of warming in the Pacific Ocean that create havoc for global weather patterns. El Niño is known to intensify winter storms across the southern United States. The one now is warmer than usual.

With a strong El Niño weather pattern this year, the National Weather Service predicted an increased chance of severe winter weather in Florida with the threat of powerful thunderstorms, flooding, cold temperatures and tornadoes.

Florida has the highest frequency of tornadoes per square mile than any other state, even Oklahoma. Since 1921, we have not seen the eye of a hurricane make landfall in Pinellas County but in that same time hundreds of tornado's have affected the region. According to Tornadohistoryproject.com, over 3000 confirmed tornadoes have touched down in Florida since 1950 and 131 of them made landfall in Pinellas County resulting in 19 fatalities and over 800 injuries

I have been personally affected twice. On May 4th 1978 a tornado destroyed a wing of High Point Elementary School killing three children and injuring 94. My mother, a High Point kindergarten teacher, left in 1975 when my parents moved to Polk County. At the time, I worked for a company that rented construction equipment a few mile from the school. We received a call for large front-end loaders to help remove debris and look for the injured. Upon arriving, I discovered two of the dead were in my mother's former classroom. Even though my mother was not there, I still knew many of the teachers and was devastated by the events that day.

On October 3 1992, two tornadoes struck the County; one damaged a subdivision in Pinellas Park near 66th Street and Brian Dairy Road and the other crossed Ulmerton Road near 131 Street. It moved north through two trailer parks and the Ridgecrest area resulting in four fatalities and seventy-five injuries. I was a firefighter assigned to Engine 27 at the Indian Rocks Fire Department and responded to Ulmerton Road. We were one the first to arrive at the devastated trailer parks.

You can make your family safer with a tornado warning system such as NOAA Weather Alert Radio or Weather Emergency Alerts on compatible cell phone

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Storm Prediction Center issues Severe Weather outlooks at 3 or 8 pm when there is a 10% or greater chance of significant overnight tornadoes. Unlike hurricanes warnings, which are typically issued 36 hours before the storm, the average warning time for a tornado touch down is only 12 minutes!

NOAA broadcasts continuous emergency weather information around the country. When a warning is issued, weather alert radios emit a loud tone that will awaken you. The device, a small investment, is available at many retailers.

NOAA and private vendors also offer weather alert apps. available for smart phones. Many cell phones are equipped with the Weather Emergency Alert system, which sends weather service alerts to your phone. Alert Pinellas Emergency Notification Service is a free program that allows us to send an automated message to your phone when there's an emergency in your area. All you have to do is register your contact information and sign up for weather alerts." To sign up, visit Alert Pinellas.

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FAMILY MAN NAMED PSTA DRIVER OF THE YEAR

Faysal Monzer is awarded PSTA's 2015 Driver of the Year by PSTA CEO Brad Miller (L) and PSTA Board Chair Bill Jonson (R).

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) bus operator Faysal Monzer has two priorities in his life—his job and his family.

"I'm happy that I can make my family proud," Monzer said, when asked how he felt about earning PSTA's highest honor - 2015 Driver of the Year.

In the 12 years Monzer has been at PSTA, he has received many awards and recognitions. Earlier in his career, he was presented the Driver of the Quarter award and has also received numerous safe driving pins.

However, it was not only his safe driving and perfect attendance that earned Monzer the recognition this year. "Faysal has a great way of communicating with passengers," said PSTA Director of Transportation Jeff Thompson.

Monzer's communication skills go far beyond the average bus operator at PSTA. He can speak a variety of languages and is often heard translating directions for customers.

"I have seen him stop and take the time to make sure our customers get an answer to questions they ask him," said Thompson. "He is a great ambassador for transit and PSTA."

Originally from Lebanon, Monzer came to St. Petersburg in 1978 and attended Eckerd College. With his children grown, he and his wife enjoy traveling and cooking international food—especially Caribbean and Mediterranean cuisine. His favorite route to drive is the Suncoast Beach Trolley. He loves communicating with Pinellas County's many tourists and is enjoyed by all of his passengers.

When asked about his job, Monzer says it's all about having a positive attitude.

"I smile at my passengers and ask them how they are," said Monzer. "I'm very respectful of my riders and they are very respectful of me."

Monzer was officially presented the 2015 Driver of the Year award at PSTA's October Board meeting.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Bernard Housman, Alberta Houseman, Marie Brittingham, Joyce Turner, George Turner, Jr, Eula Blanton Turner, George Turner, Sr.

In April of 1955, George Turner, Jr., the son of Sunken Gardens founders Eula and George Turner married Joyce Housman on the Wedding Lawn of Sunken Gardens. Continuing the tradition 61 years later George and Eula's Great Grandson, Greg Lee will marry Alysa Gibes in the same location on Sunken Gardens' historic Wedding Lawn. Lee proposed to Gibes with the same ring his Grandmother wore.

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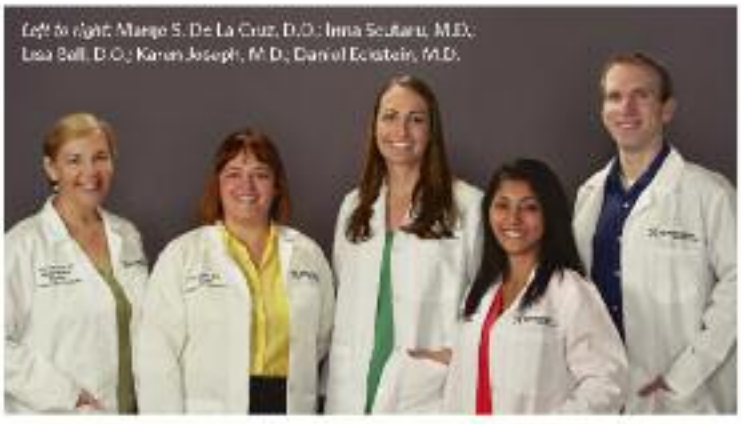
To schedule an appointment, call **844-4BH-BHMG (844-424-2464)**.



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TAKE YOUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY

Take-Your-Children-to-Work Day started many years ago during the feminism movement as Take-Your-Daughters-to-Work. It was designed for fathers to encourage their daughters to set higher career goals. But, things have changed and after some push-back from parents and educators, it now includes sons.

Take-Your-Daughters-to-Work was a promotional educational program that was started by the Ms. Foundation with the support of Gloria Steinem and Ms. Magazine. The first such event took place on April 22, 1993 and has been celebrated on the fourth Thursday of April ever since. The event is always a school/work day and schools have been provided literature to promote the program with parents.

The concept was based on the idea that women had not been encouraged to excel in the working world. Adolescent girls received less attention than boys regarding their working aspirations and careers. The program had several purposes including increasing self-esteem for young girls and giving girls some idea of the wealth of careers available to them. It also encouraged one-on-one time with their moms or dads.

The idea took off. Girls went off to work with Mom or Dad to spend the day learning what was involved in their daily work activities. The program sparked the interest of the boys and some critics. The boys felt left out, when female students got the day off.

Initially, the Ms. Foundation contended that the program was specifically designed to address self-esteem issues unique to girls and initially resisted pressure to include boys. Much of the pressure came from educators who claimed to see things differently.

One early Ms. Foundation proposal was to invent "Son's Day" and hold that on a Sunday so boys would avoid missing a day of school. Boys would be required to stay home cleaning, cooking and being educated about topics such as sexism, rape and violence against women. That didn't go over too well.

As a result of pressure, the program was officially expanded to include boys and became known as Take-Your-Son-or-Daughter-to-Work Day. In 2003, and it became known as "Take-Your-Children-to-Work Day."

In 2007, the event became a separate non-profit foundation managed by Carolyn McKecuen. Gloria Steinem continued to be involved as a member of the board of directors.

Now in its 23rd year, the theme this year is "Sparking Aha! Moments" representing the greatness of imagination and new ideas. They are expecting over 40 million youth and adult participants in 3 million work places.

We urge you to take your kids to work on April 28. Who knows--you both might learn something. Check with your child's school to gain approval to take your kids out of school that day.

THE REAL ESTATE ANSWER LINE

Unsuspected Thieves

When you put your property on the market you want it to look as good as possible. You paint and stage and improve to get the highest possible price. But silent profit stealers can keep you from getting top dollar and steal from your proceeds at closing time. Search the following places, find those crafty, nasty thieves and do away with them.

Look in your sneakers: All athletic shoes smell. It is as simple as that. You might not notice because they are your shoes and your smell, but close the closet door for a while and a house looker with a fresh nose will notice every time. If you live in a house, put the shoes in the garage where there is more circulation, but it's more difficult in a condo. Toss out sneakers you don't wear, and leave your running, tennis, golf, bike or boat shoes in your car's trunk while your condo is on the market. If you must keep the shoes inside, clean and deodorize them and store them in a plastic box.

Look behind the sofa: When house hunters walk into a room and face the back of a sofa, it gives a silent message they are not welcome. People are not comfortable walking around furniture and they do not feel the natural flow of a room. If you want house hunters to open their pockets and pay more, open your rooms.

Look under the sink: Don't whip out that can of air freshener. Lingering scents of air fresheners and scented candles make people think you are trying to cover up something. When you are tempted to spray freshener or burn a candle, picture yourself spraying away money or holding up many hundreds of dollars to a flame.

Look in dark corners: Of course you will turn all the lights on when you house is shown, but you still may be left with a dark corner or two. Try an uplight behind a plant, or buy an attractive lamp.

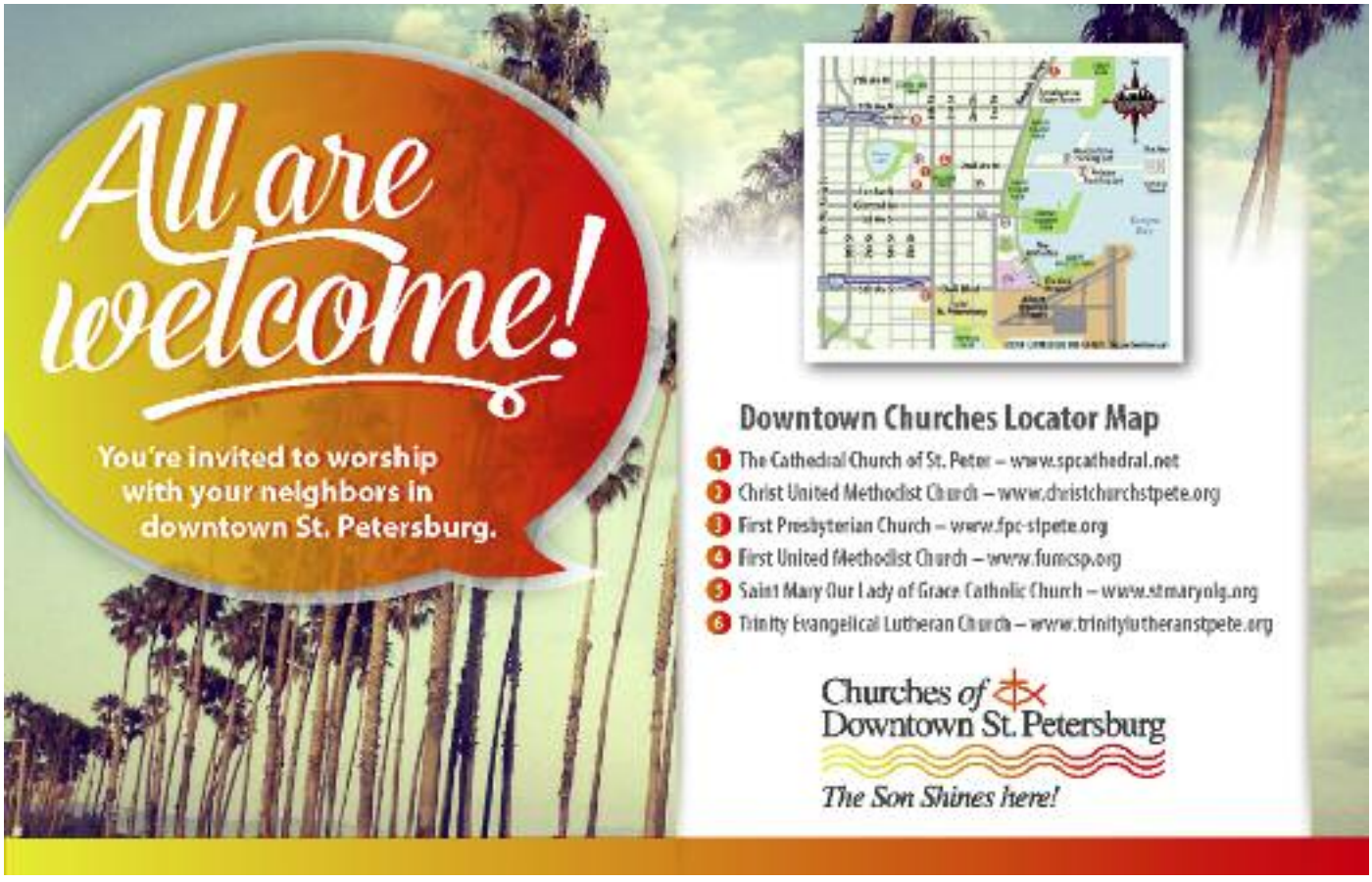
Look on the floor: It is in your financial best interest to take your pets out while your property is shown. It is also a good idea to make their dishes and toys disappear.

Look at the front desk of your condo building: First impressions really do count. A grumpy concierge is not good. Let the person at your front desk know who is coming to see the condo, and their expected time of arrival. If you leave a key, mark it clearly to identify the key and the person who will call for it. Never hurts to go back to the concierge after the showing and thank him or her for having welcomed your visitors.

It's not easy to have your house or condo on the market. Chasing away those silent profit stealers will help you sell faster and for more money. Then you can leave your sneakers where ever you want! If you have questions about the best way to prepare and market you house or condo, call us, we are here to help.

Libby Salamone 727-560-6676 Ron Salamone, 727-709-1800

www.StPeteUnique.com



Bar & Restaurant News...

WESTPHALS WIN AWARD The St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation honored community leaders at the annual Legacy Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Feb. 25. Steve and Nancy Westphal, owners of Parkshore Grill, 400 Beach Seafood & Tap Hours and The Hanger Restaurant & Flight Lounge, were given the Helen D. Roberts Philanthropy Award, which recognizes an individual's generosity in giving of his/her time, talent or monetary contributions to not-for-profit organizations devoted to educational, cultural, and social or public health concerns.

CHANGES AT FORTUNATO'S PIZZA Josh Cameron, owner of The Oyster Bar on Central, purchased Fortunato's Pizza, next door, at 259 Central Ave. "Currently I am working on a new concept for that place," says Cameron. "The plan is to give the existing pizza shop a complete makeover, install a new kitchen and dining room and add a new bar area. The menu will move towards fresh and healthy items. It will be a more gourmet and artisan style flat bread pizza with flare. I also hope to offer a selection of grab and go meals, such as, salads, wraps, and sandwiches. Naturally, the place will have an Aussie touch, since I am from Australia." Look for these changes to start in April or May after the news plans are approved.

FOURTEENTH AVENUE NORTH There are two new restaurants in the strip center on 4th Street and 14th Avenue N., next to Marion's Clothing store.

Pei Wei Asian style restaurant has already opened with a menu "inspired by ancient Asian cooking from the wok-fired classics of China and street markets of Thailand." Much of their menu is gluten-free.

The other restaurant is a Burger Monger, known for its Akaushi beef burgers and hot dogs. Akaushi beef originated in Japan but now comes from a select group of cattle in Texas. The restaurant claims to serve their burgers with a choice of over 40 toppings. They also offer fresh salads, hand-spun shakes and fresh cut fries.

The first Burger Monger opened in Carrollwood (Tampa) in 2010. Burger Monger plans to open next month.

BATTLE OF THE BACON Last month, nine restaurants on Central Ave. in the Grand Central and Edge Districts held their first annual Bacon Battle, a month long contest to determine who serves the best bacon dish. The bacon dish receiving the highest number of votes was named People's Choice. Urban Brew and BBQ won the online vote and Urban Comfort Restaurant & Brewery received the highest score from the guest judges. See all the participants and runner ups at www.GrandCentralDistrict.org.

CLOSED Alvin's Lounge, 119 1st Avenue North.

More Restaurant News...

TAMPA BAY TIMES BEST RESTAURANTS
Each year, Laura Reily, the food critic with the Tampa Bay Times, releases her list of the top 50 restaurants in the Tampa Bay area from various categories. This year, twelve of the restaurants are in the downtown area, including three in the top 10 overall. Here are the restaurants and her favorite thing about each of them:

FarmTable Kitchen, number 2 overall

#2 overall in the top 10 - **FarmTable Kitchen – Sundial**
56-day dry-aged tomahawk rib eyes

#4 overall in the top 10 - **Z. Grille – 104 Second St. S.**
Spicy shrimp wraps, duck confit pot stickers and tikka masala sea scallops

#7 overall in the top 10 - **Il Ritorno – 449 Central Ave**
Exciting pretty food

Brick and Mortar – 539 Central Ave.
House beef carpaccio

Stillwaters – 224 Beach Drive NE
Lager cheese fondue, short rib burger with red-wine mustard, trout spread

Souzou – 435 Fifth Ave. N
Sophisticated Asian fusion

Noble Crust – 8300 Fourth St. N.
Weekend brunch

Annata Wine Bar – 300 Beach Drive NE
Charcuterie pick five

The Mill – 200 central Ave.
Housemade charcuterie board

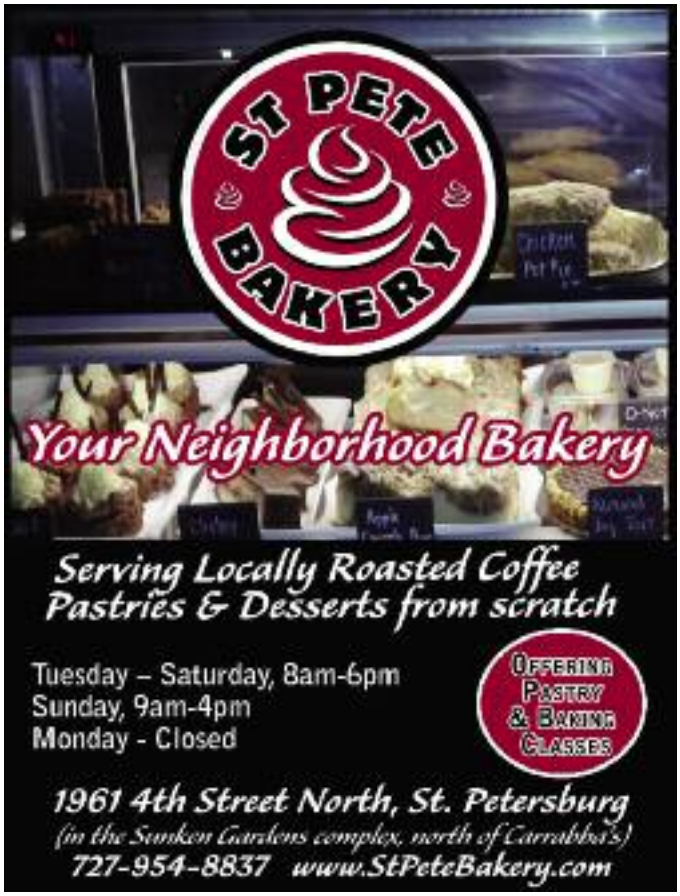
Engine No. 9 – 56 MLK St. N.
Burgers and toppings

Kings Street Food Counter – 937 Central Ave
Great Milkshakes

Sea Salt – Sundial
Spectacular Seafood

TEBELLA OPENS IN STATION HOUSE Abigail St Clair is expanding her small, local tea company, into Downtown St. Pete. Businesses including Locale Market, Kahwa Coffee and Hyppo Ice Pops Shop already offer her brand of tea. Now her small café inside the Station House building services tenants and the restaurant downstairs and is open to the public. "Tea is now the fifth greatest selling beverage in America, behind coke and beer," says Abigail. They have "Donut Wednesdays" and "Cup Cake Happy Hour" every Friday. "We are a local business and want to support other local businesses, too." St Clair hopes join the Saturday Morning Market.

HAWKERS ASIAN OPENS The 5,000-square-foot restaurant at 1235 Central Ave., previously Taps and Tequila, has opened. The menu offers small, sharing plates, from a variety of Asian countries. This is their third location with plans to open more in the area.



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4713 Dover St NE
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Shore Acres | 4/2 | $354,900
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6295 Dover St NE
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AMERICAN STAGE IN THE PARK - THE MUSICAL COMEDY, SPAMALOT.

THE WAIT IS OVER WITH MONTY PYTHON'S HILARIOUS MUSICAL OPENING APRIL 15.

American Stage in the Park is excited to celebrate over 30 years outdoors with the musical, SPAMALOT which won the 2005 Tony Award for "Best Musical", the 2005 Drama Desk Award for "Outstanding Musical" and the 2006 Grammy Award for "Best Musical Show Album." The book and lyrics are by Eric Idle and music by John Du Prez and Eric Ide.

This outdoor production will be directed by Jonathan Williams and will feature eight lead actors and ten in the chorus. This large cast will feature six familiar faces from previous American Stage productions and twelve new faces to perform on stage in this hilarious musical.

SPAMALOT's Director, Jonathan Williams, is from the San Francisco Bay Area, a graduate of California Institute of the Arts, and co-founder of Capital Stage in Sacramento.

Williams said, "I could not be more excited to be directing SPAMALOT for American Stage. The script is such a great homage to Monty Python while standing on its own as a piece of musical theatre. I look forward to helming this project with the support of a great artistic team and a tremendously talented group of actors. I'm really hoping we hit this one out of the park (nudge nudge wink wink)."

"SPAMALOT is a perfect fit for the celebratory, fun environment of American Stage in the Park. We're excited to see all of the Python fans who come out to "find their Grail!" said Producing Artistic Director Stephanie Gularte.

SPAMALOT runs from April 13 through May 8, 2016. Gala Under the Stars, our Opening Night is Friday, April 15, 2016. Gala Under the Stars is our largest fundraising event of the season and benefits American Stage's artistic and educational programming.

THE MUSICAL - Lovingly ripped off from the classic film comedy Monty Python and the Holy Grail, SPAMALOT adds swipes at Vegas glitz and Broadway conventions to the film's anarchic spirit. The supremely silly musical retells the legend of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, featuring a bevy of beautiful showgirls, cows, killer rabbits, and French people. (Did we mention a bevy of beautiful showgirls?) Winner of the 2005 Tony Award for Best Musical, Monty Python's Spamalot is the outrageously funny parody of the legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Spamalot features a bevy of beautiful show girls and hilarious dance numbers, not to mention flying cows, killer rabbits and French people. With book and lyrics by Monty Python alum, Eric Idle, and a musical score by John Du Prez and Eric Idle;Spamalot "raises silliness to an art form! (NY Sunday Times)."

"A no-holds-barred smash hit!" -The New Yorker - WINNER! 2005 Tony Award for "Best Musical"

WINNER! 2005 Drama Desk Award for "Outstanding Musical" - WINNER! 2006 Grammy Award for "Best Musical Show Album".

PLEASE NOTE: No alcohol or pets are allowed into the park, by City Ordinance.

Food and beverages (both alcoholic and non) are available at concessions.

TIME TO THINK ABOUT KIDS SUMMER PROGRAMS

Canterbury School of Florida's Summer Programs provides an environment shaped by a sense of adventure, a love of learning, a playful spirit and dynamic instructors. Camp counselors, faculty, and coaches team up to provide campers a magical summer where life skills are learned, self-esteem developed, and new friends made.

They have over 100 offerings throughout the summer, for every interest from Marine Studies, Coding and App Design, Mad Science, Cake Decorating, Softball, Tennis, ROV, Hoola Hooping, Yoga, Photography, Gardening, Arts & Crafts, American Girl Doll, Archery and more!

Camps are full and half days for four-year-olds through Grade 12 students. All camps are held on the school's Knowlton Campus, where for-credit academic courses are also offered at the High School level.

Canterbury summer programs are open to everyone, not just Canterbury families, so bring a friend to learn, laugh, explore, and create lifelong memories. Who NOSE what's going on at Canterbury this summer?

THREE BIRDS TAVERN'S DRESSINGS AVAILABLE AT WINN DIXIE

A line of St. Petersburg-based Out of the Weeds artisan dressings is among 12 Florida products chosen to be part of a Southeastern Grocers' expansion. The new concept's flagship store opened this month in Jacksonville. Southeastern Grocers is the southeast's second-largest conventional supermarket chain and the fifth-largest in the U.S. Its brands include Winn-Dixie, BI-LO and Harveys.

Robin and her husband, Jack opened Three Birds Tavern in St. Petersburg in 2009 and it didn't take long for customers to start asking for take-out sides of the in-house-created dressings and sauces. So in 2014, finally "out of the weeds" at Three Birds, Robin King launched Out of the Weeds, and partnered with The Sauceology Group, a sauce and spice manufacturer in Clearwater, to bottle the dressings and offer them at retail outlets.

The company's name is a play on the hospitality industry catchphrase "in the weeds" and also refers to the fresh vegetables and fruits used in its products.

In addition to choosing Out of the Weeds to be part of the new concept, Winn-Dixie also selected all three of their dressings — Carrot Ginger, Roasted Beet Vinaigrette and Roasted Tomato Vinaigrette — for its new Winn-Local program, which spotlights locally produced products. They are now available at 155 Central Florida Winn-Dixie stores.

To find the store nearest you, visit www.outoftheweeds.com where you can also find recipes, stories about the restaurant industry, and the journey from self to shelf. You can still enjoy the dressings at Three Birds Tavern.

Organizational News...

DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
They are supporting the Waterfront Parks Foundation with a social and bocce ball tournament at Elva Rouse Park on Sunday, March 20th.

This 501C (4) is an association of associations representing the interests of the residents of downtown St. Petersburg with the goal of making St. Petersburg the most livable city in the world. Current members include: Bayfront Towers, The Cloisters, The Florencia, Harbor Hill, Signature Place, Vinoy Place and McNulty Lofts.

For information, contact Marion Lee, President, at 894-9491 or visit www.StPete-DRCA.org.

FRIENDS OF THE MIRROR LAKE LIBRARY
They meet the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm; the next meetings are April 6 and May 4th. Call President, Wayne Finley at 813-767-5503 or email MWayneFinley@Yahoo.com.

DOWNTOWN ST. PETE TOASTMASTERS
Become an experienced hands-on speaker and leader - it's not just a speech class, it's a journey and teaches confidence through practice, practice and more practice. Two groups are available at different times:

City Power Toastmasters meet at St. Petersburg Municipal Services Bldg., One 4th St. N., room 600, from noon to 1pm Wednesdays. Visit for free and see what it's all about. Membership is only a $20 initial fee and $43 for 6 months. Call Alexis Shuder 727-893-7918.

Downtown St. Pete Toastmasters meets Thursday evening at 6:15pm at St. Pete College, Room DC 125 at 244 2nd Avenue North. Call Cynthia Jenkins at 742-6840.

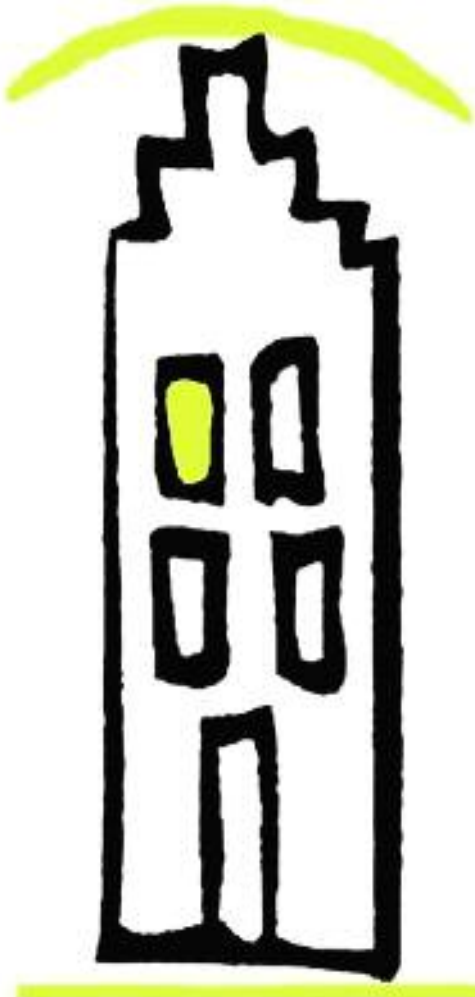
SECOND TIME AROUNDERS
They will be marching in Seattle's Seafair Summer Celebration, July 28th with an optional Alaskan Cruise July 31st. They will also be performing April 9th in a three band competition in Dunedin.

The Band has been pleasing audiences for over 34 years. Did you play an instrument in high school or college? Then this is the band for you. They are always looking for new members. Call 421-2344 or visit SecondTimeArounders.com

ALBERT WHITTED AIRPORT PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Their monthly Pancake Breakfasts at Albert Whitted in the Hangar Restaurant includes pancakes, eggs, meat, home fries, grits, orange juice and coffee. People of all ages are invited. Breakfast is from 8 until 11 am. Next breakfasts are April 2 and May 7. For information, visit www.Awaps.org or call Terri Griner at 822-1532.

FRIENDS OF THE SUNSHINE CENTER
World Day Festival of Cultural Diversity will be held at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club, 559 Mirror Lake Drive, St. Petersburg on Saturday, May 21 from 10 am - 3 pm. Admission is Free. World Day is set aside by the United Nations as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity. SPIFFS and The Friends of the Sunshine Center, Inc. are celebrating Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Older Americans Month in a multi-cultural festival on May 21. Ethnic Food and entertainment from several countries will be featured. Crafters and other vendors are invited.

VALUE & SERVICE



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RECYCLE DO'S AND DON'TS

By Bob Griffin

Have you ever wondered what things you should and should not throw in our big blue recycle bins? I have. Every time I toss in a plastic grocery bag or Styrofoam container from a restaurant, I wonder, is that supposed to be in there?

After some research, I have put together a list of some of the things you should not recycle at the curb. The first rule of thumb - look on the bottom of a bottle or food container. It will have a printed number that ranges from 1-7 if it is recyclable. If it doesn't, throw it in the garbage.

PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS - This is the #1 NO-NO. They do not want the plastic bags you get at grocery, hardware or other stores in the bins. They clog up the machines.

Take them back to the grocery stores where they have green bins at their front door, or put them in the dog bag stands around the city. Better yet, take your own re-useable bags to the store and say NO to plastic.

STYROFOAM - Styrofoam cannot be recycled. Many stores are recognizing this and are changing to paper/cardboard. In the meantime, throw it in your regular trash—not your recycling bins. Publix will accept Styrofoam egg containers and the trays used in the vegetable department. Styrofoam peanuts used for packing can be donated back to the closest UPS or packing store.

BATTERIES -

Per Florida law, it is illegal to dispose of nickel-cadmium or small sealed lead acid rechargeable batteries in your trash.

It is OK to place normal alkaline batteries in the garbage, but never in the blue bins as it causes contamination. 20% of the recycled waste collected at the curb is contaminated and has to go through a separate, expensive, time-consuming process. Nickel cadmium and small sealed lead acid rechargeable batteries need to be taken to a Chemical Recycling event or the Pinellas County's HEC-3 facility. Car & Boat batteries are normally recycled where you buy new ones and you pay a recycling fee. The following normally have a recycling bin: Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe's, Office Depot, Target, Batteries-Plus, and some but not all Staples.

PAPER TOWELS AND NAPKINS - Even though they may be paper, they probably are not recyclable. Paper towels are made differently than newspaper or computer paper and do not breakdown. Instead, they tear in the machines. Many are contaminated by food products anyway. Do not recycle wax paper, either.

BUBBLE WRAP - Plastic bubble wrap and pillows used for packing should not be recycled at the curb. It is just like plastic bags, they clog the machine. Donate them to the closest packaging / shipping store.

FOOD AND LIQUIDS - Do not use your recycle bin as a trash can. Do not throw half-filled recyclable water/juice bottles in it. Empty and rinse them out first. Same with pizza boxes with partial food remains – that is garbage and can't be recycled.

PLASTIC - Just because it is plastic does not mean it goes in the blue bins. Plastic bottles and food containers with a 1 – 7 on the bottom are good, but not bigger items and hard plastics, like toys, tools and PVC. Some can be recycled, but not curbside.

GLASS - Not all glass belongs in your blue bin. If it came with food or drink inside, it is good to recycle. Other glass like mirrors, windows, drinking glasses, vases, etc. is unfortunately, just trash.

METALS - Here again, the only metal you can recycle curbside is metal that contained food or drink - aluminum or tin cans. No other metal, including pipes, faucets, nails and parts should go in the blue bins. They are normally recovered at the County's Waste-To-Energy Facility using magnets and other methods.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS - When your home fire extinguisher reads empty do not put it in the recycle bin. Do not take it to the fire station either. Instead, if you are sure it is totally empty, you may throw it in the garbage. To know for sure that it is empty, pull the trigger, outside.

PINELLAS FACILITY - The Pinellas County HEC-3 facility is located at 2855 109th Avenue North (just off 28th Street N. one mile south of Roosevelt Blvd.) in St Petersburg. They are open Monday - Saturdays. Call 464-7500 with questions.

For more information on what to recycle and what not to recycle, visit: PinellasCounty.org/Recycle, PinellasCounty.org/SolidWaste/SwapShop, PinellasCounty.org/SolidWaste/GetRidofit and Publix.com/Recycle.

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Organizational News...

GFWC ST. PETERSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB

Their 17th Annual Spring Bonnet Tea will be held on Sunday, April 10th at 2pm. It includes tasty sandwiches and sweets and requires a $15 donation. Kay Leonard, protocol Chief at MacDill AFB, will present a program on "Tea and Etiquette". Guests are welcome. Proceeds from this event benefit the Historical Building Restoration Fund. Call Judy Zamanillo at 822-6659 to RSVP

The St. Petersburg Woman's Club which celebrated it's 100 years of community activity in 2013, is affiliated with the General Federation Of Woman's Clubs. A not- for-profit volunteer organization committed to serving the community through hands-on projects and fund raising as well as leadership development. To find out more information about our membership for women of all ages, monthly meetings, weekly sewing group, card games or information on booking our Historical Clubhouse. For information, contact Joanne Walker 727-822-4982. www.stpetersburgwomansclub.org

ST. PETE DNA

Their next general meeting will be April 13th at 7pm at the Museum of Fine Arts. A cleanup day at Mirror Lake Park is scheduled for April 9th at 8:00am (meet at the Shuffleboard Club). Members and non-members are welcome at both events.

The SPDNA represents residents downtown from 5th Ave. N to 5th Ave. S and includes the Edge District. The association aims to build a stronger community by bringing neighbors together and serving as a collective voice for downtown issues.

General meetings are held each quarter with a special guest speaker, and social events are scheduled throughout the year. Membership is $15/year for individuals or $20 per household. Associate memberships for those who do not reside downtown are $20/yr. Visit stpetedna.org for more information.

ST. PETERSBURG SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

They meet monthly at the Sailing Center, located at 250 2nd Avenue SE. In addition, they sponsor local seminars and provide courses several times a month including:

Hurricanes and Your Boat: Hurricane Season begins in a couple of months. This one-night special two-hour presentation on April 20th (7pm) covers such things as selecting a location and how to prepare your boat to survive a hurricane. The costs is $40 per family. There is a maximum of 20 people to a class.

Safe Boating: This six week course is March 28th and costs $40 per family. Space is limited to 20 people.

The St. Pete Power Squadron is located at the Sailing Center, at 250 2nd Avenue SE. Pre-registration for all seminars is required at www.Boating-StPete.org. Contact Jeff Eckhart to join at 424-9800 or email him at JeffEckhart41@Gmail.com.

GFWC JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB

This non-profit volunteer organization is for young women over 18. They meet on the first Tuesday of each month (except June and July) at 7pm. The next meetings are April 5 and May 2. Visit SPJWC.org or call Audra Ames 415-6397 to get involved.

Organizational News...

HISTORIC OLD NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.
Their meetings are quarterly on the third Monday of the month (except for holidays). The next meetings are March 21, April 16 and May 20th. They meet at the West Minster Presbyterian Church, 126 11th Avenue NE, 7pm.

They are hosting their Third Annual Roaring '20s Gala at the Palladium Theater on April 23rd at 6:30pm. The event is an all-inclusive evening of dinner, drinks, and dancing. There is also a fabulous auction and other fun activities including photo opts! Tickets are $75 until March 23rd; after March 23rd any remaining tickets are $90. Tickets are available at HONNA.org or at the Palladium Box Office.

Visit HONNA.org or call 269-5521. Peter Motzenbecker, President, can be reached at President@HONNA.org.

ST. PETERSBURG PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Their guided walking tours offer guests a leisurely stroll with an opportunity to see the jewels of St. Pete's past while learning about the founding of St. Petersburg and its growth as a tourist town. Tours are offered each Saturday morning through April, starting at 10 am, with a different tour offered each Saturday of the month. Note, lunchtime tours start at noon

Tours are free to members and $5 for non-members, which may be applied toward membership if you join that day. Reservations are suggested but not required. For information, call the event line at (727) 824-7802 or the online calendar www.stpetepreservation.org.

Bring family and friends to enjoy FREE film classics and music each Thursday evening in May (5,12,19,26) on St. Petersburg's beautiful downtown waterfront in North Straub Park. As an added bonus, Movies in the Park comes to westside St. Pete with a special showing on the waterfront at Admiral Farragut (700 Park St N.) on Thursday, April 28! The movies and music events are produced by St. Petersburg Preservation, the historic preservation non-profit working to keep St. Pete special.

April 14 is the date movie titles will be announced as well as the unveiling of the unique and collectible Movies in the Park poster by local artist Carrie Jadus. It happens at the movie announcement party in the courtyard at downtown's Ale and the Witch. The fun event includes movie trivia questions and prizes to those who guess the movie titles!

Movie in the Park nights start with live music at 7pm followed by the movie at dusk.

For information, visit www.StPetePreservation.org or contact Peter Belmont, Chairman, at 463-4612. Follow them on FaceBook by searching for Saint Petersburg Preservation.

SNELL ISLE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
Their annual Easter Egg Hunt is Tuesday, March 22nd at 6pm. The event is held on the site of the Snell Isle Woman's Club. For more information, contact Scott Youngblood at ScottYoungblood 1@Hotmail.com

ROTARY CLUB OF ST. PETERSBURG
They have changed their meeting location to the St. Pete Yacht Club at 11 Central Avenue, every Friday at noon. For information, call 822-3277 or visit www.SPRotary.org.

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THE DALÍ MUSEUM'S VOLUNTEERS KEEP IT RUNNING SMOOTHLY

Volunteering at The Dalí

Volunteers are an integral part of the success of The Museum operations and programming. Presently, 415 active volunteers, ranging in age from 16 to 90, contribute their time and talents in a variety of ways. Students (high school and college) are also welcome to volunteer for approved course credit or scholarship requirements.

Areas of opportunity include guest relations, education, membership, marketing, operations, evening and daytime special events, and more. Training is provided and volunteers receive special benefits for their service. The Dalí seeks volunteers from all backgrounds. A background in art is not required for most volunteer opportunities.

Their Docent Program is the heart of The Museum's educational mission. Adult Docents create and conduct public tours of The Museum's permanent and visiting exhibitions as well as private tours arranged by the Group Tours department. Over 100 docents currently lead tours at the Museum.

Pam Whitaker (right) and Rachel Furlott (center) help a guest at the information desk

Adult docents enroll in a 17-week training program (roughly the equivalent of a three credit university-level course) that consists of 15 two-hour lectures, three written tests, and a final mini-tour examination. After completing the initial training, docents are required to conduct a specific number of tours each month for at least one year.

In addition to the initial training period, there is ongoing training for docents including curatorial walk-throughs of new exhibitions, refresher classes and advanced seminars. Docents are responsible for developing their own tours and are encouraged to develop a repertoire of tours for specific audiences and special interest groups.

Museum docents can choose to become "Dalí Vision" Docents and teach outside of The Museum by presenting at schools, hospitals, recreation centers, after-school programs, social service groups and other community organizations.

As part of the Junior Docents summer program, elementary and middle school students are trained in a mini-docent course that enables them to share general information about Dalí and his paintings. This program introduces students to artistic processes, builds self-esteem and public speaking skills, and brings families to the Museum.

The Dalí encourages people of all ages, ethnicities, and cultures to apply. The Dalí welcomes visitors from more than 30 nations; those who speak additional languages (other than English) are especially encouraged to get involved.

Pam Whitaker - Coordinator of 400 volunteers

Pam Whitaker once just a Dalí Museum volunteer is the Volunteer Coordinator overseeing all 415 volunteers. From 2008 to 2011, she was a volunteer that showed up and did what she was asked to do. In 2011, Pam was offered a full time job as The Dalí Director of Visitor Experience, which is how they describe the volunteer's mission.

"We have people of all ages volunteering here--teenagers, students, young and old. We have many volunteers in their 70s and 80s", says Whitaker. "People volunteer here for a wide variety of reasons. Many students get community credit in high school and college. Many of the senior citizens do it for social reasons—to meet people and to feel useful."

"Our volunteers are diverse with unique backgrounds and skill sets. We have former teachers and business people; some have graphics, presentation or other specialized skills. The main thing we emphasize though is to have fun while working," Whitaker explains.

Many volunteers speak foreign languages. Often visitors call The Dalí and ask if they can have a tour in their native language. Naturally Spanish is the second most requested language, but there are guides that speak Japanese, Chinese, German, French, Russian, and some others.

"We consider our volunteers to be Ambassadors for St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay area. One out of six Dalí guests are from outside the U.S. We want them to know about our whole area, not just The Dalí," Whitaker explains. "People ask us about where to eat and what else to do nearby. We know our guests go back to their homes in other states and countries and talk about their experience. We want our volunteers to represent us and the area favorably."

Some volunteers participate in field trips to other museums and attractions, so they can become aware of what those facilities offer—plus it is a reward for their hard work. Volunteers also make presentations at other locations away from The Museum such as at schools, businesses and meeting groups.

"Our goal is for our volunteers to have a wonderful experience working here, and to pass that experience on to our Dalí visitors, Whitaker concludes.

Rachel Furlott - A Dalí Volunteer at 85

Rachel Furlott, age 85, has been volunteering at The Dalí since her husband died, 5 years ago. She works in the Audio Department, handing out headsets. "We have had headsets for many years, but in January, we introduced a new more modern system", says Furlott.

Furlott does not get paid for volunteering, but she says she gets a lot out of it. "I meet the most wonderful people. Many are from other states and nations," she says happily. "I have made many new friends here."

Furlott works two to three hour shifts, four days a week which is ten to twelve hours a week. Last year she worked over 1,000 hours at The Dalí, but she does not call it work. Also, she has participated in The Dalí "Travel Council" taking field trips to other cities and attractions. "We went to Tampa, Sarasota and even Naples, last year," she adds. "Volunteering at the Dalí has been a wonderful experience."

ETHAN LOW - A HOT ROD AT 19

19-year-old Racecar driver Ethan Low, who competes in races all over the U.S., was a Senior at Clearwater High School, just last year.

Low was born in San Jose, Costa Rica but moved to Florida when he was young. After living in places, his family settled in Clearwater where he attended Clearwater High School.

When most young people refer to after graduation, they mean high school, but not Low. His milestone graduation was from the Atlanta Skip Barber Open Wheel Driving School, while was still a sophomore in high school.

How did he decide at such an early age he wanted to drive? "He was always fascinated with race cars, even as a small child," says father Kevin Low. "He would even sleep with a model car in his bed."

He first race experience was at the 2008 St. Pete Grand Prix—not as a racer but as a fan. His father took him to the race when Low was 11. There they met a person promoting go-carting and selling parts to make your own cart.

Soon they were entering go-cart competitions nearby and eventually out of state.

"Going into it, I thought a go-cart was something on four-wheels with a lawn mower engine on the back," said Kevin Low. "I saw this as a great father-son activity. Little did I know, those go-carts cost thousands of dollars and go 80-miles an hour. Plus, the competitions cost hundreds of dollars to enter."

Go-Carting is divided into age groups. At first Low was in the Mini-Max class (11-12). Then, he entered the Junior Class for kids 13-16 and kept winning. He won the Nationals his first year.

At 16, Low moved up to real cars. He attended the 3-day racing school in Atlanta. Some of the cars were open-wheeled, formula type cars—just a step away from Indy cars.

Two years ago, Low approached a local racing team and offered to help do anything from washing cars to fetching food. One day, they asked him if he wanted to take a lap or two on a real track. "My first chance to drive took place at the Bradenton DeSoto Speedway," says Low.

Race teams want drivers with real experience—a proven track record. He was finally getting some laps and seat time. Low started racing various road courses and competition with Mazdas and other types of cars.

"He was very good in the Amateur Series," his father proudly says. "He could sit behind a wheel of a car he had never been in, go out and beat the best on the track--first time out." His first professional race was in Daytona last year. It was a 200-mile race lasting just two and a half hours. He also did a 24-hour Endurance Race and a 38-hour race in a Saab. His team won.

Until recently, Low's father acted as his personal manager and coach. "Racing is a very expensive sport," his father laments. "Most of the other families are rich and pay all the costs of their kid's racing. We are not rich and unfortunately do not have that luxury."

It was obvious it was time to move to the next level and Low hired Troy Hansen, a professional racecar driver manager.

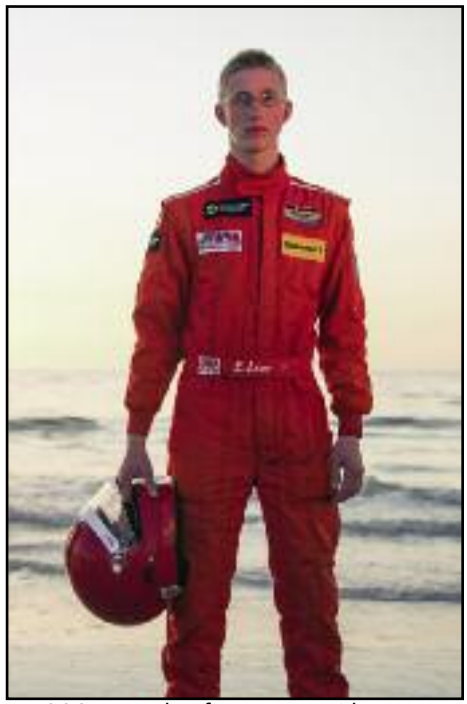
With the help of Hansen, they started searching for business partners. "This is all very new to me," says Low. "I know if I want to continue racing and I will have to attract sponsors and money."

Visit St.Pete/Clearwater, Pinellas County's official Destination Marketing Organization met with him and was impressed enough to sign him. "This took about 9 months of meetings and negotiations," says Low. "I am so thankful that they saw something in me and what I do." Low now displays the Visit St. Pete/Clearwater logo on the sides of his cars.

"Visit St. Pete Clearwater's marketing relationship is two-pronged," says Executive Director David Downing. "The main part is the exposure we receive in key visitation markets around the country when he races."

"The second part (smaller in scope, but equally important) is Ethan himself," Downing continues. "He's a great guy and a passionate area ambassador - a Clearwater High graduate whose undeniable appeal and social media prowess make him popular with a wide range of people. It's clear even this early in his career that Ethan has the potential to become a household name, and we're excited to be part of that."

Just like any professional athlete, Low has to stay in shape. He lifts weights, has a treadmill at home and uses a rowing machine. "Half of racing is endurance," he says. "You have to be in shape to race at this level. When you hit the brakes, you are applying



1,000 pounds of pressure with your legs. Plus, the G-Forces on your body are unreal. Racing is my job; my only job," he continues. "Some people drive for Domino's or Pizza Hut. I drive for me and my business partners. I am very thankful I can work with them."

What does Low drive at home? He has an old Toyota Tacoma with 300,000 plus miles on it. "It's a great truck, he says. It takes a lickin' and keeps on tickin'."

Overall, since 2013, he has had 10 major wins, 26 podiums, placed in the top five 26 times, driven 44 different cars and had 11 Pro racing starts. He recently raced at Daytona, Sebring, Homestead and the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Low now races a Mini-Cooper which he says is a very well built car. He did not drive in the recent Firestone St. Pete Grand Prix, although he has since qualified. He may try next year. In March, he will drive in the 12-hours of Sebring.

Low says a Porsche team out of N.J. is looking at him now. They asked to see his resume and are talking to people who know him. Everyone says great things about him and his ability. He was surprised recently when a young fan came up to him and asked for his autograph. "I did not know what to say—so I just did it."

It was the first of many to come.

Learn more about Low at EthanLowRacing.com or on social media at EthanLowRacing or #LiveAmplified.

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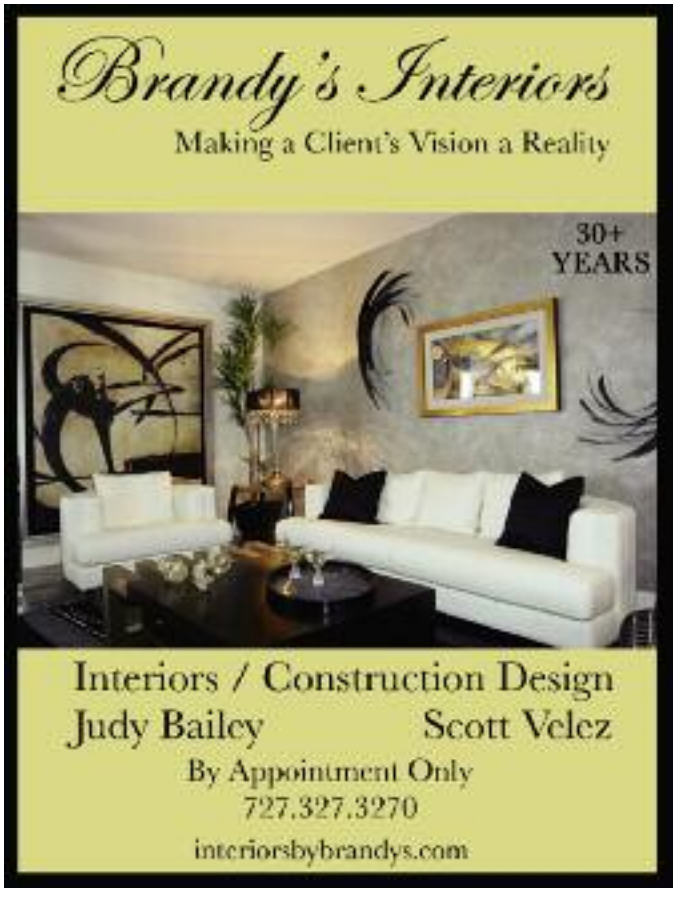
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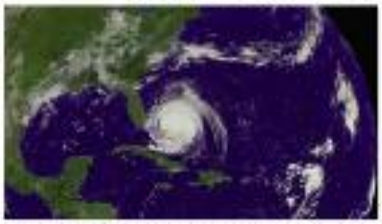

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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE NAMED BRADENTON CHIEF

Melanie Bevan, Assistant Chief of Police of the St. Petersburg Police Department, was recently named the Bradenton Police Chief. Bevan was one of three assistant police chiefs in St. Petersburg. She started working for the agency in 1986, and was one of four finalists in 2014 for the chief job in St. Petersburg, but was instead named assistant chief in July 2014.

Bevan earned her Bachelor's Degree in criminal justice from St. Leo University in 1997, her Master's Degree in public administration from Troy State University in 2001 and her Doctorate in Education in organizational leadership from Argosy University in 2011.

Bevin, mother of two 16-year-old boys, was one of 118 applicants, nine of which were finalists for the job of Bradenton police chief. Two of the finalists were women.

She was sworn in February 16 as Bradenton's first ever female police chief. She takes over for the retiring Chief Michael Radzilowski.

FUN THINGS TO DO THIS SPRING

Now - Treasures of the Deep, St. Pete History Museum
Now - American Stage, 4000 Miles now going on
March 19 - Spring Beer Fling, Vinoy Park
March 20 - Bocce Ball Tournament, Elva Rouse Park
March 20 - Waterfront Parks Fun Day, Northshore
March 20 - Orchid Festival, Sunken Gardens
March 21 - Historic Walking Tour Downtown
March 26 - Jelly Bean Fling, Vinoy Park
April 1 - First Friday, Central Avenue
April 2 - Pinot in the Park, Seminole Park, Kenwood
April 2 - Rowdies First Home Game, Al Lang Field
April 3 - Festival of Speed, Vinoy Park
April 3 - Rays First Home Game
April 8 – 10 - Tampa Bay Blues Festival, Vinoy Park
April 13 - American Stage in the Park, Demen's Landing
April 14 - Longest Table Event for WUSF, Bayshore Drive
April 16 – 17 - Mainsail Art Festival, Vinoy Park
April 23 - Earth Day Festival, Williams Park
April 26 - Painting in the Park, Museum Fine Arts
April 28 – May 1 - Sunscreen Film Festival, Muvico
May 5 - Movies in the Park begin, North Straub
May 6 - First Friday, Central Avenue

REGATTA DEL SOL al SOL

The 48th annual Regata del Sol al Sol, starts in Downtown St. Petersburg and ends in Isla Mujeres, Mexico, a distance of 456 miles. The St. Petersburg Yacht Club is the organizing authority.

This year's event is April 21 through April 29th. The actual race begins on Friday, April 22nd with boats arriving in Mexico between April 24 and 27th, with parties and awards to follow.

The cost to enter is $1350; deadline to enter this year is April 4th. Get more information at www.RegataDelSolalSol.org.

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EXPOSING SILENT OPPRESSION IN OUR MIDST

By Pinellas County Commission Chairman Charlie Justice

There's a hidden reality in our community that's hard for many of us to believe exists. That neighbor we wave to while heading to work in the morning or the stranger we pass on the street – these people don't appear to be enslaved, but they may be victims of human trafficking. Florida ranks third in the nation for human trafficking cases, and the fact is we probably run across people every day in the Tampa Bay area who are secretly forced into labor, or worse, made to take part in the commercial sex trade. Human trafficking victims come from all over the world, but many of them have grown up here in our own neighborhoods. Criminals rely on keeping them quiet and isolated from the outside world so that no one knows they exist. That's why the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners recently adopted an ordinance to make sure victims and the public know that help is only a phone call away.

This month, signs will begin appearing at certain businesses, such as adult entertainment establishments, to alert employees and the public about how human trafficking victims can get help. The county ordinance that goes into effect this month enacts a state law that requires these signs to be posted in places of travel such as rest areas, turnpike service plazas, weigh stations, airports, rail stations and welcome centers. The county added specialty salons to the list of places required to post these signs, which advises victims or people who suspect trafficking to call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center for help.

State and federal agencies are devoting increasing resources to investigate human trafficking cases and help victims escape from it. This crime can take many forms, including forced housework, farm work, factory work, retail work or restaurant work, but some of the most heartbreaking cases are young people who are forced into prostitution. A former trafficking victim told the board how she spent 20 years of her life being exploited in the commercial sex trade right here in the Tampa Bay area. Law enforcement agencies and local community groups are working together through coalitions such as the Clearwater/Tampa Bay Area Task Force on Human Trafficking to identify perpetrators and reach out to victims. They need our help to look for signs of trafficking and report them.

What are the signs someone is being forced to work against their will? Often victims are not free to come or go as they wish. They work excessive or unusual hours, get paid little to nothing and usually owe someone a large debt. Sometimes the homes where they are forced to live have extra security such as wire fencing, security cameras, or windows that are tinted, boarded up or barred. If you speak to a victim, they may not know where they live or even what city they're in. These are just a few of the signs the National Human Trafficking Resource Center identifies, but you can learn more by visiting www.traffickingresourcecenter.org. If you do see signs that someone you know or have encountered is a victim, please call the center's hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text INFO or HELP to 233-733. This is same information we will be posting on our signs around the county this month. If one person sees one of these signs and knows there's help available – that makes this worth doing.

As always, feel free to contact me with any concerns or issues you have at (727) 464-3363 or cjustice@pinellascounty.org.

DECKER ROSS INTERIORS TRANSFORMS "THE COVE"

By Shawn Tanney Richards

Decker Ross Interior designers, Jen Kravchuk and Cara Mayes were pleased to be selected to bring a new look to The Cove Apartment Complex on Tampa Bay. Management decided to reflect the beauty of this pristine waterfront location by giving the entire complex a facelift!

Jen and Cara decided to utilize a Contemporary Industrial design theme with a Coastal Flare. They chose an aqua, citrus, and pewter color palette with chrome accents. The Clubhouse features a herringbone tile pattern on the floor, reclaimed wood on the wall and a custom "faux wrought iron" insert in the upstairs kitchen window, which casts circular light shadows at various times of the day. To reflect the waterfront location, they designed a unique "wave pattern" for the aqua opalescent backsplash tiles in the kitchen area.

The designers contrasted warm natural wood elements with cool metal, glass, and tile. A beautiful "live edge" wood table anchors the dining room, with a large pendant light made of recycled materials above. They combined chrome dining side chairs with upholstered sloped-arm chairs on the ends. Jen and Cara selected unique lighting fixtures for this project, including an unusual curled vinewood base lamp with a linen shade - which adds interest to the console table. Excellent quality faux succulents and orchids, colorful art with coastal elements, and a variety of accessories provide the finishing touches to the overall design.

In addition to this large Clubhouse (which includes common Seating Areas, Kitchen/Dining, and Leasing Office), Jen and Cara created beautiful Studio and One Bedroom Models for potential residents to view, re-designed the Game Room, and selected colors for the Gym.

For information on the talented design staff at Decker Ross, check out their website: www.DeckerRoss.com or contact them at 727.442.9996. Their Award-Winning Studio, established in 1993, is located at 1445 Court Street, in Clearwater and specializes in both Residential and Commercial Interiors.

STYLIST TO THE STARS

Did you know there was a celebrity stylist right here in St. Petersburg? Dawn Shannon owns two Intuition Salon and Spas --one at 2053 Central Avenue and another in Clearwater.

Shannon moved from Washington State in 1998 and fell in love with Clearwater. She opened her Intuition Salon in 2003 and since has had the privilege of working with several celebrities when they visit our area. Among them are Kelly Preston and George Takei (most widely known for playing Sulu on Star Trek). In addition, Shannon has been hired to assist with magazine covers, videos and personal appearances.

Justin Haywood of the Moody Blues with Dawn Sharron & assistant Dani Eyermann

Recently, Justin Hayward of the Moody Blues was performing at the Capital Theatre. It was part of the filming of the documentary "The Story Behind Nights in White Satin".

"I was chosen to help with Hayward's hair partially because of my reputation," says Dawn, "and partly because I know the producer of the documentary. It didn't hurt that I have a shop just around the corner from the Capital Theatre," Dawn says. "Ever since I opened, the business has found me. Kelly Preston came to me."

The St. Pete location is open on Mondays 11am-7pm; and Tuesday through Saturdays 9am to 7pm. Call for an appointment at 322-3802. Visit www.IntuitionSalonandSpa.com, to learn more

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