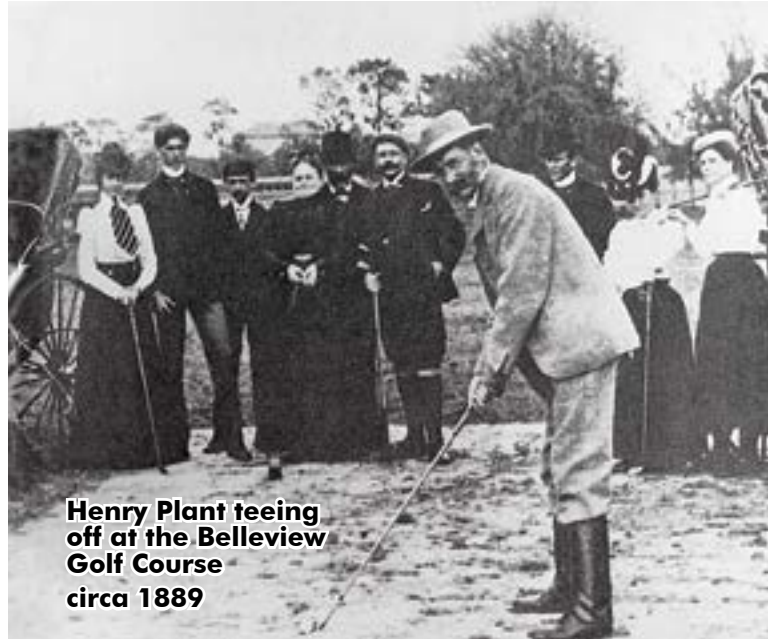


# DOWNTOWN NEWS

Including Old Northeast and Snell Isle

Magazine



**Henry Plant teeing off at the Belleview Golf Course circa 1889**

## HENRY PLANT Built Hotels and Cities

In our last issue, our feature article on Henry Plant began with Plant's teenage years, when he headed off to work on a steamship as a deckhand. He went on to become the owner of thousands of miles of railroads and numerous ships. When we left him, he was looking for a southwest coastal city to build a port that could connect his ships to Key West and Cuba. After a false start in Cedar Key, he targeted Tampa – a city of only 700.

In December of 1883, Henry Plant made his first personal appearance in Tampa, traveling on his own railroad from Kissimmee to Tampa in only 15 hours—the fastest time anyone had ever traveled 70 miles. Within a few months, he would have a 100-mile route from Tampa to Sanford that took only 12 hours.

Plant made Tampa the end of his southern railroad and the home port of his new line of steamships sailing to Havana. This helped

Tampa experience an influx of new workers and created a boom for the Tampa economy - its first ever. In a flurry of construction, boarding houses and new stores popped up. Farmers and others started spending their hard-earned wages, causing prices to start rising. The cost of beef rose to a record 10¢ per pound—unheard of at the time.

With train tracks in place, Plant proceeded to make his Key West connection a reality. He established the Plant Steamship Line to Key West and Havana. His two ships, the *SS Mascotte* and the *SS Olivette*, both built in Philadelphia, carried people, freight and the U.S. mail.

- **Continued on page 7**



### Also in this Issue:

#### Everyone counts

America gets one chance every decade to count its population and it is almost time to do it again during the 2020 Census. The results determine how many seats each state has in the House of Representatives, and the distribution of Federal funds.

- **page 12**

#### Happy New Year!

Not only is it a new year, it is a new decade. What was life like the last time the year ended in 20? We took a look back to see what has changed since 1920 - **page 18**



#### 2020 is a Leap Year

Do you know why and what that means? - **page 16**

#### Bar and Restaurant News

There are always lots of restaurants coming and going downtown. Find the latest restaurant news and keep up with all the changes - **pages 14 & 15**





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 NEWS**

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

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

We hope you enjoy our newsletters. We want your news and input.

Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us your comments, or take our survey at StPeteDowntownNewsletter.com.

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at the UPS Stores at 2nd St. and 2nd Ave S., 740 4th Street N. or 38th Avenue N. next to Publix.

Thank you for reading,

Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-430-8300 bob@griffindirectories.com

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN MARCH!**



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**THE NEW ST. PETE PIER - IT'S ALMOST READY TO OPEN**

The new Pier is scheduled to open this Spring, so it won't be long now until we can take our kids and grandkids to the fabulous playground, try our luck on the fishing deck, or simply stroll along the water. In the meantime, here's an update:

**PIER RANGERS** - Do you want to be a part of the new St. Pete Pier? The City is starting a Pier Ranger Outreach Program. This is an all-volunteer program of about 50 adults who are interested in supporting the City and its new pier. Individuals will help educate the community and visitors about the new St. Pete Pier. Rangers will be expected to walk (a lot), stand for long periods of time and talk to visitors during their shifts about various aspects of the City and the new pier.

Volunteer Pier Rangers must complete three hours of training (two hours in the classroom and one hour touring the site). Rangers must have access to a smart phone with mobile Internet capabilities while volunteering and must commit to at least four shifts of outreach. These volunteer opportunities begin with the Pier Opening, as a mandatory event, followed by other weekend activities culminating with the Fourth of July extravaganza. Rangers will be expected to walk, stand, and interact with the public during their shifts, often outdoors and in summer heat. Rangers are strictly volunteers (no compensation.) If you are interested, please send an e-mail to Robert.Barto@StPete.org to receive an application.

**PIER AMBASSADORS** - The city has already lined up twenty young people to work as Pier Ambassadors for when the Pier opens in the spring. This special group of teen volunteers from St. Petersburg junior and senior high schools will meet, host and tour visitors around the new pier. Trained and updated in local educational sessions, the students will know

the history of the former piers and talk about the development of the new pier and its surroundings. For more information, contact Leah McRae, Director of Education for the City, at Leah.McRae@StPete.org.



**PIER VENDORS** - The pier may not be open yet, but the vendors are set. The city has accepted applications from 17 local merchants to operate in the Pier Marketplace, a shaded area near the entrance to the 26-acre district. Initially, the Marketplace will be open 10am to 6pm, Friday through Sunday. There may be extended hours on special days and with special events.


**PIER POLES:** Those towering poles hovering over the new pier walkway are the pylons that will support the giant net sculpture designed by artist Janet Echelman. They will help support the colorful and dramatic sculpture that will overhang the Family Park area of the Pier District. The construction started this month; watch for it to develop over the next month.

**NEXT STEPS:** Over the coming weeks, interior work will continue on the structures at the Pier. The Splash Pad, Playground and all associated landscaping will be completed. Public art will be installed. Trams will be tested. A new shade structure at Spa Beach Park will be installed.

Advertisement for The Salamone Group. Features a man's portrait, a modern building, and a marina. Text includes 'Discover Luxury Coastal Living.', 'SOLD', 'FOR LEASE', and contact information for Andrew Salamone.



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# Did You Know



**PUBLISHER PARTICIPATES IN GREAT AMERICAN TEACH IN** Once again, our Publisher Bob Griffin spoke at two schools during November's Great American Teach In. He spoke at Seminole High School to 10th graders and at Anona Elementary to all the 5th graders. "Speaking to 5th graders and 10th graders requires a totally different presentation," says Griffin. "Basically, I discussed where ideas for the stories in our News Magazine come from and described our creative process. I emphasized the importance of leaning how to write well and with the older kids, not letting text habits creep into their writing."

**GIVE LAWN BOWLING A TRY** If you are looking for a new way to be active, have fun, and socialize a little bit in downtown, you might want to try Lawn Bowl which dates back to 1916 in St. Petersburg. The St. Petersburg Lawn Bowling Club bowls outdoors at 556 4th Avenue N., across from the Colosseum, in a heritage protected clubhouse. It is lots of fun, competitive, and entertaining

The game is different than indoor bowling where you knock down pins; it is similar to bocce ball. The difference is the balls – called bowls – are not really balls. They are not perfectly round, making it more challenging. It takes some practice to get the technique just right, but you can start bowling the first day. Come and see how it's played.

They bowl November to April, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:30 am sharp. FREE Lessons begins at 9am.

**RAISING HOPE** Eckerd Connects' Raising Hope will host its 7th annual "Have a Heart" event on Saturday, February 1 at 6:30 pm. This year's event will be a fun-filled casino night in Dunedin, the birthplace of the Raising Hope program 15 years ago. The event aims to raise money to continue to supply clothes, hygiene products, and school supplies to local foster children. Buy your tickets at [eckerd.org/haveaheart](http://eckerd.org/haveaheart).

**NEW CITIZEN** In December, the Florida Orchestra Music Director Michael Francis became an American citizen in a ceremony at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Tampa. The maestro grew up in Sussex, along England's southern coast, and conducts all over the world, but he calls the Tampa Bay area home, along with his wife, Cindy, and daughter, Annabella. He has been TFO music director since 2015.



# and More...

**60 AND COUNTING** This is our 60th issue of the Downtown St Pete News Magazine, which began over 11 years ago. Our first issue's cover story in March of 2008 was about baseball coming to St. Petersburg—in 1914. We print similar news magazines in three other cities - Indian Rocks Beach, Belleair and Clearwater Beach). You can see them all Online at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com). We enjoy your feedback, please e-mail your comments to [Bob@GriffinDirectories.com](mailto:Bob@GriffinDirectories.com).



**STREET CLOSURES** Beginning on Monday, March 9, downtown streets will start closing in preparation for the Grand Prix. They will begin being reopened after the race on Monday, March 16 and finish on the 17th.

**VETERANS AND THE CGX** As of January 1, the Department of Defense expanded in-store military exchange and commissary shopping privileges and MWR resale facility use to: Purple Heart recipients, former Prisoners of War, all Veterans with service-connected disabilities and caregivers registered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There is a Coast Guard Exchange in downtown St. Petersburg and in Sand Key. For more information on this new policy, go to [MilitaryOneSource.MIL/Expanding-Access](http://MilitaryOneSource.MIL/Expanding-Access).

**GOOD VIBES** St Pete College and USF/SP are looking for student musicians, bands and visual artists to participate in the Good Vibes Art and Music Festival to be held April 25th in Williams Park. To get more information and apply, visit [SPC.Edu/Vibes](http://SPC.Edu/Vibes). The deadline to apply is January 31.

**K-CUPS** Last year Keurig sold more than nine BILLION single-serve plastic coffee pods — or K-Cups. Placed end to end, they could circle the earth roughly 10 times. Zero could be easily recycled, so they generated substantial plastic waste.



While new K-Cups are advertised as recyclable, they are so small and light, they get caught or jammed in the recycling equipment, or slip through and are sorted as the wrong material. Because of this, no Pinellas County program accepts them. Where they are accepted, you have to peel off the aluminum foil top and toss it along with the grounds and paper filter, then recycle the plastic pod shell – it's not the easiest thing to do. Remember whether recycled or not, the production of each one requires energy, materials, chemicals, water, and transportation.

This doesn't mean you have to give up your Keurig - you can still use it to make a decent cup of coffee with reusable pods. And they can be filled with any coffee you want. It is cheaper and eco-friendly

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN MARCH** Read this issue, as well as others, Online at [BeachNewsletters.com](http://BeachNewsletters.com).

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## HENRY PLANT, CONTINUED

By Bob Griffin

New shipping routes gave Tampa an added economic lift and encourage the cigar industry to move from Key West and Havana to Tampa/Ybor City. Shortly, two of the three largest cigar manufacturers moved their operations and employees to Tampa.

Plant knew having an hotel located at major rail stops encourage traveling and would be important for his company's growth. Around 1887, Plant built the Pico Hotel in Sanford, which had become a major Florida terminus for both his steamers and his trains. The Pico Hotel provided accommodations for his passengers as they traveled in Central Florida. It was so successful, he either built or purchased the Hotel Punta Gorda, Hotel Kissimmee, Seminole Hotel, The Ocala House, and the Ft. Myers Hotel.

In 1888, Tampa was hit with another Yellow Fever outbreak, earning it the nickname "Fever Town." No one knew the disease was caused by mosquitoes, and in fear, people began fleeing the small town.

Plant knew this was not good for his new jewel destination and announced he would spend over \$1 million dollars on a new port, wharf, and a bridge over the Hillsborough River. He also announced the project would include "the most luxurious hotel in the world." He single-handedly proceeded to create Port Tampa - then one of the most efficient harbor operations in the country.

The water at the port was too shallow for larger ships so he built a one-mile wharf extending to deeper water into Old Tampa Bay. On top of it, he built train tracks and the small Port Tampa Inn at the end. Guests could conceivably fish from their rooms.

Plant spent a million dollars in just six months and suddenly Tampa was back in boom times again with one of the most efficient harbor operations in the country, something Plant accomplished almost overnight. The Port of Tampa was fully operational by June of 1888. One month later, he started construction on his new Tampa Bay Hotel.

The Tampa Bay Hotel (now the University of Tampa campus) opened February 2, 1891. The massive hotel mixed Moorish and Victorian architecture at a cost of over \$3 million. Built on six acres facing the Hillsborough River, if you walked completely around the main building, you literally walked a mile

During construction, Plant hired hundreds of carpenters, masons, bricklayers, painters, plasterers, and plumbers, plus a new breed of workers - electricians. The hotel was completely electric, inside and out. Even the domes and minarets were illuminated at night. The hotel opened with 511 rooms, as well as thirteen domes and minarets. The interior was furnished with artwork, statuary, porcelain, and period furniture. Most of the furnishings were purchased in France by Henry's second wife, Margaret - at a cost of close to \$1 million

For the grand opening, Plant held a ball. People came from Boston, New York and Philadelphia. Every room was occupied. Guests arrived by passenger train - his, of course - that pulled up directly to the hotel. Plant invited Henry Flagler, his friend and competitor, to the opening. Flagler had a similar business and had been busy building railroads and hotels along the east coast of Florida. When Flagler received the invitation to attend the Grand Opening, he telegraphed back, "Where the hell is Tampa?" Plant responded, "Just follow the crowds."

The New York Times called the Tampa Bay Hotel "one of the grandest hotels in the country."

While the Tampa hotel was being built, Plant continued to expand his railroad system. His Southern Express Company added the Texas Express Company and several other smaller subsidiaries. By 1895, he employed over 12,600 people, owned over 24,000 miles of track in 15 states, 1,463 horses, and 886 wagons. The Plant Steamship Line stretched from Nova Scotia to Panama.



Belleview Biltmore under construction 1896

employees were brought to New York to help him celebrate.

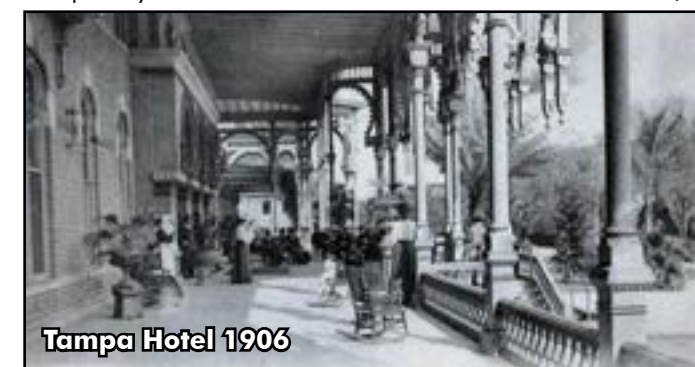
The Big Freeze of 1894 killed most of Pinellas County's citrus trees and that became Plant's catalyst to extending his empire into Pinellas County. Because there was hardly any citrus to ship north, Peter Demen, who had operated a railroad from Tarpon Springs to downtown St. Petersburg, went bankrupt. Plant bought Demen's fledgling railroad operation for pennies on the dollar.

A new town had recently formed between Tarpon Springs and St. Petersburg called "Clear Water" and he bought most of the land on the bluffs overlooking Clear Water Bay. Doing what he always did, he built a small hotel, but it was very different from the all-brick structures he had been building. This one was constructed mostly from Florida heart pine with a Swiss-style architecture.

A nine-hole golf course, Florida's first, was built on the grounds. The hotel had only 134 rooms (compared to Tampa's 511). Like Tampa, the hotel was all electric; each room came with two light bulbs. Because of the hotel's impressive water views, Plant called it The Belleview.

Henry Plant was 78 years old when the hotel officially opened on January 15, 1897, six years after the Tampa Bay Hotel. He died two and a half years later at the age of 80 on June 23, 1899.

His many legacies live on. In Tampa, much of the Amtrak and CSX rail lines were formerly Plant rail beds. The University of Tampa, once the Tampa Bay Hotel, is a National Historic Landmark. Its minarets are Tampa's architectural icons and the City of Tampa seal contains Plant's steamship the Mascotte. Tampa and Port Tampa streets bear Plant and business associates' names. H. B. Plant High School, opened in 1926, is still a school today. Cities Auburndale, Plant City, Port Tampa, Sanford, and Trilby all attribute their beginnings to Henry Plant.



Tampa Hotel 1906

In October of 1895, members of his family and business associates threw him a large birthday party. Some 3,000



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## SOCIAL SECURITY ANSWERS

By Erin Emmett, Financial Planner at Rogan & Associates

All our lives, we have been contributing to Social Security, but what do we really know about our benefits? As we approach retirement age, questions arise. When should I begin collecting my benefits. How much will I receive? Can I still work? How does this affect my taxes?

Here are seven most often asked Social Security questions.

- When should I take my benefit? Are my options only age 62, or full retirement age? What most folks don't realize is that you can file at 63, 64, and beyond until you reach full retirement age. In fact, generally speaking, the longer you wait, the larger the benefit.
- Do I have to take my benefit by full retirement age? Can I wait longer than that? You can wait until after you reach full retirement age. By doing so, your benefit will increase by a maximum of 8 percent per year for each year you delay between full retirement age and age 70.
- Can I file and continue to work? You can, but there are income limits prior to full retirement age that may affect your benefit. Your benefit may be reduced dramatically so it is important to consider this prior to enrolling.
- What if I decide to go back to work after reaching full retirement age? Will my benefit be reduced? Once you reach and surpass full retirement age, your benefit will not be reduced if you continue to work.
- Must my spouse and I choose the same options/timing? No, there are several options you and your spouse can individually consider when choosing your benefits. It is important to come up with a strategy that makes the most sense for your situation.
- Is my Social Security taxable? Two things are inevitable: death and taxes. Your benefit may be taxable, but it depends on your combined income. Discuss this with your tax professional before you enroll or file.
- Shouldn't I just enroll as early as possible in case I pass away? While this is not something anyone wants to think, it is a factor to consider. Filing early means a lower benefit, and if you live to be 100, your benefit will always be based on that lower amount. If you file early and do pass away, your spouse may receive a lower death benefit than if had you waited longer to file. Too often we think of Social Security in terms of when instead of what. To have a successful retirement, it's important to think about what income you need vs. when you should file.

Social Security is likely very important to you—and we want to help you see the big picture as you prepare for retirement. Rogan & Associates will be hosting two **FREE Educational** Happy Hour Social Security Workshops - Wednesday, January 29 or Thursday, January 30 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at our office, 200 Ninth Avenue North, Safety Harbor. Both are open to the public.

Michael Lynch, managing director of strategic markets for Hartford Funds, will be on hand to help you get the information you need. Mike, who has been quoted in prestigious publications such as Fox Business, Today.com, US News & World Report, and MarketWatch, will conduct an engaging yet educational workshop to help you anticipate and prepare for the long-term during your retirement.

Please call 727-712-3400 to reserve your seat.

All information provided here is for informational and educational purposes only and is not intended to provide investment, tax, accounting or legal advice. As with all matters of an investment, tax, or legal nature, you should consult with a qualified tax or legal professional regarding your specific situation, as applicable. The preceding is not intended to be a recommendation or advice.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

### JANUARY

The Doo Wop Project Mahaffey 16  
Florida's Arbor Day 17  
SPC Spring Term Begins 18  
Gem, Jewelry & Bead Show Coliseum 17-19  
East-West Shrine Game Tropicana Field 18  
St Pete Beer & Bacon Festival Vinoy Park 18  
Florida Orchestra Beethoven #3 18-19  
Speaking of History Heritage Village 19  
Martin Luther King Jr Day 20  
Public Schools Closed 20  
MLK Jr Leadership Breakfast Coliseum 20  
MLK Day Drum Major Parade 20  
MLK Day Of Service 20  
MLK Family Education Day Tropicana 20  
American Stage's Skeleton Crew Opens 22  
Tribute To Whitney Houston Mahaffey 22  
Dali Midnight In Paris Under The Stars 23  
Chamber Commerce Annual Meeting 23  
St Pete Opera Rigoletto 24-28  
Home Show Tropicana Field 24-26  
Chinese New Year 25  
An Evening With Ira Glass Mahaffey 25  
Gasparilla Invasion 25  
Anne Frank Holocaust Museum Opens 25  
MFA Art Of The Stage Opens 25  
Holocaust Remembrance Day 27  
Job Fair Coliseum 28

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Mahaffey 28  
Preserve the Burg Bus Tour 28  
Senior Expo Coliseum 30  
Florida Orchestra Wild West Mahaffey 30  
Great Explorations Night At Brewseum 31  
Sing Out Tampa Bay Mahaffey 31

### FEBRUARY

Bernadette Peters Florida Orchestra Mahaffey 1  
Winter Whiskey Fest Urban Still House 1  
Preserve The Burg Downtown Walking Tour 1  
Super Bowl 2  
Groundhog Day 2  
Tribute To Carole King Mahaffey 5  
Museum Of Fine Arts Fl Orchestra 6  
World On A String Florida Orchestra Mahaffey 6  
Florida State Fair 6-17  
First Friday 7  
Preserve The Burg Waterfront Walking Tour 8  
James Bond FL Orchestra Mahaffey 8  
Big Band Dancing Coliseum 8  
Rays FanFest Tropicana Field 8  
Artwalk 8  
St. Petersburg Distance Classic 9  
Abba Mania Mahaffey 13  
Valentine's Day 14  
Shen Yun Mahaffey 14-19  
Preserve the Burg Mirror Lake Walking Tour 15  
Speaking of History Heritage Village 16  
Tampa Bay Bridal Show Coliseum 16  
Presidents' Day 17  
Public Schools Closed 17  
Florida State Fair Ends Mon 17  
Deadline to Register To Vote 18  
Conference on World Affairs 18-21  
MFA Chamber Music 21  
Rays Spring Training Starts 21  
Gregory Porter & Ledisi Mahaffey 21  
Rays First Spring Training Game 22  
Little League Season Opens 22  
SE Guide Dogs Walk Vinoy Park 22  
FL Orchestra Beethoven Mahaffey 22-23  
Sea Blues Clearwater 22-23  
St Pete Fine Art Festival Straub Park 22-23  
Localtopia In Williams Park 22  
Preserve the Burg Kenwood Walking Tour 22  
Sunken Gardens Flamingo Festival 23  
Polish Donut Dance Polish American Club 23  
Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday 25  
Ash Wednesday 26  
FL Orchestra Tchaikovsky Mahaffey 27  
American Stage People Downstairs Opens 27  
Cinema At The MFA 27  
Muse Awards MFA 28  
Wild Kratts Live Mahaffey 28  
Preserve the Burg Old NE Walking Tour 29  
Purple Stride Walk Vinoy Park 29  
Leap Year Day 29

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**ST. PETERSBURG CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS**

The St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs returns to St. Petersburg February 18 - 21, 2020, opening at the Palladium, and continuing on the campus of University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP), before closing at Eckerd College.

Now in its eighth year, the Conference features an opening address by Carol Bellamy, former Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) speaking at the Palladium on February 18. The Conference closes with a concluding speech by General John Nicholson (retired), recently the commander of NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan, February 21 in Fox Hall at Eckerd College. At USFSP, the Conference features more than 30 panels on February 19 - 21, covering many of today's hot button international issues. Panelists include diplomats, academics, journalists, and professionals in the arts, military and intelligence services.

Associated with the Conference is St. Petersburg International Week, February 15 - 22. Now in its second year, International Week includes theatrical & musical events, discounts at select local businesses and more.

For the latest information about the speakers and the program on the Conference and International Week, visit their website: [www.worldaffairsconference.com](http://www.worldaffairsconference.com).

**LOCALTOPIA  
February 22nd 10am-5pm**

This event, held in Williams Park, is St. Pete's largest community "Celebration of All Things Local", showcases over 250 of St. Pete's independent and community organizations. They promise this the biggest and best one yet! The event opens at 10am and goes until 5pm. Get more information at [KeepStPetersburgLocal.org/Localtopia](http://KeepStPetersburgLocal.org/Localtopia).

**FREE ADMISSION DAY FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**

In observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, St. Pete's Florida Holocaust Museum is offering free admission on Monday, January 27, from 10am to 4pm. The United Nations designated this day because of the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The UN urges all citizens to honor the six million victims of the Holocaust and the millions of other victims of Nazism, and to help prevent future genocides. The museum is located downtown at 55 5th Street South. Get more details at [www.theFHM.org](http://www.theFHM.org)

**MARGARET ACHESON STUART SOCIETY EVENT**

The Margaret Acheson Stuart Society has a one-of-a-kind evening set for Saturday, February 8, from 6:46 to 9:16 pm at the Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg.

Honoring the *Art of the Stage* exhibition which opens at the Museum on January 25, 2020, pARTy of the STrAnGE will celebrate theatre in all the ways the arts bring the stage to life. Partygoers will enter the Museum set in a backstage motif. Along with edgy entertainment, flamboyant food, dramatic drinks, and entertainment surprises, they "will get the feel of being behind the scenes, instead of seated as an audience," says event co-chair Lisa Funsch.

Well known actor Matthew McGee will be emcee. McGee was recently in a show-stopping performance in St. Petersburg Opera's production of "The Merry Widow."

Visit [stuartociety.donorshops.com](http://stuartociety.donorshops.com) for reservations - \$175.

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**16TH ANNUAL FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST PETERSBURG**

**March 13-15, 2020**

The Firestone Grand Prix of St Petersburg will be held March 13-15. This once again is the kickoff race for the entire IndyCar Series Racing Season. The 1.8-mile, 14-turn temporary waterfront street circuit features many prime spots to watch the race.

The track uses city streets circling Pioneer Park, the Duke Energy Center for the Arts, The Dali Museum and extends onto the runways at Albert Whitted Airport, which overlooks the waterfront of Tampa Bay and St. Petersburg's Harbor and Marina. The course runs clockwise with a starting and ending point near the Albert Whitted Airport. It runs north and turns at Central Avenue. The entire area is fenced in for safety and security.

Friday is practice and qualifying but you can still watch the cars run the track. Saturday and Sunday there will be a total of seven racing series. If you choose not to see it in person, the televised portion will be on Channel 28 Sunday, March 15th beginning at 3:30pm.

Tickets are available Online at [gpstpete.com](http://gpstpete.com) or by phone at 1-888-476-4479 with pricing starting at \$115 for reserved 3-day grandstand seats and \$60 for 3-day general Admission. Junior pricing is also available for those fans ages 12 and under. Pit access and Firestone Paddock passes can also be purchased. Single-day tickets are available.

If you go, the City parking garages will cost \$10/day on Friday and \$15/day Saturday and Sunday. There will be free shuttle service from Tropicana Field, but parking is still \$10 per car (credit card only). The pick-up is on 16th Street S., 7am to 10pm.

The Looper and the Central Avenue Shuttle will be offering rides throughout the weekend. For bike riders, there will be a large number of temporary bike racks available outside each entry gate in addition to nearly 75 other bike racks around the city streets. Gate 1 is at First Avenue and First Street S. and Gate 5 is at First Avenue and Second Street S. (Will Call is at Gate 5).

As one of the race activities, Movie's in the Park will be held Friday, March 13 in North Straub Park. Activities begin at 5:30pm and the movie "Herbie, Fully Loaded" begins at dark. This is not the original (1968) movie, but the fifth in the Herbie series (2005) starring Lindsay Lohan, Justin Long and Matt Dillon. The Movie is free. Bring your chairs and blankets.

Once again, runners and walkers have the unique opportunity to "race on track" in the 8th Annual Modern Business Associates 5K Run set for Friday, March 13. The 5K's start/finish line is on Bay Shore Drive NE on the water side of North Straub Park just south of The Vinoy. Entering and exiting the track's layout at Turn 9 near Central Ave. and Pioneer Park, the course runs the same direction as the race cars onto the runways of Albert Whitted Airport and through Downtown St. Petersburg. Online registration is now open at [gpstpete5k.com](http://gpstpete5k.com). Costs vary with advance registration (\$35-\$45). Registration includes commemorative finisher's medal, T-shirt, and Friday general admission to Firestone Grand Prix (if race packet is picked up in person on Thursday, March 12, at Rococo Steak, 655 2nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg).

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## THE 2020 CENSUS COUNTS - TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

By Nancy Obarski

The U.S. Constitution requires that “we, the people” be counted “decennially”—every 10 years. The promotional media campaign for the 2020 Census begins this month, leading up to the arrival of “participation letters” in mid-March. This shall be our country’s 24th “counting of the population”—a massive undertaking, executed according to a 220-page manual. The goal of this largest peacetime government project is to accurately count each and every individual—only once—and in the right place...where they live. The results will quantify America’s changing values and interests and literally define “who we are” as a nation.

Why is the Census so important? Our Constitution framers insisted our governmental representation be based on population as opposed to wealth or land ownership, making a “body count” crucial. Population changes over the last decade will determine each state’s number of seats in the House of Representatives as well as the number of Electoral College delegates for upcoming Presidential races. And, since the migration appears to be South and West, the Sunshine State stands to benefit.

The Census is also important to the future of our hospitals, education, roads, infrastructure and other vital resources because it dictates how \$675 billion per year in federal funds get spent at the state, county and local levels. It is even more crucial for our area as it affects recovery after natural disasters...namely hurricanes.

An increasingly diverse population has made the sampling trickier and more expensive through the years. In 1970, it cost \$16 to reach each household; in 2010 it was \$92, thanks to a \$133 million advertising campaign designed to boost dwindling response rates. Even so, only 74% responded. Although citizens are required by law to participate, no one has been prosecuted in the last 40 years for failure to do so.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

• **Everyone counts.** Everyone who is living in the United States on April 1, 2020, should be counted in the upcoming census. Unlike voting, this count includes everyone regardless of age, citizenship status or criminal history. Don’t forget to count children, extended family and non-family members living in your residence.

• **It’s about fair representation.** Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

• **It’s about \$675 billion.** The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities is based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

1. **Education.** The census helps determine where schools will be located and if the school is overcrowded. It also provides data to allocate funds for Title 1 Grants, the National School Lunch Program and the Head Start Preschool Program.

2. **Economic Development.** Businesses use census data to decide where to build offices and stores, which create jobs. Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.

3. **Local Government.** The city of St. Petersburg uses census data to decide when a road is overcrowded, where to build parks and libraries, and provides funding for programs such as food banks and homeless shelters.

• **Your privacy is protected.** It’s against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any

There have been many “technological tweaks” since the first Census in 1790. It was then called “the enumeration” and began shortly after Washington

took office. Wouldn’t our forefathers be shocked that, for the first time in 2020, most respondents will be able to complete their questionnaire Online from anywhere at any time on any device in addition to mail or phone? Aerial imagery will reduce the number of workers needed to physically walk the streets verifying addresses, which is the first step in the census process. Another first: Census field workers will be equipped with iPhone 8s and mobile apps.

Most folks will be asked to complete the questionnaire electronically. But, 20-25%, in areas where demographics or limited Internet availability is an issue, will still get a paper survey. Your response is due on Census Day, April 1, after which two “nudge” post cards and a follow-up letter will be sent to non-responders before Census workers resort to an in-person, knock-on-the-door visit. The Census Bureau will count about 330 million folks in less than a year. And, on the last day of 2020, the final population counts, which are expected to be up by about 8%, get delivered to the President. The results of the first Census, some 230 years ago, were dispatched to George Washington on horseback. No cybersecurity concerns there!

way that could identify you or your household. By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics that are not accessible by any law enforcement agency. There is no citizenship question.

• **The Census is secure.** The census information technology systems are designed to defend again and contain cyberthreats. All data submitted Online is encrypted to protect personal privacy, and the census cybersecurity program meets the highest standards for protecting personal information. Online responses are encrypted; once submitted, your data is no longer Online.

• **You do not have to speak English to take the 2020 census.** The Online or call-in questionnaire will be available in Spanish, Arabic, French, Japanese, Haitian Creole, Polish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Chinese, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese. Language guides will also be available in 59 languages, including Braille.

There are many ways to fill out the 2020 Census:

1. **Online.** For the first time in American history, the census will primarily be completed Online. In March, residents will receive a postcard with a special code to enter on the census website to fill out the questionnaire.

2. **Phone.** Residents can call a toll-free phone number and answer the census questionnaire over the phone.

3. **By Paper Ballot.** Residents can call the toll-free census phone number and request a paper ballot be mailed.

To learn more, visit [census.gov](http://census.gov) or [pinellascounty.com/census](http://pinellascounty.com/census).



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\*Cash Rewards are awarded through the HomeAdvantage program to buyers and sellers who select and use a real estate agent in the HomeAdvantage network. Home buyers or sellers are not eligible for Cash Rewards if they use an agent outside this network. Cash Rewards amounts are dependent on the commissions paid to the HomeAdvantage network agent. Obtaining a mortgage or use of any specific lending institution is not a requirement to earn Cash Rewards. If you are obtaining a mortgage, your lender may have specific rules on how Cash Rewards can be paid out. Cash Rewards are available in most states, however, are void where prohibited by law or by the lender. Please consult with your lender for details that may affect you. \*\*Buyer required to provide necessary documentation in timely manner.



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## Bar & Restaurant News



### TROPEZ ON CENTRAL AVENUE

Tropez specializes in shared plates with recipes from around the world. This neighborhood spot boasts an extensive menu made for sharing with friends and family and a craft cocktail bar with hand picked spirits, beers, and wines. While they serve lunch, dinner and late night, they are becoming a very popular brunch

spot with deconstructed Bloody Marys. Brunch is served until 3:30pm on Saturday and all day on Sunday. Find them at located at 437 Central Avenue.

**HOOTS COMING SOON** Hooter's is creating a mini-version of Hooter's simply called HOOTS. It is opening in the current site of the Jannus Market, next to Jannus Landing and will be the first of its kind in Florida. When open, expect a mini-menu of typical Hooter's food, including chicken wings and buffalo shrimp. There will be limited seating—inside and out. One difference is neither men or women servers will be wearing revealing outfits.

"We are excited for the opportunity to bring the Hoots concept to the Tampa Bay community. Hoots at Jannus Live will be a great addition for nearby offices for lunch, late-night concert goers and locals who want a quick and easy option for takeout or delivery," said Hoots Director of Development and Operations Will LeBas. "We are thrilled to be opening by St. Petersburg's most iconic music venue," added LeBas.

They plan to open in mid-March at 204 First Avenue North, on the corner of First Avenue and 2nd Avenue N.

**SOCIAL ROOST** This casual, yet upscale, restaurant concept features chicken - all kinds of chicken. The creation of St Pete natives Jason Teabout and Rob Bowen, promises craft cocktails and a 100% chicken menu. Still under construction, they had hoped to open last fall but have pushed it back to Spring of 2020. Find them at 150 1st Avenue NE.

**CLUB 21** Coming soon, this downtown speakeasy is under construction in the old Detroit Liquors space at 201 Central Avenue. They plan to offer cocktails, craft beer, food and CBD infused specialty drinks. They will also be offering CBD products. No official opening date has been announced.

**GREENSTOCK** Owned by David and Erica Benstock, this healthy concept is coming to the 400 block of Central Avenue. The menu features special salads made with fresh produce and high-quality proteins in a fast and casual atmosphere.

### CLOSED

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COMMUNITY CAFÉ 2444 Central Avenue. The popular local vegan café is currently searching for a new location in the Grand Central Area.

**NEWS WANTED** If you have news or suggestions appropriate for this newsletter, let us know by e-mail to [Bob@GriffinDirectories.com](mailto:Bob@GriffinDirectories.com) or call at 430-8300.

## Bar & Restaurant News



### SUNDIAL FOOD COURT

Sundial is getting another face-lift, causing Locale Market and Farm Table Cucina to close January 1st. The company that created Armature Works in Tampa is going to work their magic and create a food court in Sundial's northwest corner. Construction will begin in early 2020 and is slated to open later this year. They have not announced the names of the new food hall's tenants. Sundial is located on 2nd Avenue N.

**BAR CHINCHILLA** This cozy little bar opened in the site of the former 4 Three Nine bar on First Avenue N. It features eight beers on tap, over 50 wines and a few vodka-based drinks with inside and outside seating. They are open 3 to 10pm most days, and later on Friday and Saturdays. Happy Hour offerings, from 3-7pm, include \$1 specials on draft beer and select wines. Find Bar Chinchilla at 439 First Avenue N., just west of the Princess Martha.

**LINGR ON 6TH STREET** Do you remember Jeffrey Jew? You may have met him when Stillwater's opened on Beach Drive or seen him on Bravo's Top Chef. Jeffrey is out on his own now, opening Lingr On 6th Street at 400 6th Street S. The menu of the new upscale-casual eatery and bar will be Nordic and Asian inspired. And the name? Lingr means "belonging to," and "coming or descending from." Jew hopes to be open this spring. Get more information at [www.LingRRestaurant.com](http://www.LingRRestaurant.com).

**LA PERGOLA** This new high-end Italian restaurant is coming to the same building that houses The Mill. Still under construction, it is set to open this spring at 200 Central Avenue

**GOLDEN SPOON AWARDS** Florida Trend Magazine's announced their 2019 Golden Spoon Awards which is their list of 100 Best Florida Restaurants. Twenty-one are in the Tampa Bay area and three are downtown: Parkshore Grill on Beach Drive, Annata on Beach Drive, and Il Ritorno on Central Avenue.

Other Golden Spoon winning restaurants in Pinellas County include Rusty's in the Sheraton Sand Key, Caretta's on the Gulf in the Sandpearl on Clearwater Beach and Salt Rock Grill in Indian Shores.

Florida Trend has awarded Golden Spoons for over 50 years.

**DOC FORD HIRING** Doc Ford's restaurant, inspired by the Randy Wayne White's literary character, announced the new Pier location is hiring. They hope to open their newest restaurant in March.

**NEW BREWERY** Construction has begun on the Grand Central Brewhouse on the lot that once housed the Taco Bus - 2324 Central Avenue. Construction should take about eight months, and owner Kevin Milkey is hoping to be open this summer.

The two-story brewery will include a restaurant and an open air beer garden that will seat 375 people. Milkey plans to rent out the restaurant, but will operate the brewery himself. He plans to offer 16 different brews including pale ales, porters, stouts, IPA and maybe a few surprises.

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### MAKING THE LEAP - WHY IS 2020 A LEAP YEAR?

This next year, 2020, is a Leap Year. That means this year, an extra day has been added to our calendar. While an ordinary year has 365 days, a leap year has 366 days. The added day, called Leap Day, is February 29th.

It takes the Earth approximately 6 hours longer than one calendar year to revolve around the Sun. The addition of Leap Day syncs the solar year of 365.242199 days with the 365-day Gregorian calendar year.

This added day occurs usually every four years, but it is complicated. It happens in most years that are divisible by 4: 2012, 2016, 2020, etc. But, years that are divisible by 100, but not by 400, are NOT leap years. Thus 1800, 1900, 2100 and 2200 are/were NOT leap years while 1600 and 2000 were.

The Romans were the first to discovered this during Julius Caesar's rule - in 45 BC. Their calendar, called the Julian calendar named February 24th as their leap day. Coincidentally, February was the last month of their year.

Pope Gregory XIII modified the Julian calendar, correcting problems that had caused a ten day shift over its many years, and introduced a new calendar in 1582. Called the Gregorian calendar many previous dates and months were changed. Leap day was established as February 29th in almost every fourth year. Initially accepted by the Catholic countries of Europe, it took three centuries for all of Europe to adopt it. Greece was the last European country to accept it - in 1923. During the 20th century, the calendar was adopted by most non-Western countries.

The calendar though close, is still not perfect. It is 27 seconds too long each year or adds one day every 3236 years.

A leap-year baby is a person born on February 29th. They are also referred to as a "leapling" or a "leaper." In non-leap years, leaplings celebrate their birthdays on either February 28 or March 1—then some like to celebrate only every fourth year.

This has produced some interesting fictional story lines. In Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*, the title character, Frederic, must leave his beloved and return to a band of pirates he is apprenticed to until age 21. Because of his February 29th Leap Year birthday, he won't hit 21 until he's actually 88!

Defying the odds, a Utah woman has had three leapling babies, two boys and a girl. They were born February 29th 2004, 2008, and 2012.

In some traditions, Leap Day is also referred to as Bachelors' Day. Custom dictates on this day, a woman may propose marriage to the bachelor of her choice. If the man refuses, he is obligated to give the woman money or buy her a dress. In upper class Europe, he must buy her 12 pairs of gloves - all used to hide the woman's embarrassment of not having an engagement ring. In Greece, it is considered unlucky to marry on Leap Day.

After 2020, the next leap year will be 2024.



## Business Briefs

**CUSTOM ART** Visual artist Debe Shenkman has lived in Florida most of her life, and in St. Petersburg since 1995, where she has an indoor and outdoor studio (in her backyard).



Most of her compositions are large. She paints on canvas with acrylic and acrylic inks and loves mixing colors, blending, and shadowing. That shows in her painting's many layers, creating depth of color. She also has a passion for re-creating art from the classics - Van Gogh and Monet.

Debe specializes in commissioned pieces of dress art on canvas. Dresses from a quinceanera, wedding, debutante ball, dances, dance recital, etc. come to life and tell their own story.

If you are interested in having a custom designed piece of art, call her for a client consultation at 727-430-9109 or email [artbydebe@gmail.com](mailto:artbydebe@gmail.com). She is also available to live paints at fundraisers, events and wedding receptions. Visit [www.artbydebe.com](http://www.artbydebe.com) to see more examples of her work.

**NEW VETERINARY HOSPITAL OPENING** The storefront of the former Verizon sales office at 913 First Avenue N. will soon reopen as Edge Animal Hospital. It is owned by Dr. Raul Buso who also owns the Hanes Road Animal Hospital. The new office will be full service, with X-rays, ultra-sound and radiology capabilities.

"St Pete is known to be a pet friendly community," says Dr. Buso. "We are excited to be a part of that." Look for this to open later in 2020.

**NEW BOOK STORE** Alsace Valentine and Candice Anderson have opened a new bookstore in the Grand Central District area. They relocated from Asheville, NC where they operated Malaprop's Bookstore, but they are not new to St Pete. They have been operating a pop-up bookstore for over two years in various locations, and finally found a permanent spot. Tombolo has a rotating selection of approximately 7,000 books. Find them at 2153 1st Avenue South.

**CAIS'S BOUTIQUE** This new ladies wear store opened a few months ago on the corner of 1st Street and 1st Avenue South, southwest of Bayfront Tower. Get details at [CaisBoutique.com](http://CaisBoutique.com).

**KAHWA DONATES \$10,000** St Petersburg based Kahwa Coffee donated over \$10,000 to "Blessings in a Backpack." A special one-day promotion tied to "National Coffee Day" in September raised the funds.

"We are grateful for the many customers and organizations in our community that share the same passion for philanthropy as Kahwa," says Sarah Perrier, co-owner of Kahwa Coffee. There are several locations of Kahwa Coffee downtown.

**CLOSED MIS EN CHIC:** The ladies dress and accessories store at 1180 Central Avenue will be closing soon. The block is being redeveloped and Bodega Café is moving into their location in early 2020

### Let Me Be Myself: The Life Story of Anne Frank



Opens January 25, 2020 at The Florida Holocaust Museum

The story of Anne Frank told in a modern way, addressing current day issues of identity, exclusion, and discrimination. This exhibition also features a Virtual Reality (VR) component that allows the visitor to travel back in time to Anne Frank's hiding place, the "Secret Annex."

Let Me Be Myself: Designed by the Anne Frank House and sponsored in collaboration by the Florida Center for Holocaust Studies. Image: CAP/AM - East/Anadolu Agency. The VR component provided by Oculus Education.



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## HAPPY NEW YEAR! AND HAPPY NEW DECADE!

### A look Back to the Last '20s, 1920 - Oh What a Difference a Century Makes

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Here it is, 2020—not only a new year, but a new decade. We thought it would be fun to look back 100 years to 1920 and see how far we have come.

The 1920s was nicknamed the Roaring Twenties because of the decade's exuberant, freewheeling, popular culture. Unfortunately, the decade that began with a roar, ended with the Stock Market Crash in 1929.

Also, known as "The Jazz Age," the 1920s began with the last of the American troops returning home after World War I. Most of the soldiers had never been far from home before and their experiences changed their perspective on life. After seeing Europe, they wanted the finer things for their families. Many were about to buy their first car, their first radio and their first telephone. This ushered in an energetic and stylishly higher standard of living, which kick-started a decade of change.

Jazz music and its dance styles were gaining nationwide popularity. Musicians like Louis Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton were becoming household names. Young women who wore short skirts, short hair, and listened to jazz music were nicknamed "flappers."

The Art Deco style, which started to appear just before World War I, was becoming the rage. Its geometric forms and bright colors influenced the design of fashion, jewelry, buildings, furniture, cars, ocean liners, and everyday objects. It represented luxury and glamour.

The 1920 Census shows the U.S. population was 106,021,537. In Florida, Jacksonville was the most populous city with 91,558 people. It was the only Florida city in the top 100 U.S. cities. Pinellas would soon see people traveling to the area in droves. The first half of the decade led to a flurry of construction - roads, bridges, homes and buildings.

Specifically, the year 1920 saw many world-shaping events, including:

**League of Nations Was Established:** In 1919, shortly after WWI, and prior to the birth of the United Nations, President Woodrow Wilson proposed the idea of a worldwide organization of peaceful nations. On January 16, 1920, the League of Nations held its first executive council meeting. It consisted of 58 members, most of the major countries in existence at the time. Oddly, the United States was not among them.



**Prohibition Begins:** The year before, Congress had ratified the 18th Amendment, which prohibited the manufacturing, transportation and sale of alcohol within the United States; it went into effect January 1920. The National Prohibition Act, popularly known as the Volstead Act, was enacted to provide the means of enforcing Prohibition.

**U.S. Essentially had a Female President:** In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson suffered a blood clot that caused paralysis, partial blindness and brain damage. For the remaining one and a half years of his term, his wife, Edith Wilson, pretty much ran the country. She controlled access to her husband and guided his hand as he signed important documents. She also made policy decisions and was known by insiders as "Madam President."

**We suffered the Worst Terrorist Attack in Our Then History:** On a busy day in September 1920, a horse-drawn cart, carrying a massive number of explosives was detonated on Wall Street. Thirty-eight people were killed, and hundreds of others were injured. This was our worst terrorist attack until the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing.

**J Edgar Hoover Starts the Precursor to the FBI:** After a series of bombings, the U.S. Attorney General Mitchell Palmer mounted a campaign to deport foreign radicals. Raids were organized by a young J. Edgar Hoover, head of the "Bureau of Investigations." The raids backfired and Mitchell Palmer was removed. Hoover went on to help form the FBI, which he ran until 1972.

**Women Gain the Right to Vote:** The Women's Suffrage Movement was born years before and by 1920 every state west of the Mississippi River allowed women to vote. But, that was

not the case for nine states to the east. One more state approval was needed for ratification of the amendment to make it law. On August 18, 1920, the Tennessee Legislature barely approved it —by a vote of 50-49 — but that was enough and the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified prohibiting the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to U.S. citizens on the basis of sex.

**The Lost Generation Transforms American Literature:** A group of writers, mostly living in Europe following WWI, became a force in American literature. "The Lost Generation," as they were called included Sinclair Lewis, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Ernest Hemingway.

**The Ponzi Scheme Was Invented:** Charles Ponzi, an Italian immigrant, discovered a way to buy and sell "international reply coupons" to foreign investors. Word spread about this method of making money fast, leading investors to bring in more investors, which was essentially to continue funding commissions. The system ultimately collapsed, but the name Ponzi lives on to describe similar schemes.

**Media Was Born:** No other event in 1920 would have more of an effect on the future than the birth of radio. In November 1920, the first commercially licensed radio broadcast was heard, from KDKA in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The popularity of "the talking box" exploded and only two years later, 100,000 radios were sold. Soon, radio became a family experience. Everyone would gather around the radio and listen to the news, comedy shows, and music. By 1926, over 700 licensed radio stations were broadcasting in the U.S. This was certainly the beginning of today's media.

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- EAT, DRINK & PLAY LOCAL:** 4th Street: Food Truck Rally Alley | 2nd Avenue: Restaurant Row + Beer Truck + Local Breweries Pouring Their Own Brews + Street Games
- 3RD STREET:** Boutiques | Vendors on Wheels | DJ | Literary Corner | Skate | Street Fun
- 3RD STREET EXPANSION:** One More City Block with 60+ "New to Localtopia" Vendors + \*NEW\* "Visit St. Pete/Clearwater Street Stage"
- LIVE LOCAL MUSIC** on the Williams Park Bandstand + NEW Second "Visit St. Pete/Clearwater Street Stage"
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# Business Briefs



**BIG MAN'S MOVING CELEBRATES 3 YEARS** In January 2017, we first introduced you to Josh and Brooke Anderson, newlyweds who used their wedding gifts to partially fund their first truck and to start Big Man's Moving Company. They had a terrible moving experience which prompted the idea to create a more customer-centric business. This month marks their 3rd anniversary. To celebrate, they bought another truck. That makes four trucks and over 1800 successful local and out-of-state moves. For estimates, visit Bigmansmoving.com or call (727) 772-3458.

**OPEN HOUSE** Are you ready to simplify your life in the New Year? Have you always wanted a peek inside The Princess Martha? Join them on Saturday, January 25th between 10am and 1pm for an Open House of the Bay Area's premier 55+ Independent Community. Tours, refreshments, and giveaways are on tap. 411 First Avenue N, downtown St Pete.

**NEW HOTEL IN EDGE DISTRICT** A 161-room Marriott hotel will anchor a new mixed use project in the Edge District. Located in the 1200 block of Central Avenue, the project will include a 12,000 square foot food hall and 4,500 square feet of retail space. The hotel will include a rooftop pool and bar with an outdoor space connecting it to other parts of the project. The first part of the project is projected to be completed in 2022.

**THE FISH WITH ATTITUDE** Who's behind those dark, mysterious shades, and wide toothy grins? Why it's Bob the Fish, Jim the Shark and John the Shark... the original fish with Attitude! Which one of these best fits the Bob, Jim or John in your life?



- If Bob ain't happy, ain't nobody happy
- S.O.B. sweet old Bob!
- Bob... the Man, the Myth, the Legend!
- Don't mess with Jim, he's got attitude
- Who's the man? John's the man
- You gotta love Jim
- It's all about John!

No matter what type of Bob, Jim or John you have, we got him covered! Be the coolest fish on the beach this season and put your Bob, Jim or John into a Florida state of mind. Get him a Bob the Fish, Jim the Shark or John the Shark T-shirt, hat, tank top, long-sleeve, or sweatshirt. They carry ladies, mens and kids sizes. Order securely Online at [www.BobtheFish.com](http://www.BobtheFish.com) with FREE SHIPPING! Check them out at [Facebook.com/bobthefish](https://www.facebook.com/bobthefish). If you need bulk discount pricing for a Bob, Jim or John party or group event, call 813-254-3636.

Live by their motto - "Attitude is Everything" and remember, if Bob ain't happy, ain't nobody happy!

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# Business Briefs

**PAIN YOU FEEL TODAY COULD BE STRENGTH BY TOMORROW**

In 2007, Dr. Devon Rubin published research that showed up to 80% of people will experience back pain during their life (Rubin D. Epidemiology and risk factors for spine pain. *Neurolog Clin.* 2007 May;25(2): 353-71).



Optimal Performance & Physical Therapies (OPPT) is a Florida based, group of outpatient rehabilitation clinics owned and operated by local Physical Therapists. You will always be seen by a Physical Therapist with their Doctorate, never an assistant or aide. Usually, you can be evaluated within 48 hours.

Fortunately, OPPT physical therapists treat far more than back pain. They also specialize in orthopedics, sports, neurology, vestibular dysfunction, balance, and even pelvic health. Their mission is to help members of the community to return to work, being active, or just living your best life.

You do not have to live with your injuries, old or new - they are here to help. Addressing your symptoms or limitations early on will get you back to what you want faster and much more comfortably. OPPT is here for you.

They accept most insurance plans and also have very affordable self-pay rates. Their clinic is conveniently located in the heart of the MLK Business district on the 2nd floor of the Skyline building just north of downtown at 2600 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N., St Petersburg. Visit [www.theoppt.com](http://www.theoppt.com) for more information or to schedule an appointment, call 727-202-4625.

**YOUR GO TO PLACE FOR CBD** Your CBD Store St. Petersburg is more than just a neighborhood CBD Store, it's a destination. With CBD being virtually sold everywhere, it's no wonder people are confused and frustrated on what CBD is, how it is used, and how to know they are buying a high quality product.



Owner and St. Petersburg native Michelle Tolán was born at St. Anthony's hospital only blocks from her store. She attended St. Petersburg High School and St. Petersburg College.

"It's important to me that I brought something special to my neighborhood," says Tolán. "Customers leave my store with a clear action plan. We have a calm and inviting environment for them to come in for free samples and talk to a CBD expert about what is bothering them and how CBD can help. I am proud to say we are the experts in CBD. You simply cannot get this experience anywhere else."

This sense of pride shows in the service and the quality of the products. Your CBD Store sells only SunMed brand CBD. The hemp is grown in Colorado and registered with the Colorado Department of Agriculture. They offer tinctures, water soluble, capsules, creams, beauty products, gummies and even tinctures and treats for pets. The products, third party lab tested for quality and safety, are incredible, the store is charming and the staff really cares.

They are located at 1219 Dr. M.L.K Jr. St. N. No medical card is necessary. Parking is available behind the building. Store hours are Mon - Sat 10-7, Sun 12-5.

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## Organizational News...

### ST. PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSN

The Downtown Business Association has elected new officers and board members for 2020 (listed below). They will be installed by Mayor Rick Kriseman at the January 15 meeting, 7:30 am at Staybridge Suites.

President - Tami Simms, Coastal Properties Group  
Vice President - Jose Martinez, Sartorial, Inc.  
Treasurer - Catherine Schrader, Binger Financial  
Secretary - Shelli Hemans, St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce / The St. Pete Store  
Past President - The Rev. Canon Katie Churchwell, Cathedral Church of St. Peter

#### Directors:

Paul Bailey, Savory Spice Shop  
David Delrahim, Englander Fischer  
Eileen Epright, Tampa Bay Times  
Janie Lorenz, Florida CraftArt  
Meredith Rodgers, Sapphire Audio Visual Experts  
Jennifer Schultz, The Merchant St. Pete  
Ashley Sica, Green Bench Monthly  
Nancy Westphal, GoToSteve's

### KIWANIS CLUB OF ST. PETERSBURG

On December 10, the Kiwanis Club of St. Petersburg presented a check for \$112,500 to Mayor Rick Kriseman for his St. Pete's Promise Committee representing the proceeds of their Fischer-Carr Scholarship Events held this year. Partnering with the Pinellas Education Foundation last will provide 25 students with Take Stock In Children Scholarships. The Scholarships provide free college tuition to students from low income families in grades 6 through 11 upon graduation from high school with grades of C or better and remaining crime and drug free. The students are also provided with a mentor. The Program is administered through the Pinellas Education Foundation. The Kiwanis Club raises funds through a Bash held in May and a golf tournament in November.

This check puts the total Kiwanis Club donations at \$1,018,500 since starting in 2005. With these 25 students receiving scholarships next spring, it brings the total to 353 students

The Scholarship Fund is in memory of two prominent Kiwanians, H. James Fischer and Robert "Skip" Carr, who were outstanding community leaders. The 2020 Bash will take place on Saturday, May 29th, at the St. Petersburg Coliseum.

### ST. PETE CHAMBER

**Thursday, Jan. 23:** St. Pete Chamber's 121st Annual Meeting  
The St. Pete Chamber's Annual Meeting is a celebration of the accomplishments of the past year, recognition of community leaders and a discussion of the vision for the future of the Chamber and our community. The Chamber Member of the Year will be named and the gavel will be passed from the outgoing Board of Governor's Chair to the incoming Board Chair. Find information at [stpete.com/annual-meeting](http://stpete.com/annual-meeting).

**Wednesday, Feb. 19:** St. Pete Day: Chamber Trip to Tallahassee  
Help the Chamber fight for St. Pete in Tallahassee. Join Chamber leadership and other community leaders as they head to our State Capital to advocate for our community. Meet with elected officials and see our state government at work on this two day trip which includes ground transportation to and from Tallahassee, one night hotel stay, and group meals. Visit [stpete.com/Advocacy](http://stpete.com/Advocacy).

## Organizational News...

### SECOND TIME AROUNDERS

**January 21** - New Member Orientation at Ferg's (1320 Central Ave, St. Pete) - 7 - 9pm. Fresh from their 2019 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade performance in New York City, the Second Time Arounders Marching band invites anyone who has ever played, danced or twirled in high school to come learn about joining the marching band.

**February 18** - First Full Band Rehearsal - 7-9:30pm. If you miss the new member orientation, no problem! Please join them for the first rehearsal. Possibly new location, so watch for details!

**March 14** - St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ybor City with concert in Curtis Hixon Park before the parade!

**March 28** - St. Pete Pier Opening concert and parade. Please watch [www.secondtimearounders.org](http://www.secondtimearounders.org) for details

### NORTHEAST LITTLE LEAGUE

Trent Manke replaced Jay Walker as President. Children in the downtown area play with the Northeast Little League. Registration for the 2020 Spring Season has already begun with games beginning in late February. For information email [President@NortheastLL.com](mailto:President@NortheastLL.com) or visit [www.NortheastLL.com](http://www.NortheastLL.com)

### PRESERVE THE BURG TOURS

- Saturday, Feb. 1: Original Downtown Walking Tour, 10 am, SE corner of 1st Ave. S. & 1st St.
- Saturday, Feb. 8: Waterfront Walking Tour, 10 am, SE corner of 1st Ave. S. & 1st St.
- Saturday, Feb. 15 - Mirror Lake Walking Tour, 10 am, 559 Mirror Lake Dr. N
- Wednesday, Feb 19 - St. Pete By the Book, A Party and Program for PTB's Historic St. Petersburg Self-Guided Walking Tour Book, 6 -8:30 pm, The Princess Martha, 411 1st Ave N, \$10 for PTB members, \$15 for non-members.
- Saturday, Feb. 22 - Westward Ho to Historic Kenwood Walking Tour, 10 am, Craftsman House - 2955 Central Ave

### ST. PETERSBURG POLISH AMERICAN CLUB

The St. Petersburg Polish American club presents its second annual Paczki-Polish Donut Dance on Sunday, February 23rd. Celebrate Fat Tuesday with a traditional Polish donut.

A Polish Platter dinner will be served from 2 to 3:30pm at a cost of \$10. Dancing to the music of the Generations Band will be from 3 to 6pm on their large wooden dance floor.

Admission is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Everyone receives a Polish donut. Pre-sale tickets may be purchased at the club or by sending a check and will be held at the door. Last year's event was a sell out. For more information contact Ken Jakubowski at 727-360-4939 or [kmjak@verizon.net](mailto:kmjak@verizon.net). The club is located at 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St Petersburg.

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