

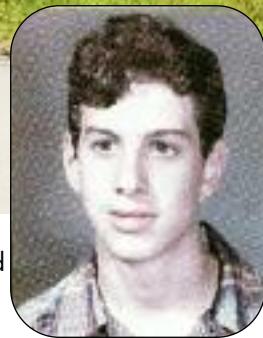


Newsletter

*Photo courtesy of Pinellas County Communications*



Bert Valery



Albert Valery

## THE PINELLAS TRAIL 25 YEARS LATER

December is the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Pinellas Trail. Before it was built, area walkers, runners, bikers, and skaters had to take their chances on our city streets. Unfortunately, it took the death of a

young man to jump-start the building of the Pinellas Trail. His tragic death is what motivated his father Bert Valery, to make the trail a reality.

On April 1, 1983, 17-year-old Albert Valery was killed while riding a bicycle on the Belleair Causeway. He was returning home from his part-time job. The tragic accident was the catalyst to move the concept of The Pinellas Trail forward, by focusing on its need.

Parents Bert and Patti Valery started a movement to create safer areas for bicycling. Their vision was "bicycle pathways" from one end of the county to the other, 30 miles each way, protected from cars. It would take five years of relentless petitioning and campaigning, numerous presentations to dozens of local municipalities and the twisting of many politician's arms before their concept of a "linear park," a green ribbon running through the county as a recreational trail, took form.

Creating the trail required a vision, but the first steps were unknowingly taken prior to young Albert's death. In 1980, AMTRAK pulled out of Pinellas County leaving their tracks unused. The Seaboard Railroad wanted to abandon many of their county lines. State Senator and environmentalist, Mary Grizzle proposed the State of Florida buy the tracks for \$20-30 million. As a result, in 1983 the FDOT became the owner of hundreds of miles of tracks, with no plan for them.

After Albert's death, his father started his campaign for safer

riding places. To get his message out, Valery spoke to groups big and small--from homeowners to city councils. He also enlisted the help of the media. He did not care if a trail was created over railroad

tracks, power line corridors or on the edges of major drainage ditches - as long as it was safe for cyclists. Valery found support from many area biking clubs and cycling shops.

Valery approached the Metropolitan Planning Organization, who controlled transportation project's money. With their support, he made a presentation to the County Commission. "By this time, the Commission knew about the concept and it was well received," says Valery. "Commissioner Mary Sheen Todd made the motion and helped push it through." From that meeting, the Commission created the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Each commissioner assigned three people from their districts to be on it. The first meeting was attended by over two dozen citizens and business owners .

In 1988, Pinellas Trails, Inc., a non-profit activist group and fundraising organization was created. The organization worked to expand the idea of a linear park.

"No one really wanted to build this," Valery recalls. "The head of County Parks was ready to retire and thought the project was too big. Even Fred Marquis (for whom the trail was later named) gave no support in the beginning. He wanted to use the tracks to construct a \$2 billion monorail system. That was nixed by the voters in the late 1980s.

Others saw Valery's vision. Brian Smith, head of Pinellas County's Planning Department, thought it was possible. County Commissioner Mary Sheen Todd also liked the idea.

It was time to create a real plan. The abandoned tracks seemed out of reach. They were not for sale and some of them were still in use by CSX. The possibility of building the trail on easements under power lines owned by then Florida Power was proposed, but Florida Power did not like it, primarily due to liability issues.

*Continued inside*

Story by Bob Griffin, Publisher

## CREDITS



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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](mailto: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](http://StPeteDowntownNewsletter.com).

SEE YOU AGAIN IN JANUARY!



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First Friday Street Party	
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Petersburg

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## JOIN SUNKEN GARDENS FOR A DAY TRIP!

To Bok Tower Gardens Thursday, December 3rd, 8:30 am – 6:00 pm

Leave the driving to them! Travel on an air-conditioned Motor coach to visit beautiful Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida. Bok Tower Gardens boasts one of the greatest works of famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. The historic landscape was designed to be a contemplative and informal woodland setting offering a series of romantic recesses and tranquil resting spots with breathtaking views of the Singing Tower.

**Holiday Home Tour at Pinewood Estate** - Now in its 20th year, the Holiday Home Tour at Pinewood Estate is the highlight of Christmas at Bok Tower Gardens season of holiday-themed events. The 20-room, Mediterranean-style mansion is decorated by volunteers and sponsored designers.

Your paid reservation includes; transportation, admission to Bok Tower Gardens and Holiday Home Tour, lunch from a selected menu, tips and more. Members: \$63 / Non-Members: \$73. We must have a minimum of 40 participants.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS NOVEMBER 25TH! Register by calling Sunken Gardens at 727-551-3102 to reserve your space via credit card or stop by the Gardens during business hours.



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## Did You Know...

### HISTORIC MIRROR LAKE LIBRARY IS 100 YEARS OLD

Mirror Lake Library, built in 1915 with Carnegie funds, will be one hundred years old December 1st. Mika Nelson, Library System director, and the staff are planning a

celebration that day. The Library is located at 280 Fifth Street North, just north of City Hall. Contact Linda Branson, Library Office Manager at 893-7318 for more information on related events. They will culminate the centennial celebration during First Night 2016.



### OLD NORTHEAST CANDLELIGHT TOUR RETURNS

The Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 13 2015 for The 18th Annual Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association Candlelight Tour of Homes. This popular event allows guests to enjoy eight selected homes, inside and out! They represent architectural styles popular in the early 20th century. Volunteer docents will be on hand to relate each home's history and point out special features. The self-guided event is a "rain or shine" event from 3 to 8 pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the Tour. Advance tickets may be purchased at HONNA.org at designated retail outlets.

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT** Great Explorations is offering a Parents Night Out, Saturday, November 21. Drop the kids off (ages 4-10) for a night of fun at the museum, while you get some holiday shopping done or attend a holiday party. They will have full use of the museum, eat pizza and see a movie. It is \$25 for members; \$35 for non-members.

**EPILEPSY & SEIZURE SYMPOSIUM** Bayfront Health St. Petersburg will host its 7th Annual Epilepsy & Seizure Symposium on Wednesday, November 18th at 5:30pm. Bayfront St Pete Epilepsy Center neurologists Erasmo Passaro, MD & Kristine Ziembra, MD, PhD and neurosurgeon Kirk Jobe, MD will be present to discuss topics and answer questions related to epilepsy and seizures. For more information and/or to reserve your space, please call (727)895-3627 or register online at [www.bayfrontstpete.com/classes](http://www.bayfrontstpete.com/classes).

### STONE CRAB SEASON IS OPEN

Florida provides more claws than any other area. In fact, it is Florida's largest commercial seafood product with over \$25 million dollars of the delicacy sold each year. Florida lobster is a close second, while Red Grouper is a distant fourth with only \$16.8 million worth sold each year. Stone crab season runs until May 15. Recreational crabbers can have up to five traps per person.



*and More...*



**CELEBRITY CHEF VISITS** St. Petersburg has really begun to be noticed for its wealth of great restaurants. Emeril Lagasse was in downtown St. Petersburg to tape the next episode of Emeril's Florida at Z Grille . With him here are , St. Petersburg's Marketing Director Robert Danielson and Mayor Rick Kriseman.

**JOIN THE CLUB** The Club at Treasure Island launched a new part-time membership. If you are a winter visitor, their Part-Time Resident Membership is perfect for you. It is available October – May, for four, five or six consecutive months. Access to all club amenities and services including dining, marina, tennis center, pool pavilion, tiki bar, fitness center and classes, special events and programs, coin-free arcade, and exclusive concerts are included. For information call 727-367-4511.

**HOLIDAYS AT HERITAGE VILLAGE** The special Holiday Tours at Heritage Village will begin on Saturday, November 28, Thanksgiving weekend. Historical houses are decorated true to their time period, locality and lifestyle, from an elaborately decorated Victorian home to a simply adorned 1852 log cabin. Heritage Village brings Pinellas County history to life at 11909 125th Street N., Largo where Walsingham Rd meets Ulmerton Rd. It is over 21 acres with 25 historic structures. Next door, Florida Botanical Gardens will be decorated with thousands of lights for the holidays.

#### PINELLAS COUNTY

**FAIR IS BACK** While the Pinellas Fair is in its 99th year, you may have noticed there was no fair last year. Years ago, it was held at the Largo Fair Grounds, then it moved to Pinellas Park before



disappearing for a few years. Now it is back - November 12-15. It is organized to promote our county's youth, agriculture, horticulture and resources. Exhibits will highlight our agricultural heritage. There will be pig races, miniature horses and exotic Polynesian dancers, plus food, of course. The Black Honkeys and the Bellamy Bros. are scheduled to play. The Fair will be held at the England Bros Park, 5010 81st Ave N, Pinellas Park. This non-profit event also needs volunteers. Get more information at [www.PinellasFair.org](http://www.PinellasFair.org).

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS JANUARY** Read this, as well as other issues, online at [stpetedowntownnewsletter.com](http://stpetedowntownnewsletter.com)

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## 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PINELLAS TRAIL, continued

Then the State passed a law allowing abandoned railroad easements to be acquired by the nearest landowner, if not owned by a local government. This meant a person backing up to a train track could extend their property lines to the middle of the track at no cost.

About the same time, the Federal government wanted to increase public transportation and offered grants to improve methods of transportation. The Pinellas Trail concept qualified and grant money became available.

In 1989, County Manager Fred Marquis proposed using the newly created Penny for Pinellas money to buy the tracks for development of a Pinellas Trail. The Penny for Pinellas was already approved by the voters; all the County had to do was earmark the funds for the never before tried concept of a linear park.

"Fred got the various cities on board with the project," said Barbara Sheen Todd. "He saw it as a use-it-or-lose-it proposal."

The County Commission allocated \$1.5 million to build the first 15-mile segment beginning at Taylor Park and running a short distance north and south. County voters extended the Penny for Pinellas sales tax, which lead to further funding of the complete 35 miles of trail.

On December 1, 1990, five miles of Trail were officially opened from Taylor Park (Largo) south to Seminole City Park. It was the beginning of what would become over 70 miles of roadway, reserved exclusively for people on foot, bikes, and skates. At the same time, two more sections were built at Seminole City Park and near U.S. 19 at Curlew Road.

It would be easy to say "and the rest is history" but that was only the beginning of now 30 years of planning and construction. There were overpasses to build and CSX was still operating in parts of St. Petersburg.

In 1994, sections of the Trail opened north to Tarpon Springs and moved into

the western part of St. Petersburg. By 2002, they built an overpass over Pasadena Avenue and sent the trail on towards downtown St. Petersburg. On the Trail's 15th Anniversary, in 2005, the County purchased the abandoned CSX section of tracks near downtown St. Petersburg and started two years of construction on that part of the trail.

In 2008, the County Commissioners agreed to form the Pinellas Trail Loop connecting Downtown St. Petersburg to an area east of Lake Tarpon. At the same time, downtown St. Pete opened three miles of trail along the waterfront. Progress Energy eventually agreed to allow the use of some power easements and even contributed money to the project. In return, much of the northeast trail was named Progress Energy Trail (later changed to Duke Power Trail when the companies merged).

After 20 years, the 34th Street overpass opened and construction began on the path running through Clearwater's Downtown area. By 2011, the trail was 37 miles long.

Today, although the loop is not fully connected, a plan is in place to complete it by 2020. The loop will serve as a linear park and a multi-modal transportation pathway directly linking eight municipalities and numerous unincorporated areas

In 2003, the Pinellas Trail was designated as part of a National Recreational Trail within the National Trails System by the United States Department of the Interior and the National Parks Service. The Pinellas Trail has been inducted into the Rail Trail Hall of Fame and has twice received the Best Trails of Florida Award from the State Office of Greenways and Trails.

"It is a shame that it took a terrible tragedy, like the accident that claimed Bert Valery's son's life, to develop something as nice as this Pinellas Trail," says Barbara Sheen Todd.

Although the trail was started with money from Penny For Pinellas, County, State and Federal agencies have also

invested more than \$63 million in expanding and improving the trail over the last 25 years.

It is estimated that an average of 70,000 people use the Pinellas Trail each month. The trail is a priceless haven in a busy, highly urbanized environment. The construction of 10 overpasses and 3 underpasses allow trail-goers to safely travel above and below traffic through some of the County's busiest intersections.

The existing 47-mile trail offers residents and visitors a unique opportunity to enjoy the outdoors close to their home, school or office. The trail is patrolled by the Pinellas County Security Task Force, which are not police but represent law enforcement officers, the County Sheriff, and other agencies. Pinellas County Park Rangers also patrol the trail daily as well as auxiliary rangers who are supplied by Pinellas Trails, Inc.

Each Pinellas Trails, Inc., volunteer travels the trail 12 hours per month. Some walk, or bike while others drive a golf cart bought by the organization. Their program "Trees for the Trail" plants trees along the corridor. They started the Auxiliary Ranger Program to support police enforcement. They pay for maps, signage, benches, water fountains and other amenities along the trail. Fundraisers are held throughout the year to pay for these expenses.

"Our goal is to ensure the viability of the trail," Scott Daniels says. "We stress safety and security. This has become a special source of pride—for me, for Bert, the County, and everyone who lives here and uses the Pinellas Trail."

In the beginning, only three other places had any form of a community trail. Today, over 1,000 cities have them. Almost all have asked Pinellas County for input or visited to see our now famous Pinellas Trail.

A 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Pinellas Trail is December 5 at Largo's Taylor Park beginning at 10 am. Visit [www.PinellasCounty.org/Trail](http://www.PinellasCounty.org/Trail) or [www.PinellasTrails.org](http://www.PinellasTrails.org) for more information.

### OTHER PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING OUR PINELLAS TRAIL A REALITY

#### Scott Daniels

An active bike rider, he met Valery as the Trail concept was developing. He was a founding member of and Pinellas Trails, Inc. and is still one of their spokesman.



#### Brian Smith

As the County Planning Director he was involved creating the trail from Tarpon Springs to downtown St. Pete. Although retired after 30 years with the County, he is still on the Board of Directors of Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc.



#### Barbara Sheen Todd

A County Commissioner in the late 1980s and early '90s, she helped to push the Pinellas Trail through the Commission and worked closely with Marquis, and other Department Heads.



#### Fred Marquis

Pinellas County Administrator from 1979 until 2000, he proposed using Penny for Pinellas to fund the trail and took steps to make it happen. The trail was named in his honor.



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## THE TRAINS THAT RAN THE TRAIL

by Thomas Pavlucik

Pinellas County was served by two excellent railroads, the Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, for over 50 years. The Atlantic Coast Line (ACL) began in Pinellas County as the Orange Belt Railway in 1888. The Seaboard Air Line Railroad (SAL) began in Pinellas County as the Tampa & Gulf Coast Railroad in 1910.

The freight business sustained profits, but most people remember the quality of the passenger service that was outstanding (even luxurious on the premium trains). Pinellas County has long offered excellent resort and entertainment accommodations, attracting countless northern visitors seeking an escape from cold winters.

The cities of St. Petersburg and Clearwater enjoyed direct rail service with New York and other Northeast U.S. destinations, as well as connections to Chicago and other Midwest cities. This business peaked in the 1920s, then gradually declined as air travel and improved highways began to seriously compete with the trains. This led to the beginning of a long series of abandoned tracks and rail corridors, especially after the ACL and SAL merged into the Seaboard Coast Line.

Eventually, the remaining passenger services were taken over by Amtrak in 1971. The 1984 departure of Amtrak from Pinellas was a serious setback, but passenger service to Tampa Union Station still continues. The Seaboard Coast Line continued to provide Pinellas with freight service, eventually evolving into the operations of today's CSX Transportation.

It was the abandonment of railroad corridors that led to the development of today's Pinellas Trail. The portion of the Trail north of Clearwater's Drew Street once belonged almost entirely to the Atlantic Coast Line. Mighty trains like the Florida Special, Pinellas Special, Southland, and Champion once ran on those tracks. The portion of the Trail south of Clearwater's Lakeview Road was largely the route of the Seaboard Airline Railroad. It was in this corridor that legendary trains like the Orange Blossom Special and the Silver Meteor once ran.

## "A NOT SO SILENT NIGHT" RETURNS

On Monday, December 14th at 7pm, A NOT SO SILENT NIGHT, the holiday musical program written and performed annually by St. Petersburg natives Becca McCoy and James Weaver, returns to where it originated when it is performed at American Stage for the first time since the show debuted there in 2010. The one-hour program combines holiday musical classics and contemporary favorites with the original music and reimagined traditional carols found on Becca and James' album of the same title, and interwoven with excerpts from beloved holiday literature into a fluid and seamless show. Tickets, \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door are available in person at the box office or by phone 727. 823. PLAY, or online at americanstage.org



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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

**NOVEMBER**

Rib Fest 2015	13-15
Discover Egmont Key	14-15
Morean Art Center Holiday Show	14
Florida Orchestra Brahms Concerto	14
Mahaffey Cirque Dreams Holidaze	15
Manatee Season Protection Begins	15
America Recycles Day	15
Mayor's Prayer Breakfast	17
Mahaffey Brian Wilson Concert	17
Great American Teach In Wed	18
The Mahaffey Quick Guitar Pull	18
Beaujolais Nouveau 3rd Thursday	19
Florida Orchestra Bohemian Dances	19
Parents Night Out Great Explorations	20
Florida Orchestra Curtis Stigers	21
CraftArt Festival 2015 Central Ave	21
Shopalooza South Straub Park	21
Holiday Extravaganza Coliseum	21-22
Chil Lounge Night Straub Park	21
Marching Bands Tropicana Field	21
The Mahaffey Clifford Big Red Dog	22
The Palladium George Winston	22
Public Schools Closed	23-27
Turkey Trot	26
Thanksgiving Day	26
Black Friday	27
City's Christmas Tree Lighting	27
Shop Small Business Day	28
Mahaffey Magic of Christmas	28
Shopalooza South Straub Park,	28
Gem & Jewelry Show Coliseum	27-29

Heritage Village Holiday Tours open

Holiday Lights Botanical Gardens

Holiday Lights Waterfront On

Mahaffey Billy Gibbons and BFGS

Hurricane Season Ends

**DECEMBER**

World AIDS Day

Mirror Lake Library 100th Celebration

Power and Sail Boat Show

Sunken Gardens to Bok Gardens

Beers on the Pier

Ties and Tennis Shoes Gala

Holiday Home tour Florida Orchestra

First Friday

The Nutcracker Ballet

St Pete Action Sports SPX

Pinellas Trail 25th Anniversary

Ties and Tennis Shoes Gala 5K

Florida Orchestra Handel's Messiah

Florida Orchestra Holiday Home Tour

Post Office Toys for Tots

Holiday Santa Parade

SnowFest North Straub Park

Santa in the Park

AWAPS Pancake Breakfast

HANUKKAH Begins Mon

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Jingle Bell Run

Silver Bells Concert St Pete Yacht Club

Florida Orchestra Holiday Pops

Second Saturday Art Walk

Illuminated Boat Parade

AIDS Walk Downtown

Candlelight Tour of Homes HONNA

Lunch with Santa Awaps

Mahaffey Home for Christmas

Mahaffey Old World Christmas

Florida Orchestra Coffee Concert

Holiday of the Arts Straub Park

Winter begins

Public Schools Closed

Holiday Camps Begin

Christmas Day

St Petersburg Bowl

Kwanzaa begins

Mahaffey Moscow Ballet Nutcracker

New Year's

Swinging In the New Year Coliseum

First Night Downtown

**JANUARY**

New Years Day

Outback Bowl Tampa

First Friday

Mahaffey Romeo & Juliet Ballet

AWAPS Pancake Breakfast

Public School Reopens

Mahaffey Who's Bad Michael Jackson

Florida Orchestra New Years Waltz

The Mahaffey Shen Yun

Florida Orchestra Tchaikovsky

Job and Career Fair Coliseum

Florida Orchestra Coffee Concert

Gem, Jewelry and Beads Coliseum

15-17

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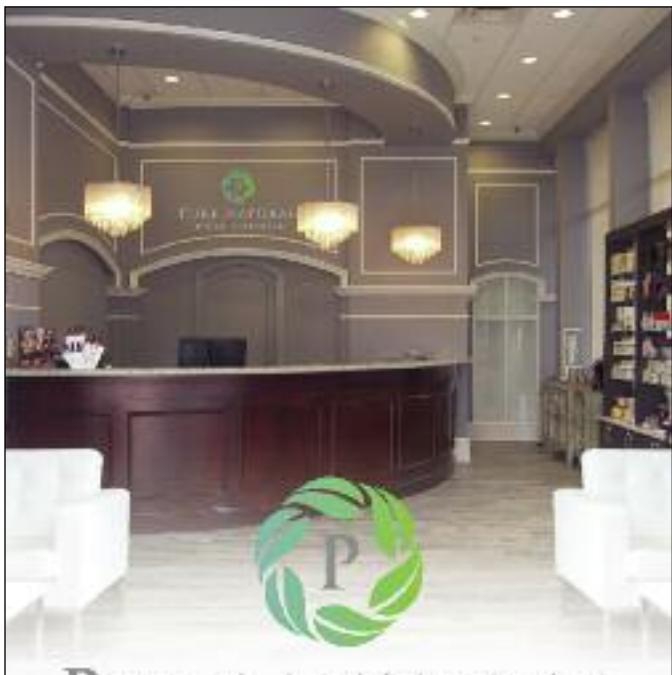
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## PINELLAS TRAIL 25 YEARS, MANY USES.

By Kenneth T. Welch, Pinellas County Commissioner

The Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year – and over a quarter century, the trail has not only expanded in size, but also in number of uses. These uses include more than just leisurely rides through the county's many communities.

For some, the Pinellas Trail is a daily means of commuting. For others, it's used to stay in shape, or just take in the outdoors. The county and partnering municipalities remain committed to continually improving this linear park for the enjoyment and benefit of the thousands of individuals who take advantage of our unique urban trail each year. In honor of the trail's 25th anniversary, I thought that an overview of the trail's history and uses would be an appropriate homage.

In 1990, the first 6-mile section of the Pinellas Trail opened along an abandoned CSX railroad right of way. Over the years it has grown to become a 47-mile greenway that takes cyclists, skaters, joggers and walkers from Pinellas County's southern tip to its northernmost point. The popularity of the first trail link from Taylor Park in Largo to Lake Seminole Park in Seminole prompted citizens to support funding for its expansion from St. Petersburg to Tarpon Springs with the passage of the Penny for Pinellas 1-cent local option sales tax.

The Pinellas Trail is a unique greenway corridor that runs through some of the county's most picturesque parks, scenic coastal areas and residential neighborhoods. The trail averages more than 70,000 users in any given month. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy deep glades of live oaks, trailing Spanish moss, quiet waterways and tidal streams, with all varieties of land and water birds. Ten overpasses and three underpasses aid trail goers in quickly and safely breezing above or below traffic at busy intersections.

The county's partnership with Pinellas Trails, Inc., an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, has helped make the trail into a model of outdoor recreation. Whether you use it for a jog or a leisurely bike ride, or a safe way to travel to work, the Pinellas Trail is a great benefit to our community. I hope you'll join me in recognizing the many benefits and the great history of this beautiful part of our county.

## CHARLIE BROWN STAMPS

The U.S. Post Office is getting in the Holiday Spirit releasing a forever stamp featuring "A Charlie Brown's Christmas," to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the first airing of the holiday cartoon show, which was the first animated special featuring Peanuts characters. It was an immediate critical and commercial hit and has become a holiday favorite. The book of 10 stamps features 10 scenes from the TV special for \$4.90.





## DOWNTOWN'S TRAIL

by Mayor Rick Baker

The downtown extension of the Pinellas trails was one element of CityTrails, a massive bike path expansion, advancing my goal of developing the largest Bike Path system in the Southeast United States. We now have CityTrails that flow from downtown in all directions to the rest of the city, and throughout the city. Mike Frederick was in charge of the bike bath expansion at the time. We received tens of millions of dollars in federal and state grants to construct CityTrails.

One unique aspect of the downtown portion of CityTrails was the landscaped, raised curb along 1st Avenue S. – it provided a two way, oak tree shaded trail to the waterfront that was separated from the busy 1st Avenue car traffic.

Our objective in building CityTrails, including the downtown extension of the Pinellas Trail, was to transform St. Petersburg into one of America's top ten bicycle cities. It is all about improving quality of life and elevating St. Pete's cool factor – And it Worked!

## LE BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU

"The New Beaujolais has arrived!" When you hear that, it must be the third Thursday of November. Wine shops all over the world will be introducing the 2015 vintage of this very young, light-bodied, tannin-free red wine.

A French law, passed in 1985, states that Beaujolais Nouveau cannot be released to the public before midnight on the third Thursday of November each year. The Gamay grapes, grown in the Beaujolais growing region of France, are hand-picked and bottled just 6 weeks after harvest. The tradition began with huge celebrations all across the French countryside in anticipation of the newest release of this light-hearted, fun wine.

Now, with the help of affordable air transportation, Americans can join in these celebrations. The wines are "air mailed" to the U.S. shortly after bottling. It is a wine that is meant to be drunk very young, usually within one year of production. Nouveau can be served chilled or at room temperature and has become a perfect complement to a traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey or ham. You can expect a delightfully fruit forward, easy drinking, and food friendly red wine that is enjoyed by occasional wine drinkers as well as connoisseurs. This wine even appeals to those who are not wine drinkers at all. The price is inviting as well. It will not set you back more than about \$10 to \$12 a bottle.

Nouveau wines can be recognized by their colorful labels, usually depicting scenes from the many parties and festivals throughout the region. Look for the banners and signs announcing the arrival of Beaujolais Nouveau.

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The highly qualified boat insurance team at Wallace, Welch & Willingham (W3) has the experience and knowledge to find a tailored comprehensive policy for your unique needs from recreational marine to commercial marine insurance. Representing only "A" rated companies, the gold standard for boating insurance, the team of advisors at W3 are dedicated to finding the best comprehensive coverage and competitive rates for each client.

## Charter Marine Insurance

W3 also specializes in charter marine insurance, an area often overlooked by luxury yacht owners who may hire a captain or crew to work on their vessel. Our Marine Advisors understand how these exposures directly affect boat owners and can assist individuals or charter fleet owners to measure the potential risks associated with charter operations.

Founded in 1925, Wallace Welch & Willingham is among the leading privately held independent insurance agencies in the nation. As one of the largest marine insurance agencies in Florida, W3 specializes in protecting the business and personal assets of their clients. With 75 years of combined experience and a passion for the marine industry, our advisors offer a level of commitment and unmatched personal service that goes beyond client expectations. Trusted for generations, the team of professionals at W3 helps to assure you can relax and enjoy your days at sea.

## KWANZAA CELEBRATIONS

Kwanzaa, a week-long celebration of family, community and culture, honors African heritage in the African-American community. The concept was created by Maulana Karenga, and first celebrated in 1966.

It begins the day after Christmas and the dates are always December 26 through New Year's Day. 2015 will be the 49th annual celebration of Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa is based on the year-end harvest festivals that have taken place in Africa for thousands of years. The name derives its meaning from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," meaning fruits of the harvest.

The Kwanzaa concept can trace its roots back to the Black Nationalist movement of the 1960s. It was established to help African Americans reconnect with their African cultural and historical heritage.

The celebration is not an alternative to Christmas and is not meant to be an alternative religion or a religious holiday. It is a way to experience the cultural traditions and to unite the community.

The celebration centers on the seven principles of Kwanzaa: Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith. Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa is dedicated to a principal.

Kwanzaa symbols include a decorative mat, corn or other crops, a kinara which is a candleholder, seven candles and a communal cup.

A Kwanzaa ceremony may include drumming and musical selections, beverages shared in the communal cup, readings, a discussion of the African principle of the day or a chapter in African history, a candle-lighting ritual, artistic performance, and, finally, a feast. Respect and gratitude for their ancestors plays a large role in the celebration.

Today, many African American families celebrate Kwanzaa along with Christmas and New Year's. Frequently, both Christmas trees and the traditional candle holder, symbolic of African American roots, are in Kwanzaa-celebrating households. For people who celebrate both holidays, Kwanzaa is an opportunity to incorporate elements of their particular ethnic heritage into holiday observances.

It is estimated that between 15 and 20 million African Americans take part in Kwanzaa in the U.S. If you would like more information, Maya Angelou narrated a 2009 documentary about the Kwanzaa celebration called *The Black Candle*.

## TURKEY TROT

Clearwater High School - Nov 26

Races include:

- 7 am - 5K Wingding, at 7am
- 7 am - Clearwater Challenge
- 7:30 am - 5K Fun Run
- 8:30 am - 1 Mile Gobbler
- 8:45 am - 10K Turkey Trot

Online Registration is \$20. Day of the event is \$25. Registration includes the popular shirt.

The Challenge includes three races. It is \$40 advance and \$45 Day of. Register at [SignMeUp.com/110020](http://SignMeUp.com/110020). They recommend you arrive one hour before your race. Get more information at [www.TampaBay.com/turkeytrot/](http://www.TampaBay.com/turkeytrot/)

## NECK-LESS

By Dr. G. Joseph Fitzgerald

Have you ever wanted a tighter more youthful neck without surgery, scars or downtime? Are you tired of looking at pictures of yourself and seeing a double chin? Or looking in the mirror and seeing your profile and asking yourself the question: What happened to my neck? Chances are you inherited your neck. The dreaded turkey neck is a common concern among millions of people. If neck stretching yoga treatments, firming creams and turtlenecks have exhausted you, we have a better and permanent solution: CoolSculpting with Cool Mini.

A double chin is an extra layer of fat below the jaw-line and can be as uncomfortable as it is unsightly. A "turkey neck" is caused from sagging of loose skin, flaccid muscles and excessive accumulation of fat. There are several strategies in treating fat in the neck, which involve anesthesia, incisions, scarring, downtime, facial garments, excessive costs, the list goes on. A neck-lift involves making an incision underneath the chin, removal of fat and 10-14 days of downtime. We are in a generation of fast and easy, budget conscience, no downtime and wanting it done yesterday. CoolSculpting meets the needs of millions of people struggling with fat in their neck by offering them exceptional results with no downtime!

CoolSculpting is an FDA approved technology that uses cold therapy to freeze and destroy fat cells, with NO surgery. It delivers controlled, targeted cold therapy in a treatment that lasts about one hour per treatment area. The skin is treated with cooling plates, which modify the fat's temperature to just above freezing. Energy is extracted from

the fat cell by the cold, causing it to die. Though it is referred to as cryolipolysis, it is not actually "freezing" the fat or the surrounding tissues. Rather, it crystallizes the lipids in fat cells causing the slow collapse of cells as they die. The procedure targets only fat cells and only those in the superficial fat layer close to the skin. The body then carries off the dead cells over the course of 60-90 day for a more gradual, natural result. Treating the neck only takes 60 minutes and the patient can resume normal activities.

Which of us doesn't have a little fat to treat under the chin? Common patients looking for this new procedure are:

- Patients who want real results, but are not ready to go under more extensive, invasive procedures
- Patients who are not candidates for a neck-lift but want their neck to look tighter and firmer with definition along the jaw-line
- Patients who are cost-conscious, that are looking for minimal downtime
- Patients that have sub-mental fat or neck fat

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Dr. G. Joseph Fitzgerald, Owner/Medical Director of PureLife Medi-Spa, has been practicing family practice medicine for 20 years.



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## Business Briefs...

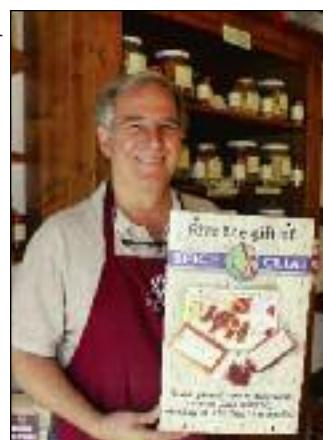
**WELCOME** The Bank of Tampa added Amanda Gilroy to their downtown location. Amanda is the new Vice President and Commercial Relationship Manager. Coming to them from Wells Fargo, she is a graduate of both USF and the University of Florida and is already well connected to the downtown community as she serves on the All Children's Hospital Foundation Development Council. She is also a former board member of the Northeast Exchange Club. The Bank of Tampa has offices in both Tampa and Pinellas and assets totaling over \$1.3 billion. Stop by the Tower Office and welcome Amanda.



**TIME TO ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY DESSERTS!** St. Pete Bakery is gearing up for the holiday season. They celebrated their year anniversary in September and once again they are ready to take care of your holiday desserts. Check out their selection of pies - Apple, Pumpkin, Pumpkin/Apple, Blueberry/Cranberry, Chocolate Bourbon Pecan Tart, Southern Pecan Pie, Ricotta Pie, Chocolate Cream or specialty desserts like Pumpkin Cheesecake, Pumpkin Roulade, Bread Pudding and their Strudels - Apple, Blueberry, or Poppy Seed, and Red Velvet Cheesecake. They even offer a limited selection of breads - Challah bread and rolls, croissants and Pumpkin Bread. They welcome custom orders if you do not find your favorite item on their list. Stop in for a visit and ask for an order form. The earlier you order, the better!

St. Pete Bakery is in the Sunken Gardens Center, 1961 4th Street North, just south of 22nd Avenue. Park in the Sunken Gardens lot and walk past Carrabbas to their front door. They are open 6 days a week, closed on Mondays. During the week of Thanksgiving they will open on Monday and closed on Thanksgiving Day to enjoy the holiday with their families.

**SAVORY SPICE'S NEW SPICE CLUB** Have you ever visited Savory Spice and looked at their more than 500 herbs and spices and 175 seasonings and wondered how to use them? Their new Spice Club of the month will help. Each month Spice club will deliver one fresh spice and a seasoning to your door, with special recipes and instructions on how to use them. Try their 6 or 12 month Explorer subscription or their Spice Lover subscription which includes a cookbook and 10 additional seasonings. Located at 400 Beach Drive NE on 4th Avenue N., you can sign up online at [SavorySpiceShop.com/spiceclub](http://SavorySpiceShop.com/spiceclub).



**PIER HOTEL CHANGES NAME** The long time Pier Hotel on 2nd Avenue N., owned by Chris Franzier is now The Cordova Hotel. The hotel, built in the 1930s, was recently upgraded. Find it at 253 2nd Avenue N., across from St Pete College and American Stage.

## Business Briefs...

### ONE IS READY TO BREAK GROUND

Downtown is excited about the future ground breaking of the ONE Project at 1st and 1st. This new mixed use, 41-story condominium tower with 253 residences will also have a 174 room hotel. The 7th floor, all only for owners, will be a private resort plaza with a pool, spa, cabanas, fire pit, 5,000 SF fitness and yoga center and a Residents' Club with bar and catering kitchen. On the ground floor, the hotel will be surrounded by new restaurants and retail shops. Dwayne Frazier is the Director of Sales for Smith and Associates, the sales broker with an office on site. Primary construction has already begun. Get more information at [ONEStPetersburg.com](http://ONEStPetersburg.com).



**NOW OPEN** Eleganza, a store specializing in imported Italian leather, opened last month across from Sundial St. Pete, in the location previously occupied by Wunderland, on the southeast corner of 1st Street and 2nd Avenue N. They also have stores in Tampa and Sarasota. For more information, visit [EleganzaLeather.com](http://EleganzaLeather.com).

**UNIQUELY YOURS SOLD** The ladies clothing store in the Plaza Tower block has been sold and will reopen under new ownership this month. The name will remain Uniquely Yours.

**FOOTWEAR EXCLUSIVE AT FLORIDA JEAN** Florida Jean's collection continues to grow by adding designer shoes including Robert Graham Footwear to the shop at Sundial St Pete. The men's shoes have the signature Robert Graham details, superior quality, and are available in U.S. sizes 9 to 12. The Robert Graham Footwear Collection has extraordinary attention to detail with combinations of richly colored neutrals that are with bright cobalt blues and reds and greens. These are wearable pieces of art. The retail shop is located at 169 2nd Ave N. and is open Monday - Saturday 10 am to 9 pm and Sunday noon to 8 pm. Call (727) 202-6922 for more information.

**BEST NEW PET SHOP** The new St. PetersBARK store on MLK N. has already been selected "Best of the Bay" by Creative Loafing magazine. Owner Krista Schmidt, says she is passionate about pet health and is the area's only all natural pet store offering an array of high-quality dog and cat food, treats, and pet accessories. They are located at 2435 MLK Jr N.

**HYPO SSELLS SPECIAL ICE POPS** One of the newest shops to open in the 600 block of Central Ave, Hypo sells over 500 flavors of gourmet Ice Pops. Flavors range from simple flavors like Strawberry and Peachy Peach to a more complex Pineapple Cilantro and Mango Habanero made with fresh fruit and natural ingredients. All Pops cost \$3.50 and are non-GMO and gluten free; most are vegan friendly. Add a chocolate dip for \$1. They also sell craft sodas, Buddy Brew coffee, products from The Urban Canning Co, Hypo shirts and Zoku Ice Pop molds for home use. Find them at 627 Central Avenue.

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## SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE IS LOOKING FOR HELP!

By Deborah Clark

With a busy 2016 election year right around the corner – which includes three countywide elections – the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office must rely on qualified election workers to assist in conducting fair, secure and accurate elections.

A countywide election in Pinellas County requires over 2,000 election workers spread across our three office locations, our five early voting sites and our 222 polling places throughout the county. Election work can take many forms:

- Poll Workers – Each poll worker is assigned to work at a specific polling location on Election Day. Poll workers must be available to set up their sites before the polls open and must remain at the polling place until after the polls close.
- Early Voting Workers – Before all state and federal elections, the Supervisor of Elections staffs 3-5 early voting sites for voters who wish to cast their ballots prior to Election Day. Early Voting can begin from 10-15 days before the election and last from 8-14 days. Early voting hours range from 8-12 hours each day.

- Other Election Work – The Elections Office relies on temporary election workers to help answer phones in a Call Center environment, open mail ballots, sort and count ballots for the post election audit, process petitions for future ballot contests and initiatives, and perform other clerical tasks in support of upcoming elections.

Our poll workers serve as the backbone to our operation, offering much-needed assistance for our voters on Election Day. From setting up the polling place, to checking in voters, to handing out ballots and distributing "I Voted" stickers, our poll worker family is a vital element in conducting a successful election.

There are six poll worker positions – Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Machine Manager, Ballot Distribution Manager, Inspector and Precinct Deputy. Each role requires a different set of skills and experience.

Florida law requires the following to serve as a poll worker: Be a registered or pre-registered voter in Pinellas County, be able to read and write English, and attend the required poll worker training classes for the assigned position. And yes, Pinellas County Poll Workers are compensated for their training and for working an election. Depending on the assigned position and number of training classes, a Poll Worker can earn \$265 on average in a countywide election.

Serving as an election worker at one of our three offices requires dedication, long hours and constant attention to duties. Our offices are busy throughout the year with a variety of tasks to complete – many by state-mandated deadlines, and election workers earn up to \$400 a week.

To learn more about being an election worker or to apply, please visit our website – [VotePinellas.com](http://VotePinellas.com) – and click on the 'Be a Poll Worker' tab on the top right-hand corner of the page, or call (727) 464-6110, or email [PollWorker@VotePinellas.com](mailto:PollWorker@VotePinellas.com).

We cannot conduct elections without quality election workers. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to fulfill a civic duty and make a difference in your community.

## FIRST NIGHT ST. PETERSBURG 2016 CELEBRATES 23 YEARS

First Night is a family oriented New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts bringing music, art and entertainment to more than 25 venues in downtown St. Petersburg. First Night St. Petersburg 2016 is on December 31, from 4pm - midnight and is presented by The Rowdies. Returning for its 23rd year, its Florida's largest and most popular First Night celebration!

Participants can walk from venue to venue along St. Petes busy, charming sidewalks and shops. Along the way, downtown boasts more than 100 restaurants and bars for patrons to enjoy throughout the evening.

The festivities will begin with FirstKids from 4-7pm at the First United Methodist Church with hat and mask making, the Second Time Arounders Musical Petting Zoo and Giant Puppets created with the Morean Center for Clay Summer Campers. St Pete Makers will host an LED light making station and teach you how to add a simple LED light to your New Year's Eve chapeau! There will be Science Shows by Mad Science. FirstKids will finish with a colorful Giant Sea Creature Puppet procession to the waterfront at 7:15pm led by the Mount Zion Drumline and Color Guard just in time for the Bubble Stomp and the First Fireworks at 8pm.

First Night winds-up the Centennial celebration of our Mirror Lake Community Library with a Literary Carnival.

Our Musical Stages will feature Rockabilly, Jazz, Opera, Chamber Music, Rock and Folk Music. On the Finale Stage we will be featuring the rock, flamenco and turkish melodies of Kafkasso with their amazing belly dancers. Late in the evening we will be rocking to the bluegrass southern rock, jam-band sounds of Boxcar Hollow presented by the Mandarin Hide Cocktail Lounge.

On the Dance Stage, First Night Favorites, Dundu Dole and

the Florida West Ballet and we are bringing back the very popular Latin Dancing and Lessons at the Little Latin Quarter in front of the Museum of Fine Arts.

In the Waterfront Parks, kick a soccer ball with The Rowdies! Pathfinder will be leading Tree Climbing in the Banyan Tree again this year. Sign up early as it sells out quickly! New Year's Resolutions can be made at the Resolution Bonfire and at the Resolution Fire Sculpture created by James Oleson. Strap on skates and Ice Skate at the Glice Skating Rink. We are bringing drumming back to First Night! Be sure to grab a drum and join in the Drum Circle hosted by Drum Magic.

Enjoy Projection Fun, walk the Labyrinth, explore local history with St. Pete Preservation. Keep your eyes out for street performers, temporary tattoos and other surprises and much more fun as you stroll.

Food will be available for purchase in Williams, North and South Straub Parks.

Admission buttons, designed by artist Daniel Morgan, will feature flashing lights, to light the way into the New Year. The buttons support First Night and are already for sale online at [www.FirstNightStPete.com](http://www.FirstNightStPete.com). They will go on sale in local stores at Thanksgiving.

Advance Price - \$10 adults, \$5 children 6-12, Children 5 and under are free

Dec. 31st Price - \$15 adults and \$10 children, Children 5 and under are free

For more information or to volunteer for a shift at First Night, call 727-823-8906 or send an email to [nfo@firstnightstpete.com](mailto:nfo@firstnightstpete.com)

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## SIMPLE PROGRAM TO PREVENT AND TREAT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE...

Alzheimer's disease is one of the most devastating, feared diseases because it robs you of your mind and memory and turns your family into your caregivers. The disease is even more devastating to the family as they watch someone they love decline to the point they no longer remember the loved ones caring for them. It is estimated as many as 160 million people will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050, equating to a cost of 1 trillion dollars to care for these patients.

Alzheimer's disease has been untreatable and incurable despite medications generating millions of dollars for the pharmaceutical industry. The effectiveness of medications for Alzheimer's disease has been disappointing. Drug companies continue to make new drugs but non-pharmaceutical treatment options have been completely ignored.

In October 2014, UCLA published a study in the journal, Aging, that showed significant reversibility of Alzheimer's disease without drugs but with lifestyle changes. It was the most promising treatment yet but it got little press or attention in the medical community. Although this was a small study (10 patients), the results were remarkable. Of the 10 patients, 9 had reversibility of their disease with results seen in as little as 3-6 months. Out of 6 patients who had to stop working due to their memory decline, all 6 were able to return to work with treatment.

The following is a summary of the treatment program:

- Eliminating all simple carbohydrates, gluten and processed food from the diet, and eating more vegetables, fruits and non-farmed fish
- Meditating twice a day and yoga to reduce stress
- Increasing sleep to seven or eight hours per night
- Taking melatonin, B-Complex (with methylcobalamin and 5-MTHF), vitamin D3, fish oil and coenzyme Q10

- Optimizing oral hygiene using an electric flosser and electric toothbrush
- Restarting hormone replacement therapy for those who stopped
- Fasting for a minimum of 12 hours between dinner and breakfast, and for a minimum of three hours between dinner and bedtime
- Exercising for a minimum of 30 minutes, 5 days per week

The high cost and side effects of taking drugs that are largely ineffective does not make sense when the simple lifestyle changes described above are mostly free and without side effects. Which treatment would you choose?

I would highly recommend getting blood tests that can be used to assess your risk for Alzheimer's disease and also to optimize the above treatment. These test include the following (the goal level is shown in parentheses): 25-OH Vitamin D3 levels (50-70), A1C (less than 5.5), fasting insulin (less than 7), vitamin B12 level (greater than 500), homocysteine (less than 7), and hsCRP (less than 1.0). Genetic blood tests for APO-E and MTHFR can also be helpful in evaluating risk.

If you have a family history of Alzheimer's disease or think you may have early signs of cognitive decline such as memory loss, I would recommend working with a Functional Medicine physician who is familiar with a more holistic and comprehensive approach to prevention and early treatment of Alzheimer's disease. You can read more about Functional Medicine at [www.functionalmedicine.org](http://www.functionalmedicine.org).

*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](http://www.RobinsonMed.com).*

References: Bredesen, Dale E. Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, Department of Neurology, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095. Reversal of cognitive decline: A novel therapeutic program. AGING, September 2014, Vol 6, No 9., pp 707-717.

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



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# HALF CENTURY SOFTBALL CLUB

The Half Century Softball Club has been in existence since 1933. It started with a group of men who met in a corner of the old ballpark where Al Lang Field at Progress Energy Park is now located. Contributing 10 or 15 cents with which they bought balls and bats, those men started what is now a nationally known organization. The 83 years old Club is still going strong! The St. Petersburg Half Century Softball Club is a modified (no wind-mill) fast pitch softball club comprised of players ages 49 to 74. The club plays at Northshore Field, located just north of the Vinoy Hotel in Downtown, St. Petersburg. The 2015-16 Season Opener was held October 16th with St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman throwing out the ceremonial first pitch. Games are played on Monday, Wednesday and Friday beginning at 9:30 am. They are always looking for new players to join the Club. Players can play Full or Part-time. Get in the "swing of things" and check out the St. Petersburg Half Century Softball Club.

# CITY'S OLDEST GOLF COURSE REOPENS AFTER RENOVATION

On November 6, St. Petersburg welcomed golfers to the newly-renovated Twin Brooks Golf Course. Following a \$1.5 million, six month re-design, the former 18-hole, par 3 public course at 3800 22nd Ave. S., debuted as a 9-hole, par 3 course with three practice holes that will also serve as the home for The First Tee of St. Petersburg. The updated 9-hole course offers 1,068 yards in length with putting surfaces averaging more than 3,500 square feet, and a 7,000 square foot platinum Paspalum putting green.

Golfers may tee off on and play to enlarged, manicured greens, hit balls from an expanded, 12-foot tall covered, 18-station driving range tee with target greens downrange, or hone their skills on a three-hole practice course and two practice greens. The new Twin Brooks course also offers golfers undulating terrain, a manmade water feature, and scenic views of Clam Bayou and the Pinellas Trail, all accessible from 12 new electric golf cars or on foot.

Three practice holes and two practice greens directly south of the parking lot will allow The First Tee of St. Petersburg's junior golfers to practice their game and accompanying life skills. These practice holes will also be available to adult golfers at various times during the year for a fee. Plans for the site also include a learning center for The First Tee of St. Petersburg, scheduled to break ground in spring 2016. For more information and photos, visit [www.golfstpete.com](http://www.golfstpete.com)

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## RadioStPete.Com - A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION

RadioStPete is a unique local (multi-music channel) radio station available online. It can also be accessed with many mobile apps including the station's own free apps available in the Apple and Android app stores.

The station's local focus is St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay Beaches, with secondary coverage of the greater Tampa Bay Region. It features local events calendars, live coverage of many local events, as well as local talk and interview programs. Many programs are archived after their initial broadcast for on demand listening.

Listeners can choose from Pop music, Jazz, Classical and Country music to accompany the talk content. The station was founded by retired Valpak President Joe Bourdow in July 2013. Bourdow was a commercial radio station owner and on air broadcaster in the 1970s and '80s before becoming active with Valpak on a national level. Bourdow also acts as a consultant to a number of franchise brands and industry suppliers.

In addition to the 24/7 RadioStPete operation, the station originates the national broadcast of the East-West Shrine Game each January from Tropicana Field. The national broadcast is on a commercial radio network that has grown to over 150 radio stations, in addition to national coverage on SiriusXM, plus online and mobile distribution. The broadcast is heard locally on 620 WDAE who acts as the Network's "Flagship Station." Patrick Kinas "Voice of the Shrine Game" and Durham Bulls broadcaster is a partner in RadioStPete.

In the 27 months since its launch, the station has attracted a growing audience locally, as well as over 50,000 listeners in over 150 countries. RadioStPete has been recognized two years in a row by Radio Internet News as one of the "Three Best Single Stream Pure Play Broadcasters" in the world.

RadioStPete focuses on giving local talent a voice in the Tampa Bay area. From the living room of his one-bedroom Old Northeast apartment, Will Kuncz records one of the most highly rated podcasts in the Tampa Bay area, *Homemade Broadcast*. The *Homemade Broadcast* is homemade in every sense of the word; Kuncz himself is responsible for literally every aspect of his show including producing, recording, booking, and hosting it. Despite its humbleness, the *Homemade Broadcast* is truly impressive in scope and range. It focuses on local life, arts, and music and showcases a diverse line-up of special guests, including St. Petersburg's mayor Rick Kriseman. The *Homemade Broadcast* also highlights the local events and special people that make our community so vibrant. Kuncz is truly successful at providing listeners with information about the creative individuals and unique aspects of our community.

The *Homemade Broadcast* began as a fun podcast with a roommate before Kuncz joined forces with RadioStPete. Kuncz's roommate ended up leaving the podcast after having a baby, and Kuncz believed that was the end of things. He jokes, "My life is not interesting enough to envelope 45 minutes of talking by myself." In order to keep the broadcast going, Kuncz began inviting guests to the show, mostly local artists and musicians. He managed to keep attracting more and more notable guests. As popularity grew, guests actually began reaching out to him, including the mayor, whom Kuncz interviewed in September. "I didn't think he would do it. I mean, it's just some stupid little podcast," Kuncz laughs.

Clearly, the mayor disagreed, as do Kuncz's avid listeners. The *Homemade Broadcast* is even more impressive considering Kuncz doesn't have prior radio experience.

After jumping from major to major while in college at USFSP, he ended up with an English degree. After graduation, Kuncz felt a bit aimless, something many recent college grads relate to. He remembered playing "broadcast" as a kid with his boombox, using the Space Jam soundtrack as background ambiance, while talking into a pretend microphone. "I guess I did figure out what I wanted to be when I grew up then, but you don't always remember it as an adult," Kuncz muses. So he started looking for radio jobs, which culminated in the *Homemade Broadcast* and RadioStPete.

Kuncz takes an active role in contributing to the community through the *Homemade Broadcast* by spotlighting local events. He describes it as a "symbiotic relationship," as the events need the publicity and he needs something to broadcast. "We share audiences and we build that web, that connectivity, and that community."

In addition to hosting the *Homemade Broadcast*, Kuncz also hosts a successful open-mic comedy night at Sly Bar which recently took home a Creative Loafing Best of the Bay Award for "The Best Place to Watch Comics Get Better", giving amateur comedians the opportunity to perform while also promoting The #HMB & RadioStPete. This is just another way the Kuncz is participating in and influencing the artist community of St. Petersburg.

Be sure to listen to the *Homemade Broadcast* every Sunday at 6:15 pm on RadioStPete or find it on iTunes on demand. Also, check out the website, HMBradio.com, and The *Homemade Broadcast* on Facebook. RadioStPete is available on their app found in the iTunes or Android stores for free of charge. They are also heard on the Tuneln app or RadioStPete.com.



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## Bar & Restaurant News...

### CAFE TEN-O-ONE HOSTS HOLIDAY PARTIES

Are you planning a holiday party? Cafe Ten-O-One's building, kitchen and staff are available for your event. For a two-hour event, they will supply hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine starting at

\$21.95 per person. If you want to add liquor it is \$31.95 per person. There is a minimum charge of 25 people. Their Creative Catering Company will also cater at your location. For information, call owner Frank Edgar at (727) 550-0732. The Ten-O-One Cafe, serving breakfast and lunch is at 1001 1st Avenue N.



**NEW OWNER** Since September, Central Perks, located at 695 Central Avenue, has had a new owner - Franco Vidas. They offer free limited area delivery with a \$7 minimum. Call them at 490-2017 for delivery and catering.

### TONY'S PIZZA NOW OPEN

Tony's in the 500 Block of Central is open with pizza and a whole lot more. They have a full Italian menu. This is their third location.



**MORE BANYAN** Erica Allums, owner of the Banyan Café on MLK N, is operating the small café at the end of the Morean Art Center located at 701 Central Avenue. The Café is open from 7am to 2pm during the week and 8am-1pm on weekends. They are best known for their coffee and morning menu items. Get more information at [www.BanyanCoffee.com](http://www.BanyanCoffee.com).

**THE WOODEN ROOSTER** Owned by Jeremy Duclut and his wife Liset, the new restaurant, located on the north side of Ovation Condos, will have 46 seats, 30 inside and 16 on the sidewalk. They plan to serve lunch and dinner, with brunch on Sundays. They may add breakfast in the future. The menu will include fresh sandwiches, soups and salads. "We wanted to create a casual place to grab a bite to eat, a drink or a coffee, but nothing too fancy," says Duclut. "I am always looking for new concepts to explore." As both husband and wife are from France, they will also offer crepes. In fact, their phone number will be 8-2-CREPE.

Duclut, the Executive Chef at Cassis, has no plans to leave there. Cassis is not associated with The Wooden Rooster. They hope to be open between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Find them at 104 2nd Avenue north and at [www.TheWoodenRooster.com](http://www.TheWoodenRooster.com).

**THE LURE** This new restaurant is coming to the 600 block of Central Ave. They bill themselves as Tikis, Tapas, Billiards and Cold Dead Fish. Is it code for sushi? No one knows. It is owned by Tom Golden. No opening date has been announced.

# More Restaurant News...

**PIPOS IS FINALLY BACK** Pipos Café, a very popular area Cuban restaurant for over 30 years, is returning to downtown. They previously were in the 400 block of Central but closed a few years ago. Owner Ramon Hernandez reopened in the space



previously occupied by Apropos. The space is much smaller than their other one, but the food is just as good. They are open for lunch and dinner and offer delivery, and catering. You can even order online at [www.PiposToGo.com](http://www.PiposToGo.com). Find them on 4th Street between Central and 1st Avenue North.

**AVENUE EXPANDS** Stephen Schrutt, owner of The Avenue Restaurant on 1st Avenue S. is expanding. POW Pizza, located next door, closed shortly after opening, and Schrutt acquired it. He likes the idea of having two restaurants next to each other as it opens opportunities for things like block parties. He has not announced a name or menu yet. Stephen also acquired space at 937 Central Avenue in the Edge District. The new restaurant, called Kings Street Bar and Grill, will primarily serve hot dogs, grilled cheese sandwiches, shakes and local craft beer indoor or out. It should open any day.

## ALFREDO'S IS NOW STACIE'S COTTAGE CAFE

The new owner of the small restaurant at 501 1st Avenue N., Stacie purchased the restaurant in July and is remodeling it inside and out. Cottage Café offers free nearby delivery with a \$10 minimum and WiFi. Get more information at [StaciesCottageCafe.com](http://StaciesCottageCafe.com) or call 827-0696.



**BOWLED IS BACK** The Bowled Restaurant, formerly in the 3400 block of 4th Street is back on 4th Street, inside Bob Lee's Tires store. Now called Bowled Express, they are in the lobby and serve breakfast. Most of their meals come in bowls, but there is also a large selection of sandwiches and other items. Find them at 1631 4th Street N., and no, you do not have to buy tires to eat there.

**HAWKERS ASIAN COMING SOON** An Asian cuisine restaurant and bar is opening in the Edge District at 1245 Central Avenue, northeast of Ferg's. It is promising to offer Asian Street Fare including noodles, soups and small plates. In Asia, Hawkers are street vendors who depend on locally grown ingredients to create dishes sold from mobile carts and stands. This will be their third Hawkers Asian, with one in Jacksonville and another in Orlando. No word on an opening date yet. Learn more at [www.EatHawkers.com](http://www.EatHawkers.com).

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# CUTTING IT CLOSE IN ST PETERSBURG - MEN'S HAIR

There are dozens of places for women to get their hair cut and styled, but there are only a few places for men's hair. Here are some of the more well known, locally owned nearby barbershops.



## CROSS BARBERSHOP

435 1ST AVENUE NORTH; 821-8318

In the family for 36 years, the shop is owned by Jim Mitchell, where his mother, Rebecca Cross was the barber for 32 years before retiring. Jim has been cutting hair for 22 years, the last four here. "I am still working with the same two barber chairs my mother installed." Jim has one other barber working with him. All their customers are men and they do about 80 cuts a week. The cost of a haircut is \$12 and up depending on other services. "I really like working downtown," says Jim. "I have found the locals to be very friendly."



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## HAIR ON CENTRAL

429 CENTRAL AVENUE;  
827-2883

This shop, operating for six years, is owned by partners Darla Pederson (shown right) and Bob Jackson (not shown). Four stylists fill their four chairs. "We have over 600 male customers," says Darla. mens haircuts are \$27. "We do not give discounts, but we offer complimentary shampoos and head massages, and free cleanups and neck trims to our customers."



## ROCKER'S BARBERSHOP

108 4TH STREET NORTH;  
244-6013

When you walk into this shop, you are transported back in time. There has been a barbershop in this location, on the west side of Williams Park since the 1920s. They say Babe Ruth even got his hair cut here during Spring Training. Owner Art Verrill is only barber and he has been keeping the lights on here for 33 years. All of his customers are men and their haircuts are \$12 and up.



## TIM'S BARBERSHOP

2527 MLK JR. NORTH; 898-8467

Tim gives men what they want—a low priced haircut and a room full of beautiful women to cut their hair. The shop dates back to 1946 when Bill Metz owned it. Tim bought it in 1998. He has four chairs and brags that he has not raised his prices in 17 years, in fact, he says he lowered them. A standard mens cut is \$7.95; young boys, \$5.95; flat tops are \$9.95; 55 and over is \$4.95; beards are \$4.95.



## UP SALON

1 PROGRESS PLAZA, #200; 821-7333

Kim Klien took over the shop on the 2nd floor of Progress Plaza Tower in September when Peppi closed. Kim has been cutting hair for over 20 years (eight in Michigan). They have three chairs and about 50% of her customers are men. She admits being new to the building, her business is still growing and at this point she provides 2 dozen cuts per week. Ashley (seated), her daughter, works there too and has 10 years experience. Mens cuts are \$25 and include beard or mustache trim. Womens cuts are slightly higher. Each Monday, they offer free haircuts to all active duty St Pete Police Officers. Kim says, "You will always find a friendly smile here."

## BILLY'S CORNER BARBERSHOP

2031 4TH STREET NORTH; 512-5305

This is one of those old fashioned corner barbershops, with sports memorabilia decorating the walls. For the last twelve years it has been run by Billy Hume from Brockton, Mass., who has the accent to prove it. With 30 years of experience, he has hundreds of regular customers who keep coming back, including kids, executives, and former Mayors. He only has three chairs and one belongs to his 23-year-old son, Billy Jr. who has been cutting hair for seven years. The shop specializes in haircuts for seniors and veterans; \$12 for regular cuts; \$16 for military and police. Cuts for charities - Cuts for Cops and a Christmas for Kids. The shop also feeds hundreds of kids who each receive a meal.

## GREAT CLIPS

198 37TH AVENUE NORTH; 822-8900

The second store in the area, this one operates 5 days a week; about 70% of them are men. They have eight chairs. The price for mens cuts are \$12 for seniors, military, and police. \$10 at 7 pm. No appointment is necessary.

# **BARBERSHOPS DOWNTOWN AND NEARBY**

ces that cater to men. Barbershops offer unique services and usually specialize in cutting hair. We tried to include them all. Hopefully, we didn't leave anyone out.

## **GREAT CLIPS UNIVERSITY VILLAGE**

**303RD STREET SOUTH; 824-5500**

One of two Great Clips, this shop has eight chairs. Manager Donnie Rogowski (center of photo), has been cutting hair for 28 years, and has been working downtown for two years. They estimate that they have over 350 customers a week with 65% of them being men. Mens cuts are \$14; \$4 more with a shampoo. Children, Seniors, and the Military receive \$2 discounts; Student discounts are available. They are close to USF/SP and many of the students use their services. You can check-in online to avoid a wait.



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n men, but women are welcome, too. Prices for regular cuts and kids. Hume created two for Kids banquet at Eckerd College that fits ranging from toothpaste to computers.

opened three years ago. "We do hundreds of men," says shop manager Cassie. They are \$14; kids are \$12, discounts are Monday through Friday prices drop to 50%.



## **JUST FOR MEN**

**3300 MLK JR NORTH;  
422-2582**

One of the newest men's salons they offer basic haircuts, clipper cuts, beard and mustache trims, and skin fades, but that is just the beginning of their services. As a Spa for men, they offer hot face and head shaves,

coloring, highlights, manicures, pedicures, waxing, facials and even massage. There are three full-time barber/stylists and a full time massage therapist. Stop in for a quick cut or stay all day. Plus, there is complimentary water, soda, coffee and even craft beer

## **ONE STEP AHEAD**

**2525 4TH STREET  
NORTH; 504-7405**

One Step is also known as Ralph's Barbershop because before moving to 4th Street two years ago, he owned Ralph's on 9th Street N. for 31 years. One Step only has four chairs and men are 70% of their 150 customers per month.



Mens cuts are normally \$14, but can be as low as \$10 with a coupon. He also offers senior discounts. There is no hair styling, "All we do is cut hair," says Ralph.

## **UPPER CUT BARBERSHOP**

**3514 4TH STREET NORTH; 388-6798**

Upper Cut, next to the El Cap Café, has been open since 1948. Current owner Josh Connell has owned the shop since 2006. They have four chairs with three barbers on staff. "I have been cutting hair for eight years," says manager Darin, (seated in photo) "100% of our business is men." Their prices range from \$5 to \$12 depending on the service requested, but they offer seniors discounts. "We take great pride in our work and are very good at what we do," Darin continues. "We can do everything from classic men's cuts to modern urban styles." They offer a complimentary beer to every customer over 21.





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## Downtown Churches Locator Map

- 1 The Cathedral Church of St. Peter – [www.spcathedral.net](http://www.spcathedral.net)
- 2 Christ United Methodist Church – [www.christchurchstpete.org](http://www.christchurchstpete.org)
- 3 First Presbyterian Church – [www.fpc-stpete.org](http://www.fpc-stpete.org)
- 4 First United Methodist Church – [www.fumcsp.org](http://www.fumcsp.org)
- 5 Saint Mary Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church – [www.stmaryolg.org](http://www.stmaryolg.org)
- 6 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – [www.trinitylutheranstpete.org](http://www.trinitylutheranstpete.org)

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# Organizational News...

## DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

They are working closely with the Mayor and city council to create a Bar Squad to enforce noise regulations.

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](http://www.StPete-DRCA.org).

## FRIENDS OF THE MIRROR LAKE LIBRARY

They meet the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm, the next meetings are December 2 and January 6. Call President, Wayne Finley at 813-767-5503 or email [MWayneFinley@yahoo.com](mailto: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. 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](http://SecondTimeArounders.com)

## ALBERT WHITTED AIRPORT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Have lunch with Santa in the Hangar Restaurant on Sunday, December 13th. Space is very limited so please reserve in advance

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](http://www.awaps.org) or call Terri Griner at 822-1532.

## PINELLAS COUNTY REPUBLICANS

The Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee will hold their next monthly meetings on December 14 and January 11, 7 pm at Banquet Masters 13355 49th Street, Clearwater. All registered Republicans are welcome. For more information, contact Charlotte Smith at 539-6009 or email [info@pinellasrepublicans.com](mailto:info@pinellasrepublicans.com).

## THE SUNCOASTERS

They are happy to present the 89th Annual St Petersburg Santa Parade, December 5th at 10 am. This is a co-promotion between the Suncoasters and the City of St Petersburg. The Parade usually starts at 5th Street and Central and runs down Central Avenue to Bayshore Blvd, and then along Bayshore to 5th Avenue North. It ends at North Straub Park with Snowfest. For information, visit [www.Suncoasters-STPETE.com](http://www.Suncoasters-STPETE.com).



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# ART, ENTERTAINMENT & MUSEUM NEWS

## ST. PETERSBURG BALLET COMPANY

[www.academyofballetarts.org](http://www.academyofballetarts.org)

The local St Petersburg Ballet presents the timeless classic The Nutcracker Suite at the Palladium December 4 (7:30pm), 5 (2 & 7:30pm) and December 6 (3pm)

Reserved seats for adults are \$24; \$12 for children, students and seniors. Order tickets at [MyPalladium.org](http://MyPalladium.org) or call the box office at 822-3590.

St. Petersburg Ballet Company is comprised of the dancers in the two most advanced levels at the Academy of Ballet Arts. The dancers audition in the Fall and commit to a full year of performances, Master Classes and rehearsals. The Company performs in two major public performances at the Palladium. The first performance produced each year is "The Nutcracker" which is performed on the first week-end in December. The younger students at the Academy audition in August for roles: Clara, Fritz, Siamese Warrior, Buffoons, Soldiers and Mice and party children. The roles in Snow, Waltz of the Flowers, Reed Pipes and Spanish are danced by the advanced dancers.

Advanced dancers, many of whom started at the Academy in Creative Movement, must study Ballet six days a week. Younger dancers study three to four days a week. Oldest company members are professional dancers and return to dance with St. Petersburg Ballet as guest artists. This year, Daniel Johnson, a native of St. Petersburg, has returned to Florida from a career in New York and Asheville, North Carolina. He will be dancing with Michelle Kuusela in the Snow Pas de Deux. The youngest Company member is 13.

Over the years St. Petersburg Ballet Company has performed Giselle, Coppelia, Red Shoes, The Little Mermaid, Keepers of the Earth, Match Girl and hundreds of original classical and contemporary works. Many of our dancers have gone on to professional careers with national companies such as American Ballet Theatre, San Francisco Ballet and Alvin Ailey.

You can read about the history of Academy of Ballet Arts and the St. Petersburg Ballet Company at [www.academyofballetarts.org](http://www.academyofballetarts.org)

## FLORIDA CraftArt

501 Central Ave.

**821.7391**

[FloridaCraftArt.com](http://FloridaCraftArt.com)

Through the end of the year, they will offer their ultimate shopping experience with fine jewelry, clay, glass, ornaments & more, handcrafted by Florida's most talented artists. They are excited to show you the brilliant work by their longtime artists and fabulous new ones! Bring your shopping list!

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



## SECOND SATURDAY ARTWALK

[StPeteArtsAlliance.org](http://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](http://ArtPoolRules.com)

This is 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](http://www.fine-arts.org)

Carrie Schneider: Reading Women will be in the Helen and Dick Minck Gallery of New Media until Sunday, January 17. Contemporary artist Carrie Schneider has created a video projection and photographs capturing her women friends and acquaintances in the process of reading. They are all in domestic spaces and reading books by women. Jane Austen, Louisa May Alcott, Edith Wharton, Virginia Woolf, Zora Neale Hurston, Sylvia Plath, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Joyce Carol Oates are some of the writers. The titles of the photographs include the name of the woman reading, the author, and the book's title and publication year.

I Remember Birmingham will be in the Lee Malone Gallery through Sunday, February 28. This technically innovative and spiritually moving installation is John Scott's response to the tragic church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama on September 15, 1963. Four girls lost their lives that Sunday morning at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. This dark day occurred just three weeks after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. It will remain on view throughout African American History Month in February, is a ritual piece.

## MOREAN ARTS CENTER

719 Central Ave.

**822.7872**

[MoreanArtsCenter.org](http://MoreanArtsCenter.org).

Morean Arts Center's Chihuly Collection is relocating from 400 Beach Drive to a new property on the 700 block of Central Avenue. The



new location will include an exhibition space and approximately 4,000 square feet of outdoor space. The grand opening of the new collection is scheduled for fall of 2016.

"The Collection has made such a huge impact on the arts community of St. Petersburg as a whole", stated Nancy Loehr, Morean Arts Center Board Chair. "The excitement of being able to expand and improve the collection as well as continue the city's transformation to a major arts destination is exhilarating," Loehr states.



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## Organizational News...

### GFWC ST PETERSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB

Christmas Luncheon & Installation of Officers - Friday, December 11, 11:30- 3:00 pm at The St Petersburg Woman's Club - 40 Snell Isle Blvd. N.E. They will be celebrating the holiday season & installation of officers with a potluck lunch. A musical program is being provided by Michelle Rego, pianist & vocalist. Guests are welcome.

Arts & Crafts Competition, Friday, January 8th, 1- 3 pm at The St Petersburg Woman's Club - 40 Snell Isle Blvd N.E. Club members & guests are invited to attend & view all the entries by talented club members. Competition is open to members only. Their will be a guest speaker & refreshments will be served.

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](http://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.

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](http://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:

**Marine Radar Seminar:** Wednesday, November 18 - This seminar covers how radar functions, radar selection, operation of the radar under various conditions including setting of controls, display interpretation, basic navigation and collision avoidance using radar. Seminar includes the Radar Book written by Kevin Monahan.

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](http://www.boating-stpete.org). Contact Jeff Eckhart at 424-9800 or email him at [JeffEckhart41@gmail.com](mailto: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.

They are proud to once again host and organize the annual illuminated Lighted Boat Parade. This year's parade will be December 12 beginning about 6:30 pm. You cannot go out on the Pier, but you can see the parade from the waterfront area near the Vinoy and Vinoy Park.

For information, call 822-3277 or visit [www.SPRotary.org](http://www.SPRotary.org).

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# Organizational News...

## HISTORIC OLD NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.

Their meetings are quarterly on the third Monday of the month (except for holidays). The next meeting is December 21. 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 offered each Saturday morning through April, starting at 10 am, with a different tour offered each Saturday of the month. Note, lunchtime tours start at noon

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

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

## FLORIDA ORCHESTRA HOME TOUR

Their Guild will host its fourth annual Holiday Tour of Homes on Saturday, December 5, from 10 am to 4 pm to benefit The Florida Orchestra. The Tour features five homes, each creatively decorated, from glamorous and elegant to fun-loving and glitzy. Visitors can explore the decorated interiors and outdoor areas of the homes and enjoy the water views offered by the Snell Isle and Brightwaters Boulevard neighborhoods. The Guild plans a holiday boutique at one homes where gift items and decorations will be available.

Advance ticket donations are \$20 each, payable by check to The Florida Orchestra Guild, St. Petersburg, and sent to Holiday Tour of Homes, c/o C.E. Miller, 1440 52nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33703. Individual tickets the day of the event, available at all Tour homes, will be \$25, payable only by cash or check.

Event co-chairs Emily Gillespie and Ginger Hanner have planned a Holiday Cocktail Reception Friday, December 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Brightwaters home of Drs. Larry R. and Sarah E. Williams. The menu features wines and hors d'oeuvres by Parkshore Grill's award-winning chef Tyson Grant. A \$75 individual donation for the Reception includes a Tour of Homes ticket.

For general information on the Tour of Homes and Cocktail Reception, call 727-528-6595

## GFWC JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB

This non-profit volunteer organization is for young women over 18. Elections were held in November. They meet on the first Tuesday of each month (except June and July) at 7pm. The next meetings are December 1 and January 5. Visit SPJWC.org or call Audra Ames 415-6397 to get involved.

## SNELL ISLE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

They will have their Christmas party on Thursday December 17th and General Meeting and Election of Board Members in January

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## ROBERT PHELPS

### The Man And His Art

Robert Phelps, a self taught artist, is recognized for his vibrant figurative work and uniquely-colored portraiture. Through his work, he strives to express the raw, intimate beauty of his subjects. His portraits range from a menacingly-brooding Mike Tyson to adorable teacup chihuahuas. He paints what gives him joy, believing this to be the highest form of artistic "statement." Last spring he had a show in The Studio@620 located at 620 1st Ave. South, St. Petersburg.

This is his story, in his own words:

I've always been very artistically inclined and spent my youth and childhood drawing and painting. Our family roots are in rural, mountainous West Virginia, extending out to Ohio, Maryland, and Virginia. I spent most of my childhood exploring the woods with my brother and that affinity for the wilderness and nature has never left me. Most of my work is a celebration of animals, wilderness, and natural beauty. I also spend a lot of time painting "wild" characters - Hells Angels, Mike Tyson (and many other fighters), nymphs, satyrs, and a pantheon of rock stars, writers and celebrities of the more "colorful" ilk (Mick Jagger, Hunter S. Thompson, etc.) My current painting style is most closely aligned with the expressionist or fauvist (French for "the wild beasts") technique where I'm exploring emotional content instead of literal reality in my subjects.

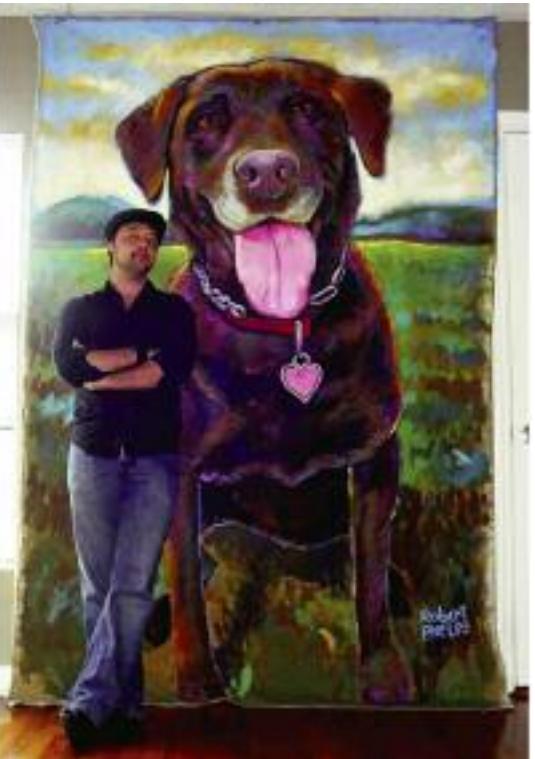
I graduated high school in 1994. I was an Academic Scholar and participated in many electives, Art Club, French Club, National Honors Society, etc. I was a public speaking champion for the Future Business Leaders of America. I also ran track, cross country, soccer, etc. I went to community college for a year or so, but I was a bit too restless for college and soon went to work in 1996 as a scenic painter for Disney's Animal Kingdom. I spent the next three years working for companies as a muralist and decorative painter for hire before moving to St. Petersburg in 2000. I continued working as an independent faux painting subcontractor until forming my company in 2007. I've been doing business as Painted Poetry, LLC since then, [www.PaintedPoetryHome.com](http://www.PaintedPoetryHome.com)

In my portfolios, you'll see examples of many residential faux painting and mural projects. I specialize in custom faux finishes and employ a variety of decorative painting techniques. I enjoy doing a variety of mural styles for both commercial and private clients.

Some of my commercial clients include DeBartalo Holdings the owners of the San Francisco 49ers, DeLosas Pizza, The Hut Restaurant, The Moon Under Water, Gecko's restaurants, etc. You can see my murals at The Hut, Delosa's and most recently the Moon Under Water.

In the ensuing years, I have participated in dozens of solo and group art shows and have been very active in the arts community. I favor doing themed shows. One of note was a 2008 fight themed show called "There Will Be Blood" at Interior Motives (now known as ARTicles gallery).

A few celebrities have my work in their collection or have signed their portraits like Jerry Rice, former UFC champion BJ Penn, director John Waters, and comedian Maria Bamford. The most recent and interesting is comedian Adam Carolla and his cohosts on the TV show Catch a Contractor. I've been a longtime fan of Adam's work and was in the process of



painting his dog when I got word the dog had died. I rushed to get a memorial portrait out to his grieving family. Adam was very gracious in mentioning it on his podcast. In thanks to his cohosts who had acted as my liaisons, I painted their dog Kilo's portrait and presented it to them at a function in Atlanta last month.

I have a special fondness for painting dogs and pets as I find the work very meaningful. I find that my expressive painting style is a natural fit for the exuberance and innocence of animals. I regularly donate work to animal rescue charities and participate in their auction events.

You can reach Robert at 727-453-2952.



## Something Fun To Do Nearby

### SPEND AN AFTERNOON AT LARGO'S ARMED FORCES MUSEUM

by Becky Griffin, Publisher

It all started 55 years ago with a grenade. John Piazza, Sr. bought that grenade and began his lifelong passion of collecting military equipment. Over the years, he added to his collection of various weapons, uniforms and even vehicles spanning wars from WWI to Vietnam. Eventually, he had to invested in a large warehouse to store it.

Piazza (76) served as a Marine and is still a member of the local Marine Corp. League. After his service, he worked with a healthcare company that managed Senior Centers. He found the Center's residents enjoyed talking about their years of service and were interested in seeing his assorted artifacts. As the collection grew, he created small exhibits, packed them into a trailer thus creating a small traveling military history museum, enjoyed by his Centers' residents.

About ten years ago, Piazza retired and spent the next 18 months converting his warehouse into the Armed Forces History Museum. He had already assembled 80% of today's collection. Because he never had plans to convert the warehouse into a museum, it is tucked out of sight in an industrial park, but when you pull in, and see the various jeeps and military vehicles, a helicopter on the roof, and even a plane all in the parking lot, you realize there is more here than you imagined.

When you walk through the doors into the 50,000 square foot museum, there is an overwhelming feeling that it is like "the Smithsonian meets Disney." The multi-award winning museum featured on the History Channel, TLC, and PBS, boasts the largest collection of military memorabilia in the Southeast, with many interactive displays. With nearly 100,000 artifacts and 50 operational vehicles, the museum is ever evolving.

One of the most popular exhibits is the WWI trench. When you enter, you are immediately transported back in time to experience what soldiers felt. As you walk through the life size trench, you hear the gunfire and see the smoke. Soldiers are radioing instructions from the communications room. Everything you see was actually used in WWI. From there, you enter the WWII arena. The first thing you see in the center of the room are several large scale models of Japanese ships (appearing to be at sea) that were used in the filming of the movie *Tora! Tora! Tora!* Numerous American and Japanese uniforms are on display. Actual Pearl Harbor footage is running on a 20-foot screen. You hear radio transmissions from a WWII communication center and listen as a local Tampa hero recalls how he won the Medal of honor. The exhibits and memorabilia continue, including a MASH tent, the Ho Chi Minh Trail, a special tribute to POWs and MIAs and more. Saddam Hussein's uniform is on display. Large scale model planes appear to fly overhead and they have gone to great lengths to enhance your experience with murals and interactive displays throughout.

A very popular area is the virtual Voyager Motion Simulator. You feel the excitement while experiencing one of ten different virtual encounters. In addition, climb up to the cockpit of a Russian Mig jet, ride a WWII ME reconnaissance vehicle, see an actual Quonset Hut, or peer through a working 42-foot submarine periscope.

Piazza created the museum because he wants to pay tribute to our Military Veterans every day, not just on Veteran's Day. He hopes by helping people to experience the battles and relive the history, they will be more aware of veteran's sacrifices.

But, Piazza and the Museum staff are

not just about re-living history. They are also about education. Their Operation: Education initiative, funded through donations and special events, provides Title 1 Schools all-expense paid field trips for their students. Trips include transportation, admission and a boxed lunch for each student. Any teacher may also borrow a duffle bag, filled with artifacts from a specific war, free of charge, which they can use for two weeks. This allows students to touch and hold the same equipment used by a soldier at war.

The museum is available for private parties, and throughout the year, they sponsor many fundraising events. Their very popular Red, White and Craft Beer Brews Fest, held in the spring, has over 75 craft beers, food trucks, museum tours and more. Their Memorial Day Funfest includes crocodile wrestling and a petting zoo. The Stars & Stripes USO Show has grown so large, it is now held downtown at the Coliseum. It is a live re-enactment of a USO Show.

As we said, if you have never been there, The Armed Forces History Museum is hard to find. It is located at 2050 34th Way N., Largo. From Ulmerton Road, turn onto 34th Way N. heading north, where the Citgo gas station is (approximately 1/4 mile west of Belcher Road.) The museum entrance is at the end of the street. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sundays noon to 4 pm. They are closed Mondays. Admission is \$17.95 for adults, \$14.95 Seniors, \$12.95 ages 13-18 and \$9.95 ages 12 and under. Retired military personnel are free.

The Armed Forces History Museum is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization funded primarily through admissions, donations, and special events. For information, call (727) 539-8371 or visit [ArmedForcesMuseum.com](http://ArmedForcesMuseum.com) to see photos of the exhibits.



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## TOP 5 WAYS TO CHALLENGE HOLIDAY DEPRESSION

by Bob Clark, Belleair Christian Science Practitioner

For many, the holiday season is a joyous time, but for some folks it can be a hard season to get through. If you Google "holiday depression", or better still "beating holiday depression" you'll find lots of top 10 lists. Most of the ideas on my list below appear on one or more of those lists. But they've also appeared in my life. They're tried and proven. They're real. They work.



**1. Be grateful.** Research at Harvard, and at major universities in Florida, Texas and California is beginning to prove the mental, emotional and even physical benefits of taking some time each day to be grateful. Keep a gratitude journal. Write a thank you note. Thank someone mentally. It's a great way to protect your natural joy. Roman philosopher, Cicero, tells us, "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others."

**2. Serve.** Choose one of the many service opportunities all communities offer. Volunteer at your church. Ring a Salvation Army bell. Volunteer at a Veterans Hospital. Be a story reader at your local library or elementary school. Serving others is a sure fire way to forget yourself. That always feels good.

**3. Be still.** If you search online, you'll find that one of the chief causes of holiday depression is a lack of stillness. Silent nights are hard to find. So be purposeful about finding stillness. Find a quiet spot and make time (even just 5-10 minutes) each day to just be quiet. Pray, meditate, relax, take some deep breaths.

**4. Simplify.** As shopping, food preparation and travel intensity, things can get complicated. You can take control here. Simplify your menus. A calm host/hostess is a better gift than a sumptuous meal. Set reasonable limits on gifts. Some families assign each family member one person to buy for: one gift, under \$20. Have fun; keep it simple.

**5. Reach out.** Although it may have many different causes, holiday depression has a common antidote. Look out instead of in. This can seem devilishly hard to do. But thinking outward, thinking of what other people need instead of what we lack is a joy creator, while thinking of ourselves can promote depression. Again, you can be purposeful here. Make a list of people you've been out of touch with and send them a holiday greeting. Think about who in your community is needier than you.

Our church discovered that 1 in 6 children from a local elementary school were from homeless families. We contacted the school and agreed to have our Sunday School kids work to provide backpacks with school supplies at the beginning of the year and snack packs during the rest of the year. It's hard to feel sad when you're packing bags for homeless kids.

So as the holidays approach, challenging rather than accepting holiday depression is a healthy choice. Find your own ways to keep the season joyful. Share them with friends. Look outward and upward. It works.

Read Bob Clark's blog at [simplyhealthyflorida.com](http://simplyhealthyflorida.com).

## 38TH ANNUAL ST. PETERSBURG POWER & SAILBOAT SHOW

The St. Petersburg Power & Sailboat Show, the largest in-water boat show on Florida's Gulf Coast, is Thursday, Dec. 3 through Sunday, Dec. 6 at the Mahaffey Theater Yacht Basin and Albert Whitted Park along the St. Petersburg waterfront. The boat show offers four fun-filled days and features displays of powerboats, sailboats and the latest marine electronics and accessories.

**Free Children's Fishing Lessons -** Saturday and Sunday, Captain Don Dingman will present Hook The Future kids fishing clinics.

Kids, ages 4 to 15, will receive a free rod-and-reel combo and the chance to win great prizes from brands including Salt Life, Bimini Bay Outfitters, Eagle Claw, C&H Lures, MirrOlure, Fishbites Ande Monofilament and more during exciting "Fishing Q&A" sessions.

### Sails Up with Discover Sailing -

Discover Sailing's On-The-Water Clinics at the St. Petersburg Power & Sailboat Show offering the opportunity to get on the water with experienced instructors certified by the American Sailing Association. Clinics include: Introduction to Sailing (no experience necessary); A Taste of Sailing - A Tampa Bay Sailing Experience; Catamaran Sailing; and docking and anchoring instruction. To register for a clinic in advance, visit [DiscoverSailing.com](http://DiscoverSailing.com).

**Live in the Lap of Luxury - For a Night -** Couples who enjoy the luxurious lifestyle can stay aboard a 50-foot sailboat for one night during the show. After the Show, guests will enjoy a



private sunset cruise for two overlooking the Tampa Bay skyline and a toast to the special event with their favorite wine or champagne and a basket of gourmet treats.

Following the sunset cruise, the yacht will berth at the Vinoy Marina, where the lucky couples will have access to all amenities at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort. In the morning,

the captain will return to the boat a sail to the St. Petersburg Power & Sailboat Show. Space is limited to one couple Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights only. Spots are a first come, first served basis at \$350 per couple. To book, Email [discover@sailamerica.com](mailto:discover@sailamerica.com).

**Enjoy the Boating Lifestyle -** The show's floating cocktail lounge offers a shaded place at the center of the boat show to cool off, grab a snack and enjoy live music and views of the show.

On Saturday, the Cruiser's Party, presented by Cruising Outpost Magazine, will take place on the Gosling's & Budweiser Floating Cocktail Lounge. The party features The Eric Stone Band, prizes, pizza and refreshments. Guests must be in the show by 7 pm to attend.

A selection of marine-related books will be available at the Author's Corner, where guests will have the opportunity to meet and mingle with their favorite writers.

"The St. Pete boating community is known for bringing great energy to this boat show," said Brett Keating, vice president of marketing for Show Management, the company that produces the show.

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## OUR NATURAL CHOICE FOR A HEALTHY LIFE (AND BUSINESS)

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The Holistic Network of Tampa Bay serves as a public resource for locating and learning about holistic health options in the Tampa Bay area. In addition, the network is a valuable resource for holistic practitioners to collaborate, support and encourage one another.

The network was founded in 2009 and is headed up by St Petersburg resident Deserie Valloreo. Deserie is passionate about empowering people to take control of their health naturally. Through the Holistic Network of Tampa Bay website, she has created a gateway for the community to discover holistic health options available right in their own backyard.

"I want people to know they have a choice," says Valloreo. "I want them to know that there are wellness professionals who genuinely care about helping them and can do so without the use of toxic pharmaceutical drugs and costly surgeries."

Recently, the network launched three new community resources.

- First, their online directory allows you to browse and learn about holistic practitioners and solutions they offer.
- Second, a quarterly online journal – the Holistic Journal of Tampa Bay - provides insights and education on holistic solutions and how they can enhance well-being.
- Lastly, a calendar of online events with holistic health classes and workshops happening in the community.

All of these resources are FREE. Not only that but when you subscribe to the journal you receive a link to valuable gifts from Holistic Practitioners in the Tampa Bay area.

From the practitioners viewpoint, the Holistic Network of Tampa Bay unites and empowers them to help each other by learning about one another's offerings resulting in many client referrals.

Practitioners attend monthly member meetings where they share details about the services they offer. Valloreo remarked that "Connections are made at every meeting. It is not uncommon for a practitioner to mention they specialize in an area, migraines, for example, and 3 practitioners in the room can refer a client needing this type of help. The network helps practitioners to provide even better service to the community."

To learn more, visit [HolisticNetworkTampaBay.com](http://HolisticNetworkTampaBay.com). You can reach Deserie Valloreo at 727-742-9137

## ST. PETE MUSEUM OF HISTORY

**Beers on the Pier**, December 4, 2015, 6 - 10 pm.  
A Beer Festival! The Pier is closed, but we can cheers to its history with over 75 beers from brewers across the state and the country.

**"Explore The Deep: Discover The Past!"** Jan. 15 - June 30th Odyssey marine brings sunken treasure, lost ships and pirates to the shores of St. Petersburg.

**Happy Hour with the Historian January 14th, 2016**  
Featuring Ellen Gerth: Shipwrecks and Sunken Secrets

## LOCAL AUTHOR WRITES ST. PETE BASED MYSTERY SERIES



A new mystery series written by local author Cheryl Hollon is based on a local business, Grand Central Stained Glass & Graphics on 2401 Central Avenue. Owners Eloyne and Bradley Ericson are the inspiration for Webb's Glass Shop Series released in October by Kensington Books.

A short summary of the first book in the series: *Pane and Suffering* is a cozy mystery featuring Savannah Webb – a brilliant glass blower studying in Seattle. After her father dies of an unexpected heart attack, she drops everything to return home to St. Petersburg to settle his affairs, including the fate of the family stained glass shop. Savannah intends to transfer ownership to her father's trusted assistant, but before she can hand over the keys, he too dies of a heart attack.

Well, two heart attacks in one small shop – that makes no sense. Even worse, she finds a note her father left that declares he was murdered and that she is in danger, too. He also left her an encrypted message. He was a cryptographer for the government during the cold war years and gave her puzzles to solve when she was a girl.

With the local police unconvinced, it's up to Savannah to piece together the encoded clues before the killer cuts her out of the picture.

Cheryl Hollon writes full time after leaving an engineering career of designing and building military flight simulators in countries such as England, Wales, Australia, Singapore, Taiwan and India. Fulfilling the dream of a lifetime, she combines her love of writing with a passion for creating glass art. In the small glass studio behind the house, Cheryl and her husband design, create, and produce fused glass, stained glass and painted glass artworks.

She is a member of Sisters in Crime, the Florida Chapter of Mystery Writers of America and Romance Writers of America. A mystery conference addict, she regularly attends conferences such as SleuthFest in Deerfield Beach, Florida, Malice Domestic in Washington, DC, and New England Crime Bake in Dedham, MA.

Cheryl and her husband live in St. Petersburg, near Crescent Lake in a 1920s Craftsman Bungalow.

## WHY HIRE AN INTERIOR DESIGNER?

By Shawn Tanney Richards

A professional Interior Designer can take your project from inception to completion and help you avoid costly mistakes, as well as decrease your stress level. Instead of haphazardly purchasing random pieces at a furniture store, a designer can envision and implement an overall design plan to create a cohesive look throughout your home or office. From blueprints to finishing touches, an interior designer offers preliminary planning, project coordination with architects, builders, and subcontractors and then completes the look of your project with art, accessories, window treatments, and appropriate lighting. A highly-qualified interior designer can give you access to more than a thousand assorted vendors that cater to every budget. This helps to create a unique, beautiful space that will reflect your taste, personality and lifestyle.

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## **SNOWFEST AND WATERFRONT HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES**

**Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony** - Bring in the holiday season with St. Petersburg's festive kick-off celebration. Mayor Kriseman flips the switch that turns on the downtown Christmas tree and lights on Friday, November 27, from 5 to 7 pm. You'll enjoy onstage entertainment provided by Musicstars, Expressions Dance Studio and the St. Petersburg Community Band. Children will also enjoy the entertainment and interactive games. Food concessions available. Blanket seating, only. Presented by City of St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation in North Straub Park. For more information, call (727) 893-7441. Free

**St. Petersburg Santa Parade** - St. Petersburg's 89th Annual Santa Parade starts Saturday, December 5, at 10 am. The route from Central Ave. and 5th St. travels east to Bayshore Dr. then turns north ending at 5th Ave. N. Free family fun, bands, floats and much more will delight the spectators.

**Snowfest - A Real Snow Event** - Sixty-five tons of snow are expected to fall on North Straub Park at the annual holiday Snowfest celebration on December 5, from 10:30 am until 3 pm. Activities include a big and kiddie toboggan slide, art tent, karaoke, moonwalks, giant slide, "glide" ice skating, and a Kiddyland area designed especially for pre-schoolers with an inflatable train, cookie decorating and more. Wristbands are \$5 and are required for all activities. Save time, purchase wristbands in advance at any St. Petersburg recreation center. For locations see [stpeteparksrec.org/centers.html](http://stpeteparksrec.org/centers.html).

**Santa & Ice Skating in North Straub Park** - Visit Santa in the Park and go "glide" skating on a simulated ice rink in North Straub Park. Both activities typically are from 6 to 9 pm on the following dates: December 5 & 6, 9 through 13, and 17 through 23. Skating is \$5 for 30 minute sessions. Santa visits are free. Cameras are allowed.

**Waterfront Lights and Display** - While you stroll along the pedestrian walkway of St. Petersburg's waterfront, see thousands of holiday lights and decorations in North and South Straub Parks including the unique snowflake lights. Don't miss the giant greeting card display along Bayshore Dr. at Vinoy Park made by local teens at St. Petersburg's Recreation Centers. Lights and decorations by City of St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation.

## **THE CIRQUE DU CHILL**

**November 21 | Straub Park | 6 to 11 pm**

The waterfront view of Straub Park will be the backdrop for the ultimate outdoor lounge party. Hundreds of daybeds, cabanas and outdoor furnishings will transform the area into a cozy, setting to enjoy an evening of food, drink and entertainment.

The evening will be full of surprises as guests engage in breath-taking entertainment that only the circus arts provide. Expect the unexpected as acrobats perform extraordinary feats, aerialists soar with beauty and grace, a contortionist bends and flexes her body in mind boggling positions, a juggler impresses with amazing dexterity, a high-flying daredevil defies death and a team of hand balancers dazzle. Each performance will be broadcast on an LED Wall.

Cost is \$35 per person at the door (21 or older) or \$25 in advance. A limited number of VIP tickets are available for \$120. Parkshore Grill and 400 Beach Seafood & Tap House will provide al fresco dining offering signature items cooked on-site. They will also offer a wonderful selection of food for sale to the general public throughout the night. Reserved Seating's options available. Visit [chillouangenight.com](http://chillouangenight.com).



## **RAYMOND JAMES MAKES DONATION FOR WOMEN IN NEED**

Raymond James donated \$500,000 to St. Petersburg Free Clinic to complete the capital campaign to build the Virginia and David Baldwin Women's Residence. The home is expected to serve close to 150 women a year who are working towards self-sufficiency.

"It's important to the firm that we support and reinvest in our local communities to make them better places to live and work," said Tom James, Executive Chairman of Raymond James. "The clinic does tremendous work to fight homelessness in St. Petersburg and the Women's Residence expansion is an exemplary community service initiative."

The Virginia and David Baldwin Women's Residence is one of eight programs offered by the Free Clinic. The program currently has the capacity to house 20 women at one time working towards independence. The new residence will more than double that, housing 50 women at one time.

"As a board member, I see how crucial the services and programs provided by the St. Petersburg Free Clinic are for so many of our city's residents," said Bill Van Law, Raymond James Investment Advisors Division President and St. Petersburg Free Clinic Board Vice Chair. "Raymond James's donation to help expand the Women's Residence completes the Saving Grace fundraising campaign and will allow the clinic to help more women overcome homelessness. It's a privilege to be a part of both these organizations."

Close to two years ago St. Petersburg Free Clinic embarked on the Saving Grace Capital Campaign to raise \$4.5 million dollars to fund the new women's residence. As of today the capital campaign is complete and the project goal has been more than met all by private philanthropy.

"We started two years ago with a dream to help more of the over 2400 women per year that call us looking for help" said Beth Houghton, Executive Director of St. Petersburg Free Clinic. "We went out into the community and shared that dream and they have come alongside us to make this home a reality. We are so thankful to Raymond James for this outstanding gift that has completed our campaign."

The Virginia and David Baldwin Women's Residence is currently under construction and is estimated to open in February of 2016.

St. Petersburg Free Clinic is a multi-service, independent, not-for-profit human services agency providing neighbors in need assistance with food, shelter and health care since 1970. The Free Clinic is comprised of eight programs that are a beacon of hope for families and individuals who fall through the cracks of existing systems and services. To learn more, please visit [www.stpetersburgfreeclinic.org](http://www.stpetersburgfreeclinic.org).

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## AN ARMY OF BELL RINGERS

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Kenneth Baylor has been ringing bells for the Salvation Army for the last three years. He loves the job. Not only does he like getting paid, but he loves talking to people.

Baylor was ringing his bell at the Publix in Largo one Tuesday last year when I caught up with him, but he may be somewhere else on any given Wednesday, Thursday or any day thereafter. Baylor is paid minimum wage and reports to whichever location he is assigned. He does not have a car, and has to take the bus to the Belcher Road Salvation Army outlet. Once there, he gets in a van that will take him to one of the dozen stations in county. Once there, he will work a 6-hour shift and then time someone else arrives to take his place. At the end of the day he earns about \$50.

The Bell Ringers can be found at major retail outlets, such as Publix, Wal-Mart, Sams Club, Winn-Dixie, Walgreens stores and even Westfield Countryside Mall, but not all of the Bell Ringers are being paid. The Salvation Army has an army of volunteers, too. Volunteers range from housewives to businessmen in suits and ties. Baylor says sometimes at the height of the shopping season, he can bring in as much as \$500 in a day, if it is a good location.

"We have over 45 outlets that have to be covered with usually two shifts a day," says Captain Zack Bell, commander of the North Pinellas Salvation Army center. "They are out there from 10am to 8pm, 7 days a week. We also have volunteer groups. Businesses, churches, schools and the Rotary clubs help a lot." Between volunteers and paid employees, they cover these locations from Thanksgiving through Christmas which totals about 2500 shifts to be filled during the holiday season.

"We have two types of Bell Ringers," Bell explains. "We have the paid people who are seasonal employees. We have about 40 of those. The rest of the shifts though are filled with our army of volunteers. The fact that we do not have to pay them, helps our money go further."

The Salvation Army started in London in 1865 by one-time Methodist minister William Booth, and was charged with a mission of education, relief of poverty, and other charitable objects beneficial to society and the community as a whole. The organization reports a worldwide membership of over 1.5 million soldiers, officers and members known as Salvationists. The current world leader is General Andre Cox.

"Our Bell Ringers brought in over \$300,000 in just North Pinellas County last year," says Capt. Bell. "That is our goal again for 2015. People do not know the thousands of local families that we help here just in Pinellas County." If you have time to ring the bell for Christmas, call the local Salvation Army at 725-9777 and ask for Gerry.



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## VOYAGES TO CUBA BRING UNCERTAINTY

By Michelle McKinley, Wallace, Welch & Willingham

On September 18, 2015, The U.S. Department of the Treasury released new rules surrounding U.S. travel to Cuba. The administration lifted the prohibition on boating to Cuba and Cuban waters. While the intrigue is enormous, Florida boaters should be cautious before making plans for such a Caribbean voyage. Although the U.S. government has liberalized the rules, there are many unique conditions that should be considered such as political risk, crime, and navigational limits available on current insurance policies, just to name a few.

The new regulations bring the marine insurance industry into uncharted territory. Insurance companies are not yet offering coverage extensions for destination Cuba. The reasons carriers may be slow to respond are as follows:

- Conflicting laws and regulations between U.S. agencies
- Lack of familiarity with Cuban laws which may govern in civil and criminal matters
- Lack of knowledge and limited opportunities for subrogation
- Additional expense of sending marine surveyors and claims adjustors
- Unknown/adequate repair facilities
- Access to repair parts
- Towing charges if the vessel had to be repatriated for repair
- Technical complications associated with endorsing in force policies
- No underwriting data to base rates on

It is uncertain when insurance companies will offer this coverage to the recreational boater. In the meantime, boaters are reminded that property and liability coverage only applies to claims which occur within the navigational limits stated in the boater's policy. Wallace Welch & Willingham will stay attuned to this situation and will continue to post updates.

Call Wallace, Welch & Willingham at (727) 522-7777

## HOLIDAY SEASON, MAHAFFEY THEATER STYLE



The Mahaffey Theater's 2015 holiday schedule includes a wide variety of seasonal shows, from kid and family-friendly favorites to more "mature" musical delights.

The Magic of Christmas

arrives Saturday, Nov. 28, featuring the New York Tenors – a once-in-a-lifetime collaboration between America's "singing policeman" Daniel Rodriguez, famed Irish tenor (and legendary showman) Andy Cooney, and noted operatic newcomer Christopher Macchio. Big Apple comedian Jim Labriola rounds out the roster for this extra-special variety show. Celtic Woman, the all-female all Irish, singing quartet known for heavenly harmonies and their lush, beautiful PBS specials, brings the Home For Christmas symphony show to The Mahaffey Wednesday, Dec. 16.

The theater closes out the season in spectacular style with the Moscow Ballet's annual Great Russian Nutcracker for three shows Saturday, Dec. 26, with 40 world-class Russian dancers and stunning, hand-crafted sets and costumes in the original Russian tradition. Visit themahaffey.com.

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## THINK GREEN DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Who doesn't like to receive presents, decorate trees and homes and deck the halls during the holidays? While traditions help keep the season merry, the gift wrap, garland and holiday trees often end up taking up space at the Solid Waste facility once the season is over.

Pinellas County challenges holiday revelers to begin another tradition: "reduce, reuse and recycle" to trim holiday waste. Some simple holiday tips can help keep this season green:

- Give an eco-friendly present such as a gift card, zoo pass, event ticket or fishing license instead of items that will ultimately be thrown away.
- Consider buying items with less packaging.
- Buy rechargeable instead of disposable, batteries, for electronic holiday gifts.
- Give the gift of time, such as a lunch invitation or a picnic at the beach.
- Bring a reusable bag, or skip the bag when shopping for the holidays.
- Look for recycled content when buying items such as greeting cards.
- Make room for new items by collecting clothes, toys or household items to donate to charities.
- Cancel any unneeded mail order catalogs by calling the company's customer service office.
- Buy wrapping paper made of only paper. Foil paper or paper with glitter can not be recycled.
- Reuse holiday gift bags, tissue paper, ribbons and bows.
- Reuse packing materials including boxes and plastic peanuts or take the peanuts to a shipping store for reuse (some stores take bubble wrap too).
- Have a recycling bin for cans and bottles at your holiday party.
- Entertain with reusable dishes, silverware and cloth napkins instead of disposable items.
- Replace Christmas lights with energy-efficient LED lights.
- Recycle flattened cardboard boxes
- Recycle holiday papers such as used gift wrap (foil paper or paper with glitter goes into the trash), tissue paper or greeting cards.
- Clearwater's grease recycling program is free. just put your leftover cooking greases, oils, meat drippings, and bacon fats in a non-recyclable container and bring it to the recycling drop-off center at 1701 N. Hercules Ave. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Recycle Christmas trees at your curbside.

## ST. PETERSBURG WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL DONATE TO THE ARTS

The St. Petersburg Arts Alliance is delighted to announce they received a contribution from the St. Petersburg Wine and Food Festival in support of the St. Petersburg Second Saturday ArtWalk. Festival co-founders, Dawna Stone and Matt Dieter donated the proceeds from the Wine Pairings Dinner, the kick-off event for the September festival. Held at the Birchwood Hotel, the elaborate, intimate six-course dinner was a culinary arts triumph for wine and food connoisseurs.

"We are very pleased to present John with this check from our first Wine and Food Festival," states Ms. Stone. We chose the Arts Alliance as our partner because of the service programs that the Arts Alliance provides the creative community. The contribution will go toward growing ArtWalk.

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## DO YOU QUALIFY FOR DISABILITY?

by Tony Viera

The process to get disability benefits is unfortunately long and convoluted. However, before undertaking that journey most people would benefit from understanding exactly what qualifies an individual to obtain benefits. To determine if a person qualifies, the Social Security Administration uses both economic and medical criteria.

Economically, you must have worked long enough to be currently insured for disability benefits. If you have worked at least five out of the last ten years, with a steady work history, you are likely insured. If you have not worked long enough – or recently enough, to be covered by your earnings, then you must demonstrate an economic need.

You must also meet the medical criteria. A person must prove that they have a medical impairment, or a combination of impairments, that keeps them from working. You must prove with medical evidence your conditions have or will remain disabling for 12 continuous months. For example, if a person was injured in an automobile accident and was able to recover and return to full time work nine months later, Social Security would be of no service to that person. The Social Security Administration can only pay benefits for periods of 12 continuous months or more. There are no specific medical conditions that qualify, necessarily. It can be any illness, physical injury or psychological impairment, provided that the symptoms are severe enough to result in an inability to work.

Carlson, Meissner, Hart & Hayslett's attorneys specialize in assisting individuals navigate the disability process, from filing the application, gathering medical evidence, filing all appeals and litigating the claim in Court. Consultations are free, and we are only paid for our services if we are successful in obtaining benefits. Call (727) 462-2441

## CIDER PRESS OPENS

The Cider Press Café finally opened and the community's response has been overwhelming. Roland Strobel (left), and Johan Everstijn (right) are co-owners of the new restaurant at the corner of Central Avenue and 6th Street. Roland Strobel says the store goes beyond its mission — "everything is fresh." Their food is Florida-inspired and plant based. "Our food is Gourmet Raw Vegan," Roland says. "It is as local as we can get it. We do not even keep a can opener in our kitchen." The kitchen is also 100% gluten free.



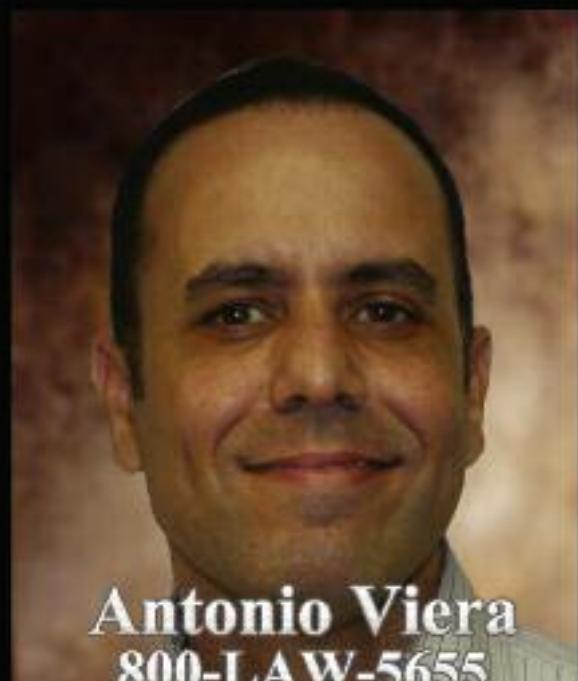
Why raw? "Raw foods are more satisfying and much more nutrient dense," Strobel says. "Your stomach detects the nutrients faster and sends signals of satiation to the brain sooner than if you were eating cooked food. But what makes us truly unique is everything has been made by us, in house."

This is not a franchise, although the team does own a Cider Press Café in Naples. "This store is doing so well, we have decided to make this our home and our base of operations."

They serve beer and wine. Roland stresses that many of them are organic, as well. "Our wines have no sulfites. Some of the beers are gluten free, too."

Where did the name come from? "My parents had a cider press in their garage up north and used it to make juice when I was growing up," say Roland. "Cider means 'unfiltered juice.' I thought it was a great name for our concept, plus the domain name, CiderPressCafe.com was available."

Cider Press Cafe is located at 601 Central Avenue. Get more



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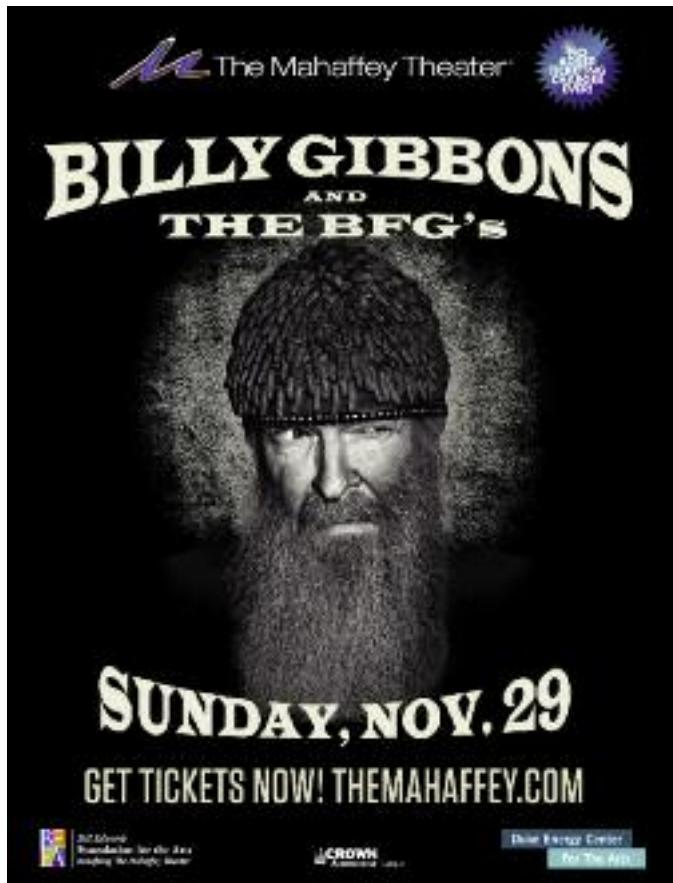
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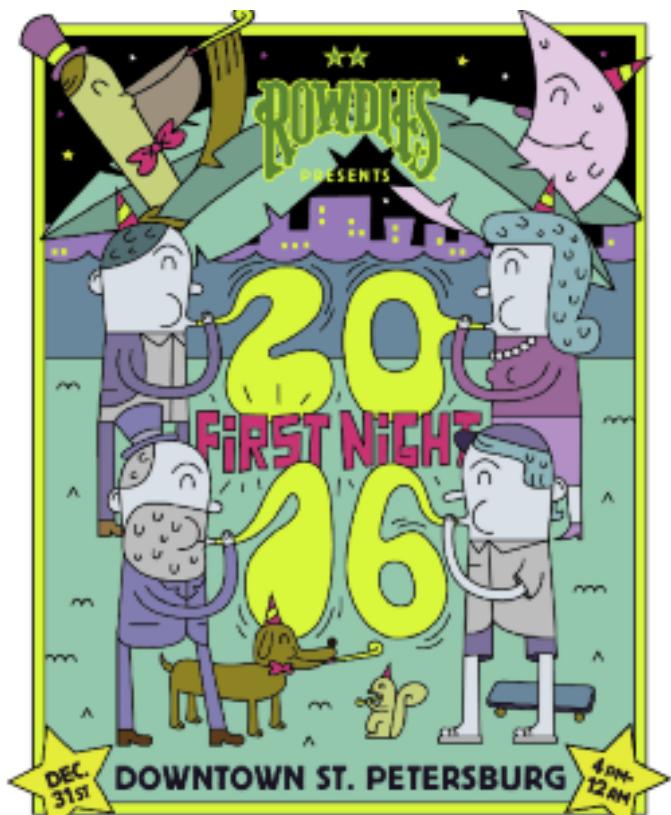
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## TAPS ON THE BEACH

For nearly a year, Ken Deka drives 20 minutes to the beach to Indian Rocks Beach to play "Taps" on his bugle exactly at sunset. Traveling from Largo, Deka shows up about an hour early and walks the beach. Many regular beachgoers recognize him and thank him for his nightly performance.

Deka, originally from South Bend, IN, joined the Army right out of high school and served for three years. He and his brother are both proud Vietnam veterans.

After his service, Deka went to school and received a degree in computer science. He worked as a computer programmer for about 25 years and is now retired.

Deka never played in a band; he learned to play the bugle at home as a kid. "I liked it because it was loud," he says. He was a military veteran, as was his late brother. They both served in Vietnam in the late 1960s. "While in the military, I always noticed the reaction of the crowd when someone played "Taps," at funerals and sunsets."

"A kid came up to me the other day and asked me why I do this. I told him, in the military you hear "Taps" every night--my favorite time of the day," Deka says. "For me, it was always a nice, quiet and peaceful time. It gives you a minute to stop and think. A lot of guys did not make it home alive. It makes you remember that our Freedom is not really Free."

"Taps" is a 24-note melody normally played on the bugle or the trumpet. It was written for bugle which is the simplest brass instrument with no valves and no means of changing pitch other than the player's mouth. Therefore, "Taps" is composed of a limited range of notes.

### TAPS

From the hills, from the lake,  
From the sky.  
All is well, safely rest,  
God is nigh.  
Go to sleep, peaceful sleep,  
May the soldier or sailor,  
God keep.  
On the land or the deep,  
Safe in sleep.  
Love, good night, Must thou go,  
When the day, And the night  
Need thee so?  
All is well. Speedeth all  
To their rest.  
Fades the light; And afar  
Goeth day, And the stars  
Shineth bright,  
Fare thee well; Day has gone,  
Night is on.  
Thanks and praise, For our days,  
'Neath the sun, Neath the stars,  
'Neath the sky,  
As we go, This we know,  
God is nigh.



Traditionally sounded during military flag ceremonies and funerals including the wreath ceremonies conducted at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier each year, "Taps" is also sounded nightly in military installations. It is often used by American Military schools, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other youth groups when sitting near their campfires at night.

The name "Taps" is a variation of the word "taptoe" derived from the Dutch word "taptoe" which means "close the beer taps" and send them back to camp. At one time, the military used three single, slow drum beats to signal lights out. It was known as "Drum Taps" or simply "Taps."

During the Civil War, the tune was known as the "Scott Tattoo" as it was arranged by Union Army General Daniel Butterfield which explains why it is sometimes called "Butterfield's Lullaby."

Butterfield came up with the melody to replace a previous "lights out" bugle call used by the French. He hummed the tune to his bugler, Oliver Wilcox Norton, who perfected it. Within months, "Taps" was used by both Union and Confederate troops.

In 1862, Captain John C. Tidball, a member of the Union forces, began the custom of playing "Taps" at military funerals when one of his corporals died in action. They were not allowed to perform the normal three-gun salute, due to the close proximity of the Confederate Army. Tidball suggested playing "Taps" instead. It was soon taken up by others and by 1874 it was officially recognized by the United States Army.

"I did not get serious about the bugle or playing "Taps" until my brother died. He loved to hear too," Deka adds. "A sunset is beautiful to watch and "Taps" is a beautiful song to go with it. It is the perfect way to end a day and to remember someone you love. I guarantee, every veteran on the beach feels like standing at attention and saluting while I play."

When he starts to play, almost everyone stops and stands at attention in silence. As the last note sounds, they applaud his performance. Catch his next performance at the next sunset on Indian Rocks Beach.



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