

DOWNTOWN

including Old Northeast and Snell Isle

Newsletter



FROM BOOM TO BEYOND: ST. PETERSBURG'S STRUCTURED PAST

In the 1920s, Florida experienced a unique social, cultural and economic phenomenon: Tourism. At the conclusion of the First World War, the U.S economy was on the rise and Americans began being wooed by the grand marketing schemes and ploys of Florida tourism promoters. As swarms of new citizens flocked to the Sunshine State buying homes and capturing their Florida Dreams, property values throughout the state skyrocketed.

The unprecedented growth of the real estate industry compelled city councils and the Florida Legislature to revise property taxes and rewrite laws to cater to potential investors and developers. St. Petersburg was no exception to this real estate frenzy.

While the decade before saw steady urban growth and the creation of the waterfront park system, the Florida Land Boom of 1920-26 turned the Sunshine City into a major tourist destination.

During St. Petersburg's 1920s real estate boom, developers took advantage of thousands of acres of undeveloped land that lay just outside St. Petersburg's city center to create several distinct subdivisions. From Perry Snell's prestigious Snell Isle and Jack Taylor's Pasadena area, to the Jungle developed by Walter P. Fuller and Neil Upham's coveted Shore Acres, the city experienced massive growth.

To house these visitors and would-be home owners, other investors and developers focused on the hotel industry.

In just a three year span, 1923 to 1926, St. Petersburg witnessed the construction of ten large hotels, led by the first stage completion of the Soreno, built by Danish born Soren Lund and named for his son. The Pheil, Suwannee,

Mason, Pennsylvania were the next to be built, followed by the Dennis, Vinoy Park, the Jungle, Rolyat, and the Don Cesar. In total they provided approximately 2,000 much needed rooms to the city. Added to the smaller hotels and rental accommodations that were springing up, the number of available rooms was nearly 3,000. In 1927, the Soreno added a seventh floor boosting its final room count to 344.

The Soreno, once located at 110 Beach Drive NE, was a large Mediterranean Revival style hotel that established a new elegance on the downtown waterfront. Known as the city's first "Million Dollar" hotel, the Soreno (pictured above in 1924) was nearly booked to capacity prior to its opening for the 1924 tourist season.

The growth in the area appeared unstoppable as construction and land development extended seemingly everywhere. The Don CeSar Resort on St. Pete Beach and the Vinoy Park Hotel in downtown St. Petersburg were—and still are—the largest and most luxurious examples of the Boom era growth. With George Gandy's new bridge connecting the Pinellas peninsula with Tampa, the building boom looked endless.

Fueled by greed and speculation, the Florida Land Boom came to a bust, and by 1927 construction activity all but ceased; land prices plummeted. The Great Depression found its way to the Sunshine State nearly three years before the rest of the nation. But all was not lost.

St. Petersburg and its thousands of empty hotel rooms rebounded with the influx of nearly 100,000 military troops during World War II, thanks to forward thinkers convincing the War Department to house and train GIs in our empty hotel rooms and plentiful lands. The result was a much needed catalyst in the city's economic recovery.

Postwar prosperity and fond remembrance of St. Petersburg welcomed a massive influx of new retirees, new home owners, and the ever important tourist industry. Today, St. Petersburg and its neighboring cities are a blend of old and new, with many historic Boom Era structures remaining, thanks to those early schemers and dreamers.

By Nevin D. Sittler | St. Petersburg Museum of History's Education Director

Or Current Resident

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StPeteDowntownNewsletter.com

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

Tell us what you think at

bob@griffindirectories.com

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ST. PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN OCTOBER!



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Marilyn Olsen, President 898-8851
stpetedna.org

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSN 823-4394

Meeting: 3rd Wed of each month (8AM).

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www.Rubio.Senate.gov

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www.BillNelson.Senate.gov

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Rep Bill Young 727-394-6950

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CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

JULY

Miss Florida Pageant / The Mahaffey 13

Miss Florida Gala / The Coliseum 13

Downtown Side Walk Sale 18

Benefit Rock Concert The Palladium 19

Tampa Bay Home Show Dome 19-21

Cool Art Show The Coliseum 20-21

Historic Walking Tours 24

Van's Warped Tour Concert Vinoy Park 26

Parents' Day 28

AUGUST

First Friday 3

Sales Tax Holidays 2-4

Back to School Care Fair 4

Hands Across the Sands 4

Crab & Music Fest Campbell Park 11-12

Trim Notices Mailed 12

Historic Walking Tours 14

Public School Begins 19

Williams Park Summer Market Ends 24

Primary Election 27

The Wizard of Oz Great Explorations 31

Gulfport's Geckfest 31

SEPTEMBER:

Labor Day 2

First Friday 6

AIDS Walk, Northshore Park 7

Cure Search Cancer Walk Straub Park 7

Bucs First Game 8

Grandparents Day 8

Public Schools Closed 13

Celma Mastry Walk Albert Whitted 14

Crime Prevention Run Campbell Park 21

Autumn Begins 22

Free Day, Area Museums 28

Clearwater Beach Super Boat Races 29

OCTOBER:

Movies in the Park N. Straub Park Resumes

Saturday Morning Market Begins 5



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Did You Know...



GRADUATING CLASS St Petersburg's Canterbury School is proud to announce the 36 members of their graduating class of 2013. Canterbury is a private school, with an elementary branch in Snell Isle. They offer 41 Summer Camps for kids 4-17 and also daycare. They are located at 910 62nd Avenue N. For more information, visit www.CanterburyFlorida.org.

BONSAI CLASS If you have always wanted to try it, Sunken Gardens is offering a Beginning Bonsai class, by the Suncoast Bonsai Society on July 27. It is \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. Sunken Gardens is 4 acres of well-established botanical gardens located at 1825 4th Street N, in St. Pete.

THE WIZARD OF OZ ARRIVES AT GREAT EXPLORATIONS August 31, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Traveling Exhibit will have its grand opening at Great Explorations Children's Museum. The exhibit is designed as giant books – allowing children to literally step into the story! Each component offers educational activities and fun learning through play. Visit them at 1925 4th St. N., 10-4:30 pm www.greatex.org, 727-821-8992.

NEED ANOTHER COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER? The UPS Store at 200 2nd Avenue S. and Mikey's Market in Old Northeast at 1535 4th Street N. have extra copies.

YOU CAN STILL FISH The pier's building may be closed to shoppers and diners, but the pier itself is still open for fishing. Unfortunately, you will have to park in the access areas and carry your gear from there.

LEADING MAN Fire Chief James D. Large of St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue was selected as one of Tampa Bay's 10 Leading Men for 2013. Blu Magazine, chose Chief Large and nine other local leading business men, based on a variety of criteria, including community involvement, philanthropic efforts and personal style. At just 18 years old, Chief Large joined St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue and quickly climbed the ranks to the highest position available, but he hasn't forgotten where he came from. As an active member of charities such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association, American Lung Association, American Cancer Society, Family Resources, United Way and March of Dimes, Chief Large spends a bulk of his free time helping causes that give back to children.



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and More...

MISS FLORIDA HELPS RESIDENTS PREPARE

When Pinellas County resident Laura McKeeman won the 2012 Miss Florida title last year, she agreed to work with the Pinellas Emergency Management team to produce a public service announcement about hurricane preparedness that includes the steps you should take to survive a storm. You can view the video on Pinellas County's YouTube Channel. www.YouTube.com/pcctvi.



BENEFIT CONCERT The St Petersburg Free Clinic is trying something new - their first time ever benefit Rock Concert at The Palladium. The concert will be July 19th at 8pm and will feature two well known bands, The Coo Coo Ca Choo and Tin Pan Alley. Tickets are \$25 and will help fund the Free Clinics many programs. Visit www.StPetersburgFreeClinic.org or call 821-1200.

IMAGINE STILL OPEN The Imagine School, at 1950 1st Avenue N. is not closed. They no longer have an elementary school, but they are taking reservations for the next school year's Middle School serving grades 6-8. Enrollment has already begun. Get more information at www.ImagineSchoolStPetersburg.com.

NEW LIBRARY HOURS The St Pete Libraries have announced new operating hours. They are slightly different at different sites. The Mirror Lake Branch is now open Mon, Wed and Fri 10-7, Tues and Thurs 10-6, Sat 9-5 and they are closed on Sunday.

ELECTION Don't forget to vote August 27. In addition to deciding the future of the Pier and the fate of the Lens project, the ballot will also include an election for Mayor and City Council seats in District 2, 4 and 6. As a non-partisan election, all registered voters can vote for any candidate, regardless of party affiliations.

LITTLE LEAGUE Fall ball will begin in August and continue through November. Registration will open this month, visit northeastll.com for more information and details. Make sure you register by the deadline to secure your spot. Congratulations to the AAA Angels, the Majors Mariners and the Minor Softball Bombers for winning the District 5 Invitational League Championship in June. The Little League International playoffs are being played through the summer with the finals being televised on ESPN in August. Good luck to all our teams!



SPCA DOG WALK The 23rd Annual 3K Pet Walk is scheduled for October 12 in downtown St. Petersburg's Vinoy Park. For information, call 499-0364 or visit www.SPCATampaBay.org.

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

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Business Briefs...

RENAISSANCE AWARD

The Vinoy is #1, in the Renaissance family. Russ Bond, General manager of the Renaissance Vinoy, announced the St. Petersburg Vinoy won Best Overall Renaissance Hotel in the United States this past year. The legendary Vinoy is the only luxury hotel on Florida's West Coast with 361 rooms, a private marina, an 18 hole golf course and a tennis complex. It is listed on the national Register of Historic Places. Its parent company FelCor, purchased the hotel in 2007. "We are very proud of Russell Bond, the hotel's general manager, and his team for this tremendous accomplishment," said Troy Pentecost, FelCor's Executive Vice President and CEO.



MICKEY'S MARKET MOVING She started on Snell Isle, then Beach Drive, then 4th Street N. and now Mickey Hugnet is moving her deli again inside of Bob Lee's Tire Company. "I was going to retire in July, but decided to move, instead", says Mickey. Mickey will carry fewer meats, but still sell some filets and other signature dishes. Sandwiches are made to order. Bob Lee's is located at 1631 4th Street N. She hopes to be open any day.

TAKE THE FERRY TO PASS A GRILL There is a new way to get to Pass-A-Grill. The Island Ferry Boat Tours and Ferry Service opened in the Downtown Marina area off of 2nd Avenue N. Managed by Sebastian Font, they have two deck boats and hope to have as many as six in the very near future. Each boat holds up to 15 people and departs downtown's waterfront area every 90 minutes. They hope to operate from 9am to dark, daily. Each trip lasts about 30 minutes (weather permitting). The ferry will disembark at the Pass-A-Grille Marina, two blocks from the beach. The owners hope to open a second ferry to Anna Maria Island. Call them at 742-2277 or visit www.IslandFerry.biz.

SALON LaRU MOVES The Salon next to Bella Brava moved to make room for Bella Brava's expansion. Rudy Perez and Lance Andrews are less than a block away now, at 211 First St NE, just east of the future Shops of St Pete. Get more information at www.SalonLaRu.com or call them at 894-8418

STAYBRIDGE This new hotel is still under construction between the Tropicana Dome and Bayfront Medical. It is owned by Intercontinental Hotel Group who also own the Marriott Courtyard in Downtown St



Pete as well as others in Dunedin and Oldsmar. This 119 room hotel has plans to open in January of 2014.

More Business Briefs...

NEW FAMILY THERAPY PRACTICE

Dr. Trish Murphy, PhD., a licensed therapist moved her practice from Safety Harbor to Downtown St Pete. Dr Murphy is highly regarded in marriage and family counselling and has been a therapist for over 30 years. Her doctoral training was specifically in keeping the balance in marriage. Dr. Murphy spends most of her days engaged in working with individual adults and regularly recommends Mindfulness, Yoga and cardiovascular exercise in conjunction with her counseling. Her new office is at 735 Arlington Avenue N. Best time to call her is between 2 and 3pm at 743-3211.



DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S 2013 SUNRISE SALE DETAILS

This year's event, Thursday July 18, starts at 6:43 am and ends at 5pm, but the earlier you shop the better the deals! It marks the 40th Anniversary of the event, first held in 1973, so they are adding a 1970s flair to the pajama theme; come dressed in your finest tie-die. All participating merchants will have brightly colored balloons outside their businesses. They will also be collecting paper goods and pantry items for Ronald McDonald House® during the day at participating locations. Enjoy a slice of free birthday cake while you are shopping. Some participants will have tables set up rather than at their storefronts, so look for them too!

FOR SALE/OR LEASE The storefront that formerly housed Revolution Bicycles, at 30th Avenue and 4th Street N. is for sale. The property also includes the two building just to the west. They are looking for a \$110,000 a year lease or you can buy it for \$1.5 million. Call Belleair Development at 871-2767 for information

SHEP'S BEER EMPORIUM

Josh Connell bought the local Shep's convenience store and is changing the concept to a beer emporium, with hundreds beers and wine, to go. It is not a bar and there is no on site consumption allowed. They are remodeling and hope to be done by the end of summer, but they are still open for business, in the meantime. Connell is part owner in Five Bucks Drinkery, on Central Avenue.



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10 THINGS YOU WILL LEARN IN A SAFE BOATING COURSE

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary offers safe boating classes the first Saturday of each month. Boating is enjoyed by many every day, but with the pleasure comes responsibility. It is the law that anyone born on or after January 1, 1988, MUST have a valid boating certificate and a photo ID while operating a vessel of 10 HP or more. Here are some of the rules and regulations you will learn in a safe boating class.

- 1) Safety equipment - learn what is required to have on your boat. This is very important because what you don't have could make the difference between being able to handle a situation or not. Also, if authorities stop you, you can be fined for not having the required safety equipment for your specific boat. Life jackets are number one! The US Coast Guard Auxiliary gives free vessel safety checks!
- 2) Driving a boat is vastly different from driving a car. You are dealing with air and water currents. Docking a boat is not as easy as you may think. It can be difficult, especially if the current is pulling you in the opposite direction. Understanding air, water currents and tides will help you learn to dock your boat properly. Boats don't have brakes!
- 3) Knowing how to work with lines and tying knots is part of boating. You have to secure a boat properly. If your boat gets away, the current or wind will quickly take it out of your reach and you will require the assistance of another boater to retrieve your vessel. So learn your knots.
- 4) You will learn what the red and green channel markers mean. Understanding the markers and lights can keep you from going aground in the shallows or running in to another boat because you were in the wrong area.

5) The speed limits on certain water ways may or may not be posted. Ignorance may not be enough to get you out of a ticket. Obey "No Wake" zones!

6) Using charts for coastal navigation can be a life saver. Charts are your road maps, in the water, that help you stay away from the shallows and show where all the markers and bridges are. You should always file a float plan with someone on shore!

7) You sometimes have to give way to the other guy. In a boating course you will learn who does that, why and how.

8) Every boat should have a horn. You'll learn what one long blast or 2 short and so on mean. You should also have a radio on board for emergency situations and know how to use it. You'll learn which channel to use, which not to use and why, plus who monitors them.

9) Some boating regulations/laws must be followed by all boaters, for example, you are not to sit on the bow of the boat with your legs hanging over board. There are other regulations to learn and not knowing them can cost you.

10) Anchoring a boat is not just plopping a big chunk of iron into the sand. There is a mathematical technique applied to anchoring involving the size and length of your boat. Knowing how to do this gives you confidence of knowing your boat is going nowhere until you want it to.

There are different types of boating - the fast pace of ski boating or the slow pace of a trawler, kayak, canoe or family pleasure craft. Whichever you choose, it is a good idea to know the rules of the road. Learn the safety rules to avoid potential dangers. Be safe on the water and get on with the fun of being out there with all that sky, sun, water, family and friends. Safe boating is NO accident.

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IS YOUR INSURANCE READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON?

A hurricane can be devastating and when damage occurs, residents depend on insurance to help bring them back to normal. The problem is many learn they have insufficient coverage or failed to get the right kind of policies after the damage is done and when they need protection the most. That is why now is the perfect time to review policies to ensure coverage is both adequate and comprehensive. Some very important points to consider include:

READ THAT POLICY. Giving it a brief read over will reveal terms, as well as raise coverage gaps questions that can be discussed with an insurance agent. Start on the declaration page. If you read nothing else, read the exclusions! Watch for special endorsements that excludes wind coverage. Ask your agent to explain any questions you have.

SOAK UP FLOOD INSURANCE. Since 1968, most policies do not cover damage from flooding; coverage is provided by the National Flood Insurance Program at floodsmart.gov. Besides protecting from damage of a rising drainage creeks, it also protects against storm surge or sewer backup from a flood. Your homeowner policy, even if it covers sewer backup, will most likely exclude sewer backup caused by flooding. All flood policies require 30 days to take effect, which means you can't buy at the last minute. You may be surprised by how inexpensive flood insurance is, if you are not in a Flood Hazard Area!

WIND IS SPECIAL. Hurricane – or windstorm – deductibles are not like the standard deductible on your policy. For low premiums, windstorm deductibles are typically a percentage of your home's value and can add up to an expensive surprise. A 5% deductible for a \$200,000 house can leave policy owners owning the first \$10,000 of repairs.

GETTING TO CODE. If a home is damaged beyond a

certain amount, the rebuilt structure will have to conform to current building codes. It may not be a problem for a home built after 2001, but it may be expensive for older homes.

CARS NEED COMPREHENSIVE. Basic auto coverage is required on all vehicles operated in the state of Florida. While these policies offer minimal coverage for auto accidents, other hazards such as flooding, wind damage and the like are covered under a comprehensive auto policy.

RENTERS NEED COVERAGE, TOO. A landlord or property owner will have insurance on the structure that is being rented, but renters need coverage as well to protect their personal belongings. As with regular homeowner's policies, most renter-s insurance coverage does not cover flooding, so a separate flood insurance policy can make a difference in how quickly you can replace your possessions.

INVENTORIES ARE INVALUABLE. While most homeowners can recall larger items, would they be able to catalog every item down to the smallest details? An inventory done as a list or through photos/video help after a disaster. Capture what is on the walls, the fixtures, the flooring as well as personal property. Ask if your insurance offers contents "replacement cost". Otherwise, the contents may be depreciated by the insurance carrier, before reimbursement.

Discuss with your agent how to present a claim, should a disaster strike. If many homes are damaged, know how your carrier will find your home. If you must evacuate, take your policies with you. Have the office phone number and your agents emergency contact information with you.

Visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency for information about how to prepare yourself and your family for hurricanes and how to create your own disaster plan.

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USING SIGN LANGUAGE TO BREAK COMMUNICATION BARRIERS WITH BABIES, TODDLERS, AND CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS!

by Zoe Turner

Sign language is a wonderful tool that can be beneficial to many, not just within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Sign language can be used with parents and babies wanting to communicate before they start talking, toddlers to help enhance their communication, and with children with special needs such as Autism and developmental delays who struggle in the area of verbal communication.

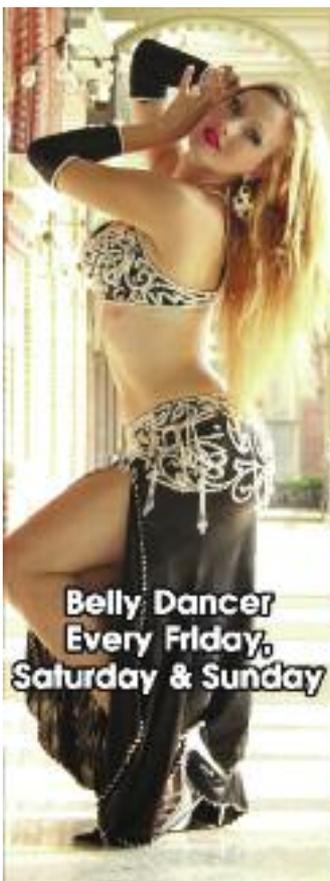
Sign language has been proven to aid in the language development of children who otherwise have a hard time communicating their wants and needs. The use of sign language breaks down the communication barriers for children with and without special needs and helps them to express themselves in situations where their verbal skills are insufficient. Signing can be a fun and instrumental way for the entire family to learn something new and enhance communication skills with their little ones at the same time. It has been proven to reduce frustration and build trust with parents and their infants, strengthen the parent/infant bond, jumpstart intellectual development, promote positive emotional development and helps babies learn to talk sooner.

Designed To Sign, LLC is an innovative company in the Pinellas area that offers instructional services to parents, families, caregivers, and educators of children with special needs, helping to introduce sign language into their daily routines. Baby Signs® classes and workshops are also taught to families with infants and toddlers in a

fun-filled delivery in order to help parents and babies communicate before they can actually talk. Classes such as Sign, Say, & Play™, Baby Signs® Parent Workshops, and Early Childhood Educator (ECE) workshops are all taught by Zoe Turner a Certified Baby Signs® Instructor and past Speech and Language Therapist. She has paired her love for American Sign Language and her experience working with children with speech and language disorders to create this new and growing company! For more information on registering for classes, workshops, or private home services contact Zoe through her website www.Designedtosign.com, email info@designedtosign.com or phone (727)378-2465.



Zoe Stewart-Turner, passionate about helping ALL children communicate effectively, has used her past experience as a Speech Therapist paired with her love for American Sign Language (ASL) to create Designed To Sign, LLC an innovative company in the Tampa Bay area. It is no surprise that her passion has evolved into a lifelong dream.



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HAMBURGERS, Where did they come from?

Researched by Bob Griffin

A hamburger is defined as a sandwich with a cooked patty of ground meat, normally placed inside a sliced bread roll. It can be garnished with a variety of things including lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles, cheese, bacon and condiments such as mustard, mayonnaise, ketchup or relish. Commonly associated with ground beef, it may contain different meats such as a buffalo, venison, kangaroo, turkey, elk, lamb, salmon or even just ground veggies.

The word hamburger is derived from the city of Hamburg, Germany. Hamburger is also the term used to describe people who live in that city. Some say the hamburger was actually invented in Hamburg, Germany, but the Library of Congress says it was created in the U.S. around the year 1900 by Louis Lassen, owner of Louis' Lunch in New Haven, CT. He operated a small lunch wagon there. A customer ordered a quick hot meal and Louis was out of steaks. He took the trimmings from the beef, made a patty and grilled it. Then, he put it on two slices of toast. The sandwich had no name until some rowdy Hamburg sailors named the meat on a bun after themselves.

Between 1871 and 1884, a hamburg beefsteak was on the menu at San Fernando's Clipper Restaurant. It cost 10¢, the same price as mutton chops, pig's feet and stewed veal.

In 1880 Fletcher Davis claimed to invent the hamburger at his Athens, Texas lunch counter. He served his fried ground beef patty with mustard and a Bermuda onion, between two slices of bread, and a pickle on the side.

Charlie Nagreen sold a meatball between two slices of bread at the Seymour Fair in 1885. Reported, he did that so customers could eat them while walking. Nagreen, only 15

at the time, eventually became known as Hamburger Charlie. That same year, Frank and Charles Menches, reportedly sold a ground beef sandwich at the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, New York when they ran out of pork sausage and substituted beef.

Otto Kause, in 1891, reportedly created a beef patty topped with a fried egg. German sailors later omitted the egg. That same year, Oscar Weber Bilby, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, is said to have served hamburgers on the Fourth of July on a yeast bun.

White Castle of Wichita, Kansas began selling hamburgers. But in 1921, with the US's anti-German sentiment during World War I, they changed the name to sliders which were small 2.5 inch square hamburgers.

Brothers Richard and Maurice McDonald's opened a restaurant in 1940s in San Bernadino, California. Ray Kroc bought their company in 1961 and the rest is burger history. They invented the still popular "Big Mac". Over 600 million have been sold in the US alone.

Today, Mallie's Sports Grill in Southgate, Michigan serves the world's largest commercially available burger. It weighs 185 pounds and sells for \$499. In Las Vegas the Heart Attack Grill offers a 'Quadruple Bypass Burger.' It weighs over 3 pounds and is the most caloric burger served in the world at 9982 calories. While eating it, you must wear a hospital gown over your clothes. Last year, Black Bear Casino Resort in, Minnesota, made a Guinness World bacon cheeseburger weighing 2,014 pounds.



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KONICA'S STORY

It was during a huge rescue attempt of 26 dogs, when the organizer was asked to take a look at the 27th. The dog was scheduled to die the next day. She came out of the pen, shy at first ... crawling on her stomach across the floor, then she leaned against Angel Lee's leg. From the time Lee saw the dog, she knew it was to be her brother's dog. This dog would belong to Clinton Brentwood Lee. This dog, soon to be named Konica, rode the entire three hours on a lap, to freedom and the prospect of a better life.



Now, five years later, Konica usually sits on a barstool at Ferg's Sports Bar with her owner, Clinton Brentwood Lee. A local photographer, Clinton owns Brentwood Photography Gallery and Studio on Central Ave just down the road. Konica loves people and the attention she gets from fans. Her biggest problem in life is having to deal with being an internet sensation. #KonicaTheDog on twitter or instagram and you will see what we are talking about. Her facebook page, www.facebook.com/Konicathedog has some photos with over half a million views. Though she hasn't let all this fame go to her head, Konica is currently learning to become a therapy dog and working with several shelters to promote how great rescued pets can be.

"I've never seen such a well behaved dog!" says Clinton. "My sister was right when she knew this dog was supposed to be with a photographer, someone who can capture her in all her splendor. I really feel she was put on this earth to make other people happy and show the value of having an adopted friend."

When not rooting on the Rays, Konica can be found at Brentwood Studios located at 2105 Central Avenue. "Come in and see her. She will be happy to do a trick or two for you," Clinton says.

CLOTHES TO KIDS NEEDS HELP!

They have an urgent need for elementary school clothing, including young boys and girls shorts sizes 6-16 and short sleeve tops in all sizes. Please donate your gently used clothing to help clothe the children in Pinellas County.

CTK operates year-round and continues to clothe more than 12,000 low-income Pinellas school children every year. They are extremely low on summer clothing and hope you can help.

CTK is a not-for-profit organization which provides free clothing to low-income or in crisis school-age children in Pinellas County, free of charge. They have distributed more than 82,000 wardrobes to children in need. You can take your donations to 3251 3rd Avenue N., Suite 145, St. Pete. For more information, call 441-5050 or visit our website at www.ClothesToKids.org. In 2012, CTK was awarded a 4 star rating by Charity Navigator.

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NEW BIRD RESCUE ORGANIZATION: GULF COAST BIRD RESCUE

Gulf Coast Bird Rescue is a newly founded wild bird rescue organization in Pinellas County. The mission is to provide rescue, care and release of injured wild birds in Pinellas County, filling a critical void in our communities that has become apparent since there is no longer a facility rescuing and treating injured birds in Pinellas County. Their mission also focuses heavily on education of the public and youth on native bird appreciation and preservation.

Gulf Coast Bird Rescue founders include Barbara Suto, former Hospital Director at the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary for over 30 years and Robin Vergara, Indian Rocks Beach resident with almost twenty years experience in operations, corporate and non-profit management. Also on the Board of Directors is Lessie M. Davis who has been in the field of wildlife rehabilitation over 25 years and Michele Booth, an attorney for more than 13 years, primarily in the areas of corporate governance, contracting and securities regulation.

Gulf Coast Bird Rescue is pleased to have created partnerships with the City of Largo, City of Clearwater, Audubon Society, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Friends of Largo, Boyd Hill, the Loder family (Crabby Bill's restaurants), Pinellas County Sherriff's Office, the SPCA, as well as local and state officials.

The organization is approved to build long-term facilities at McGough Nature Park in Largo, for the care and rehabilitation of birds on a permanent basis. In the meantime, as the necessary steps are taken and details are put into place for this facility, Gulf Coast Bird Rescue is working to establish a short-term triage location in order to continue to provide critical care to injured wild birds.

How can you help? You can support the efforts of Gulf Coast Bird Rescue by spreading awareness of their efforts within the community. Also, if you know of any vacant facilities that could potentially serve as a short-term, temporary triage facility, please contact Robin Vergara at 727.400.0834. It's also important to be sure you are aware of acceptable interactions with local wildlife. Despite popular practice, it is actually illegal to feed certain wild birds on the beach and NEVER good for any wild birds. This behavior makes the birds too comfortable around humans and dependent on them as a food source and also encourages them to eat food that is not in their natural diet.

Donations are always greatly appreciated and can be made online through our website or by contacting us directly.

For the most up-to-date information about the organization, follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GulfCoastBirdRescue or on their website at www.gulfcoastbirdrescue.org.

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THEY CHECKED IN BUT NEVER CHECK OUT

In the first half of the 20th century, St. Petersburg experienced a hotel boom as more and more tourists found their way to Florida's west coast. Many of those old hotels have fallen into disrepair or disappeared. Some have remained standing, and apparently, some of their long ago guests have remained as well. Here are tidbits on a few of St. Petersburg's most haunted hotels:

- As reported on the Sci-fi channel and in several books, and newspapers, a number of ghosts have taken permanent residence in the Vinoy Resort. Professional baseball players, visiting tourists, and even hotel employees recount the 1920s era apparition of a man on the fifth floor, the mysterious Lady in White who haunts the tower, and a variety of other spirits roaming the hallways and lurking in the shadows.

- The Ponce de Leon Hotel, which served as a morgue during World War II, harbors a ghost on the third floor. The female spirit is thought to be that of a dancer who performed with the Rockettes in New York City.

- Perhaps the grand-daddy of haunted hotels in St. Petersburg is the Detroit Hotel. Built over a century ago, it no longer serves as a hotel, but the ghost of one of St. Petersburg's founding fathers, General John Williams, continues to wander among its present day occupants.

- The Indigo Hotel started out as the Martha Washington Hotel in the 1920s, and Mrs. Helt, who lived there and ran it for over 60 years, is said to haunt the second floor. The spirit of a little girl has also taken up residence at the hotel, thought to be from the time when the building served as a children's hospital.

The St. Petersburg Ghost Tour departs nightly at 8:00 pm from Hooker Tea Company, 300 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Call 727-894-4678 or visit www.ghosttour.com

SALES DOWN WITH NO PIER

Sales of hot dogs are down nearly 50% for DJ's Hot Dogs owners and operators, Daniel and Joyce McBride. They are a hot dog vendor located just west of the Pier entrance. Their cart operates at the corner of Bayshore and 2nd Avenue NE.

Daniel and Joyce have worked their corner Monday through Saturday since 2007. "I would say my business is down about 50%, since the Pier closed," says Daniel. "But I like this location. I still have my regulars customers who work downtown nearby and come to me everyday." They didn't realize how many of their customers were Pier visitors. What are their plans for the future? "I want to stay on this corner. I am not going anywhere else," Daniel proclaims.



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ART & MUSEUM NEWS

FREE DAY AT THE MUSEUMS

Saturday, September 28 most downtown St Petersburg museums will be open to the public for FREE. When the day gets closer, check the local newspapers for a listing of participating museums. A few do opt out.

COLISEUM'S 25th ANNUAL COOL ART SHOW

Saturday & Sunday July 20 - 21 10am - 5pm.

This juried fine art and fine craft show features 80 local and statewide artists, and is hosted by the Professional Association of Visual Artists. Free admission & Parking.

FINN GALLERY

The Finn Gallery associated with the Buckley Moss Gallery, closed their doors on June 23rd. They were located on Fourth Avenue NE

MINDY SOLOMON GALLERY 502-0852

124 2nd Ave. NE mindysolomon.com

Presenting the paintings of American abstract artist Erin Parish July 20 - September 14. There will be an Opening Night Reception Saturday, July 20th from 6-9pm with an Artist's Talk at 6:30pm.

GALLERY WALK- EVENINGS UNTIL 9PM

Happens the second Saturday of each month. Most downtown art galleries stay open later on these nights.

FLORIDA CRAFTSMAN GALLERY 821-7391

501 Central Ave. FloridaCraftsmen.net

Game Nights-Every Thursday in July and August

In keeping with their exhibition theme of PLAY:Toys & Games Made By Artists, each Thursday night from 5:30-8pm is Game Night. Members of the community are bringing a unique game each week like cornhole, Heads Up! and some brand new games. It's all free so grab some friends and check it out. For a complete listing, visit their Website

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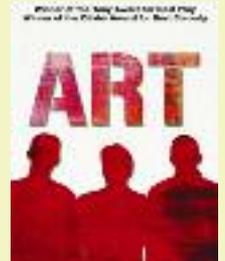
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Kathy Greif is the new Marketing Director for the Salvador Dali Museum, replacing long time director Kathy White.

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A LAWYER'S TAKE

Florida Foreclosure Law HB 87 / SB 1666

by Nickolas C. Ekonomides

My clients in foreclosure, like many struggling homeowners across the country, constantly submit and resubmit paperwork in a bid to get the coveted yet elusive home loan modification. In New York, this delay has lead the Attorney General to threaten suit against Bank of America and Wells Fargo for dragging their feet. These same delays add to the mortgage backlog in Florida courts.

But Florida's response is to give lenders more rights. This new law will only require lenders to notify the judge they have the note, then you will have to prove ("show cause") why the lender should NOT be permitted to foreclose. This is the civil version of guilty until proven innocent. In addition, if you can't afford a lawyer, one will NOT be appointed to represent you.

This law, apparently, is for our own good. If these homeowners are not foreclosed upon sooner, the housing market will continue its drag on all sectors of the Florida economy preventing the economic and employment recovery, which will enable homeowners to afford their mortgages, which will in turn reduce foreclosures.

True, a similar procedure exists in Section 702.10 of Florida Statutes, but cause there is conclusively established by a homeowner filing defense with the court. Instead, the new law allows lenders to argue that no defense of the borrower "raises a genuine issue of material fact" and they should be granted foreclosure immediately.

Those material facts will be tough to come by. The new law reduces time periods from 90 days to as little as 20 days for the homeowner to "show cause" to save their home. Even with an attorney, the homeowner is facing an uphill battle. It all makes the slow home loan modification process more suspect than ever.

Nickolas C. Ekonomides is a Clearwater attorney. Call him at 727-447-1075.

THE NEGATIVES OF RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, it's against Florida law to throw nickel-cadmium or lead acid rechargeable batteries (or products containing such batteries) in the trash. These batteries are a hazardous electronic and must be recycled or sent to a facility for proper disposal. Residents can bring old rechargeable batteries to the Household Electronics Collections Center, located at 2855 109th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, Mondays - Fridays (6 am to 6 pm) or on Saturdays (7 am to 5 pm).

Florida lawmakers passed this law due to growing concerns about the impact of toxic heavy metals on public health and the environment. Cadmium and lead in rechargeable batteries can enter the environment through landfills and waste combustors. Once in the environment, they accumulate in crops, edible fish, or even the air we breathe. Long-term exposure to these metals can result in brain, lung, and kidney damage and is suspected to cause cancer. Lead exposure is especially harmful to unborn and very young children and can result in premature birth, slow growth, and development problems.

This law applies to all Florida residents, businesses, institutions, governments, industrial and commercial companies, and medical facilities. Call (850) 245-2118 or Visit dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/batteries.

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DR. LARA SAYS

Q & A with Cesar A. Lara, M.D., Voted Best Weight Loss Practitioner in Tampa Bay



Q: With all the fat blasting, belly reducing, lose weight while you sleep commercials I see and hear, how do I choose one that really works?

A: We are all overwhelmed by all the claims you see and hear in weight loss, and there are many factors to consider when selecting the right program. Is the program medically supervised? Especially if you have any health issues, you want to know a doctor is in charge of your weight loss.

Are the clinical tools being used safe and approved? Most of what you see and hear in commercials is "quick fix" (if even that) and will do nothing to support long term weight loss and improved health. What tools and assistance are available with the method you choose? Who do you talk to when you have questions?

There is a healthy and non-healthy way to lose weight. Crash dieting, "miracle" products, and other drastic behaviors, which create rapid fluctuations in weight are damaging to your body and, with repetition, will do more harm than good. From increased insulin resistance, which makes weight loss progressively harder over time, to increased risk of heart disease, the short-term results are severely outweighed by the lasting negative impacts on your health.

Here is a guideline to lose weight the healthy way:

- **Snack** – You need three healthy meals per day, but protein snacks between will help.
- **Drink Fluids** - One half to 1 gallon of water per day.
- **Supplement** – Even the healthiest meal plan can benefit from supplements. B complex, Magnesium, Potassium, Omega Fats and other vitamins and minerals are all essential to keeping your body in optimal health.
- **Exercise Regularly** – Even if it's an evening walk, regular exercise is a great way to improve your health.

Try these tips and be on your way to being the Best You!

Want the Best Weight Loss Practitioner to answer your question? Submit them to info@cearlaramd.com and visit us online for more valuable information at BestMedicineforWeightLoss.com.

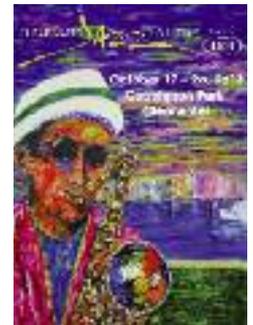
34TH CLEARWATER JAZZ HOLIDAY
OCTOBER 17-20

Chicago, Tower of Power, Brandi Carlile, Average White Band & More!

Now in its 34th year, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday will present some of the finest talents including Chicago, Tower of Power, Brandi Carlile, Average White Band and more! The collaboration on headline acts between the Clearwater Jazz Holiday and Ruth Eckerd Hall serves to increase and continue with a diverse music lineup in 2013. The Clearwater Jazz Holiday is sure to appeal to the tens of thousands of visitors attracted to this world-class event, the third weekend in October each year.

Presented in the 20-acre landscaped Coachman Park in downtown Clearwater overlooking beautiful Clearwater Harbor and the majestic Memorial Causeway Bridge, the Jazz Holiday is four days and four nights of some of the best live performances in the world presented to the public. The visitor experience is complemented by the Clearwater area's mild fall weather, miles of world-famous Gulf beaches, brilliant sunsets, nearby attractions, accommodations and dining to suit every taste and budget.

One of the longest-running event in the country, the Clearwater Jazz Holiday has presented in concert multiple luminaries of our generation. The mission of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation is to be the leading proponent of jazz entertainment and education in Florida through the annual presentation of a world-class, live music festival. The Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation has been center-stage for numerous scholarship and educational activities to benefit the music students of our community—from the blues-loving beginners to piano-playing protégés, and everyone in between.



TAMPA BAY OIL SPILL OF 1993 - 20 YEARS AGO

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Do you remember the other oil spill in 1993? It was the largest oil spill in Tampa Bay's history. While much smaller than the BP spill, this nearby disaster had far more impact on Tampa Bay and our beaches.

On the morning of August 10th, 1993, three ships collided between the Sunshine Skyway Bridge and Egmont Key. Two were tug-assisted barges carrying fuel and oil. The collision resulted in a fire on one barge, which took 16 hours to extinguish, and a spill of over 32,000 gallons of jet fuel, diesel and gasoline and about 330,000 gallons of heavy fuel. Luckily, no one was killed; however, the fuel was dumped into the mouth of Tampa Bay, near Ft. de Soto.

That spill was the first time a computer was used to predict the movement of a oil based on wind, weather, and tides. Response teams prepared. Crews with front-end loaders and basic hand shovels were ready to pick up any oil on the beaches

Despite emergency efforts and favorable winds and tides, the oil fouled 10 miles of beaches and caused injury to birds, sea turtles, mangrove habitats, sea grasses, salt marshes, shellfish beds, the water in general and bottom sediments. Pinellas Beaches from Pass-A-Grille to Treasure Island were impacted.

Professionals and volunteers spent 18-hour days trying to save hundreds of oil-soaked birds. "The oil is a toxin," says Barbara Suto. "A bird's skin is very thin. So it enters their bodies and starts to affect their internal systems."

The beach cleanup was completed just prior to Labor Day. While remnants of the disaster lingered (tar balls on some beaches), it was obvious we were really lucky.

Twenty years later, we are better prepared and better equipped, local officials say. The Coast Guard is required to conduct worst-case spill drills every three years, mobilizing agencies, industries, and experts to test coordination and execution of response.

Boom equipment is kept in trailers at Coast Guard stations in St Petersburg, Cortez and Sand Key. It is just a fraction of the region's first response arsenal, they estimate there are about 100,000 feet of boom in various hands around Tampa Bay. The Coast Guard also has a large skimmer system in Port Manatee that can extract up to 28,000 gallons of oily water in a little over two hours.

AS WE REMEMBER IT

In 1993, I was with the local Coast Guard. We were called into duty a few days after the oil spill and patrolled the waterways off Tierra Verde and St Pete Beach. It was our job to observe the seawalls in the area and report any signs of oil on the area seawalls and bridges. **John Thayer, Indian Rocks Beach**

In 1993, I was working at the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary. The first day, we got the call to be ready. I oversaw a mixed group of volunteers and professionals. Spills are coordinated by a network of rehabilitators. This one was coordinated out of Delaware.

We set up operations on the shores of Ft. de Soto. I moved into a house in Tierra Verde. We worked around the clock, about 18 hours a day. I was involved in the rescue for at least 3 weeks.

We saved most of the birds that were brought in. **Barbara Suto, Wild Life Biologist, at the Gulf Coast Bird Rescue**

I remember it was a big mess for a month. It was in August. It was summer. Plus, we had lots of people here. Our guests tracked the gooey tar balls in off the beach. We had them around the pool deck, in our lobby, in the rooms, on the furniture. We had buckets of mineral spirits everywhere.

There was a big difference between the Spill of 1993 and the more recent BP Horizon Oil Spill. The event was short-lived. It happened on one day and they spent a month cleaning it up. Quite unlike the BP spill that went on, and on, and on. The media focused on it for only a few days. People in Florida knew

it was not everywhere. Tourists kept coming for their end-of-summer vacations, regardless.

The clean-up crews pretty much had the beaches back in action by Labor Day. We were lucky it was not bigger.

Lynda Watters, Marketing Trade Winds Resort, St Pete Beach

I got a call soon after the collision. I was on the St. Pete Beach City Commission then. St Pete Beach and Pass-A-Grill seemed to have the most to lose, based on our closeness to the accident. I immediately called the City Manager and asked him to call the Governor's office to get bigger resources involved. I learned a lot about oil accidents at sea.

#1) The captain of the vessel is in charge and calls the shots. It is his job to notify all critical first responders.

#2) The companies who own the ships (in this case, two of them) are responsible and normally direct the cleanup effort.

#3) The tides have a lot to do with containment. Happening in the mouth of Tampa Bay was bad.

#4, The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Commission told us we had a plan and were ready for a disaster. They greatly overstated our ability to respond.

I have an Endangered Species Protection License and collected sea turtles from 10 nests and drove them to a beach in Sanibel to be released. We thought this might help them survive.

The owners of the two ship companies and their insurance agencies had to reimburse local businesses for their losses. But, this process was very involved and time consuming. It took forever to get any money for our losses. **Bruno Falkenstein, Co-owner The Hurricane Restaurant, St Pete Beach**

I remember the Oil Spill of 1993 very well. Not only was I running the Sirata Resort Hotel in St Pete Beach, I was also the President of the St Pete Chamber of Commerce. The ecological damage was immeasurable, but so was the economic damage.

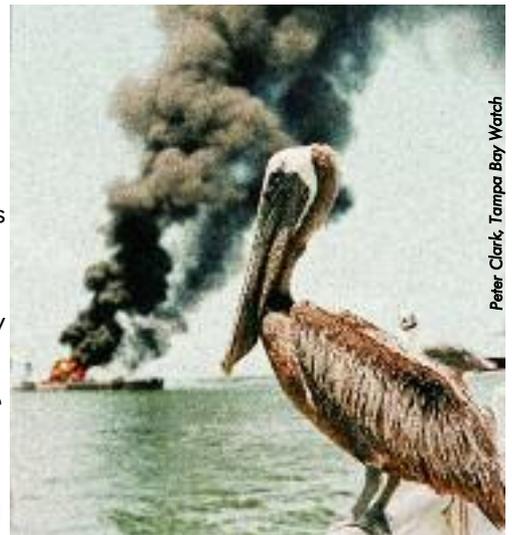
Strangely, when we have major storms hitting our coast, some remnants of tar balls still wash up on our beach, 20 years later. Apparently the oil is still there under 6-8" of sand. It takes time for the oil to break down. **Greg Nicklas, Owner Sirata Beach Resort, St Pete Beach**

I was working for The Agency on Bay Management. The accident happened about 6am and by 7, a reporter for the Tampa Tribune called to asked if I knew about the oil spill. I turned on the TV and there it was.

I had a meeting in Bradenton. I crossed the Sunshine Skyway Bridge and stopped at the top and could see the ship on fire. I took photos that later were used by media around the nation.

Oil entered the Intracoastal through John's Pass and did a lot of damage to the three bird islands east of the bridge. So many birds were affected there, that a second remote bird triage unit was set up in Madeira Beach run by the Pinellas Seabird Rehab Center who owned a mobile medical trailer created just for this sort of bird related disaster.

I helped in John's Pass, coordinating boats and volunteers for about 3 weeks." **Peter Clark, President, Tampa Bay Watch**



Peter Clark, Tampa Bay Watch



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PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR HURRICANE SEASON

by Eric Meyer, Dynamic Property Services, Inc.

New building codes have addressed issues safeguarding homes against high winds and rain exposure during tropical storms and hurricanes. However, homes built prior to these codes, without impact resistant doors, windows, garage doors, and additional roof and structural attachments could be vulnerable to serious damage or collapse.

There are many things you can do to safeguard your home:

- Trim all trees and shrubs and check the drainage around your house. Be prepared to move yard furniture, umbrellas, etc. that can be blown and cause dangerous penetration to your home or others.
- Install an anchor system for larger outdoor items that can not be moved or stored indoors.
- Caulk all windows, doors, flashing and soffits. Regular painting of the exterior of your home will help seal your block or wood and help prevent water intrusion.
- Check your roofing and exterior decks to make sure they are not in need of repair. Waterproofing these now can save your home and prevent costly damages.
- Make sure you have temporary protection, such as hurricane panels ready to be installed if you do not have high impact resistant windows and doors.
- Replace your garage door with a high impact resistant one, or strengthen your existing garage door. This is a very large opening that can be penetrated by high winds causing internal pressure to build upward to your roof and outward to your exterior walls, causing serious damage.
- Have your roof trusses inspected, and add extra reinforcement wherever possible.
- Install a backflow protection device in your sewer line.
- Install an electrical transfer switch to hook up your generator for emergency power.

Remember: your home's exterior "protective barrier". Is very important, so give it the attention it needs.

For a free consultation by a licensed and insured contractor , contact Eric Meyer at 727-744-0123 or ericmeyer@discoverdps.com. Dynamic Property Services, Inc., specializing in interior & exterior renovations, additions, and new construction. Visit www.discoverdps.com (6-05-09) crc 1328909.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

by Nevin Sittler

Pinellas County's oldest museum was founded in 1920 as the St. Petersburg Memorial Historical Society. Through the determination and effort of Mary Wheeler Eaton and others, the Society began collecting artifacts, natural history specimens, archival documents, photographs, papers, and "boxes of unknown treasures that were just dropped on our doorstep during the night."

In 1922, the Society became incorporated and the city of St. Petersburg provided the use of an old aquarium building (located on the same site as today's Museum) for the public display of the Museum's collections.

For over 90 years, the St. Petersburg Museum of History has collected, preserved and communicated the history and heritage of Florida with emphasis on St. Petersburg and the Pinellas Peninsula. Today, the museum houses a collection of over 32,000 artifacts, an archive of 8000 historic photos and more than 5000 historic documents, including historic maps, city directories, news clippings, real estate Platt books and founding families collections. Have you been lately?

GETTING ENOUGH VITAMIN D?

by Dr. Stacey Robinson

WHAT IS VITAMIN D?

- Although called a “vitamin”, this important element of health is actually a potent hormone that affects over 2,000 genes and at least 36 organs of the body.
- Once linked to only bone diseases such as rickets and osteoporosis, the “sunshine vitamin” is now recognized as a major player in total overall health.
- We get most of our Vitamin D from sunshine and a small amount from fish, eggs, and fortified dairy products.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Vitamin D deficiency has been linked to many common diseases including obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, cancer, osteoporosis, Alzheimer’s, migraines, Multiple Sclerosis, asthma, autoimmune diseases and more.
- More recent studies have shown that Vitamin D deficiency is associated with muscle weakness and pain and as well as increased risk of falls in the elderly populations.

WHY ARE WE DEFICIENT?

- We are trained to stay out of the sun or cover ourselves with clothing and/or sunscreen. This fear of sun combined with spending more time indoors in front of electronics has contributed to a widespread deficiency of this essential hormone, even here in sunny St. Petersburg. It is interesting vitamin D deficiency is associated with an increased risk of a specific type of skin cancer (basal cell carcinoma). Isn’t it interesting that sunshine protects us from some skin cancer?
- Even those who spend uncovered time in the sun can be deficient because as we age, our skin is not as efficient at converting sunshine into vitamin D.
- Although government organizations report that Vitamin D

deficiency is not widespread, I have found that 30% of my patients have deficient levels (less than 30) and 10% have severely low levels (less than 20).

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE DEFICIENT?

- You can have your Vitamin D level checked with a simple, inexpensive blood test. Make sure you get the 25-OH Vitamin D level (not 1,25 Vitamin D).
- Studies have shown a decrease in prevalence of colon, breast and kidney cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and fractures when Vitamin D levels increase from 30 to 55.
- Studies have shown that healthy adults who get plenty of sunshine can naturally attain Vitamin D levels up to 65 in the absence of supplements. Well-designed research studies are still needed to determine the optimal levels of Vitamin D. At this time, I recommend a level of 50-65.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT?

- It is true Vitamin D supplements probably aren’t needed if we spend approximately 15-20 minutes in the sun each day (without sunscreen and most of our skin uncovered). If you can’t get to an optimal blood level with sunshine alone, I recommend taking a Vitamin D supplement.
- DO NOT take doses greater than 2,000IU without having your levels checked! Unlike water-soluble vitamins whose excessive amounts can be excreted in urine, excessive intake of fat-soluble vitamins like Vitamin D can increase to toxic levels. Too much of a good thing is not always better.
- If you are not going to have your level checked, I recommend taking Vitamin D3 2,000 IU daily. Make sure it is Vitamin D3 (cholecalciferol = the form our body naturally produces) not Vitamin D2 (ergocalciferol).

Dr. Stacey Robinson is a private physician practicing in downtown St. Petersburg. She can be reached at (727) 329-8859. Visit RobinsonMed.com or connect with her on facebook at Robinson Concierge Medicine and twitter @staceyrmd.

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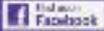
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Organizational News...

DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Network with neighbors at their monthly meeting Porch Parties, \$10 for members or \$15 for non-members. It includes 2 glasses of beer or wine, plus appetizers. The next meetings are:

August 14th, at Rowland Place, 120 Second Ave NE.

The speaker is Claudia Emery, Rowland Places Sales and Marketing Director.

September 11th meeting is Meet the Candidates Night.

It will be held at the brand new Birchwood Inn hotel at 340 Beach Drive NE. All qualified candidates for Mayor and City Council Districts will be invited to speak. This is a chance to meet the candidates up close and person.

The DNA represents residents and homeowners in the area between MLK Blvd. to the waterfront. Membership is \$15 a year and includes a quarterly newsletter. Call President, Gary Grooms at 404-667-3970 or visit www.StPeteDNA.org.

GFWC ST PETERSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB

The St Petersburg Woman's Club, which celebrated 100 years of service to the community in February, is affiliated with the General Federation Of Woman's Clubs. It is a not-for-profit volunteer organization with members from 40 to over 100 years old. They are committed to serving the community through hands-on projects and fund raising as well as leadership development.

The clubhouse on sparkling Coffee Pot Bayou, 40 Snell Isle Blvd NE, was built in 1929 on land donated by Perry Snell and is listed on the State and National Historic Registers. Proceeds from events held there help to maintain the property and allow members to give back through hands-on-service projects. It is available to rent for special events.

For more information on the St Petersburg Woman's Club visit www.StPetersburgWomansClub.org or call Judy Zamanillo at 822-6659

ALBERT WHITTED AIRPORT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Free Flights for Kids! The Young eagles will meet on September 21st from 10am to 2pm. This is an ongoing program to introduce young people to aviation. Since the program was launched in 1993, more than 1.5 million young people have taken a free airplane flight. Locally, pilots at Albert Whitted Airport have flown over 4,000 kids. Get more information on Young Eagles at www.YoungEagles.org.

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

SECOND TIME AROUNDERS

The band has been invited to go to Washington to play at the 2014 National Cherry Blossom Festival and Parade.

If you played an instrument in your high school or college band, The Second Time Arounders are looking for you. Besides local area parades, they perform in distant cities. Their 2014 season begins in February. They are looking for new members now. Visit www.SecondTimeArounders.com.



HOW HIGH WILL YOU GO FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?



St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation **overEDGE**

Directed by Over the Edge in a fundraising event for St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation benefiting the specialty care services among other programs. Four citizens who raised a total amount of \$3,000 will have the opportunity to raffle twenty over the edge over the edge tickets, the ticket for \$100. St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation. **AUGUST 11, 2013** by a friend STANTHONYFOUNDATION.ORG/OTL



More News...

ST PETERSBURG PRESERVATION SOCIETY

The Preservation Society is offering evening walking tours during the summer due to the heat. The next ones are Wednesdays, July 24 and August 14th. They start at 7pm and last approximately 90 minutes. They start at 243 Central Avenue, near the Historic Detroit Hotel.

The Movies in the Park series is over for the summer, but will resume in October on Thursday Nights in North Straub Park with live music at 6pm and movies at dark.

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

HISTORIC OLD NORTHEAST HOMEOWNERS ASSN.

Meetings are quarterly on the third Monday of the month (except for holidays). Remaining 2013 meetings are September 16 and December 16th. See their web site for location and other information. Get more information at www.HONNA.org or call 269-5521 for events and voicemail. Jay Marshall, President, can be reached at 248-9288 or email Jay@MarshallSite.net

ROTARY CLUB OF ST. PETERSBURG

The Club was chartered in 1920. It is the oldest and largest civic club in St Petersburg. They meet every Friday at 12pm at Orange Blossom Catering, 220 4th Street S. Get more information at www.SPROTARY.org or by calling 822-3277

FRIENDS OF THE MIRROR LAKE LIBRARY

They are continuing their popular FREE author series "An Evening With..." presenting author Barbara Riddle Monday, September 16 at 6 pm at Mirror Lake Library. Riddle will speak about her book "The Girl Pretending to Read Rilke" and answer questions on the art of writing it. Books will be available for sale and authoring signing 5 to 5:45 pm. The Mirror Lake Library is located at 280 5th Street N. Wayne Finley is their President. To get involved, call him at 813-767-5503 or email Wayne.Finley@StPete.org.

SNELL ISLE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Warren Eisenhower replaces Barbara Heck as President for 2013. They have decided to meet only four times a year, January, June, October and December. The next quarterly meeting will be October 8th at 7pm in the Women's Club, 40 Snell Isle Blvd NE. Contact Eisenhower at 374-6870.

The Association would like to thank the local residents who took the time to repaint the statues that were damaged by vandals in May.

DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Their new president for 2013 is Marion Lee.

This is an association of associations created to represent the interests of the residents of downtown St Petersburg with the goal of making it the most livable city in the world. Membership is open to all downtown residential community associations in the area to the east of 10th Street, from 14th Avenue N. to 14th Avenue S.

They hold business meetings on the third Friday of the month in the Bayfront Towers. Please call if you want to attend a meeting. For more information about, contact Marion Lee, President, at 894-9491.



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BELLA BRAVA EXPANDS The popular Italian styled restaurant moved to the corner of Beach Drive and 2nd Avenue N. a few years ago. They have outgrown the space and are expanding by renovation and incorporating the hair salon to the north. This adds another 800 square feet and means about 50 more seats inside and out to help cut down on the wait. Construction is under way and they hope to be using the new space by August.



MADONNA #1 Wine Madonna, a new wine bar in The Plaza Center's Court Yard was recently rated #1 for evening entertainment by Trip Advisor. There is live music in the courtyard most weekend nights. Visit WineMadonna.com for a schedule of their events

GARDEN NOT CALYPSO There were rumors The Garden Restaurant on Central Avenue had been sold and would become the Calypso Restaurant. Management there says that is not true, and that Bill Edwards is still the owner.

THE SCENE NOW ONYX Onyx Premium Nightclub is the new name of the nightclub near Publix. It was previously called The Scene. Over the past year, the Police Department reports they had more calls from The Scene than any other downtown nightclub or bar. The Onyx will also catering to young people.



FORK AND CORK A new small café opened attached to the Morean Arts Center. it is open for breakfast and lunch only. They offer catering and limited delivery.

VENDOME COFFEE BAR This small coffee bar opened recently on 1st Street, just east of The Shops of St Pete. In addition to serving several specialty coffees, owners Christina Dale and her husband also have a gelato bar. For a short while, this space was Le Macron. Macarons continue to be one of the featured items there. They open at 7am to serve the morning work crowd downtown.

GENARO COFFEE AND CAFÉ This is another new café that recently opened. This one is at 1047 Central Avenue. They feature a number of beverages, coffees, beer and wine. They have a limited menu which includes fresh pastries, soups, wraps, salads and paninis. Delivery is available in the downtown area with a \$9 minimum. Visit www.GenaroCoffee.com or call 753-8709.

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Bar & Restaurant News...

BIRCH & VINE

Located in the new Birchwood Inn (formerly Grayl's) at 340 Beach Drive NE, Birch & Vine is open for lunch and dinner. They plan to offer breakfast shortly. They have a full bar and a spectacular view from their new roof top lounge on the 5th floor.



NEW STEAKHOUSE The investment group behind the Ceviche restaurants, will be opening a steakhouse in downtown later this summer. The name has not been announced, but it will be on 2nd Avenue S., just off the popular 600 Block of Central Avenue. It is an entirely new concept for them. The 9500 square foot building was designed by Tampa's Urban Studio Architects. The steak-centric cuisine is also new. The plan is for the restaurant to feature fresh, creative ingredients in a hip and energetic environment. There will also be dedicated banquet and wedding space for up to 150 guests.

E.A.T. ST. PETE This new dining event will be held November 15-17. HSN, Bill Edwards Presents, and Visit St. Pete / Clearwater have joined forces for the festival, which will include wine tastings, seminars, dinners and appearances by celebrity chefs. Details have not been released, but it will likely take place at various venues on Beach Drive, including the Dali Museum, the Fine Arts Museum, the Mahaffey and the Renaissance Vinoy. E.A.T. is sure to excite the senses. Tickets for this event go on sale July 15th. Find information at www.EatStPeteFestival.com.

ST. PETE BREW A new brewhouse is under construction at 544 First Avenue N., next to Angelo's. The micro-brewery will carry many craft beers. They hope to open after the first of the year. Their web site is www.StPeteBrew.com.

HOOKHAH Another hookhah café and lounge opened at 1620 Central Avenue. This one is called The Oasis and features a café with hookhah smoking vessels. They have hookhah, cigars, beer, wine, snacks, sandwiches, games, TV and WiFi. You must be 18 to enter. They open at 6pm.

NO SMOKING The world's largest coffee chain, Starbucks, banned smoking within 25 feet of all its 7,000 stores, including the outdoor seating areas. The three in the downtown area are:
199 1st Avenue N.
333 1st Street S.
900 4th Street N.



CORRECTION In the last issue, we stated that Allan Galeano, the owner/ operator of the new BiCi Trattoria on Central, was a partner in The Avenue Restaurant on 1st Avenue S. He once was, but he is no longer associated with that business. BiCi opened in May at 437 Central Avenue.

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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, APPOINTS FIRST CURATOR OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Katherine Pill has joined the Museum as its first Assistant Curator of Art after 1950. This historic step was made possible by The Hazel and William Hough Curatorial Endowment Fund. The Houghs are longtime MFA supporters and collectors of contemporary art. The Hazel Hough Wing is named in honor of Mrs. Hough, a Museum trustee.

Ms. Pill brings ideal experience and education to this new position and arrives at an optimum moment in the life of the Museum. The MFA has increasingly received donations of and acquired works created after 1950 and up to the present day. Ms. Pill has not only curated numerous exhibitions of modern and contemporary art in a variety of media, but has also taken a very active role as an educator and writer. She has designed and conducted many programs to enhance audience understanding and enjoyment of contemporary work.

Her first exhibition at the MFA will be *Color Acting: Abstraction Since 1950*, primarily drawn from the collection (July 6-September 22). Also intent on adding new media to the Museum's holdings, she proposed Michael Bell-Smith's *Waves Clock* (2012) for the Collectors Choice event on April 19. Generated by a unique software program, the projected work depicts bright blue waves crashing towards shore, with a generic white analog clock, keeping real time, meandering slowly across the scene.

These images each address the cycle of time, both natural and mechanical, but are visually disjointed to an almost comical degree. It is difficult to focus on either one without being distracted by the other—a fitting reflection on our

media-saturated times. Once again, the Houghs have stepped forward with funds to acquire *Waves Clock*, with the aim of installing it in the glass Conservatory.

Ms. Pill's academic credentials are stellar. She holds her BA with a double-major in art history (with honors) and English literature from McGill University in Montreal. She then completed a three-year dual MA in art history, theory, and criticism and arts administration and policy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

"We now have a curator who will focus on contemporary art," said MFA Director Kent Lydecker. "Katherine will collaborate closely with Hazel and William Hough Chief Curator Jennifer Hardin, organize exhibitions, strengthen our collection, and build relationships with artists locally, nationally, and internationally. We could not have taken this historic step without the generous donation, friendship, and leadership of Hazel and William Hough."

"I am thrilled to step into this newly created position devoted to growing the MFA's modern and contemporary art programming," said Ms. Pill. "It is a passion of mine to support the work of contemporary artists and to communicate their work to a larger public. Contemporary art can be intimidating, and I feel it is the responsibility of a curator to provide context and multiple points of entry to challenging concepts and artworks."



Thomas U. Gessler

Katherine Pill next to Enrico Donati's *Angkor Wat* (1963), a mixed-media work



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BIRCHWOOD INN OPENS PROVIDING A GLIMPSE OF ST. PETERSBURG IN THE 1920s



New owner Chuck Prather

The Birchwood Inn, one of downtown's newest hotels, is also one of its oldest. Built in 1924, at 340 Beach Drive NE, overlooking North Straub Park and the Vinoy Basin, it was originally a three-story apartment building called The Lantern Inn. Former St. Petersburg Mayor Al Lang, lived there for a while.

During the 1920s, St Petersburg started to explode with their growth of tourism. People from northern cities flocked to St Petersburg, the "Sunshine City", to escape their cold winters. Lantern Inn was the winter home for many of those visitors. The Spanish design building had 32 apartments, each including a bedroom, living area and kitchenette. Local newspaper advertisements proclaimed reasonable prices for a unit with gas, light, heat, and maid service plus an elevator, by the day, week, month or year.

In 2008, the building was purchased and remodeled before opening as Grayl's Hotel. The owners spent a lot of money converting the old apartment building into a historic looking hotel, complete with the ground floor restaurant, Gatsby's. But within two years, the property went into bankruptcy and sat idle for over a year.

Today's owners, Chuck Prather and his wife Kathy, saw a story in the St. Pete Times (now the Tampa Bay Times) about Grayl's Hotel and its closing. They took an interest in the property. Chuck had never run a hotel or restaurant, but he has been a self-employed developer most of his professional life, primarily building projects for the Federal Government. "When I saw the article in the newspaper, I knew this was an opportunity worth taking," Prather remembers.

"In real estate we say location is everything. Just look at this location. We overlook scenic Straub Park, the Vinoy Basin and Tampa Bay." Prather says.

Prather bought the property in January of 2012. It took three months just to do the demolition because they preserved the exterior facade.

"We wanted to protect the look and integrity of its 89 year old architecture," Chuck says. "But, we did have to make some changes. The hotel was originally only three stories high. We added a fourth floor ballroom with its own bar and kitchen. We also added a roof top bar covering all of the fifth floor. Construction took almost a year and a half."

The new hotel, which opened to standing room lines on Sunday, May 19, was designed by the ARCUS Group in

Cleveland, OH. All the interior design was done by Urban Studios of Tampa. Black and white photos from the 1920s adorn many of the walls and hallways.

The individual hotel rooms have a modern feel, but still retain their classic historic look. Because the hotel is named after the birchwood tree, art and photography of birchwood trees is found throughout. The tree's color establish the color palette used inside the hotel, restaurant and bar.

As much of the interior as possible was preserved. The original glass door knobs now decorate the new bar's walls. The third floor awnings and the railings, slightly modified for current building codes, have all been saved. The doors that open on to the restaurant's patio were originally the building's front doors. The lamppost on the side of the building is even original.

There are eighteen deluxe hotel rooms, a few of them have a view of Beach Drive and Straub Park. The lounge and bar is still on the ground floor with a large, formal dining room. The Birch & Vine Restaurant is open to the public for lunch and dinner. Lunch entrees range from \$8 to \$16, while dinner entrees range from \$15 to \$32. All their ingredients are fresh and come from local farmers, fishermen, ranchers and food artists, when possible. You can dine inside, on the terrace or on sidewalks cafe style under large umbrellas.

The fourth floor Ballroom is surprisingly large and has a separate, large bar and kitchen. It is appropriate for weddings and meetings.

The roof top bar, named The Canopy, opens at 4pm Monday through Friday, and at 11 am on weekends; it closes between midnight and 1 am. It also has its own kitchen with a separate menu. "The view from the roof is breath-taking,"

Chuck adds. No smoking is allowed on the roof or anywhere on the property.

"I have not run a hotel or restaurant before, so I made sure I hired people who have," says Prather. The hotel manager is Robert Snow. The head chef is

Jason Cline. Todd McNulty is the Beverage Director. Susan Robertson, formerly with the St Pete Pier, handles sales and marketing and events in the Grand Ball Room.

Chuck Prather is married to Dr. Kathy Prather, a well-known local OB-GYN who is now Director of the Catholic Center's St. Petersburg Pregnancy Center. They live just north of downtown with their seven children, four of which are adopted.

The Birchwood Inn is located at 340 Beach Drive NE, next to Moon Under Water Restaurant. Learn more about the Inn and Restaurant at www.TheBirchwood.com. You can reach them at 896-1080.



The Birch and Vine Restaurant

SUMMER HAUL PASS RETURNS

Summer vacation is here and for many families that means the return of Mom and Dad's taxi service. However, with gas prices well above \$3 a gallon, many parents can't afford to drive their kids around all summer long. That's where PSTA's popular Summer Youth Haul Pass helps. For only \$35, kids 18 and under can enjoy unlimited rides on PSTA and the Clearwater Jolley Trolley between May 15 and August 31, excluding Routes 100X and 300X to Tampa. Not only will the Haul Pass save parents time and money, but it gives kids the freedom and independence to commute to work, to the beach or meet up with friends, for less than \$.40 a day!



Middle and high school kids need a school, government or PSTA issued photo ID to use the Summer Youth Haul Pass. PSTA-issued Youth Photo ID cards can be obtained free of charge at any PSTA Customer Service Center.

Spend less time at the bus stop and more time having fun! Thanks to PSTA's New Real Time Bus Information system, riders can easily find out exactly when their bus will arrive at their stop. You can text, call or check on line to find out when your bus will arrive, which means less waiting at the stop and more time enjoying other things. So before you head to the bus stop, check PSTA's Real Time Bus Information site at RidePSTA.net. First time riders are invited to take advantage of PSTA's Google Trip Planner to easily plan a ride or they can get personalized riding instruction with PSTA's free "Show Me" service by calling the PSTA InfoLine at (727) 540-1900.

MFA DINNER & JAZZ SERIES

The Sixth Annual Dinner and Jazz Series at the MFA returns on Fridays from 6:30-9:30 pm. Admission is \$5 for members and guests and \$10 for nonmembers. It includes admission to the exhibitions in the Hazel Hough Wing.



The popular MFA Café will be open for dinner with a "beer and wine" cash bar. Reservations are recommended. Contact the Café at 727.822.1032 or 727.896.2667, ext. 258.

The performers are:

July 26: Dan McMillion and the High Octane Quintet

A star of the Seabreeze jazz label, Dan McMillion leads these musicians who always live up to their name.

August 2: IMPROMPTU

With roots in gypsy jazz, this popular ensemble plays music ranging from bebop to bossa nova.

August 9: New York Guitar Cats

An audience favorite, they favor contemporary jazz and modern harmonies, with bebop, blues, and rock added.

August 16: Cannonball/Coltrane Tribute Quintet

A swinging tribute to two of the greatest jazz saxophonists ever—Cannonball Adderley and John Coltrane.

August 23: Sasha Tuck

This versatile vocalist, composer, and arranger has performed at more than 100 venues and festivals.

August 30: Stolen Idols

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ENJOY THE DOWNTOWN NIGHT LIFE – SAFELY!

by Lt. Gary Dukeman, St. Petersburg Police Department

With more than a hundred restaurants and a wide array of bars and nightclubs, coupled with local shops, museums, galleries, attractions, and special events, St. Petersburg's downtown entertainment district surely has something appealing to nearly everyone's dining and entertainment tastes. Many establishments remain open until 3am, so the downtown night life continues well into the night. While you enjoy the vibrant downtown night life, you are reminded to do so responsibly and safely. Remember to not only have a designated driver (or take a cab home) and not drink and drive, but also don't drink to excess. Not only does this result in a person being unable to care for themselves, but it could also become a serious medical concern. Limit drinking so you always maintain control of your actions. Many arrests occur simply as a result of individuals who have drunk too much and become disorderly.



For those who are visiting from out of town, the City of St. Petersburg has a local "Open Container" ordinance whereby open containers of alcoholic beverage are prohibited upon public right-of-way to include sidewalks, streets, and parks. Open containers are permitted only within the licensed premise of establishment or it's permitted sidewalk café area. You cannot take the drink outside of or away from these locations. The only exception is when the City issues an exemption to the ordinance, such as issuing a permit for a special event to occur within the sidewalk, street or park. So remember to keep your drink where you bought it! Also, remember underage drinking is a crime as is the giving or serving alcoholic beverages to a person under age 21. Another City ordinance requires that many of the establishments are "21 & Up" to even get inside (unless accompanied by a parent or lawful guardian)!

When walking throughout the downtown area, pedestrians are reminded to obey the instructions of any official traffic control device specifically applicable to the pedestrian. Sidewalks must be used where provided, and roadway crossings must occur in the marked crosswalk at intersections with traffic control signals. Remember to follow the pedestrian crossing signal too! Jaywalking is not only dangerous but also could result in a fine. Motorist should exercise extra caution downtown and ensure they are looking out for pedestrians. Our pedestrian-friendly streets can be quite busy on any given Friday or Saturday night! Bicyclists are reminded to not impede pedestrian traffic upon sidewalks. Skateboarders too must yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian on any street or sidewalk. Furthermore, skateboards are not permitted to be ridden upon any sidewalk or street within the area bounded by 5th Avenue North, Tampa Bay, 5th Avenue South, and 16th Street, as well as in any public parking garage.

Enjoy your visit downtown, but remember to be responsible and safe while doing so!

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