Since 1965, the Mahaffey Theater has been at the center of live entertainment in St. Petersburg. While it has undergone several key renovations, expansions and at least one significant facelift, its mission has remained constant - To present the best, in the best way possible.

The Bayfront Center complex made its official debut on May 6, 1965. LBJ was in the White House, Haydon Burns was Florida’s governor and the City of St. Petersburg was moving forward with its progressive plan to show the rest of the country it was more than sparkling, sprawling beaches, green downtown benches and a humid spring training ground for Major League Baseball. The population was exploding and adding the Bayfront Center – a 7,000-seat arena and a 2,000-seat theater – would attract concerts, Broadway-class theater and large-scale sporting events.

Ted Mack’s Original Amateur Hour, the American Idol of its day, filmed four episodes in the theater that January. The facility wasn’t quite ready for its closeup – in fact, the balcony was still under construction – so after the “studio” audience applauded the Ybor City Boys Club Rhumba Band, the St. Petersburg Male Chorus and other musical and novelty acts, the doors were closed again until May, when the arena was unveiled.

Right from the start, the Bayfront Center transformed St. Pete and the Tampa Bay area. The Ringling Brothers/Barnum & Bailey Circus paid an annual, week-long visit to the arena, and the shows were always packed with area families. Ice hockey and soccer teams battled it out on the arena’s massive floor. For decades, the nation’s biggest concert draws – from Elvis and Liberace, to Bruce Springsteen and the Grateful Dead – played to sold-out crowds in the arena.

At the same time, the Bayfront Theater, as it was known, focused less on spectacle and more on intimacy. Opera and theatrical companies (national, regional and local) trotted the boards, and the theater was the place folks would go to see and hear the likes of Johnny Mathis, Liza Minnelli, Ray Charles, Gordon Lightfoot and other artists best experienced at close range. The Florida Orchestra took up seasonal residency in the 1970s, and remains a partner today, in the Mahaffey era.

Of course, standup comedy was a mainstay. Between 1976 and 1990, George Carlin performed seven times at the theater. Gallagher performed three times, followed by Lily Tomlin, Rodney Dangerfield and Dennis Miller (twice each). Steve Martin has been onstage three times (so far); once in 1978 (during his “King Tut” era), once with singer Edie Brickell (2013) and again with Martin Short (2014). Other standout stars who brought the laughs to the Bayfront Theater included Art Buchwald, Red Skelton, Joan Rivers and Sam Kinison.

Illusionists Uri Geller, David Copperfield, Doug Henning and the Amazing Kreskin dazzled and thrilled St. Pete audiences, while plenty of progressive rock acts – including the Pretenders, Devo and The Knack – made their Tampa Bay debuts at the Bayfront Theater.

Story and photo from Bill DeYoung,
Public Relations Manager The Mahaffey Theater
This newsletter is published by Griffin Productions, Inc. and is mailed to many occupied residences in Downtown St. Petersburg’s zip code 33701 and 33704. We are not associated with the City of St. Petersburg.

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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 care, electricians, etc about us. We would like to hear from you. Is what is happening in their area.

If you are a resident of our mailing area and advertise, you will receive Downtown, plus the Snell Isle and St. Petersburg. We produce similar newsletters in four other areas: Indian Rocks Beach, Clearwater Beach and Snell Isle. We are not associated with the City of St. Petersburg.

ST. PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN NEWSLETTER

AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN NEVIN SITLER'S LOOK AT 160 YEARS OF ST. PETERSBURG PIERS

St. Petersburg’s Piers—a history of the city’s piers—is on sale NOW at the St. Petersburg Museum of History. It is perfect timing for the book's release that offers a historic look at St. Petersburg’s downtown waterfront piers—from the 1850s. Berryman Pier to the current William B. Howard designed inverted pyramid.

In this captivating account of St. Pete’s rich history, Nevin Sitler—author, historian and St. Petersburg Museum of History Director of Education and Outreach—tells how for 160 years, developers and entrepreneurs have built wooden or concrete structures from St. Petersburg’s shoreline into the waters of Tampa Bay. Published by Ardisia Publishing, St. Petersburg’s Piers sells for $21.99 and is available in the Museum gift shop or online at www.spmah.org/pier. All author royalties for the sale of the book benefit the Museum of History.

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OLYMPIC VOLLEYBALL WORLD TOUR: The Federation International de Volleyball (FIVB) St. Petersburg Grand Slam events will be held June 15-21 at St. Petersburg’s Spa Beach Park. This is the second of five Grand Slam events on the FIVB World Tour schedule. It is expected to draw the top talent from around the world to compete in the seven-day tournament featuring a maximum of 32 men and 32 women’s teams. There will be no more than two teams per country, all vying for a piece of an $800,000 purse and world ranking points. The results are part of the Olympic qualifying process for the 2016 Rio Games. General admission is free. Premium tickets and hospitality packages will be available for purchase soon at www AVP com.

MINI GRANT PROGRAM: Groups can apply for mini-grants through a new program supported by Duke Energy that provides funds for new or expanded projects and events that build or expand neighborhood involvement, such as a community garden, a neighborhood picnic, seasonal celebrations, ice cream socials, home and garden tours, cleanups or parades. The maximum award is $500 per calendar year, once a year. Applications are approved on a rolling basis; meaning groups may apply anytime and there is no deadline. For more information on the program, call 892-5141 or email ICAN@STPETE.org.

NEED ANOTHER COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER? Pick one up at the UPS Stores at 200 2nd Avenue S. and in the Old Northeast area at 204 37th Street N. While you are there check out their range of products and services including printing, packing, shipping, and mailboxes.

DUMP THE PLASTIC: Americans use 100 billion plastic bags each year, made from 190 million barrels of petroleum products. Each is used for an average of 12 minutes before being discarded, but they remain in our landfills, oceans, parks and beaches for thousands of years as they never fully break down. Introduced by ExxonMobile in the 1970s, plastic shopping bags are costly, environmentally damaging and unnecessary. They may be free at check-out counters, but retailers spend $4 billion a year on them and pass that cost on to you. They clog storm drains and damage infrastructure on their way to becoming ocean pollution where seabirds, whales, sea turtles and other marine life eat them and die from choking, intestinal blockage and starvation. What can you do? Switch to environmentally friendly and cost-effective reusable bags.
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE

By Kenneth T. Welch, Pinellas County Commissioner

Pinellas County is one of 20 counties in Florida that operate under a charter. Florida granted local voters the power to adopt charters to govern their counties in 1968. Charters are formal written documents that confer powers, duties or privileges on the county. They resemble state or federal constitutions, and they must be approved, along with any amendments, by the voters of a county.

This structure allows citizens more authority over how the county operates. In 1980, the voters of our county approved the charter form of county government, which mandates a review of the charter at regular intervals. At this time, the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission meets every eight years to go over the charter and recommend amendments that the majority of the review commission views as necessary. Members of the review commission are appointed by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.

There are 13 members of the charter review commission. Four members are selected from the following: one county commissioner, one constitutional officer, one member of the legislative delegation and one municipal elected official. The other nine are selected from citizens who apply. The Charter Review Commission is a unique opportunity as it allows citizens to have a direct impact on how their government is structured.

During the last charter review commission, in 2010, I had the honor of being the member representing the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. I was proud to see citizens from different walks of life representing the entire county, and making thoughtful observations about how Pinellas County could be an even better place.

There is no age limit to be a citizen member on the review commission. The only requirement is that the citizen is a resident of Pinellas County and is not an elected official. Those interested in applying for one of the citizen positions can go to www.pinellascounty.org/charter. The application will be available until June 1.

KIDS PANTS

Clothes to Kids has an urgent need for elementary school boys and girls pants sizes 4 to 16. Pants and shorts are in short supply to help clothe the low-income children that shop at CTK. Each child receives 4 school pants and/or shorts, as well as 5 tops, a pair of shoes and 3 new underwear and socks. If you would like to help CTK fill their racks with clothes, donations may be dropped off at 1300 4th Ave N, Suite 143. Cash donations are also needed to purchase clothing in short supply and underwear. For information, call 441-5050, ext. 22 or visit www.clothestokids.org.

MAHAFFEY, cont.

For its first 30 years, the intimate theater was visited regularly by such major mainstream performers as Vidor Borge, Ferrante & Teicher, Peter Nero, Sandler & Young and the Fred Waring Orchestra. Jazz greats Louis Armstrong, Dave Brubeck and Sarah Vaughan appeared in concert. Dame Margot Fonteyn danced, Leontyne Price sang. Both Jesus Christ Superstar and Godspell made their bay area debuts there.

The first significant makeover began in 1987. The Bayfront Theater became the Mahaffey Theater, after a generous gift from St. Peterburg’s Mahaffey family.

As the 21st century dawned, the Bayfront/Mahaffey complex adapted to meet the needs and demands of the changing times. The outdated arena was torn down in 2004, leaving space for the installation of the world-class Dali Museum.

Further renovations doubled the Mahaffey Theater’s lobby space, and introduced the spectacular glass curtain wall and atrium, offering a stunning view of sparkling Tampa Bay.

Big3 Entertainment assumed management of The Mahaffey in 2011, with CEO and Chairman Bill Edwards privately funding an ultra-deluxe VIP lounge, along with a significant upgrade of the lobby’s decor.

It is in this new era that The Mahaffey has particularly prospered. Every year, the lineup grows even more spectacular, with singing stars (Tony Bennett, Diana Ross, Smokey Robinson), legends of rock and pop (Steve Nicks, Don Henley, Alanis Morissette) and the very best in comedy, including Jerry Seinfeld, who recently performed three sold-out shows during The Mahaffey’s 50th Anniversary Week.

There’s more to The Mahaffey than live performances experienced in awe-inspiring comfort and luxury. The theater’s expansive ballroom is a mainstay for weddings; the ballroom (and luxury lobby) are made available for private and corporate functions.

The Class Acts program, a collaboration between the Bill Edwards Foundation For the Arts and the City of St. Petersburg, brings busloads of area schoolchildren to the theater on weekdays for live performances that are fun yet educational.

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CURBSIDE RECYCLING SOON
St. Petersburg's Universal Curbside Recycling program rolls closer to reality, as the city's Sanitation Department begins zone-by-zone delivery of blue, 95-gallon recycling carts in selected neighborhoods. Deliveries will continue until residential addresses in each zone have received a recycling cart by approximately June 30.

Each recycling cart features an outside colored decal that corresponds to the resident's collection zone and day as well as a welcome kit located inside the cart. The welcome kit includes a personalized zone map/collection schedule, informational magnet, a list of drop-off recycling and brush site locations, and facts about curbside recycling. Customers are encouraged to match the cart sticker to the zone collection map found in their welcome kit to determine their designated recycling day.

Items eligible for curbside recycling include newspapers, magazines, mixed paper and cardboard, as well as clear and colored glass, aluminum and steel cans, steel jar lids, milk and juice cartons, and #1-7 plastic containers. All items except paper products should be rinsed and free of food particles before recycling. Items that will not be accepted include plastic bags, pizza boxes, used paper plates, Styrofoam or take-out containers, light bulbs, mirrors, ceramics, electronics, paint, pesticides, and batteries.

Five city-operated recycling drop-off and brush site locations will remain open as well as other locations that accept recyclable materials in St. Petersburg. A list of locations is available at www.stpete.org/recycle. Residents are encouraged to dispose of hazardous materials, chemicals, fertilizer, paint, or electronics during the next Mobile Collection Day September 12, from 9 am to 2 pm, at the SPC Allstate Center, 3200 34th St. S.

When recycling collections officially begin in July, residents may deposit eligible recyclables in the 95 gallon recycling cart before placing it at the curb by 7 am on their designated recycling day. Residents will see an additional $2.95 curbside recycling charge added to their monthly utility bill beginning in August.

Information about the program is available at www.stpete.org/recycle. Questions should be directed to the Sanitation Department, 727-893-7838.

THE EDGE DISTRICT
The EDGE District is a designated Florida Main Street Program, committed to historic preservation-based revitalization. It is creating a sustainable local economy within the EDGE District, which lies between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street and 16th Street, and 1st Avenues North and South. The EDGE District is vibrant and eclectic, filled with locally-owned, independent restaurants, bars & restaurants and 21 unique retail shops. A perfect day to stroll, socialize, and celebrate with friends!

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C ELEBRATING OVER 10 YEARS! LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
Carla Staats, like her husband Dewayne, the face of the Experiential Learning) sessions. This is where Carla Staats became involved. The At EASE team has weekly sessions with traumatic brain injured participants from Tam pa Bay Rays and TV play-by-play man on The Sun NeuroRestorative, a Pinellas Spinal Cord & Brain Injury you will probably find her miles from Tropicana Field. Rehabilitation Center. The At EASE team also has a series of therapeutic weekend retreats for the wives and caregivers of injured soldiers called WOW (Women of Warriors.) Hours before a game’s first pitch, Carla likely left her Sand and O deessa, north of Tam pa. She may be less recognized in a major league dug out, but at QLF not only the people, but also by the farm’s horses know her well. QLF doesn’t grow crops like an average farm, they grow the hopes and dreams of mentally and physically challenged people. The non-profit facility provides comprehensive equine therapies to both the mentally and physically handicapped, ranging in age from 2 to 92. Started by Edie Dopking, PhD, this is QLF’s 15th year. In the 1990s, while working at St Anthony’s Hospital, Dr. Dopking volunteered at the Bakas Equestrian Center, a Tam pa therapeutic riding program serving disabled children. With a medical background and experience training horses, volunteering at Bakas led her to found QLF in January 2000 on 10 acres of land she owns in North Tam pa. The QLF program serves kids and adults with physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities. The farm’s mission is to help people of all ages and abilities grow strong, achieve therapeutic goals and overcome challenges by engaging them with horses. QLF also offers two summer camps for children of all abilities, from ages 5 to 15. Participants have a variety of conditions, including Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury. Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities. The U.S. involvement in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars has led to an increase in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and traumatic brain injury victims. QLF works closely with the James Haley VA Hospital and with Bill Young VA Medical Center to help serve veterans’ needs. In 2008, QLF expanded its services to include At EASE Equine Assisted Self Exploration, and EEL (Equine Experiential Learning) sessions. This is where Carla Staats became involved. The At EASE team has weekly sessions with traumatic brain injured participants from NeuroReStorative, a Pinellas Spinal Cord & Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center. The At EASE team also has a series of therapeutic weekend retreats for the wives and caregivers of injured soldiers called WOW (Women of Warriors.) Carla, born and raised in Texas, has always loved horses. She is certified with EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Development Sue Levitt, “She shows up whenever needed.” QLF has 16 horses on site with names like Silver (The Great Gray One), Tie (Black Tie Affair), Sonic, Idaho, Cowboy, Ponce, and of course Doc. In addition, they have two donkeys, three goats, three chickens and a cat and dog. Just like most farms. Because most of their clients are undergoing financial hardship, many are unable to pay or can pay only a small amount to participate. Service costs are high; horses and facilities require care and maintenance 365 days a year. QLF receives funding from grants, fundraising events and corporate and individual sponsorships. Community support includes cash and in-kind donations, sponsorships and volunteering. They welcome volunteers, 16 years of age or older, to become involved in any of a variety of ways, from daily work at the farm, to serving on committees and helping with fundraisers. Volunteer activities include helping in therapeutic sessions by being a horse leader or side-walker, or in the barn with horse care and stable maintenance tasks. Quantum Leap Farm offers their clients a “small step for help, and a big leap” toward their recovery. Find more information about this nonprofit nationally recognized equestrian program at www.QuantumLeapFarm.org or you may call at 813-920-9250.
**HEALTH CREATION**

by Bob Clark, Bellaire Christian Science practitioner

Can we create health? What if we could? How would it affect our own health and our nation’s health-care system? Dan Berwick, CEO and founder of the Harvard-based Institute for Health Improvement (IHI) tells us “we would be better off to re-direct some health-care enterprise from fighting illness to pursuing health, going from health-care to health creation.” How can we make that shift on an individual basis?

**1. A Healthy Mind.** Where does health originate? Conventional wisdom would say it comes from a combination of genetics, environment and behavior, right? But let’s be conventional and consider a more radical idea. The current mindffulness trend points to the mental nature of health.

This is a radical idea: “Health is not a condition of matter, but of mind” (Mary Baker Eddy, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures). This points to the divine Mind, uplifting the human mind and its concept of health by accessing the divine. The effect of human thought, especially when inspired by the divine, on human being is beginning to take its rightful place in health management and health creation. So, take some time to pray, meditate, reflect or just be quiet for an extended period. The book Sabbath, by theologian Wayne Muller, not only extols the health benefits of mindfulness, it also explains that the concept of “Sabbath”, while religious in origin, has powerful application to everyday life for both the religious and the non-religious. Muller shows “how to create a special time of rest, delight, and renewal— a refuge for our souls.” This can be an invaluable health creator.

**2. Healthy Practices.** The word spirituality is heard more and more in relation to health. But is spirituality something we just read and talk about? What happens when we practice it? I’ve found the active practice of spirituality to be one of the most powerful health producers around. For example: the active practice of gratitude. Finding fresh ways in which to say thank-you, keeping a gratitude journal, or trying to stay in a grateful frame of mind really works! It’s not just the practice itself. I’ve found the active practice of spirituality to be one of the most powerful health producers around. For example: the active practice of gratitude. Finding fresh ways in which to say thank-you, keeping a gratitude journal, or trying to stay in a grateful frame of mind really works! It’s not just the practice itself. This is a scientific fact. The active practice of empathy and compassion is a proven health creator. Developing the consistent mental ability to put yourself in the other person’s shoes is a healthy practice and often turns contempt into solution oriented thinking. Solutions to unhealthy situations, homelessness, corruption, crime and disease, become more accessible in the presence of true empathy and compassion.

**3. Healthy Habits.** Be honest (a healthy habit), we all have unhealthy habits. Facing and conquering them is a health creator. A friend realized her habit of harboring critical thoughts was mentally and physically unhealthy. She took time to pray about a solution. A familiar Psalm from the Bible which recommends not storing up anger came to mind. She prayed to learn how to stay out of the hot seat and the answer was simple— love more and consciously seat and the answer was simple— love more and consciously.

**4. Healthy Responses.** We are all tempted to react with unhealthy responses, but what if our responses were always consciously healthy? It might seem hard, but it is within reach. Here are a few examples of healthier responses:

- Respond to anger with compassion.
- Respond to rudeness with grace.
- Respond to ignorance with understanding.
- Respond to fear with love.

Creating better health in our own lives is a powerful way to create health in our world. For more information, call Joanne Walker 727-822-4982 or email foodscapecompetition@yanae.com.

**FOODSCAPE COMPETITION**

How do you raise awareness of good, healthy and different foods? St. Petersburg Woman’s Club is doing it the fun way with their Second Annual Foodscape Competition. Registration is now open for the Sunday, July 26, 1-4pm event. Four separate categories include: businesses, individuals, groups and family. All winners receive a trophy and bragging rights. Last year’s business winner was Rollin’ Oats who is still bragging! It’s free to enter! Just build a design or sculpture out of food. It has to fit on a 32”x36” table. The public is invited to view & judge for a $5 admission fee. Proceeds benefit Mr. Strong Foundation, which assists families of special needs children.

This is a fun way to enjoy the lazy warm days of summer in a cool air conditioned competition area, but space is limited. Good nutritional foods and creativity are the focus. In 2014, the club’s arts & crafts committee submitted a group entry that was a giant sunflower built from eleven different kinds of dried seeds, grits, salts, spices and rice. Although not chosen as a winner by the public, the entry was preserved and entered into the club’s Federation district arts competition where it took first place. It is now making its way to state competition in Orlando on May 16.

For information, call Joanne Walker 727-822-4982 or email foodscapecompetition@yanae.com.  

**BACK PAIN?**

by Karen Hoyt, Masters Physical Therapy & Certified Athletic Trainer

Have you ever awakened to pain in your back? Do you struggle staying focused while doing your work because of the nagging pain? It may even affect your ability to sleep, and your favorite activity or sport. Please know, you are not the only one. Back pain is very common and is a result of altered tissue physiology and body alignment. You may not have noticed your pastural habits and posture when walking over time because there is no pain initially. Don’t be fooled, it is not just the location of the pain/ injured tissue that needs to be addressed. It is imperative to treat the underlying cause of pain, otherwise it will return. Many patients settle for several medical visit that treats the symptoms so they can go back doing the things they love, only to realize their money and time was not well spent.

Conversely, there are clients that understand that the root cause of their pain is the result of postural misalignment. For example, for many years, a client of mine had to refrain from playing tennis because of a nagging knee pain. She entered Synergy WSH with back pain coming back pain, a snapping/painful hip and with only 4 visits her back pain was gone! Her hip was pain free with no snapping. She was able to return to playing tennis and jeszcze loved it! With the knowledge imparted to Casey, she now has a more medically-based treatment specific for her body, as well as preventative measures to keep the pain from returning! Call Karen Hoyt, with 20 years experience of Synergy Sports Medicine and Fitness, (727) 350-1616 for an appointment to receive a “One on One”, hour long session to fix your postural patterning and relieve your pain. FL PT 17901
**ONE ST. PETERSBURG**

The heart of downtown St. Petersburg is beating a bit faster these days, as the Kolter Group reached the milestone of $100 million in reservations for the luxury condominium residences in ONE St. Petersburg, the developer’s 41-story, mixed-use project in the center of the downtown waterfront. It is an impressive level of commitment from homebuyers from across the region. “The word is out on downtown St. Petersburg. People have caught on to how nice it is to live, work and play down here and they want in,” said Kolter Urban President, Bob Vail. “This puts us months ahead of projections, with momentum towards start of construction.”

Towering 41 stories above the skyline, ONE St. Petersburg will be the tallest building in St. Petersburg. The project’s landmark architecture, luxury tower residences, and array of world-class shopping, dining and hospitality create a contemporary lifestyle unmatched on Florida’s Gulf Coast.

“Nothing compares to the total package of residential, retail and hotel amenities assembled here,” stated Kolter CEO, Bobbie Julien. “We wanted a world-class destination to serve as the centerpiece of our new downtown. This rush of eager homebuyers tells us we’ve delivered.”

The Residences at ONE St. Petersburg offer 9 floor plans ranging from 1,402 to 2,475 square feet. Pre-construction pricing for the 253 luxury condominiums starts in the $500s. 450 feet above the city, will be nine exclusive Sky Collection Penthouse Residences, each offering nearly 3,500 square feet of interior space, with unobstructed views in every direction. Penthouse prices start from $3.1 million. The early success of the project has enabled Kolter to announce a substantial developer incentive for early buyers that is sure to drive interest to even greater heights. “ONE is truly a unique and compelling offering,” stated Bob Gasser, President of Smith & Associates Real Estate, the community’s sales representatives. “In over 25 years, we have never seen a developer incentive like this. It is unprecedented, and makes this an even more compelling opportunity.”

Beyond its skyscraping height, the most striking feature of ONE St. Petersburg is the seventh-story, resort plaza. An oasis in the sky, this dazzling urban park offers residents a private, 40,000 square foot recreational retreat in the center of the city. Features include a cabana-lined, resort-style pool with 75’ lap lanes, shaded lounging and seating areas, and an intimate whirlpool/spa.

Overlooking the plaza, is a free standing, 5,000 square foot office that serves as the centerpiece of our new downtown. This rush of eager homebuyers tells us we’ve delivered.”

A new 13-story, LEED certified, Hyatt-branded hotel will provide a hospitality component. A full complement of services and amenities includes meeting spaces, event facilities, fitness center, a rooftop pool and spa with food and beverage service, and full-service lobby bar.

At street level, a variety of upscale retailers, restaurants and services encompass the entire city block, providing conveniences and attractions for residents as well as a seamless synergy with the cityscape that surrounds it. To learn more about ONE St. Petersburg, call 727-240-3840, visit ONESPetersburg.com, or the Sales Gallery at 100 1st Avenue N, St. Petersburg.

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**GROCERY STORY COMING SOON**

A 32,000 square foot grocery store will be opening downtown, along with 18,000 square feet of retail space and a three story parking garage. The mixed-use project at 700 Central Avenue will face 1st Avenue S. and be built across from the new Hermitage Apartment building. Construction is expected to start this summer.

**THE LANDING**

This new jewelry and accessories store is located at 282 Beach Drive NE, next to the Market Place. They moved downtown in March and specialize in strolling silver jewelry for both men and women and fashion accessories. They also carry other gifts, coastal furniture and home decor items. Find more information at www.LandingCompany.com.

**NARACAMICE OF FLORIDA**

This sports-oriented clothing store opened at 125 2nd Avenue N., on the north side of the Ovation Condo Tower.

**PET SUPPLIES**


**BOATERS REPUBLIC**

NOW OPEN if you need to buy things for your boat, this is the place. Opened in March, this specialty store sells fishing equipment, clothing and boat related supplies. The new store, open 7 days a week, employs 8 people. Check them out at www.BoatersRepublic.com.

**BAYCARE URGENT CARE**

This new urgent care walk-in clinic opened at 2331 4th Street N., in March. It is part of the all care medical group.

WAL-MART 

A 32,000 square foot grocery store will be opening downtown, along with 18,000 square feet of retail space and a three story parking garage. The mixed-use project at 700 Central Avenue will face 1st Avenue S. and be built across from the new Hermitage Apartment building. Construction is expected to start this summer.

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**Business Briefs...**

**BOATERS REPUBLIC**

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While the Mahaffey Theater is named after the Mahaffey family, they did not build the Theater. Although they could have, since construction is part of their family's business.

Their business, The Mahaffey Company is a development and management company based downtown that built the Carlton Arms Rental Apartment Communities in 8 nearby cities. They specialize in development, construction, management, and ownership. The St Petersburg office is run by Mark T. Mahaffey, whose father Tom and grandfather started the business in Indianapolis, IN.

In Indianapolis, they owned a finance company and later built a 640-unit apartment complex. In 1962, when he was 52 years old, Tom Mahaffey, his wife and their oldest son Jim moved to St Petersburg. Their other son Mark, who worked for the company during the summers, was away at college attending Notre Dame.

Their first project after the move was to build the Carlton Towers (now called The Beacon Towers) at 470 3rd Street S. That was the beginning of ten successful rental complexes. After college, the Navy and marriage to his beautiful wife Marianne, Mark joined the company in 1969.

In 1986, The City of St Petersburg was trying to decide what to do with the Bayfront Center Arena and the Bayfront Theater. Mayor David Fischer asked the Mahaffey’s if they would help fund a study to develop a concept. The study determined The Bayfront Center needed a minor facelift while the Theater should undergo major changes.

“My wife and I knew that the Bayfront Arena had a limited life,” says Mark, “and frankly, we loved that smaller theater.”

“We offered to donate $1 million in exchange for them renaming the Theater the ‘Mahaffey Theater’ and they gladly accepted,” says Mark. “At that time, it was the largest donation the City had ever received. The donation was split between his father and Mark and Marianne. “Dad paid out the most at 70% and I paid 30%, certainly easier for him than me. We have never regretted that decision.”

The Mahaffeys have continued to support the Theater for over 30 years.

In addition to the Mahaffey Theater, Mark and Marianne have been very active in other areas, too. She was on the original Ronald McDonald House board and later President of the All Children’s Hospital Guild. Mark was on the All Children’s Hospital Board of Trustees for 20 years, serving as Chairman of the Hospital and the Systems Boards.

“The Mahaffey Theater is truly a jewel in downtown St. Petersburg,” agrees both Mark and Marianne. “We are so proud to be a part of it.”

ST. PETERSBURG - WHAT A SWEET, SWEET CITY

Downtown St. Petersburg must have a sweet tooth because we have many unique, locally owned places to fill our need for sweet things! Here are a few.

SCHAKOLAD CHOCOLATE FACTORY
401 Central Avenue
This custom retail chocolate boutique makes all of their chocolates fresh on premises. They have over 70 chocolates made with white, milk and dark chocolate plus thousands of chocolate molded items. Owners Mark and Tess have a large variety of specialty gift boxes, wedding favors and corporate gifts. There is also an Espresso Coffee Bar inside.

They open at 8am Monday through Friday and 10am on Saturdays. They are closed Sundays.

SWEET DIVAS CHOCOLATES
400 Beach Drive
They offer everything from small chocolate choices to large gift boxes and many flavors of cakes. They make traditional and deluxe cheesecakes with a variety of fillings and icings. But did you know they offer cookies, cupcakes, chocolate covered bacon and 18 flavors of ice cream? All their products contain no preservatives. They were voted “Best Cupcakes in St. Petersburg.” As they are fond of saying, “If you can dream it, We can make it!”

They open at 9am during the week and 8am on weekends.

KILWIN'S CHOCOLATES
Near Bella Brava
222 Beach Drive NE
They specialize in fudge and chocolates, but have much more. They sell 32 flavors of ice cream. They have flavored popcorn, peanut brittle, chocolate covered nuts and graham crackers. They have coffee and milk shakes. Additionally, they sell beautiful gift baskets. All of their chocolate fudge is made on site.

They open at 11am, 7 days a week and they stay open until Midnight on Friday and Saturdays.

CASSIS BAKERY
Next to the Cassis Brasserie
170 Beach Drive NE
This bakery has a decidedly French feel, featuring freshly baked foods daily. They have a wide variety of pastries, cakes, ice cream, sorbet and specialty coffees.

They open at 7am for breakfast, 7 days a week and stay open until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

OLD FARMER’S CREAMERY
North of the Fire Station
2531 4th Street North
They specialize in ice cream, but serve it in many more ways than just in a cone! They serve it in milkshakes, banana splits, soda floats and sundaes.

They open at 1pm, 7 days a week.

PACIUGO'S GELATO
300 Beach Drive
Specializing in authentic, hand made gelato, their ingredients come from Italy. It is made fresh daily, in their back room.

They offer a variety of pastries, and coffees, too including expresso and cappuccino.

Paciugo's was one of the first stores in this remodeled part of Beach Drive, when owner Carl Riche opened in 2006. It follows #1 Trip Advisor, Yelp and with Creative Loafing.

They open at 7am, 7 days a week.

ST. PETE BAKERY
In the Sunken Gardens Carraibes building
1961 4th Street North
They produce authentic pastries and sweets from around the world including custom order cakes and pies with a nice selection of coffees. They can provide anything you might need for a small dinner party or even a large wedding. Everything is sold through their retail store, just walk in and pick it up.

The difference in their pastries is Chef Michael, whose European recipes are primarily from France and Belgium. He uses imported chocolate and butter, which is different than what is sold in the U.S.

Ask about their Pastry Cooking Classes on Sunday mornings. They open at 8am Tuesdays through Saturday and at 9am on Sunday. They are closed on Mondays.

THE CUPCAKE SPOT
405 Central Avenue
New owner Daniel Delagato, who owns Sweet St. Petersburg at 242 MLK Jr. St. N., makes cupcakes, of course, but he also sells custom made cakes, ice cream and coffee. One cupcake costs $3.25 and a dozen is $34.

This high-end bakery specializes in private orders and wedding cupcake designs.

They open at 10:30am, Monday through Friday and 10am on Saturdays. They are closed on Sundays.

EAGLE CAFE
234 Beach Drive NE
Once called My Yogurt Store, they changed their name because they offer much more than yogurt. They sell ice cream, crepes, pastries and coffee and are one of the few nearby places selling Smoothies.

They open at 9am, 7 days a week. They close at 11pm, Sunday through Thursday, but Fridays and Saturdays they stay open until Midnight.

ST PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN NEWSLETTER

SCHAKOLAD CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SWEET DIVAS CHOCOLATES

KILWIN'S CHOCOLATES

CASSIS BAKERY

OLD FARMER’S CREAMERY

PACIUGO’S GELATO

ST. PETE BAKERY

THE CUPCAKE SPOT

EAGLE CAFE

YOUGURTOLY

Across from The Fresh Market
3043 4th Street North
They are all about the make-it-yourself yogurt. Choose from twelve different types of yogurt, then add on your choices of over 60 toppings. But be careful, they charge you $1 per ounce.

They open at 11am, seven days.
Organizational News...

GFWC ST PETERSBURG WOMAN’S CLUB
New Membership Menu - The Woman’s Club is now offering 3 levels of membership and meetings. You can join with the Traditional, Weekend Edition or the Just Starting Out version. The idea is to extend opportunities to women of varying ages and circumstances. All will be part of the club. For more information, call 822-4982.

Their clubhouse is available to rent for weddings and other special events. Proceeds from events held here help to maintain the property and allow members to give back through hands-on-service projects.

For more information on the St Petersburg Woman’s Club, see web site www.SPTamwomenclub.org or call Judy Zamanillo at 822-6659.

DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG
Rotary Club of St Petersburg meets every Friday at noon at the Orange Blossom Catering facility, 220 4th Street N. For information, call 822-3277 or visit www.SPRotary.org.

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:

Hurricane Prep Seminar: May 20 at 7pm - This two hour seminar covers how to select a location and prepare your boat to survive a hurricane. The seminar is FREE, materials are $40 and space is limited to 20.

Sail Trim and Rigging: July 15 at 7pm - Learn how to use and adjust sails for optimum performance. It includes a waterproof USPS Captain’s Quick Guide. The seminar is FREE, materials are $30 and space is limited to 20.

How to Use a Chart: July 22 at 7pm - The NOAA Chart is the quintessential reference to chart details, but it may be difficult to understand. This course walks you through the essentials of plotting and measuring a safe course with the USPS plotter. Materials include MapTech’s waterproof flag/fold Chart Symbols and On The Water Guide for on-boat reference. The seminar is FREE, materials are $35 and space is limited to 20.

Pre-registration for all seminars is required at www.Boating-SPT.org. Contact Jeff Eckhardt at 424-9800 or email him at JeffEckhart411@gmail.com for information.

DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
This is an association of associations representing the interests of the residents of downtown St Petersburg. 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-DRC.org.

FRIENDS OF THE MIRROR LAKE LIBRARY
They meet the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm, next meetings are June 3, July 1 and August 5. Call President, Wayne Finley at 813-767-5503 or email MWayneFinley@Yahoo.com.

HISTORIC OLD NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.
Their meetings are quarterly on the third Monday of the month (except for holidays). They meet at the West Minister Presbyterian Church, 126 11th Avenue NE at 7pm. Visit HONNA.org or call 269-5521 for events andcocktails. Peter Motenbecker, President, can be reached at President@HONNA.org.

ST PETERSBURG PRESERVATION SOCIETY
They are presenting free Movies in the Park in May. Live music is performed at twilight before each movie. Admission is free but donations are welcome. Food and drink are available to purchase from area vendors.

Movies start about 7pm. The final two are May 21: THE BLIND SIDE and May 28: SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER.

The next evening historic walking tour will be in Historic Kenwood Neighborhood. The tour starts at 6:30pm at Cappy’s Pizza, 2900 1st Avenue North. Kenwood is known for its collection of bungalow homes and its local artist enclave. They are free to members and $3 for non-members. Please call for reservations to 824-7802.

For more information about the organization, see www.SpPreservation.org or contact Peter Belmont, Chairman, at St Petersburg Preservation at 42T-4612. Follow them on Facebook by searching for Saint Petersburg Preservation.

GRAND CENTRAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
For information on the Grand Central District Association, call Lauren Ruiz at 828-7006 or email her at GCCDA@GrandCentralDistrict.org.

ALBERT WHITTED AIRPORT PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Their Young Eagles Day is Saturday, June 13th. Parents and their young children can see airplanes up close, meet the pilots, and get a free ride in an airplane.

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 8am until 11am. Next events are June 6, July 4 and August 4th. For more information on AWAPS, go to www.AWAPS.org or call Terr Grinner at 822-1332.

ST PETER DNA
General meetings are held quarterly at the Sunshine Center to provide members information and a forum for discussion regarding Downtown issues. They are normally held on the second Thursday of the month. The next event is September at 7pm at the Sunshine Center.

They were instrumental in the adjustments made to the noise ordinance applying to businesses and restaurants with outside speakers. New time limits and music at 11pm and doors and windows to remain closed.

The DNA 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. Visit www.SPTDNA.org.

GFPC JUNIOR WOMEN’S CLUB
This non-profit volunteer organization is for young women over 18. They meet on the first Tuesday of each month (except June and July) at 7pm. The next meeting is August 4th. Call Audra Ames 413-6397 to get involved.
by Dr. Stacey Robinson

Now that the New Year is long behind us, and summer is not far away, you may still be trying to keep your New Year’s resolution of eating better and exercising. The most common reason people don’t exercise is that they feel they don’t have the time. The truth is that evidence shows you can get a much more effective workout in a shorter period of time than you might think.

High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT), also known as “burst” training, is doing aerobic exercise with intervals made up of alternating sprints with a less intense pace. HIIT can be done with any aerobic activity such as walking/running outdoors or on a treadmill, bicycling, swimming, rowing, etc. Although its benefits have been known for many years, HIIT has only recently become a hot trend in the fitness world.

Why you should start HIIT today...

• Burn more calories in a shorter period of time
• Increase your metabolism for 24-48 hours after your workout
• Build muscle and burn fat, specifically that stubborn belly fat
• Increase the anti-aging hormone, Human Growth Hormone, by 450% for 24 hours following your workout
• Increase testosterone levels
• Improve blood sugar and insulin sensitivity after only 2 weeks of starting HIIT

Movement is the most powerful tool that we have to promote longevity and optimal aging. It is a surprise that so many people lead such a sedentary lifestyle when the simple, anti-aging tool is at everyone’s disposal, no equipment required.

How to start HIIT...

• Warm up for 3 minutes.
• Start with a 15 second sprint followed by 30 seconds at a slower pace. Gradually work your way up to a 1 minute sprint followed by 2 minutes at a slower pace.
• Start with 2-3 sprint intervals with each workout and add 1 sprint every 2 weeks. Work your way up to a total of 6-8 intervals per workout.
• Rest at least 48 hours between HIIT workouts.

Dr. Stacey Robinson, owner of Robinson Concierge Medicine, is a private physician practicing downtown. Reach her at (727) 329-8859 or via www.RobinsonMed.com where you can also read her blog.

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Not just your Ordinary Doctor

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- Same or Next Day Appointments
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- Blood Draws in the Comfort of Our Office
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- Nutritional Health Program

Conveniently Located in Downtown St. Pete • 200 Central Avenue, Ste 210 • RobinsonMed.com • Call 727.529.1856

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HURRICANE SEASON TREE PREPARATION

by Jon Wilbur, IA Certified Arborist & Pinellas Tree Service co-owner

Keep Your Trees Protected from the Storms

- In 2004, four hurricanes in forty-five days devastated Florida’s West Coast causing property damage estimated at more than $33 billion. Predictions for this hurricane season are just as bleak. The National Weather Service reports that warmer sea surface temperatures in the North Atlantic could result in more and stronger hurricanes in Florida...for the next ten to twenty years!

Trees Cause Millions In Property Damage - When a hurricane strikes, trees cause millions of dollars in damage to area homes and businesses. You can’t stop the hurricanes from coming, but you can significantly reduce your risk of damage to your trees, by taking these three simple steps:

Step #1: Inspect Your Trees. First, check out all the trees on your property to make sure that they have not grown too close to your roof, windows or power lines. Tree branches need room to sway in the high winds during a storm. If they are denied this freedom to move, these branches can cause serious property damage.

Step #2: Prune Your Trees. One of the worst sights we see after a hurricane has hit is the sheer number of trees that have uprooted. Proper pruning can help your trees survive the storm. Pruning will thin the trees and reduce their susceptibility to high winds. However, be careful not to remove more than 25% of a tree’s canopy. This will “over thin” your trees and can adversely affect their long-term health.

Step #3: Remove Problem Trees. Problem trees are trees that are dead or diseased. During a storm they can easily split apart and threaten nearby buildings. You may be able to remove small trees on your own, but removal of larger trees usually requires professional help. If you are unsure as to the health of your tree, an arborist will be able to tell you if the tree can be saved or whether it needs to be removed.

Don’t Wait For A Hurricane To Strike - Trees that have taken years and sometimes decades to grow simply can’t be replaced. Once a storm hits and the damage has been done, it’s too late. Then, it can take weeks to get help from a qualified tree service company to clean up the mess. Don’t wait. Follow these three simple steps to protect your trees and your home from hurricane damage.

Want to learn more? Our FREE Information Guide: “How To Choose The Best Tree Service Company To Care For Your Trees” can help. Call us at 727.474.0354 for your copy.
Bar & Restaurant News...

ALVIN’S LOUNGE This new lounge is for grown-ups! Unlike many downtown bars, here you will find your urban neighbors enjoying a night out in a sophisticated, chic, Italian establishment. Alessandro Avino arrived from Bologna, Italy in November with this idea for a Euro lounge. Instead of the loud music playing elsewhere, the sounds in this venue are different every day. Alvin’s Lounge has old school jazz on Sunday nights and Blues in the afternoon. Tuesday is Latin Night with the floor cleared for salsa. Every other Friday has belly dancers with classical Spanish guitar, Middle Eastern and gypsy music. Thursday features Carl’s Piano Bar. Weekends feature known headline acts loved by the locals. Located at 119 1st Avenue North near 1st Street, they are open nightly except Mondays.

CAGE BREWING This is another craft brewery under construction in the Grand Central District. Owned by Bob Hughes, who owns the B Bar in Treasure Island, the bar will feature a brewery, tasting room and game room with pool, ping pong and pinball. Mark Ferguson owner of Ferg’s, recently sold the property located at 2001 First Avenue S. to Hughes. They hope to open in the spring.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Cassis American Brasserie, downtown at 170 Beach Dr NE, is celebrating their fifth anniversary on Wednesday, May 20th. They will be offering $5 specials on drinks, appetizers, and small salads, complimentary glass of bubbly and a live DJ from 4pm to closing. Drop by and say Happy Anniversary. Call 827-2927 for more information.

PATA NEGRA This new Spanish cuisine restaurant opened downtown on Central Avenue. Pata Negra, is a cured ham produced mostly in Spain. The menu is authentic Spanish cuisine with an emphasis on tapas. The restaurant is in the location of the former Vue Restaurant with inside and outside dining. They serve breakfast, lunch, dinner and weekend brunch. They have entertainment on the patio.

CASA TAQUIERIA OPENS Gwen and Don Arvin are back where they got their start. After moving to 2663 Central Avenue, they opened a second location at 2701 4th Street N. on May 1st. Drop by and welcome them back to the neighborhood.

MANGO TREE This restaurant opened in the previous location of The King & I. The restaurant has been fully remodeled and there is a new, light menu. They are on Central Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets.

More Restaurant News...

ROWDIES DEN NOW OPEN In Midtown Sunnies previous location, 200 First Avenue S., they offer craft beer, wines on tap, soccer theme cocktails, and standard sports bar food. Owned by Rowdies owner Bill Edwards, this is the place to watch soccer with North American Soccer and international soccer channels on their 32 new TVs.

POW IS OPEN This new pizza and wings concept opened downtown at 4th Street and 1st Avenue N. in the space formerly occupied by Wood-Fired Pizza. The restaurant has distinctive artwork throughout the restaurant with a 1950s comic book feel. Owner Philippe Theodore also owns the adjacent World of Beer, which does not serve food. The two businesses are joined by a covered patio so servers can easily deliver meals to World of Beer patrons. The menu features pizza and wings, both cooked in their wood fired imported pizza oven. If you not interested in beer from next door, they do have a full bar.

NIYASA This fresh pressed juice bar is opening next to the State Theater, at 689 Central Avenue.

CENTRAL MELT Opening on the other side of the State Theater, this new sandwich shop at 685 Central Avenue, will specialize in grilled cheese sandwiches.

PIETOPIA PIZZA This new upscale, casual dine-in Italian restaurant is now open at 5226 4th Street N. They feature Farm to table fresh food with no GMOs and natural ingredients. Specializing in European-style A rtisanal pizzas up to 39” pizza long. They serve beer and imported wines. They open at 4pm Monday - Saturday and at 11am on Sundays.

STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION Stillwater’s Tavern, the new concept by the owners of Bella Brava, is still under construction but making good progress. They will be located just north of Bella Brava, across from the Museum of Fine Arts.

KAHWA OPENS Bob Lee’s Tires now has a Kahwa Coffee inside the shop at 1631 4th Street North. Now, you can get your tires rotated and enjoy a cup of coffee while you wait. They have regular coffee, espresso and cappuccino in addition to pastries and sandwiches. They open at 7:30am, Monday - Saturday. Find them on Facebook at Kahwa&B obsLees.

RECENTLY CLOSED The King and I, located at 445 Central Avenue.
When my wife and I moved to St. Pete, we instantly fell in love with the Old Northeast neighborhood just north of downtown, with homes that reflect a century of progress and renewal. But more important was the way owners of mansions mix easily with renters of garage apartments, its reputation for civic engagement and its neighborly porch parties.

So I can appreciate wanting to preserve the Old Northeast. But preserve what, especially if it means severely restricting property owners’ rights? That is what becoming a “local historic district” would do and not just in Old Northeast but citywide.

City Council may make that easier by sharply reducing the number of property owners required to approve applying for local historic status, from 66 percent of all owners to a majority of those who vote on the issue. Which means a tiny minority of owners could impact everyone’s property rights.

Changes to home exteriors would require approval by unelected volunteers and/or the historic preservation staff, with added permitting costs and time delays. Many changes would simply not be allowed, while others would be extravagantly expensive.

Want to change your rotted wood windows to energy-efficient, hurricane-proof ones? Not likely to be approved, according to city staff, who say rules would dictate the owner restore the wood windows instead. But they are not hurricane rated, which means higher home insurance premiums.

Local historic districts can become architectural museums, according to one local architect. “We essentially lock the neighborhood in time,” she said. “Old Northeast was built off waves of architecture, and that’s what makes it such a wonderful neighborhood. Preserving the “glory days” isn’t advancing us as a community.”

In Old Northeast, the 1920 owners of Craftsman homes probably bemoaned the invasion of Mediterranean Revival homes, who in turn, looked down their noses at the Tudor Revival dwellings of the 1930s, who could not abide the Masonry Vernacular homes of the ‘40s. Yet, all these homes now contribute to the neighborhood’s historic nature and are considered worthy of preservation.

But by trying to save older neighborhoods, we risk destroying them. Young families can’t afford to fix up homes on their budget. Older folks may not be able to maintain theirs using expensive historic materials. Other homes may stand empty because owners are unwilling to spend a fortune to be historical.

People have maintained this neighborhood for 100 years without being told to. They might express their individuality by painting their bungalow pink or adding a historically incorrect porch from which to view passing neighbors; but they do it because they want to live in the moment, not the past. That’s a tradition worth preserving.

Robert Griendling can reached at bob@griendling.com. A version of this column first appeared in the Tampa Bay Times.
MISS FLORIDA PAGEANT
The 80th Anniversary of the Miss Florida Pageant will take place at the Mahaffey Theatre from June 16 to 20. The event will be open to the public and tickets are on sale. The winner will be crowned on Saturday, June 20th and will compete in the Miss America pageant on September 13, 2015 in Atlantic City televised live on ABC TV. For further information check out the MissFlorida.org web site.

The Miss Florida week of activities kicks off with a “High Heel Hike” at Sundial in St. Petersburg. The 48 contestants will participate in this special event on June 13th. One of the highlights of the Pageant will be a “Forever Miss Florida Talent Show” on Friday night, June 19th at the Mahaffey with former Miss Florida’s performing.

Miss Florida receives at least an $18,000 educational scholarship and another $50,000 in wardrobe, prizes, etc. during the year. The current Miss America -Kira Kazantsev from New York State - will be attending the Miss Florida Pageant in St. Pete. Dozens of former Miss Florida’s along with this year’s 48 contestants will converge on St. Petersburg with their families and sponsors as the new Miss Florida 2015 is crowned. In addition, 34 contestants competing for Miss Florida’s Outstanding Teen will also be participating.

OPERA COMPETITION
The First Place $3000 winner of St. Petersburg Opera Guild’s 35th Annual College Student and Young Professional OPERA COMPETITION, held Saturday, April 11 was soprano Sarah Payne from Sunrise, FL. She is a graduate of Florida International University with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. She has performed in numerous performances at FIU Opera Theater, Sienna Music Festival, and Miami Summer Music Festival.

Second Place Winner of $2000 was soprano, Cait Frizzell from Stuart who holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Florida State University (2013) and Master of Performance in Vocal Performance from Royal College of Music in London.

Third Place Winner of $1000 was Amber Rose Romero, soprano from Lake Worth who has an Associate in Arts from Palm Beach State College, and Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Palm Beach Atlantic University. Honorable Mention prize of $500 was awarded to Megan Barrera, Soprano from Palm Beach. She holds a Bachelor in Music Vocal Performance from University of Miami, and Master’s in Music Vocal Performance and Doctorate in Musical Arts from LSU in Baton Rouge, LA.

Ursula Carroll was Chairperson of the event. Marilyn J. Ward is President of the St. Petersburg Opera Guild.

MEDITATION IN THE GARDENS
Join Emily Rivera at 12:30pm for Meditation every Wednesday at Sunken Gardens. During this hour Emily will guide participants into cultivating mindfulness in their own lives. Weekly you will be guided in a journey of self-awareness into your own consciousness. The cost is $15 and includes admission to the Gardens.

This class is ideal for anyone who’s wanting to reclaim the richness, gift, and power of his or her moments. Whether you are new to meditation or someone who has been meditating for years, Meditation at the Gardens, will take your practice and your life, to the next level.
ART & MUSEUM NEWS

THE DALI MUSEUM
620 1st Ave. South
895-6620
www.studio620.org

Dali & del Vino: Minds, Machines & Masterpieces Exhibit
Now through July 26: Explore the whole of the human experience through the eyes of Salvador Dali & Leonardo da VIno. The exhibit features over 75 works.

Dali and Dali: Architects of the Imagination will be on view at The Dali Museum January through June, 2016.
The multi-media exhibition tells the story of the unlikely alliance between two of the most renowned artists of the twentieth century: brilliantly eccentric Spanish Surrealist Salvador Dali and American entertainment innovator Walt Disney. It is presented through original paintings, story sketches, conceptual artwork, objects, correspondences, archival film, photographs, and audio.
The friendship between Disney and Dali was born out of the mutual admiration of two visionary artists and sustained by the simple kinship of two small town boys on a never-ending quest to broaden the horizons of art. They collaborated on the animated short Destino—which, regrettably to both Disney and Dali was never completed during their lifetimes.

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

Images of the Floating World and Beyond: Japanese Woodblock Prints extends from the late-eighteenth century to the twenty-first. The exhibition continues through Sunday, August 16. Director Emeritus Dr. John E. Schodler has curated the show with Stephanie Chill, M.A.

Ukiyo-e, or “images of the Floating World,” depict hedonistic pleasures in ancient Japan—the world of geishas, kabuki actors, sumo wrestlers. Woodblock prints of the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries by such celebrated artists as Utagawa, Hokusai, Hiroshige, and Yoshitoshi set the stage.

William Pachner, one of the most distinguished artists ever to live in the Tampa Bay area, turned 100 April 17. In celebration, the MFA is presenting a select installation, William Pachner: Centenary, in the Lee Malone Gallery through Sunday, July 26. Katherine Pill, Assistant Curator of Art after 1950, has selected the works.

MONET to MATISSE—On the French Coast continues through May 2.

SECOND SATURDAY ARTWALK
stpeteartwalkalliance.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.

Be the first to see new works of art as ArtWalk is Opening Night where many galleries and studios premiere new works. Some are only open on ArtWalk, and many offer demonstrations and refreshments. It’s impossible to take in the entire ArtWalk in one night! Plan to drive, walk, or take the trolleys to visit the districts of your choice.

Free ArtWalk trolleys encompass the arts districts. Free parking can be found on 1st Ave N and 1st Ave S from 13th St. to 30th St., as well as at the Florida Holocaust Museum, MGA Studios and the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum. Download the map and list of participants to plan your festive art evening at www.stpeteartwalkalliance.org.

The St. Petersburg Arts Alliance strives to be the umbrella organization for the arts—advocating for the arts, facilitating the growth of the creative arts community, and driving arts-related economic development in St. Petersburg.
AFFAIRS

Two years ago, a handful of volunteers were Gardens in 1957 remain. Noting that sad state of dollar bills and pocket change. A number of individuals, lobby of the Gardens has generated over $3,000 in Apparently the community agrees. The display in the small organization called Flamings Forever. No one needed to purchase the flamings. What a fabulous surprise! Although Bill and Marie do not even live in St. Pete, they wanted to leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy and thought the flamings were a wonderful way to do that. So, when the flamings do come to the Gardens, five of them will be named after members of Bill’s family, as well as a beloved pet - Oscar, Willy, Marie, Ali and Ritchie.

Now that Sunken Gardens will have flamings again, the Flamings Forever group will continue to raise funds for other projects at the Gardens, including a soft-billed away and a children’s garden.

FLAMINGOS FOREVER CAMPAIGN

Have you been to Sunken Gardens in recent years? Many in St. Pete have not visited since they were in grade school and toured the Gardens on a field trip. If you haven’t enjoyed a program or plant festival at the Gardens lately, you may not know only two of the original 17 flamings brought to the Gardens in 1957 remain. Noting that sad state of affairs two years ago, a handful of volunteers for years, was in determined to re-stock the dwindling flock, and found a small organization called Flamings Forever. No one could imagine Sunken Gardens flamings again. Apparently the community agrees. The display in the lobby of the Gardens has generated over $3,000 in dollar bills and pocket change. A number of individuals, organizations and businesses have purchased naming rights to a flamingo. Friends and neighbors have generously supported the fundraising campaign. Several weeks ago, the campaign had raised a total of $45,000, almost reaching the flamings goal of $60,000. Then, out of the blue Bill and Marie Raspoivik said they wanted to donate the remaining amount needed to purchase the flamings. What a fabulous surprise! Although Bill and Marie do not even live in St. Pete, they wanted to leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy and thought the flamings were a wonderful way to do that. So, when the flamings do come to the Gardens, five of them will be named after members of Bill’s family, as well as a beloved pet - Oscar, Willy, Marie, Ali and Ritchie.

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Dave Traynor is the man behind the sales team for the new ONE condominium. He is VP of Development for Smith & Associates, the primary broker behind the new condo, simply called ONE St. Petersburg. It is called ONE because it is at 100 First Avenue N., the intersection of 1st Street and 1st Avenue North.

ONE is only part of the development east of Jannus Landing and west of the Hampton Inn. The project will include the 41-story condo, a 174 room Hyatt Hotel, retail space and a new large fitness center. Since the Grand Opening on February 1st there are over $100 million in reservations for ONE St. Petersburg. That represents about 40% in only 60 days! Traynor, who lives on Harbor Island, has been with Smith & Associates 12 years and has been involved in all their major development projects. Before Traynor, he worked with The Water Club in Snell Island which is currently 70% sold. Visit ONESPetersburg.com or call Traynor at 240-3840.

Dave Traynor - One to Watch

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A NEW SHELTER FOR CASA

Last year, more than 300 survivors and their children lay their head on a pillow in CASA’s (Community Action Stops Abuse) 110-year old 30-bed shelter, but 1400 others were turned away because there were no available beds. CASA is now building a new domestic violence shelter which is a true gift to the community. It will be a new solution to help more survivors of domestic violence and their children, who typically arrive at CASA in the middle of the night, scared and confused.

Twenty-eight years ago, CASA bought their aging house in a beautiful historic St. Petersburg neighborhood. When they purchased it, the house had been vacant for years, was in desperate need of air conditioning and repairs, and housed a kitchen that accommodated no more than a small family. With several grants, the old house was slowly upgraded. CASA staff and leadership poured their love and money into the home and made it a workable solution for three decades. The stars created but the home’s six bedrooms accommodated 30 mostly bunk beds and a few cribs. Eleven people share one tiny bathroom, but families cooked together, cried together, even sang and danced together and most importantly, healed together. But, CASA’s staff and Board of Directors could not forget the 1400 survivors, including children, who were turned away each year. After more than two year search, a five-acre property was found. A state grant awarded $2.5 million of the $12 million needed for the project, with the caveat that CASA have families in the new facility by June 30, 2015. CASA received a New Market Tax Credit loan for the construction and a lucrative offer to sell the old historic home CASA used for the last 30 years. Fifth Third Bank agreed to support the loan for the new 100-bed shelter.

Still, challenge continues as CASA’s races to raise the full $12 million for the project. As opening day draws nearer, the Board of Directors and staff remain committed to reaching their goals. There are opportunities to name a room when a family will be laying their heads each night. Your $10,000 donation to name a CASA bedroom will remind survivors how much this community stands in support of their success. There are additional opportunities, large and small, to make a difference. Sales tax incentives allow your business to donate materials to CASA, making you eligible for sales tax benefits through the State of Florida. Contact John Biesinger at 895-4912, x105 or biesinger@casa-stpete.org for information.

In June, families will move from the 100-year old, six-bedroom house to a home with 50 bedrooms where only four people share a bathroom. It will have two kitchens, laundry facilities, a children’s advocacy center, a community garden, and 32,000 square feet. It will be life changing, not only for CASA, but for their survivor families. Staff and residents will have private office space, rooms for counseling, addiction programs, mental health services, and legal advocacy. Families will have access to a gym, a health clinic, a computer room, and den to simply relax.

The new shelter has what feels like endless space for children to play inside and out. Soon, the outdoor space will be filled with a KoBoom! playground chosen by the families at CASA and built by more than 100 volunteers. Help change a family’s future! Visit casanewshelter.org to learn how you can make a difference. CASA’s Development Director, Tuesdi Dyer, is always excited to discuss the plans for the new center, and she can be reached at 895-4912, x114 or tdyer@casa-stpete.org.

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**3 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONDO PURCHASE**

by Libby & Ron Salamone, Broker Associates RE/MAX Metro

Early real estate scams, like “buying swamp land in Florida,” eventually led to Florida becoming one of the most heavily regulated states for real estate sales, particularly with condominiums sales. Our state now provides a large range of protections for Buyers, but Buyer Beware still applies.

**The Basics:** Consider location, condition, construction, floor plan, pet and rental rules, amenities, price, maintenance fees, and current or planned assessments. Then narrow your selection.

**The Intangibles:** Find out if the “personality of the Condo Building” fits with your personality. Visit at different times of the day, and if you can, visit at night and on weekends, too. Talk with people who live in the building. Find out for yourself if sound transmits from the condo next door, above, or below. Investigate how far the elevators, pumps and compressors are from your prospective condo and if you can hear them from the unit. Ask about trash disposal both for everyday use and disposal of large items. If there is a trash room, note how far it is from your condo and if it is fresh and neat. See if there is a place to store your bike or wash your car.

Read the bulletin boards. Visit the workout facilities, pool, and social rooms at different times of the day. Think about things you like to do, and if you will be happy and comfortable doing them in your new condo building.

If you are buying a condo during the summer and plan to use it only in the winter, remember the earth rotates on a tilted axis and the Sun will be in a different location at different times of the year.

**The Due Diligence Period:** Florida law requires the Seller to provide a complete set of Condominium Documents to the Buyer including the Declaration of Condominium, rules and regulations, most recent financials including budget, amount of reserves, and the answers to “most frequently asked questions” about the condominium. After receiving the “Condo Docs”, prospective Buyers of a resale condominium have a three-day right of rescission period; for new construction the time is 10 days. During that time, Buyers may elect to cancel the contract and get a refund of their deposit.

Request copies of the Association’s board meeting minutes for the last six months, too. Read the Condominium Governance document published by the Florida Department of Professional and Business Regulation. It explains how condos work and the role and responsibilities of the various parties.

Florida has excellent protections for Buyers as compared to other states, and is a reasonably safe place to buy a condominium. Of all the places in Florida to buy a condo, we think the St Pete area is the very best!


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**THE MAHAFFEY HOW WE REMEMBER IT**

“I was a playboy bunny in St Petersburg’s Playboy Club at the Bayfront Concourse hotel next to the theater and Bayfront Center. Working at the club we got to meet many of the stars that played at the Bayfront arena, because they stayed at our hotel. After many concerts, the management was sensitive to the arena in their outfits with balloons, to invite the performers and their crew to the Playboy Club. I remember meeting many stars including Bud Baker, Lonnie Fields, Barry Manilow and the band Alabama, who during the early 1980s was really hot.” Rebecca Eubanks Heishman

“In the mid 1970s, Ringling, Barnum and Bailey Circus was at the Bayfront Center. I took my son. He surprised me with tickets to the Boston Concert that night at the Bayfront Center. He had the keys to get in before the doors opened and told me to pick any seat I wanted! Both of his last names were lion, and I am not lying.” Eileen Stafford, resident

“We moved to St Petersburg, around 1969. I remember going to the Bayfront Theater and even being on stage several times. We participated in the Junior League Follies in the old theater. At the time, I had a Shepherd/Terrier mix named Patty. I would go out on the stage and sing Good Night Irene Mahaffey. They even put her name on a star on the changing room door backstage.” Mark Mahaffey, The Mahaffey Company

“I remember going to many concerts, Broadway musicals and events at the theater. One memorable event was when City Council held a meeting there to receive input on whether or not to build a baseball stadium. Supporters overwhelmingly outnumbered opponents and they wore white baseball caps with the word “GO” on the front. My favorite events held at the Mahaffey were the Miss Florida Teen Pageants when my daughter Julann was a contestant. She looked beautiful and stunned the audience with her incredible voice.

Of course, I recall the effort to renovate the theater. We converted an enclosed theater with no windows that was leaking on all six sides to the magnificent Duke Energy Center, adding a new orientation to the south, facing an entry plaza and rotunda windows overlooking the bay, and a new Dali Museum across the plaza. It is certainly one of Florida’s most impressive performing arts venues.” Rick Baker, former Mayor of St. Petersburg

**EVENING HISTORIC WALKING TOUR SERIES IS BACK**

Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 pm tour the historic Kenwood neighborhood. Tour starts & ends at Cappy’s Pizza, 2900 1st Ave. N. Historic Kenwood, known for its bungalow homes, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The neighborhood showcases how a historic, neglected and tattered neighborhood can come back with a group of dedicated homeowners.

The summer walking tours last between 60 and 90 minutes. Tours are free for members and $5 for non-members. Reservations welcome but not required. (727) 824-7802 or info@stpetepreservation.org.
EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTIES. EXCEPTIONAL AGENTS. EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE.