



St. Pete Beach eNews

The Official Electronic Newsletter of St. Pete Beach

January 24, 2019

POOL INFORMATION

Water temp. always 82°!

POOL HOURS

January—March 31st

ADULT LAP SWIM

Mon: 7a-11a—(11a-1p & 3-6p limited lanes)

Tues-Thu: 7a-11a—(11a-1p & 4-6p limited lanes)

Fri: 7a-12p—(12p-1p & 3-6p limited lanes)

PUBLIC SWIM

Mon & Fri: 11a-1p & 3-6p

Tues—Thurs: 11a-1p & 4-6p

Sat: 10a-3p

Sun: Closed

COMMUNITY CENTER HOURS

Mon-Fri: 7a-8:30p

Sat: 9a-1pm

Sun: Closed

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Held at City Hall

~

Planning Board

January 28th @ 4p

~

Board of Adjustment

January 30th @ 2p

~

Finance & Budget Review Committee

February 6th @ 3p

~

Historic Preservation Board

February 7th @ 3:30p

~

Code Enforcement Special Magistrate

February 11th @ 10am

~

City Commission

February 12th @ 6p

Commission meetings replay on Ch. 642 on a continuous loop

~LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS- Monday, 11:00 am - Storytime Sing & Learn (ages 0-5): Start your toddlers on the road to reading and school readiness as they learn numbers, colors, and the alphabet through stories, music, and dance; Tuesday, 4:00 pm - Jane Rosenbohm: International guitarist extraordinaire; Wednesday, 11:00 am - Music Appreciation Series: Life & Music of Richard Strauss, presented by musician/educator Christiane Vinet; Friday, 10:00 am -2:00 pm - AARP Tax-Aide prepares and e-files Federal tax returns: Fridays through Apr. 12.

~HONOR WALK AT UPHAM BEACH— The 2018-2019 Brick Campaign has officially launched. Orders will be received from November 5, 2018 until March 18, 2019. Installation of the bricks will occur early summer. For more information call 727.363.9232 or download the form [Honor Walk at Upham Beach](#)

SENIOR EXCURSIONS HOSTED BY THE ST. PETE BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER— The St. Pete Beach Community Center has new Senior Excursions on the schedule January-March. The excursions are a great way for local seniors to travel with friends. All excursions will depart from St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. All participants must pre-register the Wednesday prior to the excursion. Each trip is \$15. Cost covers transportation only. All Admissions or lunch are extra and the responsibility of the participants. Time of trips are 9am-4pm. For more information call the Community Center at 727.363.9245 or visit www.spbrec.com

Trip Schedule

Jan 26th—Yuengling Tour & Lunch at Shells

Feb 2nd—Localtopia “A Community Celebration of All Things Local” followed by the Dali Museum and lunch at 4th St Shrimp Store (additional fee for Dali Museum)

Feb 9th—Florida State Fair (additional fee for admission)

Feb 16th—Beer, Bourbon & BBQ Festival (additional fee for admission)

Feb 23rd—72nd Annual Fiesta Day

Mar 2nd—Florida Strawberry Festival (additional fee for admission)

Mar 9th—2019 Tarpon Springs Fine Arts Festival (additional fee for admission)

Mar 16th—Ikea, Ybor City and The Columbia Restaurant

Mar 23rd—Tampa Premium Outlet Mall

Mar 30th—Dunedin Downtown Market

~MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH AND THE PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE— Just a reminder to all the South County communities and St. Pete Beach area that vehicle burglaries continue. Please be sure and lock your car doors and take anything that is or could look valuable out of your car. Many of these thieves work in groups and target all types of different communities. Don't fall into the trap of thinking your neighborhood wouldn't be targeted for these types of crimes.

Check out the [Sheriff's website](#) for access to programs and services to learn how to protect yourself, your family and your possessions. To contact our Community Policing Officers call 727.582.5721.



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~COMMUNITY INFORMATION & EVENTS~

- Sunday Market on Corey Avenue from 10am-2pm
- Free Lunch and Learn **Wednesday January 30th** at the St. Pete Beach Recreation Center from 12-1pm. Topic of Discussion—What is Postural Restoration: How it can make you feel better. For more information or to reserve your seat, call 727.363.9245.
- Seafood Festival February 1st-3rd on Corey Avenue For more information visit www.seafoodfestivals.com/S-55-St.+Pete+Beach+Seafood+%26+Music+Festival.html
- Music in the Afternoon **February 3rd** from 2-4p at the St. Pete Beach Recreation Center. For more information, call 727.363.9245.



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a local referendum.

~MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER TERRI FINNERTY ED.D., DISTRICT 1~

Home Rule: The Florida constitution empowers citizens with the right of local self-government, or Home Rule. As the only form of voluntary government, Florida’s municipalities are the embodiment of this right. A city is created by its citizens to provide additional functions and services for the particular benefit of the community. Local citizens develop a charter to specify the form, functions and power of their city government. The incorporation and city charter are approved by voters in

Home Rule authorizes all governmental, corporate and propriety powers necessary to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions, and render municipal services. Home Rule is why not two cities are alike. City residents take pride in this diversity and responsibility. Strong Home Rule powers ensure that government stays close to the people it serves. Intrusion on Home Rule from the state or federal government undermines the constitutional right of citizens to govern themselves.

As I keep mentioning in my articles, we have a lot of work to do this year to stop our legislators in Tallahassee from preempting our rights as a municipality to determine what works best for the quality of life enjoyed by our residents and visitors.

This week I am reprinting and Op-ed which appeared in Bloggytown written by Steve Leary Mayor of Winter Park. It was written on February 15, 2018. I am posting it in this newsletter, since similar to the other articles I have been reprinting, it deals with an issue that our legislators in Tallahassee tried to preempt last year. Many of these bills resurface again and again if they do not pass in a particular year.

Last year some of the preemptions the legislators were deciding about were: short term vacation rentals, small cell equipment, local elections, unfunded mandates and community redevelopment agencies (CRAs). There is no doubt many of these bills will be brought up for vote again this year.

This article, as mentioned, was written by Mayor Steve Leary of Winter Park and it deals with legislation that was being proposed last year regarding Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs). The name of the article is “Home Rule in Danger Due to Misguided Proposals Before the Florida Legislature”.

“Twenty years ago, crime and blight plagued an area west of Winer Park’s Park Avenue. It wasn’t a place you’d want to hang out after dark. But today, its residents and visitors linger into the evening at sidewalk cafes while locally owned businesses flourish behind restored facades.



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~MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER TERRI FINNERTY ED.D., DISTRICT 1~

These improvements didn't happen by accident. They are the fruit of investments made by Winter Park's Community Redevelopment Agency. Created by the city and Orange County in 1995 to cover a one-acre area downtown, the CRA was expanded in 1999 to include Orange Avenue.

Now the future of our CRA, and others around the state is in danger because of misguided proposals before the Florida Legislature.

Citing questionable practices in a few CRAs, the leadership in the Florida House of Representatives wants to phase out the 224 existing CRAs in Florida, unless there is a supermajority vote by their governing boards to prevent the eventual phasing-out of existing CRAs by the year 2038. HB 17 also would require legislative approval to create any new CRAs or expand existing ones. In the Senate, SB 432 would impose new ethics and lobbying restrictions on these agencies.

No one is against holding CRAs to the highest ethical standards. What I and other municipal leaders across the state oppose is the rush by powerful legislators to impose a one-size-fits-all solution on well-run CRAs like the one in Winter Park. This is a flagrant abuse of, and attack on, local governments' constitutionally authorized home rule authority given that the property tax revenue is city and county, NOT state, revenue.

Winter Park's CRA is exceptionally well managed. Its board includes our five city commissioners and a member appointed by the Orange County Commission. The County approved our plan and all expenditures must comply with it. From the beginning, we've emphasized social services, creating a community advisory board made up of residents and business owners in the target area. They meet throughout the year to vet projects and provide recommendations to the CRA board.

These dedicated citizens serve as an additional contact point with the community, making sure that we never lose sight of our stakeholder's most pressing needs.

A state law passed in 1962 authorizes CRAs to target blighted areas using "tax increment financing," which allows these agencies to capture growth in tax increases arising from business expansion that results from infrastructure and other improvements. The formation of CRAs has ZERO impact on state revenue.

In winter Park, these investments have included a new \$9 million community center that offers homework assistance and summer and jobs programs for younger residents, along with services for our senior residents. We have extended the streetscape improvements that make Park Avenue so attractive to residents and visitors. We've made more than 50 grants to business owners to give their storefronts facelifts.



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~MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER TERRI FINNERTY ED.D., DISTRICT 1~

We've invested +\$1.6 million in affordable housing, through the Hannibal Square Community Land Trust, so that our city remains affordable for everyone. And more than 140 low-income residents and seniors have benefited from the CRA's housing rehabilitation grants.

Besides our investment in locally owned businesses, the CRA has incentivized other community stakeholders such as Ruth's Christ Steak

House to maintain their corporate office in the area. Holiday Retirement, which develops senior citizen communities, has moved its corporate headquarters from across the country to the area, bringing 157 high-wage jobs.

We've created housing, small business and job opportunities within our CRA, while at the same time offering a much safer environment for our citizens and guests.

Destroying our CRA would mean fewer opportunities for people to afford to live in Winter Park. It would mean fewer opportunities for small businesses. It would mean higher business rents that would squeeze out local shops and just leave chain opportunities. Finally, we'd lose a revenue source important to both the city and the country.

All too often we hear state governments express their dissatisfaction with the federal government imposing themselves in state business. And rightly so. The State Legislature should remember that city residents elected their city commissioners and council members to represent them locally. Our elected officials at the state level should respect that vote and the decisions of local officials who also are residents of the communities in which they serve.

If people are abusing systems, they should face the repercussions. Do not punish responsible agencies like Winter Park's that are working hard to make their cities a better place to live and own a business."

This and the other preemptions the state tried to put on our cities, as mentioned previously, will not doubt be back on the table for our state legislators to vote on, again. Next week, I will be writing about the process the President of the Florida League of Cities, Leo Longworth Mayor or Bartow, has created to get residents involved in dealing with our state legislators on these vital issues that affect our city. Remember **we live local, we decide local.**

Have a great week and please remember on January 31st we will be having a "meet and great" at the city recreation center which starts at 6:00 pm to give you a chance to meet the 5 final candidates chosen to interview for the City Manager position. They will then be interviewed by each of the Commission members using a one-on-one process on February 1st in the morning. In the afternoon they will each be interviewed at a public meeting in the city chambers which you are invited to attend. Check the city website for more details. Hope to see you involved in the selection process.

Terri Finnerty, Ed.D.
Commissioner District #1
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