



100 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Mirror Lake Community Library celebrated its centennial last month on December 1st. Built in 1915, the library has always been an important part of the city's history. The building, which became the first permanent home to the city's public library system and was a signal that the area had grown from a village to a city that valued cultural institutions.

It all began in 1899 when a reading room was opened on Central Avenue run by a group of volunteers. Two years later, Andrew Carnegie, then the richest person in the world, retired at the age of 66 and became a philanthropist, giving money to good causes. He

believed in the "Gospel of Wealth," meaning wealthy people were morally obligated to give their money back to society.

Throughout his life, Andrew Carnegie loved to read. As a young man, he lived near Colonel James Anderson, a rich man who allowed working boys to use his personal library for free. In those days, America did not have free public libraries. He never forgot Anderson's generosity and, as a result, wanted to give money to support education and reading; he eventually gave away enough money to build more than 3,000 public libraries.

A campaign was begun in St. Petersburg for a Carnegie library grant to build a real library, but it was unsuccessful. Finally, in 1913 W. L. Straub, who was the owner of the Evening Independent newspaper, personally convinced Carnegie officers to provide a \$17,500 grant.

Once the grant was approved by the city, a search was conducted for the library's location and Mirror Lake was chosen on July 17, 1914. The building was designed in the Beaux Arts style - one of the earliest examples of that style in our area. The building's architect, Henry D. Whitfield, worked for the Carnegie Corporation and designed this library, as well as many other Carnegie libraries in the same style. The construction contract was awarded to W. C. Henry who laid the cornerstone on Dec. 19, 1914.

When the library opened one year later on December 1, 1915, there were 2,600 books. The library would become one of fourteen Florida Carnegie libraries to receive grants from 1901 to 1917 and remained St. Petersburg's only library until the current Main library was built at 3745 9th Avenue in 1964. By 1947, when the library's collection had grown to 45,000 volumes, a new wing was built in 1951 to house the expanded collection. It mirrored the Beaux Arts style.

By the time the Mirror Lake Library was added to the National Registry of Historic Places on June 13, 1986, it was in disrepair. A faulty air conditioning system, water damage and mold beset the building. The only way to reach the second floor was by a small, winding staircase; the main entrance had also been sealed. In 1987, a plan to restore the library was approved which included removing the wing added in 1951, and building a new 8,000 square-foot wing in its place. The restored library opened in May of 1997. Inside and out the charm of the building had been returned to the days of its historic roots.

Of fourteen total Carnegie libraries built in Florida from 1901 to 1917, Mirror Lake is one of only two still operating as a library.



Story by Becky Griffin, Publisher

CREDITS



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StPeteDowntownNewsletter.com

We would like to hear from you. Is there something you would like to see included in this newsletter?

Tell us what you think at bob@griffindirectories.com

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ST. PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN MARCH!



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www.stpete.org

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LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

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FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM 820-0100

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GREAT EXPLORATIONS 821-8992

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MAHAFFEY THEATER. 892-5798

MUNICIPAL MARINA. 893-7329

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS. 896-2667

MUSEUM OF HISTORY 894-1052

PALADIUM THEATRE 822-3590

SALVADOR DALI MUSEUM. . . . 823-3767

ST. PETERSBURG OPERA. 823-2040

STATE THEATRE. 895-3045

STUDIO @ 620. 895-6620

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CHIHULY COLLECTION 822-7872

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A GLORIOUS DAY FOR THE ARTS!

Saturday, March 1st, 2016

Walk through Historic Kenwood, one of the oldest and most beautiful neighborhoods in Florida during historic Kenwood's inaugural "Artist of Kenwood Studio Tour" on March 1. The event starts at 11am and ends at 4pm.

Designated as the "Neighborhood of the Arts" by the City of St. Petersburg, the neighborhood has a high concentration of professional and emerging artists. During the "Artist of Kenwood Studio Tour" you will find an array of artists including ceramic artists, painters, performing artists, sculptors and many more varieties of creativity.

Historic Kenwood has been designated by the City of St. Petersburg as an Artist Enclave.

Visit www.kenwoodartistenclave.org for more upcoming events.



"Dusk on Burlington Avenue"
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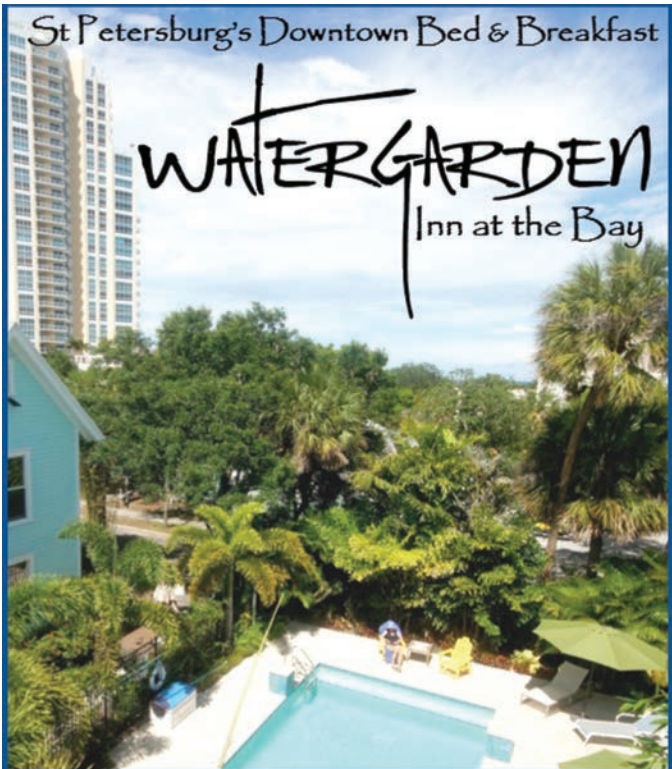


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Did You Know...

GRAND PRIX COMING SOON

Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg opens Verizon IndyCar Series season, March 11-13. Now in its 12th year, the Firestone



Grand Prix of St. Petersburg is run on a 1.8-mile, 14-turn waterfront circuit that includes a combination of adjacent downtown streets circling Pioneer Park, the Duke Energy Center for the Arts, The Dali Museum and extending onto the runways at Albert Whitted Airport, which overlook the Tampa Bay and picturesque St. Petersburg Harbor and Marina. To learn more about the event, visit gpstpete.com.

COOKIE TIME SOON In February you will start to see Girl Scout Cookie stands in front of Publix and other stores around town. They do advanced sales in their neighborhoods in January. This is the only fundraising the Girl Scout do all year, so buy a lot

BRING YOUR VALENTINE The Waterfront Arts District, Central Arts District, EDGE District, Grand Central District, and the Warehouse Arts District become one arts destination for the St. Petersburg Second Saturday ArtWalk on February 13 from 5 to 9 pm. Download the map and list of participants to plan your festive art evening at www.stpeteartsalliance.org

WATCH FREE MOVIES The St. Petersburg Library System has partnered with hoopla digital to make thousands of movies, television shows, music albums, eBooks, audiobooks and comics, available to the public for mobile and online access through hoopladigital.com. St. Petersburg card holders can now download the free hoopla digital mobile app on their Android or IOS device or visit hoopladigital.com to begin enjoying thousands of artists and titles – from major Hollywood studios, record companies and publishers – available to borrow 24/7, for instant streaming or temporary downloading to their smartphones, tablets, computers and Apple TV.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Each year, millions of low and moderate income taxpayers rely on AARP Foundation Tax-Aide to prepare and file their tax



returns. Volunteers are needed to work with taxpayers directly by filling out tax returns and helping them seek a refund. Experience isn't necessary; they will train you on the latest tax preparation forms and software. Volunteers receive IRS-certified training. Computer knowledge is necessary. A minimum commitment of four hours a week in February, March and early April is required. Sign up to be an AARP Foundation TaxAide Volunteer at: aarp.org/giving-back.

and More...



COCKTAILS ON THE COURTS: A CELEBRATION OF SUNSHINE

This is not your grandpa's gala. Grab your shuffleboard attire and join the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club for Florida cuisine, libations and live music by the Black

Honkies! Proceeds benefit the St. Petersburg Museum of History. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$750 reserves a private court for six people. Join them at 559 Mirror Lake Dr. N. on February 20, from 6 to 10pm. Visit spmoh.org/gala or call 727-894-1052 for information.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE The Studio@620 is nearing the end of its 2015 Membership Campaign. They have a goal of 300 new members and need your help to support our local up and coming artists, actors and musicians that they share their space with. The Studio at 620 is located at 620 First Avenue South. Call them at 895-6620 or visit www.TheStudioat620.org.

BEACHES, BENCHES AND BOYCOTTS This new exhibit at the Holocaust Museum isn't about Europe's Holocaust, but about the same types of intolerance and discrimination that allowed it to happen. The exhibit details St. Petersburg's Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and '60s including restrictions of the famous green benches, water fountains, restaurants, and even the Ku Klux Klan. See it now at the Museum located at 55 5th Street South.

WHEN POSSIBLE, DECLINE THE RECEIPT

When you handle cash register receipts, they are likely thermal paper coated with either BPA or its chemical cousin, BPS. We now know BPA and BPS are absorbed into our bodies from regular receipt handling. It is of particular concern to pregnant or nursing women, women of childbearing age and adolescents. BPA/BPS are endocrine disruptors and can imitate our body's own hormones in a way that could be hazardous for our health. When asked, decline the receipt. Use digital or email receipts whenever possible. If you do get one, throw it away and do not recycle it. The BPA/BPS contaminates all the paper in the recycling process.



REC CONNECT The Parks and Rec Department has introduced "Parks & Rec Connect" where you can view, register, and pay for activities online. You can also search an extensive list of facilities available to rent, and check your athletic team's league schedule, standings and game results. Stop by any facility to pick up your log in information. Get details at StPeteParksRec.org/ParksReconnect or call 893-7918.

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Left to right: Marijo S. De La Cruz, D.O.; Irina Scutaru, M.D.; Lisa Ball, D.O.; Karen Joseph, M.D.; Daniel Eckstein, M.D.



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BEAUTIFUL SPACE-SAVING FURNITURE

"Space-saving" furniture is one of the fastest growing areas in home furniture today, as people combine their need for more space with their desire for more luxury and function. Many areas in your home can benefit from organizational furniture. Here are some space-saving trends in high demand by today's busy families.

The 100-year-old Murphy bed now offers modern innovations in styling, finishes, and mechanical technology. The bed cabinets can be beautiful pieces of furniture. It also offers the opportunity to create dual purpose rooms. With the lift of a finger, a guest room can become a home office, exercise room or home theater. When it's time for bed, simply lower the bed and the room turns back into a guest bedroom.

Demand for Custom Closets has increased because people have become aware of the benefits a well-organized closet brings, most importantly, better organized clothes. This not only reduces time spent finding special items, but it can help save money in cleaning or pressing bills. Once reserved for high end

homes, custom closets are now a standard in most new homes.

Garage Cabinets have become much more popular as we all collect more and more things we can't seem to part with. A good garage cabinet or wall system keeps many of those things you can't live without tidy and out of sight while still leaving room for the car.

Home Offices have been growing in popularity since the early 1990s. Although laptops, tablets and cell phones have changed space needs, studying, paying bills or working at home is more effective with a dedicated space. Many times, allocated home office space is an odd shape making customizable furniture the only answer. If you happen to have an entire room that can serve as a home office, you will find customizable furniture designed for your way of working greatly improves the potential, beauty, and usefulness of a home office.

One area in our homes that is constantly changing is the Home Entertainment Media Center. The introduction of the big screen TV

started the trend, and it continues to grow with today's wall mounted lower cost flat screen technology. Media centers with music, gaming and ever growing larger TVs are becoming the family gathering place. Once only addressed by furniture retailers with simple TV cabinets, centers now requires more flexible furniture systems that allow for more customization to get the full benefits of the home theater experience.

In the Tampa Bay Area, the leading retailer for this type of furniture is The More Space Place. They have three convenient showrooms and design centers: St. Petersburg west of the Gandy bridge on Gandy Blvd., Palm Harbor, north of Tampa Rd. on US19 and Lutz, 2.5 miles west of I-75 on State Rd. 54. The design centers are staffed with friendly designers that have years of experience in helping clients find the design that best fits your needs. Call 727.580.0405 or visit MoreSpacePlace.com to find the store closest to you. They offer free design service as well as free in home design consultations. Let More Space Place can help make your home work better for you today.

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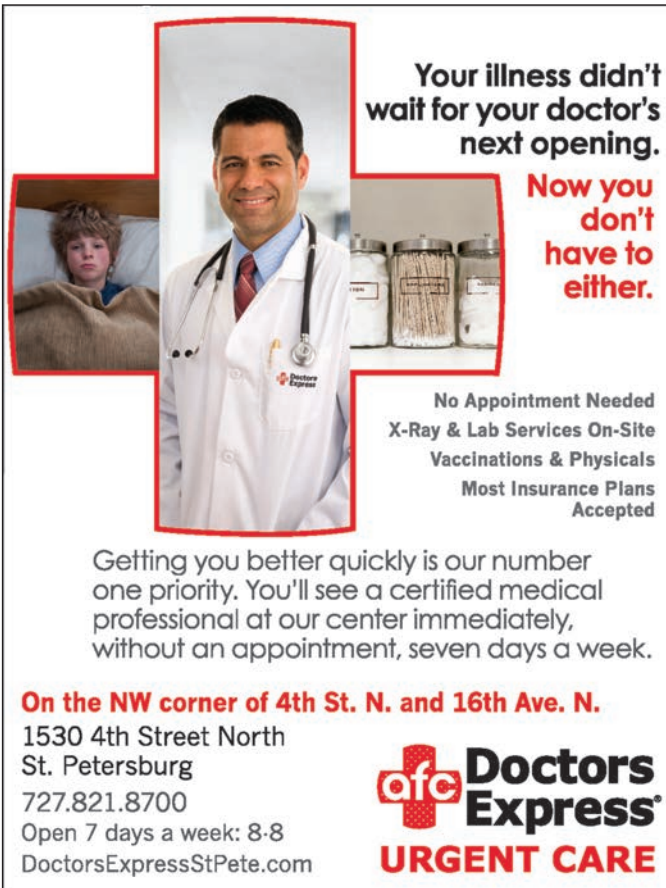


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NO MORE WILLIAMS PARK BUSES

Since 1952, Williams Park has been the transfer hub for Pinellas County Transit Authorities' approximately 16 different bus routes. In an effort to improve Williams Park, this is being changed and the bus stops surrounding the park are being removed.

Instead of a hub-and-spoke system, where all buses pull into a common location, the buses will follow a new grid system. With this new system, buses travel direct paths that keep them predominantly on their own street—no turning off for transfer hubs. This grid pattern allows routes to be streamlined and eliminates the time it takes to pull in and circle Williams Park. The grid system also creates a more direct path for riders traveling to a specific location. Instead of having to get off at Williams Park and walk, riders will have more options with added stops along the street.

The down side is there is no longer a single place to catch the bus. The route you need, and its direction, will determine where you can catch your bus. The City management and nearby businesses hope that this will reduce the number of people who choose to spend their days in Williams Park.

Redesigning service in the downtown area will improve direct access to other destinations in downtown for passengers and open the park for greater enjoyment by all residents and visitors.

SUPER BOWL DOES DOUBLE DUTY - CASA'S SOUP-ER BOWL FOOD DRIVE

When quadrupling the size of your domestic violence center you witness great changes. Four times as many lives are forever improved, and given a fresh start in a safer future. Four times as many children break the cycle of abuse and learn the emotional strength their guardian has. But, your food costs increase by a factor of four, too.

CASA is asking individuals and businesses to hold food drives at their Super Bowl parties, workplaces and favorite bars and restaurants throughout January and February. Last July, they opened their new 100-bed domestic violence center, and food donations have become their greatest need.

"We reached full capacity within months of opening," said Shandra Riffey, CASA's Acting Executive Director. "We've put in cribs to accommodate children born during their mom's time at the shelter and have had as many as 100 residents, including 55 children, living there at once. We're talking about 100 people who have been given a chance to rebuild their lives - That's a lot of people to feed!"

Momentum is growing as residents and businesses sign on to hold "Soup-er Bowl" food drives throughout southern Pinellas County. A list of donation drop-off locations and information on how to get involved are posted online at www.casa-stpete.org/souperbowl. Non-perishable food donations, checks and gift cards to wholesale clubs or supermarkets can also be brought to CASA's administrative offices at 1011 First Ave N, St. Petersburg during business hours each Monday throughout the months of January and February. Donations will be accepted Monday through Friday the entire week following Super Bowl Sunday.

While food remains at the top of their wish list, CASA maintains an up-to-date list of their most pressing needs at www.casa-stpete.org/wishlist. Individuals interested in providing monetary donations or their company's services are encouraged to do so online at www.casa-stpete.org/donate or to contact John Biesinger, CASA's Manager of Major Gifts, at 727-895-4912 x105 and jbiesinger@casa-stpete.org.



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

JANUARY

Gem, Jewelry and Beads Coliseum 15-17
 The Paladium Scott Stapp Concert 15
 Florida Orchestra The Fab Forties 16
 East-West Shrine Game 16
 Sunshine Music And Blues Festival 16
 Great Explorations Winter Wonderland 16
 St Pete Preservation Bingo Tour 16
 MLK Battle Of The Bands 18
 Martin Luther King Day Monday 18
 MLK Jr Leadership Breakfast 18
 MLK Day Drum Major Parade 18
 Public Schools Closed 18
 SPMOH Shipwreck Exhibit Opens 18
 Dali And Disney Opens At The Dali 23
 Florida Orchestramozart And More 23
 St Pete Preservation Kenwood Tour 23
 Senior Expo Coliseum 25
 Ma'ceo Equestrian Festival 28-31
 Florida Orchestra music Of U2 29
 Muse Award Benefit 29
 Tampa Bay Home Show Tropicana 29-31
 Florida Orchestra Gala Concert 30
 Gasparilla Invasion 30
 Folk Festival Heritage Village 30
 AWAPS: Kids Free Flights Albert Whitted 30
 St Pete Preservation Allendale Tour 30

FEBRUARY

Suncoasters County Music Fest 1
 Ground Hog Day 2
 Florida State Fair Opens 4
 First Friday 5

St Pete Preservation Walking Tour 5
 Florida Orchestra Final Fantasy 6
 Chili Cook Off Second Timers 6
 Kids & Cubs Tasco And Mayor's Games 6
 St Pete Preservation Walking Tour 6
 Super Bowl Sunday 7
 Local-Topia Williams Park 6
 Little League Registration Closes 6
 Chinese New Year 8
 Fat Tuesday 9
 Ash Wednesday 10
 Florida Orchestra Villa Italia 11
 Nood Regatta St Pete Yacht Club 12-14
 St Pete Preservation Waterfront Tour 13
 Artwalk 13
 Grand Central Flea Market 13
 Big Band Valentine Ball Dance 13
 Valentines Cupid's Undie 5k Run 13
 Florida Orchestra Valentines Pops 13
 MFA Exhibit Opens 13
 Valentines Day 14
 Free Wedding Botanical Gardens 14
 Coliseum Bridal Show 14
 Presidents Day 15
 Public Schools Closed 15
 Voter Registration Ends March Elections 16
 Suncoasters Scholastic Awards 18
 Sea Blues Concert Clearwater 20-21
 Fine Arts Festival North Straub Park 20-21
 SPMOH Cocktails On The Courts 20
 Fan Fest, Rays, Tropicana Dome 20
 The Paladiumnils Lofgren Concert 20

Florida Orchestra Beethoven's Concerto 20
 Sunken Gardens Orchid Festival 20
 Opening Day Northeast Little League 20
 SPDNA Sunshine Awards 23
 Florida Orchestra Ravel And Brahmas 27
 Rays Fan Fest Tropicana Field 27
 Se Guide Dogs Walkathon 27
 Leap Year Day 29

MARCH

Rays Spring Training Opens 2
 Florida Orchestra Rhapsody In Blue 3
 First Friday 4
 Florida Orchestra Red Hot Blue 5
 Kenwood Art Stroll Kenwood Area 5
 Chili Cook Off, Grand Central District 5
 Mobile Recycling Event 5
 Walk To Defeat ALS 5
 Awakening Lifestyle Festivals 5-6
 Crop Walk first Presbyterian Church 6
 The Paladium McCartney Years Concert 6
 SPMOH Happy Hour With A Historian 10
 Boat Show Tropicana Field 11-13
 Florida Antiquarian Book Fair 11-13
 Firestone St Pete Gran Prix Fri-Sun 12-13
 Artwalk On The 2nd Saturday 12
 Flea Market On Grand Central 12
 Daylight Savings Time Begins 13
 Early Voting Ends In Pinellas 13
 Public Schools Closed 14
 Statewide Primary Election 15
 Spring Break Public School 21-25
 Easter Sunday 27

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Fun Things To Do Nearby - Museum & Garden Reciprocal Admissions

If it is listed below, along with the benefits of membership to the museum of your choice, you also receive free or discounted admission to these other attractions and museums throughout Florida. If you have a membership to a Florida Garden, many of them are part of the AHS Reciprocal Admission Program. Those participating are marked (AHS) Reciprocal below.

Bradenton

South Florida Museum
941.746.4131 southfloridamuseum.org
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Clearwater

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Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium
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Edison & Ford Winter Estates
239.334.7419 edisonfordwinterestates.org
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Ft. Pierce

Heathcote Botanical Gardens
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Gainesville

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
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Jacksonville Maritime Heritage Center
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Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens
904.356.5577 jacksonvillearboretum.org
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Lakeland

Explorations V Children's Museum
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Largo

Armed Forces History Museum
727.539.8371 armedforcesmuseum.com
\$2.00 off admission

The Florida Botanical Gardens
727.582.2100 flbg.org
FREE admission (AHS Reciprocal)

Maitland

Art & History Museums—Maitland
407.539.2181 artandhistory.org
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Naples

Naples Botanical Garden
239.643.7275 naplesgarden.org
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Appleton Museum of Art
352.291.4455 appletonmuseum.org FREE
admission

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727.375.3385 finescalemodeling.org
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Vero Beach Museum of Art
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Business Briefs...



ONE BREAKS GROUND

Sales for the new condo portion of the building have been so brisk the project began earlier than projected. The new mixed use center will be 41 stories tall, and occupy a full block with 253 residences. There will be a 174 room hotel, private Resort Plaza on the seventh floor, resort-style pool, private spa, cabanas, and a fire pit for owners. Included in the building will also be a 5,000 square foot fitness and yoga center. The

Residents' Club will include a bar and catering kitchen. The hotel will be surrounded by many new restaurants and retail shops. Shown here is a rendering of the building as it should look when completed. Smith and Associates has a sales office on site where Dwayne Frazier is the Director of Sales. Get more information on their web site at www.ONESTPetersburg.com.

SUNSHINE EXPANDS Strands of Sunshine, a small craft related jewelry and art shop at 633 Central Avenue is expanding into the space next door, formerly occupied by T2T Interior Design and Custom Furniture. The larger space is allowing them to add tables so more artists can work there. The store is owned by Amy Marshall.

BLINDS STORE OPENS

If the new year is bringing you new blinds, now there is a new place to buy them downtown - Blinds By Design. Owned by Jay and Irina Krystofik it has been under construction for over a year at 465 Central Avenue. The owners bought the building, built condos over the store and now have completed their showroom. "Blinds By Design" combines style and design with technology and convenience," says owner Irina. "We offer a wide variety of products, from window treatments to flooring, from light fixtures to lighting control systems, and audio video." For more information call 1-888-986-1858 or visit www.BlindsByDesign.com.



SMITH AND ASSOCIATES HONORED Smith and Associates has been recognized as having one of the top real estate websites in the country. They received top honors as the #1 map search and are listed among the Top 10 Best Overall Websites nationwide. The website's neighborhood information was particularly praised. Check it out at www.SmithAndAssociates.com

CLOSED OR MOVED T2T Interior Design and Custom Furniture relocated to the Arts Warehouse District.

Business Briefs...

TRADER JOE'S ONE YEAR LATER

It is hard to believe after we waited so long for it, that the Trader Joe's on 4th Street will be open one year on February 13th. The community response to the store has overwhelmingly positive. "So far, sales have been awesome," says manager Camille. The store employs several dozen people and 80% live in the immediate area. Pictured here are some of them. Trader Joe's is located at 2700 4th Street North and sells many products branded by Trader Joe's at reasonable prices. Get more information at www.TraderJoes.com.



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UNION TRUST TO BE RAZED? The large building at the corner of Central Avenue and MLK is slated to be partially demolished and converted into apartments. One of downtown's most historic

buildings still standing, it was built in 1926 and expanded in the 1930s. City Council approved its historic designation in 2004. Unfortunately, it has sat vacant since 1996, and is in disrepair. Art Village I, LLC, wants to add 4-stories to the building, and build an 8 story apartment tower on the north and east sides. Street level retail and a parking garage with a walkover are also planned. Preservationists want to save the building, while the developer's architects say the building is not functional and financially not viable.

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More Business Briefs...

MORE APARTMENTS

American Land Ventures (ALV) is planning to tear down the Onyx Nightclub and build a 22-story, high-end apartment tower there with 210 units. The location is near Publix downtown.

Demand for high end rentals continues to be strong downtown, helping ALV decide

to build yet another apartment building. Just a block away is an apartment tower under construction. Nearby is a 9-story, 366 unit building about to break ground along with the 348 unit Hermitage, nearing completion. ALV hopes to begin construction on the Onyx site later this year.



BLISS MOVING QUICKLY

The building broke ground last June and construction of the 19 story condominium tower is quickly moving forward. Only one unit remains unsold among the southern residences and two are still available among the northern residences, one of which is a penthouse.

DOUBLE THE SIZE

Desiree D. Noisette owner of Cerulean Blu Swim & Resort Wear Boutique on 400 Beach Drive, is pleased to announce her store is expanding. Stop in and see the new space with twice the size and twice the selection of activewear, footwear and of course the Cerulean Blu clothing line.

ALL CHILDREN'S IS EXPANDING

The hospital is breaking ground on a new \$85 million, 225,000 square foot research and education building across the street from their existing hospital.

The project includes a 250-seat auditorium, as well as state-of-the-art labs and simulation space. "There's going to be science experiments like you see on TV," says Jonathan Elle, ACH's CEO. "We hope to find cures for children around the world." The land was acquired through a trade with the University of South Florida / St Pete. It will add 30 highly skilled jobs in research and education. Construction is planned for early this year and be completed in 2018.



VOM FASS OPENS

Just off Beach Drive, on the corner of 1st Street North and 3rd Avenue, this store offers the world's finest oils, vinegars, spirits, wines and liqueurs. They even let you taste before you buy! Find them at 300 Beach Drive, 317-3926 or shop online www.vomfassstpetersburg.com.

DO YOU OWN A DRONE?

If you purchased or received a drone this past Christmas, you are not alone. In September 2015, Fortune Magazine estimated the number of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) that would be purchased during the past holiday season was projected to be close to 1 million. This increased popularity is cause for some regulation awareness being brought to the forefront.

In February 2015, the FAA released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for small, unmanned aircraft. This opened the door to the beginning of the rulemaking process. Most recently, the FAA announced required registration of all drones weighing between 0.55 pounds and 55 pounds (including mounted camera equipment). Failure to register carries some hefty fines and penalties. The FAA can assess civil penalties up to \$27,500 and criminal penalties of up to \$250,000 in fines and/or imprisonment of up to three years.

The FAA has partnered with the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems and the Academy of Model Aeronautics to create the *Know Before You Fly* campaign to educate current and future UAV owners about the safe and responsible operation of their systems. This campaign will help operators of UAVs understand the differences between recreational, commercial and public entity use.

Whether you are flying a UAV for fun or for business, it's important to understand your liability. Michael Atwell, Risk Management Consultant with Bill Arrington Insurance Agency, recently stated, "Recreational users need to fully understand their homeowners policies when flying."

Potential for bodily and personal injury, as well as property damage, exists. A homeowners policy may cover recreational UAV use. However, as with every insurance

coverage issue, the availability of coverage depends on the specific policy's language, i.e. the definition of "aircraft."

Mr. Atwell also cautions, "Invasion of privacy claims are another major concern with the emerging recreational UAV operations since cameras are often attached to most of the systems being flown today. How does that work with your homeowners insurance?"

The line between recreational and business can be confusing. Insureds who receive compensation for the use of their UAV will most likely jeopardize their homeowners coverage. For example, taking photographs with a UAV for personal use is likely considered recreational. Conversely, taking photos for a realty listing for a fee or as a part of a part time real estate brokerage business is not likely considered recreational.

The FAA categorizes those who operate UAVs as "aviators," and with this distinction comes great responsibilities. For better understanding of the regulations, registration and safety, visit the following websites:

www.faa.gov/uas/registration/ and knowbeforeyoufly.org

If you would like to contact Michael Atwell with your specific questions, you can reach him at Bill Arrington Insurance Agency in Largo, 727.595.8405



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THINK OUTSIDE THE CEREAL BOX... HEALTHY BREAKFAST IDEAS

For decades, we have been brainwashed by the food industry to eat cereal for breakfast. It is so ingrained in our society, that it is hard to “think outside the cereal box”. But the fact is that the majority of cereal is full of sugar and processed carbohydrates and lacking in protein, healthy fats and important nutrients. The same is true for other typical breakfast foods, such as bagels, muffins, toast, pastries, waffles and pancakes. Most people wouldn’t dream of eating a piece of cake for breakfast but that is what you are getting from a sugar and carbohydrate standpoint. Furthermore, we desperately need to eat more fruits and vegetables to provide us with adequate vitamins, minerals and other important plant-based nutrients that keep us healthy, decrease inflammation and prevent cancer. And if you skip veggies or fruits for breakfast, you are starting your day with a deficit. The biggest challenge in eating a healthy breakfast is time since most of us are rushed in the morning. So break the cereal habit and explore these convenient, healthier options. Here are a few ideas...

No cooking required:

- Plain Greek yogurt or coconut milk yogurt with 1 tablespoon ground flax or chia and ¼ cup organic trail mix (nuts, seeds and dried fruit)
- Overnight oatmeal – assemble the evening before and it will be ready in the morning. No cooking required.
- Kind Bar (Nut & Spice, Fruit & Nut or Strong & Kind) with ½ cup berries of any type
- Organic cottage cheese with cantaloupe or honeydew

and a slice of Sprouted Ezekial toast

- Lox minus the bagel – spread organic cream cheese, capers and dill on edge of lox and roll up, eat with sliced tomatoes and 10 healthy crackers (such as Mary’s Gone Crackers)

- 1 slice toasted Sprouted Ezekial bread (in the freezer section of your supermarket or health food store) with almond butter, sliced apple and sprinkled with cinnamon and a drizzle of raw honey

Minimal cooking required:

- Breakfast antipasto: assortment of hard-boiled egg, prosciutto, peppadew peppers, sliced tomatoes, olives, feta or parmesan cheese

Slightly more cooking required:

- Veggie & quinoa mini quiches (make a batch and freeze them)
- Avocado baked eggs
- Vegetable egg scramble – scramble 2 eggs with any vegetables you have handy or leftover veggies from the night before, sprinkle with feta cheese, sliced cherry tomatoes and chives

For breakfast recipes described above, go to RobinsonMed.com and look under our “foodie” category on our blog page.

Dr. Stacey Robinson is a board certified physician practicing in downtown St. Petersburg and owner of Robinson MD. She can be reached at (727) 329-8859 or via www.RobinsonMed.com.

Drs. Stacey & David Robinson are board certified physicians and owners of Robinson MD in downtown St. Petersburg



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ELECTION MARCH 15TH

Florida is a Closed Primary State

Both the Republican and Democratic Parties are selecting a presidential nominee this year. In order to vote for a candidate in the Presidential Preference Primary, you must be registered with one of these two major political parties. However, all registered voters in municipalities holding elections in conjunction with the Presidential Preference Primary may vote for all municipal contests and ballot questions. This is because Florida is a "closed primary state." In a Primary Election, a qualified voter is entitled to vote the ballot of the political party with which the voter is registered:

- A voter registered as a Republican may vote for Republican, Nonpartisan candidates and ballot issues only
- A voter registered as a Democrat may vote for Democratic, Nonpartisan candidates and ballot issues only
- A voter registered with a minor party may only vote for the minor party, Nonpartisan candidates and ballot issues.
- A voter registered with no party may only vote for Nonpartisan candidates and ballot issues only

It is important to remember Tuesday, February 16 is the deadline to register to vote and to change your political party affiliation for the March 15 Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Elections. No political party changes can be made after this deadline. Any political party affiliation changes made between February 17 and March 15, 2016, will take effect for future elections.

Visit VotePinellas.com/Voter-Registration/Check-My-Registration-Status today to check which political party you are registered with. If you would like to change your political party affiliation, mail a signed written notice with your change of political party affiliation to the Supervisor of Elections Office and include your date of birth OR your voter information number; or complete a Voter Registration Application with your political party affiliation change and check "Record Update/Change" in the top box.

For additional information about the March 15, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Elections, including an updated list of candidates as well as which municipalities will be conducting elections, visit VotePinellas.com.

As always, if you have any questions, email election@votepinellas.com or call 727-464-VOTE (8683). Visit VotePinellas.com for all your election information.

ST. PETERSBURG FREE CLINIC OPENS THE VIRGINIA & DAVID BALDWIN WOMEN'S RESIDENCE

St. Petersburg Free Clinic's new Virginia and David Baldwin Women's Residence is now open in downtown St. Petersburg. The new building has more than doubled the Free Clinic's capacity to help women transition into self-sufficiency, and will allow the nonprofit to assist nearly 150 women each year.

The Women's Residence provides a safe place for women to live while they develop the skills necessary for independent living. Designed by Wannemacher Jensen Architects, the new Women's Residence includes a large commercial kitchen with teaching areas to show healthy cooking techniques, an open dining area to foster a sense of community, and training rooms to teach job-seeking and life skills.

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2016 IS A LEAP YEAR



Years containing a Leap Year Day are called Leap Years. 2016 is such a year. Leap Year Day falls on February 29th, as it always does, but do you know why we even have Leap Years?

A Leap Day is added every so many years to keep our Gregorian calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the sun. It takes

the Earth approximately 365.242199 days, (what we refer to as a year) to circle once around the sun. If we did not add a Leap Year Day every so often, we would have close to six extra hours each year. Over time that builds up - at the end of 100 years, our calendar would have shifted 25 days; after 700 years, our summer would happen during December.

In 45 BC, during Julius Caesar's rule, the Romans were the first to discover the problem. When they created the Julian calendar, named after their emperor February 24th was their leap day. It made sense because in their calendar, February was the last month of the year.

In 1582, during Pope Gregory XIII's reign, the Julian calendar was refined creating the Gregorian calendar. The new calendar changed many previously known dates and months, and established Leap Year Day as February 29th, the 60th day of almost every fourth year. However, nothing is never that simple. Other adjustments are required ever century or so.

A Leap Year occurs in almost, but not all years divisible by 4. Years that are divisible by 100, and not by 400, are not leap years. Thus 1800 and 1900 were not leap years; 1600

and 2000 were.

A Leap Year Day baby is a person born on February 29th. They are commonly referred to as a "Leapling." During a non-leap year, some Leaplings celebrate their birthdays on February 28 while others on March 1; it is their choice. Some only celebrate getting older every fourth year.

Leap Year Day is also referred to as Bachelor Day in some cultures. This is not to be confused with Sadie Hawkins Day, a November holiday made up by the comic strip, Li'l Abner. On Bachelor Day (Leap Year Day) a single woman may propose marriage to the bachelor of her choice. If the man refuses, he is obligated to give the woman money or buy her a dress. In upper-class Europe, he must buy her 12 pairs of gloves, used to hide the woman's embarrassment of not having an engagement ring. So, women if you are not married yet, start looking for that available bachelor.

Fun Leap Year facts:

- A Utah woman is known to have given birth three times on February 29th. In 2004, 2008 and 2012.
- In Greece it is unlucky to marry on Leap Year Day.
- For 20 years, Anthony, Texas has been the self-proclaimed "Leap Year Capital of the World". Its festival, a birthday party for "leapers," attracts people from around the world.
- About four million living people are estimated to have been born on February 29. About 200,000 live in the U.S.
- If you are a salaried employee, you are working for free that day.
- The frog (probably due to the game Leap Frog) is a symbol associated with Leap Year Day

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More important than staging, de-cluttering, or a fresh coat of paint, is deep, deep down, no-dirt-left-behind clean. A clean house with clean worn carpet will sell better than a dirty house with new carpet. A clean house just smells better.

Deep clean means shinning up the kitchen as if Food Network is coming to film the next episode, and the Board of Health is about to show up and inspect the inside of your refrigerator, and behind it, too.

Pretend the nastiest gossip you know is coming over and will look under your sinks, inside medicine chests, drawers, closets, linen closets, and under the beds, and then will post "all your dirt" on Facebook. Clean and disinfect the bathrooms as if they are operating rooms, and clean and shine every handle and faucet in the house.

Deep clean is not just impress-your-guests clean. It means clean the light fixtures, clean the paddle fans, wash the baseboards, clean out the sliding glass door tracks. Clean inside the oven, under the lid of the washer, get the lint out of the dryer hose, wash (not just empty) the waste baskets and dust off the top of the hot water heater.

Get rid of things you don't need in the pantry and cabinets, wash the shelves and arrange everything as if you were Martha Stewart.

Make your house look good and smell fresh because it is clean. Don't spoil that freshness with cooking odors or eau de Fluffy and Fido. Do not paint over dirt and do not use air fresheners or scented candles. These tactics won't fool buyers, and may in fact turn them away.

Nothing sells better than clean. If you don't have the time or energy for deep cleaning, make a high yield investment and hire a company to do a deep clean for you. Put in more sparkle now, and at closing you will take out more gold.

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- 3 First Presbyterian Church – www.fpc-stpete.org
- 4 First United Methodist Church – www.fumcsp.org
- 5 Saint Mary Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church – www.stmaryolg.org
- 6 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – www.trinitylutheranstpete.org

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Bar & Restaurant News...

ROOSTER OPENS

The Wooden Rooster on 2nd Avenue N., across from Sundial, is now open. Owned by Jeremy Duclut and his wife Liset, the small restaurant, on the north side of Ovation Condos, has 46 seats, 30 inside and 16 on the sidewalk that



seem to remain full most of the time. Their eclectic menu serves fresh sandwiches, which can also be made as crepes, soups, salads and breakfast anytime. As much as possible, their ingredients come from local farms and organic whenever possible. Jeremy is the main chef at Cassis Restaurant, where he plans to remain. Cassis is not associated with The Wooden Rooster which is located at 104 2nd Avenue N. and their phone number is 8-2-CREPE. See their full menu at TheWoodenRooster.com.

EXPANDING Three Daughters Brewing Company is still fairly new - and they are already expanding. The plan is to quintuple their brewing production in 2016, so they recently broke ground on 10,000 additional square feet of brewing space. Find them at 222 22nd Street S., west of Tropicana.

FERGS OFFERS A HALF PRICE APP

To Mark Ferguson, founder of Ferg's Sports Bar & Grill, an app is not always an appetizer, it can also be a mobile app for your cell phone. Ferg's is a member of the Half Price Club phone app connecting members to participating restaurants where



they, along with one other adult and up to three children ages 17 and younger, will receive 50% off their entrees and alcoholic beverages. To date about two dozen restaurants in the Tampa Bay area are participating, but Ferg's was one of the first in the U.S. to join the program.. "Our goal is to have 150 by the end of 2016," says Mark Ferguson. Download the Pay Half Club app through itunes or at the Google Play Store. For more information and to see the participating restaurants, go to www.FergsSportsBar.com/S1556167

HAWKERS COMING SOON This Asian street fare restaurant is opening at 1245 Central Avenue, northeast of Ferg's. The menu will contain roasted duck tacos, Korean bulgogi beef and exotic curry laksa and roti prata. They hope to open in March. This is their third location, but the first in our area.

More Restaurant News...

LURE OPENS

Specializing in tikis, tacos and sushi, The Lure has finally opened in Central Avenue's 600 block. During the restaurant's construction, owner Tom Golden teased everyone with the statement that they would feature "Cold Dead Fish." We now know that meant sushi. Golden has owned several area restaurants; most recently The Rack in South Tampa. The Lure is located at 661 Central Avenue. Visit www.TheLureStPete.com for more information.



LOCALE MARKET CHANGES FARMTABLE KITCHEN

To accommodate the wishes of their customers, the whole second floor of the market has been converted into FarmTable Kitchen, a 145-seat, full-service, sit-down restaurant. The menu is always changing based on the available ingredients, and the food offered on the first floor is not necessarily available in the restaurant. They still offer the Chef's Table for 2-10 guests where you can enjoy a seasonally-inspired 8 course dinner Thursday through Sunday evenings.



GRILLED CHEESE ALL AROUND

Comfort food is a real local trend recently with several grilled cheese restaurants opening. In November, Kings Street Food Counter

opened at 937 Central Ave., heavy on the grilled cheese with local craft beers on tap. Called "a food truck without wheels" they also serve hot dogs. Around since 2009, the Cincinnati-based Tom+Chee, a grilled cheese and tomato soup restaurant recently opened its first location in the Tyrone area. Now, Central Melt, billed as a "Grilled Cheese Joint" is poised to open any day on Central Avenue between 6th and 7th Avenue featuring "artisanal grilled cheese," soups and salads.

ART WITH YOUR COFFEE Visit Kahwa Coffee South to see a display of photos of the city's world-renowned murals on their walls. The pieces are for sale, but the display will remain (even after they've sold) until Feb. 5. Kahwa Coffee South, is located at 204 2nd Avenue S.

BRICK & MORTAR In the space formerly occupied by St. Pete Brasserie, this newer restaurant is run by husband and wife team Hope Montgomery, and Jason Ruhe, owners of In Bloom Catering in Tampa. The upscale menu is contemporary New American food that is not overly expensive.

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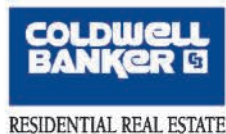
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Organizational News...

DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

They are supporting the Waterfront Parks Foundation with a social and bocceball tournament at Elva Rouse Park on Sunday, March 20th.

This is an association of associations representing the interests of the residents of downtown St Petersburg. Membership is open to all downtown residential community associations located in the area to the east of 10th Street and from 14th Avenue North to 14th Avenue South.

They hold business meetings on the fourth Friday of the month in Bayfront Tower. Please call if you want to attend a meeting. 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 February 3 and March 9th. 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. City Power Toastmasters teaches confidence through practice, practice and more practice. They meet at St. Petersburg Municipal Services Bldg., One 4th St. N., room 600, 6th floor from noon to one p.m. each Wednesday. 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.

SECOND TIME AROUNDERS

The St Petersburg Second Time Arounders Marching Band have been pleasing audiences for over 34 years.

The all-volunteer marching band is gearing up for their 2016 performance schedule which includes a trip to Seattle in July. They will also be marching in the following nearby parades: January 30: Gasparilla, February 20: Ft Myers Edison Parade, March 12: The Ybor City St Patrick's Day Parade.

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

PINELLAS COUNTY REPUBLICANS

The Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of each month at Banquet Masters 13355 49th Street, Clearwater. All registered Republicans are welcome. Contact Charlotte Smith at 539-6009 or email info@pinellasrepublicans.com.



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ART, ENTERTAINMENT & MUSEUM NEWS

ST. PETERSBURG ART ALLIANCE MUSE AWARDS

www.stpeteartsalliance.org

St. Petersburg's Arts Alliance presents Third Annual MUSE Awards on Friday, January 29, 2016 at the Museum of Fine Arts at 7:30 pm. The fundraising benefit for the arts will recognize the breadth and beauty of art and culture in our City of the Arts, and pay tribute to those that continue to inspire and guide St. Petersburg to its standing as an international arts destination. Proceeds will benefit artists, arts education, and arts & cultural organizations through our Arts Alliance programs and services.

No stiff tuxes, no boring speeches, no rubber chicken dinner at this one. It's the art community's pARTy to uniquely celebrate the Muses of St. Petersburg. Creative pARTy attire suggested - this is a night to revel in creative spirits! Events include interactive digital art, pop-up performances, artful by-the-bite dinner courses, curated auction items, and the MUSE Arts Awards, which add up to a truly different type of benefit.

The pARTy will begin at 7:30 pm - Individual Tickets are \$100. Individual Tickets are \$150 for the Reception which starts at 6pm and pARTy. Reserved Cabaret pARTner for four tickets are \$500. All tickets may be purchased at www.stpeteartsalliance.org. For sponsorships, please contact John Collins at John@StPeteArtsAlliance.org.

FLORIDA CraftArt

501 Central Ave.

821.7391

FloridaCraftArt.com

Role Models, January 9-February 20, is an exhibition that brings all that Florida ceramics has to offer to the forefront. Seventeen artists currently working in Florida have been selected to participate in this exhibition. Each artist was asked to choose one person who mentored them and choose one person whom they have mentored. Out-of-state connections play an important role as well. Many of the Florida artists have chosen craftspeople from elsewhere in the country: people they studied under in school, look to for professional advice, or artists that they have mentored who have moved on to successful careers. The exhibition will be a survey, with each artist showing one piece. *Role Models* will be a touring exhibition.

BROCANTE VINTAGE MARKET This once a month market features vintage finds. It is on Saturdays and Sundays at 2200 Second Avenue S.

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 held every second Saturday of the month from 5-9 pm. Download the map and list of participants to plan your art evening.

CRAFTYFEST

2030 Central Avenue

324-3878

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

255 Beach Dr NE

896-2667

www.fine-arts.org

Contemplating Character: Portrait Drawings & Oil Sketches from Jacques-Louis David to Lucian Freud Saturday, February 13-Sunday, May 29

Portraits have captivated humanity throughout time. Just think of the many images of people from around the world and over the centuries that can be seen in the Museum's galleries.

Lucian Freud, one of our time's most provocative portrait painters and the grandson of the pioneering psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, once noted: "I've always wanted to create drama in my pictures, which is why I paint people. It's people who have brought drama to pictures from the beginning. The simplest human gestures tell stories."

Contemplating Character: Portrait Drawings & Oil Sketches from Jacques-Louis David to Lucian Freud is the most expansive exhibition of portraits ever presented at the MFA. It spotlights 152 rare portrait drawings and oil sketches from the late eighteenth into the twentyfirst century, with most from the nineteenth. Artists from 15 countries are represented, with a large number from France and England.

MOREAN ARTS CENTER

719 Central Ave.

822.7872

MoreanArtsCenter.org

Morean Center for Clay Exhibition & Workshop: *Florida Surface* exhibition premieres Feb. 13. *Florida Heat: Surface Design* workshop follows from Thursday Feb. 18 through Sunday, Feb. 21 (9 AM to 4 PM). Eight of the country's leading ceramic artists are scheduled to teach. Workshop covers all firing ranges and surface approaches.

Give the gift of Membership: A great gift for a loved one who is passionate about art, or for the first timer who may want to explore jewelry making, glass blowing, ceramics and more, is a Morean Arts Center Membership or Gift Certificate for a specific class or workshop. Priced very reasonable, a yearly membership or gift certificate is a unique and fun gift to receive. Guest Services can help you at 727-822-7872.

THE DALÍ MUSEUM

620 1st Ave. South

895-6620

www.studio620.org

The Dalí Museum celebrated its fifth anniversary in its award-winning, awe-inspiring building this month. Since opening on Jan 11, 2011, the building has welcomed more than 1.7 million visitors from around the world.

In the five years since its opening, in addition to its unparalleled permanent collection of Salvador Dalí works, The Dalí has presented exhibitions featuring renowned artists including Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso and most recently M.C. Escher.



Martha Miller
(American, born 1954)
The Artist's Daughters (1987)
Pastel on paper
Robert Flynn Johnson Collection
©Martha Miller



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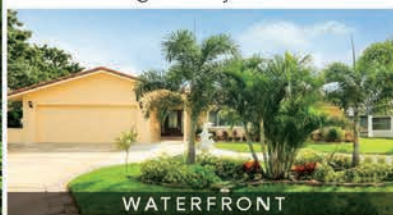
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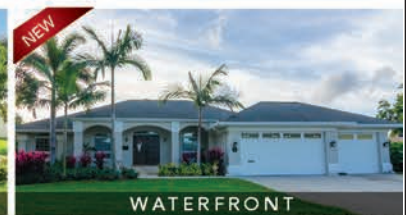
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 Elizabeth Funk 727-463-6383



WATERFRONT

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Organizational News...

GFWC ST PETERSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB

St. Petersburg Woman's Club is an all volunteer service organization whose clubhouse has served as a community gathering place since 1929. The club was established in 1913 and continues to offer hands-on service for charitable and educational purposes. For information, contact Joanne Walker 727-822-4982. www.stpetersburgwomansclub.org

ST PETE DNA

General meetings are held quarterly at the Sunshine Center to provide members information and a forum for discussing downtown issues. They are normally on the second Thursday.

Their annual Sunshine Awards will be held Tuesday, February 23 to be held at the Museum of Fine Arts

Porch Parties are held several times a year normally at area restaurants and businesses. Tickets are \$10-15 for members and \$15-20 for non-members. This includes most food and beverages. Visit www.StPeteDNA.org for exact dates and locations.

The SPDNA represents residents and homeowners in the area between MLK JR. Street, to the waterfront, from 5th Avenue S. to 5th Avenue N. Membership is \$15 a year.

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:

Using GPS: Wednesday, March 16, 7-9pm - This seminar explains the principals of waypoint navigation and shows you how to relate the GPS to your charts. The seminar also shows you how to operate your GPS - what the buttons do, what the screens show and how to access the functions you need. You will also get some tips for choosing a GPS if you do not currently own one. Materials include the waterproof Captain's Quick Guide to Using GPS to take aboard your boat and remind you of the basic steps while underway. GPS is now so easily available, this has become an essential seminar for all boaters. Bring your handheld if you have one. Instruction is Free, materials are \$35 per Family.

The seminar will be taught at the Sailing Center, 250 2nd Ave. NE, Demens Landing, St. Petersburg, FL. Cost of the seminar is \$40 per family. Pre-registration is required at www.boating-stpete.org. Contact Jeff Eckhart at 424-9800 or email him at JeffEckhart41@Gmail.com for more information.

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.

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 February 2 and March 1. 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). They meet at the West Minster Presbyterian Church, 126 11th Avenue NE, 7pm.

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 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.

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

THE SUNCOASTERS

Their **All County Music Fest** will be at The Mahaffey Theater, February 1. Open to middle and high school students, it is a celebration of music education for Pinellas County Schools and features over 300 students selected to the All-County Band. Tickets are \$6 and will be available at rehearsals or at the door the night of the performance. For information about auditions and tickets, call the Performing Arts Supervisor for Pinellas County Schools at 727-588-6055.

Scholastic Art Awards will be at Gibbs High School, February 18. The gallery opens at 6pm, with awards presentations beginning at 6:30 pm. The Awards are a national event where 7th to 12th grade students from across the U.S. submit art samples to be considered for local and national recognition and awards. Entries, which were due in early January, are judged by local art experts hired by the Pinellas County Schools Art Supervisor. Typically, 500-600 entries are received each year and 150-200 students are selected. Their artwork is included in an exhibition hung for several weeks in the gallery at Gibbs High School.

JSG Leadership Program (known as The Junior Sungoddess Scholarship Program) begun in 1955. It is a scholarship based program recognizing Pinellas County high school girls who display community awareness and involvement, academic achievement, and embody the values and poise to represent the Suncoasters and the City of St. Petersburg as goodwill ambassadors.

For information on the Pinellas Suncoasters, contact Scott Brainard at 367-3000 or SBrainard@KarnsEnterprises.com.

SUNSHINE CENTER

The 'Kids and Kubs' are part of the Sunshine Center and play softball at North Shore Field on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10am. For the last two years, they have volunteered to serve the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner meals at the Center. They also make an annual donation to the meals program.

The Friends of the Sunshine Center meet on the second Saturday of each month except from June to August. The next meetings are February 13 and March 12th.

For more information about the Friends of the Sunshine Center, please call Carol Ann Payne at 821-2323.

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To Life: To the Arts

February 18, 2016
Thursday, 6:00 p.m.
The Mahaffey Theater



To Life: To the Arts will feature artist and Holocaust Survivor Samuel Bak, the 2016 Loebenberg Humanitarian Award recipient. To Life is the official opening of a new retrospective of Mr. Bak's work, curated by the artist himself, on display at the Museum beginning February 20.

To Life will also feature a performance of violinist-composer Ittai Shapira's *The Ethics*, which premiered at Carnegie Hall last spring to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Theresienstadt.

Event proceeds benefit the Museum's educational programming. Individual tickets available for purchase online at TheFHM.org. Sponsorships available - call Maria Johnston at (727) 820-0100 ext. 274.



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55 Fifth Street South
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THEFHM.ORG

Art Detail: Mesto On Flavco by Samuel Bak • Image Courtesy of Pucker Gallery

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ST PETE CELEBRATES THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICA'S MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL PARADE

On January 18, 2016, the 30th Martin Luther King, Jr. National Parade, Battle of Bands and Drum Line Extravaganza was held in St. Petersburg. It is the first, oldest, and largest MLK parade. It was founded by two brothers: Sevell C. Brown, III and Darryl Lamont Brown, Sr. and first held on January 20, 1986.

Sevell Brown says the first parade was a result of his vision from God after he experienced the death of his beloved grandmother on October 31, 1985. Brown's throat muscles would involuntarily constrict and cut off his breathing when he came too close to his grandmother, Maggie Church's wake or funeral. Brown had experienced this same medical phenomenon with the loss of his beloved paternal grandmother, Altamease Campbell, in 1972.

Not able to cry or grieve, Brown prayed for God to deliver him from his situation. God awakened him at 2:30 am. a few mornings later and showed him a vision, in panoramic view as if he was in a theater, of Historical Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) marching bands and floats marching and riding down the streets in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Brown immediately jumped up and began drafting the format of the King Parade. He became obsessed with the vision God had given him of a traditional National Parade with floats and bands in honor of Dr. King. God preoccupied his mind to such an extent that it got Brown through the loss of his grandmother, for the next three months.

Two years before, after 18 years of lobbying, President Ronald Reagan signed the Federal King Holiday Bill on November 3, 1983, making the third Monday of every January, the Federal King Holiday. The first Federal King Holiday would become effective and celebrated on January 20, 1986.

Prior to 1986, the Civil Rights lieutenants of Dr. King and the rest of America only celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. in the form of traditional Civil Right Marches as practiced by Dr. King in the Selma to Montgomery, Birmingham and Washington, D.C. historic marches. There were no "traditional parades" in the sense of a "Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade" or "Rose Bowl Parade" with floats and marching bands in honor of Dr. King.

Two months before the first Federal King Holiday, the Browns ignored warnings from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and

King Lieutenants that holding a monumental Dr. King Parade would be an impossible task to accomplish in only two short months. They were advised to stick with a "memorial march." Brown had already participated in those types of marches as a student at Clark College in the Atlanta University Center in 1970 and decided to take a separate path. He was told he could go ahead with his parade plans, but not to ask for or expect any financial support from SCLC. Against all odds, in less than two months, they successfully introduced the concept of the traditional "Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. National Parade, Battle of Bands & Drum Line Extravaganza" to America. On January



Sevell C. Brown, III

20, 1986, for the first time in U.S. history, white marching bands and African American marching bands performed together, while paying tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. in St. Petersburg.

The response to the concept was overwhelming. Police attendance count for the first parade was 25,000; the second year the count was 38,000 and by the third year it was 60,000 people. Brown lobbied the Pinellas County School Board and won a major victory when the Board declared Dr. King's birthday a School Board Holiday. By the fourth year, 80,000 attended the parade. Since then, it has averaged 100,000. That means some 2.5 million people have attended the parade over the last 29 years.

Brown's vision was designed to expose, teach and instill an appreciation of who Dr. King was and his significance to

generations of young elementary, middle and high school students. Brown's premise was "To reach youth, you must reach them where they are, not in the skies where adults wish for them to aspire." In 1985, the youth of America could not be separated from their boom boxes and their music. Brown simply replaced the boom boxes with African American University bands. This strategic move by Brown reflected a valuable lesson he learned about the music of Black American slave, while a student under Dr. Wendell Phillip Whalum in Afro American Studies at Morehouse College. "Music is never music for music sake. It is always reflective of the experiences through which Blacks have gone and are still going through." Just as the Negro Spiritual, Blues, Jazz, and Gospel music was indicative of this unique application of music to life's experiences, so it is with the music and Marching Art Form of the Historical Black Colleges and Universities Marching Bands.

Brown's idea was to utilize sophisticated orchestrations of marching band music, composed by master band directors, using the "Art Form of High Stepping Marching Style" to cover the entire Federal King Birthday celebration, making this its center and foundation. The intrinsic masterful musical dynamics of master band directors replaced the boom boxes and took the minds of children to a higher level.

When university bands took to the streets in the parade, and performed at the Tropicana Field in the battle of bands festival named after Dr. King, each time the Drum Majors raised and planted their feet in their famous, spirited, unique high-stepping performance routines, children began to speak and proudly proclaim, unlike ever before, that they knew who Martin Luther King, Jr. "He's the drum major for justice who died for us! He's THE drum major that the university & high school band's drum majors marched to honor in the MLK National Parade."

Over the years, all visiting bands from 15 different states left St. Petersburg and took the concept of "A Traditional MLK Parade Celebration" back to their hometowns and many implemented Sevell Brown's Vision from God. Now, America's Annual MLK National Drum Major for Justice Parade, Battle of Bands and Drum Line Extravaganza in St. Petersburg, has been duplicated throughout America as the chosen manner to celebrate Dr. King's birthday.

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CHINESE NEW YEAR ITS THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY

This year, the Chinese New Year, which is the Year of the Monkey, falls on February 8. It is just as important to the Chinese people as our New Year's Day is, however, the date of The Chinese New Year changes.

Chinese New Year is celebrated at the turn of the Chinese calendar and the literal translation is the Spring Festival.

Different celebrations traditionally run from the last day of the last month of the Chinese calendar (Chinese New Year's Eve) until the Lantern Festival which is the 15th day of the first month. Chinese New Year's Day is known as Yuandan, meaning "the first sunrise." Most people start to celebrate one week prior, on the 23rd day of the 12th month.

The tradition of the Chinese New Year goes back centuries, and is based on several myths and traditions. More than 4,000 years ago, according to legend, on the day Shun (a Chinese mythological emperor) ascended to the throne, he led his ministers to worship heaven and earth. From then on, that day was regarded as the Chinese calendar's first day of the lunar month. This is the basic origin of the Chinese New Year. China adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1911, so the Chinese New Year was renamed The Spring Festival.

It has evolved into an opportunity to honor tradition and ancestors. Often, the evening before New Year's Day, Chinese families gather for an annual reunion dinner. It is a time for families to cleanse the house, to sweep away ill fortune and to make way for good luck to come to them.

People put red posters on their doors with poetic verses, pictures on their walls and decorate their homes with red lanterns which symbolize pursuing the bright and the beautiful. Children often receive luck money in red envelopes. As it is a time of new, many wear new clothes that day.

The evening includes lots of fireworks, once again hoping to drive away any bad luck and bring forth the good luck. Firecrackers symbolizes good luck in the coming year. Other activities involve beating drums, striking gongs, and dancing with participants in dragon and lion costumes.

2016 is the Year of the Monkey. For those born this year, 2015 is considered to an auspicious year. Legend has it, those born in the Year of the Monkey are said to be witty, intelligent and have a magnetic personality. Personality traits, like mischievousness, curiosity, and cleverness, make them very naughty. Monkeys are masters of practical jokes, because they like playing most of the time. Though they don't have any bad intentions, their pranks sometimes hurt the feelings of others.

Those born in a year of the Monkey are fast learners and crafty opportunists. They have many interests and need partners who are capable of stimulating them. While some like the eccentric nature of Monkeys, some don't trust their sly, restless, and inquisitive nature. Previous years of The monkey are 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004.

The Chinese New Year while it is celebrated in China, is also popular in many other Asian countries with significant Chinese populations, as well as in Chinatowns in cities around the world.





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TOM PRITCHARD His Food Lives On

Tom Pritchard, a partner with Bay Star Restaurants, and resident of old Northeast St. Petersburg, was one of Tampa Bay's most influential and respected chefs. He passed away November 25th, the day before his favorite holiday, Thanksgiving.



Pritchard could always tell a good story. He got his restaurant start by creating a fake resume to get a job in Miami at the upscale Rusty Pelican Restaurant. "I had no idea what I was doing, but I have always been a fast learner," Tom would say. "The secret to learning is being around people who are smarter than you."

Locally, Pritchard opened the 94th Aero Squadron, was the head chef at the Feather Sound Country Club and a few other places. Then, he met Frank Chivas, owner of Baystar Restaurants which include Salt Rock Grill and Island Way Grill among others.

"I've known Tom since the 1970s," said Chivas, long time friend, and business partner. "Tom was a rock star in the culinary world."

Chivas hired Pritchard when he opened Salt Rock Grill in Indian Shores in 1997. Pritchard was the restaurant's Executive Chef. As the list of company restaurants grew, he also oversaw the menus and kitchens at the other Bay Star restaurants including Island Way Grill, Marlin Darlin's, and Rumba Island Bar and Grill.

Pritchard was the main draw at many local fundraisers. The Abilities Foundation was one of his favorite charities, and he helped host big and small events for them.

"We ended up doing maybe 175 wine dinners together," said Frank DeLucia, CEO of the Abilities Foundation. "Tom was a fixture at all our dinners. He was usually the main attraction." Together, they helped raise over \$4 million dollars for Abilities.

Pritchard is best remembered for his willingness and ability to teach, motivate and mentor many of our area's best chefs. The list includes the chefs at Parkshore Grill, Bern's Steakhouse, Z-Grille and many others. He would take the time to really talk to up-and-coming chefs, sharing his knowledge, tips and even recipes. He contributed recipes and ideas for many new restaurant's menus

"What Tom did was make chefs proud of their work and happy to be in the kitchen," said Chris Sherman, former food critic for the St Petersburg Times.

"Tom's favorite holiday was always Thanksgiving," says Chivas. "Tom loved to tell the story of how he once cooked Thanksgiving dinner for 300 expatriates in Majorca. At Salt Rock, he would do all the dressings and gravies himself," Chivas reflects. "We called it Chef Tom's feast."

No one knew more about food and wine than Tom," Chivas goes on. "He was funny--had a great sense of humor. He was the Godfather of our hospitality industry. He was just a beautiful person. He always gave more than he took."

Tom died from complications of Parkinson's disease and was 74 years old. He was in the kitchen cooking until almost the end.

MA'CEO!

Cavallo Equestrian Arts, LLC, in conjunction with the City of St. Petersburg, is proud to announce Downtown St. Petersburg tour dates for its hit show Ma'Ceo! After sweeping the nation, recently performing in Las Vegas, NV, Honolulu, HI and Orange County, CA, Ma'Ceo is bringing this "Equine Cirque du Soleil" – Ocala Star-Banner to the Downtown St. Petersburg area. Generations of skill and grace have come together to create Ma'Ceo, an acrobatic and equestrian extravaganza featuring daredevil stunt work and unparalleled beauty. Combining traditional dressage, aerial performance, Cossack riding and vaulting, performed by world-class acrobats and riders, Ma'Ceo is truly an unforgettable experience.

"It is our dream to show the world the relationship we share with our horses, and the sheer excitement that they bring to all the lives they touch," Olissio Zoppe, Ma'Ceo Show Director and Cavallo Equestrian Arts Owner.

Ma'Ceo presents rich acoustic music in a gypsy setting that sets the scene for an action packed performance. An unrivaled cast of artists from around the world attempt death defying stunts, display dexterous feats, creating breathtaking images alongside their equestrian brothers. As a break from today's age of frills and technology, the world of Ma'Ceo takes people back to the roots of gypsy heritage.

The amazing artists from Ma'Ceo have also performed in well renowned shows such as Cavalia, Cirque Du Soliel, Arabian Nights, and Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey. Nearly ten different breeds of beautiful and exotic horses perform the most classic of riding styles from dressage to gypsy acrobatic bareback riding in a high-energy, fully choreographed, multi-cultural experience that keeps the audience on the edge of their seats.

Ma'Ceo will be playing 6 live, unique and memorable performances in the heart of St. Petersburg at Albert Whitted Park, 480 Bayshore Drive, SE, St. Petersburg.

- Thursday, January 28th, at 7pm
- Friday, January 29th, at 7pm
- Saturday, January 30th, at 3 & 7pm
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SUNKEN GARDENS PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

Adult classes begin at 11:30 am, and are included in the price of admission to Sunken Gardens at 1825 4th St. N., or free for members. Please call 551-3102 to pre-register for programs.



January 23, 11:30 am – 1 pm Arbor Day Celebration

Join our Tree Talk and Stroll led by Sunken Gardens' horticulture foreman, Robert Funari, highlighting the best trees for your yard with tips on planting, pruning, and more. Kid's crafts, a scavenger hunt, and free tree seedlings round out the fun - while supplies last! Pre-registration encouraged. Free with garden admission.

January 30, 11:30 am. – "Orchids 101"

Orchid specialist, Louis Del Favero, answers all your orchid questions; from caring for common and unusual specimens to the best ways to mount and basket these beguiling plants. Pick from many uncommon orchids during the plant sale following the program. Free with garden admission.

February 13, 11:30 am. "Growing Roses in Florida"

Grow roses this Valentine's Day! Trisha Weimer of the Tampa Rose Society, will help you successfully grow roses. From plant selection to growing conditions, to care and feeding, learn all the tricks and tips. Dolins Garden Center will provide Nelson grown rose bushes on Fortuniana rootstock for sale. Pre-registration encouraged. Free with garden admission.

February 6, 10:30 a.m. Budding Botanists

"Growing Veggies Without Soil!", presented by Alan Bednar of Simply Hydroponics. Kids build their own simple hydroponic system while discovering how to grow veggies with the gardening technique of the future. Pre-registration required, \$5 fee for each child's materials plus garden admission. Recommended for ages 6+

February 20 – 21, Ikebana in the Gardens – Wander the garden paths and gaze upon unique Ikebana designs, as Ikebana International members install large scale arrangements in the garden landscape. Demonstrations of this Japanese art form will be held from 11-2 on Feb. 20 and 12-2 on Feb. 21. Free with garden admission.

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RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE IS KEEPING FAMILIES CLOSE

Kristy Chase Tozer is a former board member and enthusiastic supporter of Ronald McDonald House. Two years ago, her daughter was critically ill and the Tozer family required the resources of Ronald McDonald House to help them through a very difficult time. Her story is an example of what RMH families go through, every day of the year. This is her story.

For the early part of 2013, we spent six months trying to identify the cause of debilitating respiratory issues that our two-year old daughter Kaiea was suffering. In late August we were told that Kaiea was suffering from an uncommon neurological disorder called Chiari Malformation. Our little girl was scheduled for brain surgery at All Children's Hospital (ACH) the following day. The doctors tried to reassure us by saying that this operation was as "routine" as brain surgery can be. Kaiea's procedure involved a "decompression" in which a small piece of bone at the base of her skull is removed to allow adequate space for her brain. The surgery was scheduled to last a few hours, followed by a stay in the PICU and then onto the neuro floor for another day or two and then she would be able to go home. It sounded simple enough, but there were complications.

Following surgery, Kaiea was unable to breathe independently. By the end of that week, we realized that she would be spending at least five more days in the PICU. Although we live in Tampa and ACH isn't that far from home, it seemed incredibly distant from our baby who lay in an induced coma. I sent an email to my associates at RMHC asking for help arranging a room at one of the St. Pete houses while we waited for our daughter's next procedure.

Since Kaiea was in the PICU, we were able to secure a room in the Central House, which meant we didn't even have to leave the hospital. My husband checked-in that afternoon and would spend the next nine nights in our new home-away-from-home. I spent most of those nights in my daughter's room, but each morning when my husband relieved me, I would walk to the house for a hot shower, a bit of food and if time permitted, a quick nap.

Kaiea spent 16 days in ACH and we came to appreciate our little respite at the Ronald McDonald House. On consecutive Sundays our family descended on the Central House and took turns relieving us so that we could enjoy lunch, and visit with our two older children and other family members. We savored those moments. It was therapeutic for all of us. I have often thought, where else could we have enjoyed a hot meal and a family gathering without leaving the hospital?

A year has now passed since our stay at the Ronald McDonald House. Kaiea has made a remarkable recovery, and today is doing well, thanks to the amazing care she received. Our family is stronger than ever, due in no small measure to the love and support we received during a very trying time in our lives. We plan to celebrate our good fortune and express our appreciation by hosting a meal at the Central House. It feels like the least we can do after receiving such hospitality and compassion from the staff and volunteers. We take every opportunity to share our story with others, offering a message of hope and inspiration that difficult times can improve and better days may lie ahead.

Over the years, we have heard stories from families who stayed at the Ronald McDonald House and what a gift was for them during difficult times. We have joined their ranks and are grateful we knew where to turn in our time of need. Please visit www.rmhc.tampabay.org for more information or to make a donation.



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IMPORTANT WORK TO DO IN THE NEW YEAR

By Pinellas County Commission Chairman Charlie Justice

It's a new year in Pinellas County and we've got important work to do! I am honored to serve as Chairman of your Board of County Commissioners in 2016. There's so much opportunity to build on our positive momentum as a community. As our economy gets stronger, we continue to focus on taking care of our county's most critical needs while investing wisely for future growth.



As a board, we are accountable to taxpayers to be responsible stewards of the public's resources, especially going into a year with a healthy county budget. In the coming year, we will keep building on our long-term efforts to grow smarter as our peninsula redevelops. Limited space and an economy that's picking up speed means a thorough review of our land-use regulations will be a priority for the county and other municipal governments. County staff will also stay busy making improvements to our storm water system to ensure vulnerable communities are safe from flood waters. Without the improvements we've already completed, the month of rain we experienced last summer would have caused even worse flooding for residents in low-lying parts of our county.

We also have a responsibility to carry on our work to help our most economically vulnerable residents. After decades of meetings and studies about the impoverished condition of Lealman, we are starting to make real progress toward transforming this community for the better. Our opportunity to purchase nearly eight acres that will be set aside for affordable housing is sure to have a long-term impact on working families who call Lealman home. We have only scratched the surface in places such as Lealman and Midtown St. Petersburg. In the past year, both were designated as Community Redevelopment Areas, which means future property tax values will go directly back to the people who live there rather than to the general fund.

The hard economic times we're coming out of as a county have taught us how to do more with less. I'm proud of all the things we're doing in local government while maintaining the same staff levels as 1987. Our county employees are working harder and smarter than ever before. As we slowly begin to add staff back to critical departments, we will continue to find ways to be more efficient and effective in our service to citizens.

We have important decisions ahead. There is substantially more revenue available from the record tourism year we are having with the "bed tax." Decisions need to be made regarding the expenditure of these funds including any allocation towards stadium construction expenses for the Tampa Bay Rays, Rowdies, Dunedin Blue Jays, Clearwater Threshers as well as other eligible capital projects. Florida Statute sets specific guidelines and limitations for how these dollars can be expended. Because of the record tourism rates, Pinellas is now classified as a high-impact tourism destination in Florida. The board will have decisions to make in the coming months about how best to utilize about \$7 million that our county is receiving for economic damages from the BP oil spill.

I encourage you to stay involved in your local government as we partner together to make our home a better place in 2016. Please contact me with any concerns or issues you may have (727)-464-3363 or cjustice@pinellascounty.org.

DISNEY AND DALI: ARCHITECTS OF THE IMAGINATION

January 23, 2016 – June 12, 2016

This immersive and enriching multi-media exhibition will tell the story of the unlikely alliance between two of the most renowned artists of the twentieth century: brilliantly eccentric Spanish Surrealist Salvador Dali and American entertainment innovator Walt Disney.

Presented through a multimedia wonderland of original paintings, story sketches, conceptual artwork, objects, correspondences, archival film, photographs, and audio – this comprehensive exhibition showcases two vastly different icons who were drawn to each other through their unique personalities, their collaboration on the animated short *Destino* – which, regrettably to both Disney and Dali was never completed during their lifetimes – and their enduring friendship.

Born three years and half a world apart, both Disney and Dali bore boyhood imaginations grounded in their upbringing in the 1900s, encouraging their lives, careers, and legacies to be paralleled on a profound level. A deeper look into the lives and artistic prominence of the Surrealist and the dreamer—highlighted by hand-written letters and alongside filmed dramatizations and audio re-creations—will show just how alike these two innovators were in blurring the lines between reality and dreams.

“Disney and Dali heralds a new era in art exhibitions,” said Dali Museum Executive Director, Hank Hine. “Visitors can expect a multi-sensory environment of moving image, soundscapes, and the transformative aura of exquisite individual paintings. Disney and Dali broke new ground as artists—the Walt Disney Family Museum and The Dali will deliver a brave new world of experience.”

Disney and Dali: Architects of the Imagination is co-organized by The Walt Disney Family Museum and The Dali Museum, with the collaboration of the Gala-Salvador Dali Foundation in Figueres, Spain, and The Walt Disney Studios. The exhibition is guest-curated by filmmaker Ted Nicolaou - Pre-order Your Tickets Today. - See more at: thedali.org.

3RD ANNUAL LOCALTOPIA

“A Community Celebration of All Things Local”

Saturday, February 6, 2016 | 10 am to 5 pm

The Independent Business Alliance, Keep Saint Petersburg Local, commemorates its 4-Year Anniversary with the 3rd Annual LOCALTOPIA. Held in Williams Park, 330 2nd Avenue N., the event features nearly 200 vendors and participants from St. Pete's favorite independent businesses for arts & culture, shopping, eating & drinking, health & wellness + service providers, and community organizations

Enjoy: Arts Village, Family Village with special, engaging experiences, Tampa Bay Rowdies players, Thank You Mama Family Rest area, Makeme studio & Morean Arts Center helping families create make & take items, Music & Me's mini music classes, Skate area, and St. Pete Indie Market Village.

Eat & Drink Local on 3rd Street with a draft beer truck serving beers from St. Pete and other carefully selected Tampa Bay craft breweries, soon-to-open breweries pouring their new brews, local restaurants & food trucks and “Sweet treats.”

Live Local Music will be in Williams Park Bandstand

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FLORIDA STATE FAIR FEBRUARY 4 - 15

The 112th Florida State Fair is scheduled for February 4 through the 15 at the Florida State Fairgrounds at I-4 and US Hwy 301 in Tampa. This year's theme, "So Much More to Explore," reminds everyone that there are seemingly endless activities to discover and enjoy including rides, food, exhibits, entertainment, animals, attractions and shopping. The Florida State Fair offers non-stop fun AND an excellent value with more than 112 free things to do and always free parking,

This year, music lovers will tap their toes to headliner concerts by 1960s sensation Gary Puckett; up-and-coming country singer Colt Ford; jazz and blues artist Robert Cray; and Dove Award-winning group Tenth Avenue North. Other concerts include the harmonies of Matt's Family Jam and Indie artist Aranda. Lazy Bonez, an '80s tribute band, is back for their second Florida State Fair, along with Beatlemania Live. The always-popular Elvis Extravaganza and Fair favorite Dennis Lee will be back to please fans. Some of the concerts have a new home on the Coca Cola Headline Music Stage located in the Equestrian Center. Other artists will perform on the Tampa Bay Times or Sleep Number Stages.

One of the most popular Fair concerts, Country Gold, returns to the Entertainment Hall on Feb. 9 & 10. Tickets for this are always a sell-out and are available online at www.FloridaStateFair.com. Prices are \$20 for reserved floor seating and \$10 for general admission.

Family fun is at its finest at the Florida State Fair with comedy shows, stunt divers, amazing animals and livestock, as well as the Mildred W. and Doyle E. Carlton Jr. Cracker Country and other exciting entertainment throughout the 12 days of the Fair.

It wouldn't be the Florida State Fair without outrageously delicious food and exciting rides. This year, Fairgoers once again will vote for the People's Choice Burger from a selection of new and returning burger favorites. Daredevils won't want to miss a ride on the Super Cyclone Roller Coaster, just one of the new attractions on the Florida State Fair Midway.

"There is truly something for everyone at the Florida State Fair," said Charles C. Pesano, Executive Director of the Florida State Fair Authority. "This is a great year to explore all there is to offer, while having fun on a budget."

Admission tickets and armbands are on sale now at www.FloridaStateFair.com or at Walgreens locations throughout the state through Feb. 3. Also available through the Fair box office, website, mail or fax: Call 1-800-345-FAIR (3247).

All advance discounts must be purchased by Feb. 3.
\$7 for seniors and must be used Feb. 8-12.
\$9 for adults. \$5 for children ages six to 11.
Children five years and under are FREE.
Weekday Ride armbands - \$20 for unlimited rides (Valid only on Feb. 4 and Feb. 8-11).
Any Day Ride armbands - \$30 for unlimited rides (Valid during all Midway hours).

Tickets for the Country Gold concerts held February 9 and 10 can only be purchased through the Florida State Fair Authority. Shows will be at 2 p.m.

Go to www.FloridaStateFair.com for details.

NEW YEARS RESOLUTION: VOLUNTEER

Every single day, the American Red Cross helps people in emergencies. Whether it's one displaced family, thousands of disaster victims, or providing care and comfort to an ill or injured service member or veteran or support to a military family member, our vital work is made possible by people like you. It is through the time and care of ordinary people that we can do extraordinary things.

The Red Cross is always looking for people with various backgrounds, talents and skill levels. Our needs are often specific based on current events and levels of ground support, but we'll do our best to accommodate your desire to get involved!

Visit www.redcross.org/support/volunteer/need-to-know.

SENIOR SPEED DATING

Want to get out and meet and greet seniors looking for a connection like you? The Sunshine Center invites singles to exchange conversation and make new friends or seek companionship. You'll join the group at a table setting with five minute talk sessions on Thursday, February 11, starting at 6 pm at the Sunshine Center, 330 Fifth Street N. Free admission. Call Sally for more information at 727-893-7190.

THE 4TH ANNUAL ST. PETERSBURG CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS

Residents and students of the Tampa Bay area can learn more about international issues during the Fourth Annual St Petersburg Conference on World Affairs, taking place February 17-19, 2016 in downtown St Petersburg. The three day event, hosted by the University of South Florida, St Petersburg, is free of charge, with seating on a first-come, first-seated basis.

Thirty panels of diplomats, media, military and academic experts will address issues particularly relevant to Floridians, among them China and its growing influence in Asia; Cuba, One Year Later; and international food issues.

St Petersburg in the World, a non-profit group of local citizens, stages the conference. Sponsors include Raymond James Financial, The Tampa Bay Times, Smith & Associates Real Estate, The Sembler Group, WUSF 89.7, World Politics Review, USFSP Honors Program, and financial donations from the public.

The Conference location is at the University Student Center, 200-6th Avenue S., St Petersburg. To sign up or take a closer look at the program and the list of speakers visit www.stpetersburgintheworld.com.

CROP WALK

The 2016 St. Petersburg-Pinellas County CROP Walk is Sunday, March 6, with registration beginning at 1:30 pm with the 1, 2 or 4-mile walks beginning at 2 pm. The Walk begins and ends at First Presbyterian Church, 701 Beach DR. NE. St. Petersburg.

This annual event raises money to help end hunger. 25% of the Funds raised will be divided equally between Daystar and the St. Petersburg Free Clinic to aid in their work to fight hunger locally. Imperishable food items are also being collected. The 2015 Walk raised over \$20,000 and brought in over 3000 pounds of food.

For information, to participate or to sponsor a walker, contact Penny Roen, 727-483-0606 or pinellas.cropwalk@gmail.com.

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