



St. Pete Beach eNews

The Official Electronic Newsletter of St. Pete Beach

February 28, 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)
Sat: 8am-11am—(11am-3pm 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

Historic Preservation Board
March 7 @ 3:30p

Special Magistrate/Code Enforcement

March 10 @ 10a

City Commission
March 12 @ 6p

Planning Board
March 18 @ 4p

Library Advisory Committee
March 21 @ 2p

City Commission
March 26 @ 6p

Board of Adjustment
March 27 @ 2p

Commission meetings
replay on Ch. 642 on a
continuous loop

~LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS~Friday, 10:00 am-2:00 pm - AARP Tax-Aide prepares and e-files Federal tax returns, free: Fridays through Apr. 12; 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, 3:00 pm - Tech Tuesday: E-Book Help (no repairs, no reservation required); Tuesday, 4:30 pm - St. Pete Beach Stitchers: Join friends, neighbors at this new weekly gathering of adult knitters, crocheters and needleworkers (not a class); Wednesday, 4:30 pm - St. Patrick's Day Craft (ages 5-12): Make your own leprechaun-finding binoculars (registration required); Wednesday, 5:30 pm - Blind Pass Road Construction Discussion: Led by new District 2 Commissioner Doug Izzo; Thursday, 11:00 am - Learn How to Become an Organ Donor: Presented by LifeLink Foundation. St. Pete Beach Public Library: Celebrating 50 years at 365 73rd Ave.

~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

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.

~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](#)



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~COMMUNITY INFORMATION & EVENTS~

- Sunday Market on Corey Avenue from 10am-2pm
- Free Lunch and Learn **Wednesday March 13th** at the St. Pete Beach Recreation Center from 12-1pm. Topic of Discussion—Lowering Blood Pressure & Cholesterol. For more information or to reserve your seat, call 727.363.9245.
- Beach Clean Up—Upham Beach Saturday **March 16th** from 9a-12p.
- Music in the Afternoon **March 31st** from 2-4p at the St. Pete Beach Recreation Center. For more information, call 727.363.9245.



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~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 a local referendum.

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.

I hope all of you were able to contact the Committee members and authors of bills HB603 (Sabatini, Fine) and SB588 (Hudson). If you did not read last weeks e-newsletter a quick recap of these bills clearly indicates this is truly intrusion by state government into an issue local municipalities should be deciding for their communities and residents. These bills would preempt the regulation of plastic straws to the state and prohibit a municipality from adopting or enforcing any ordinance that would restrict a food service establishment from distributing single-use plastic straws. The bills do not grandfather any existing local ordinances. These bills allow an establishment to distribute plastic straws to customers only upon request but allows establishments to make straws available to customers through self-serve straw dispensers.

In an article published by Tampa Bay Reporter on February 25, 2019 and written by Leslie Waters, Mayor of Seminole, she urges state officials to “let cities govern” by letting the governments that are the closest to the people regulate local issues. The title of the article is “Stay in Your Own Lane”. Below is a reprint of that article and speaks clearly to the two bills cited above.

As the Florida Legislature prepares to convene the 2019 Legislative Session on March 5, 2019, let us all be reminded of the importance of Constitutional Home Rule.

What is Home Rule? This Constitutional provision was voted on by the citizens of Florida almost 51 years ago. It allows local municipal commissions and councils to vigorously discuss, debate, decide and vote on issues of importance to the voters without interference by the State Legislature. It allows for us to set the dates for our own elections. It allows us to handle vacation rental issues, as well as, expense accounts and travel expenses, etc. without interference by the state Legislature. *We got it!*



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

Over the past two years there has been temptation for legislators to get out of their “lanes,” and veer over into “city government lanes.” As the federal government should stay in their interstate lanes, and leave state government alone, state government should stick in your lane! *Let 412 Florida cities govern!*

What does local government look like? We at the level of government closest to the people have our challenges, but you know, we live local, we eat local, we shop local, we work local, we give local, we

volunteer local, and we can't serve our citizens any more on the ground than 24/7/365. Cities are not the wild wild west. We have fiscal and administrative procedures to follow. *We got regs!*

No two cities, city budgets or millage (tax) rates are alike; populations differ, expenses vary widely depending on current priorities. Elected officials are up for re-election mostly every two to three years. We are required to hire and consult with professional accounting and audit firms every year, and results are printed in the news. *Cities are not the wild wild west!*

City officials are on the ground 24/7, we are in the community 24/7, and we govern based on input from our constituents, opinions that we receive quite freely strolling the aisles of Publix or enjoying an ice cream cone at the DQ. *We got this!*

Our decisions on city services, whether at the library, the recreation center or dealing with trash removal, impacts the quality of life at local businesses, churches, schools and neighborhoods. *Debris...since Irma. I hate that word!*

Legislators, please realize that cities can handle our own vegetable gardens, front or back yards; and reference the brouhaha over plastic straws, perhaps even leaving this task to local businesses...novel idea! Seminole has been a Tree City USA for 18 years with major requirements to sustain this designation. Don't have to worry about our trees. *We value our trees!*

Letting cities govern allows more time for the Florida Legislature to focus on big statewide issues during the 60-days of session. Issues such as: disaster relief and mental health funding, prison reform, teacher salaries, school safety, and let's not forget agriculture, insurance fraud and opioid abuse issues. *Extend the Suncoast Parkway!*



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

A Home Rule Workshop was held at St. Petersburg College - Seminole Campus sponsored by the Suncoast League of Cities in early February. We educated citizens on Home Rule, and distinguished what is the role of state government vs. the role of city government. We shared that with a respectful adherence to Home Rule by our state legislators, we assure local businesses, and quality of life in our neighborhoods will thrive! *Let cities govern!*

Kathy Till, author of *A Journey to Yes*, former Apopka city commissioner and president of Kathy Till & Assocs., believes that, “By ensuring that residents understand what Home Rule means, citizens can take the Home Rule message beyond the walls of City Hall and past city lines, down the street to their legislator’s district office...and all the way to *Tallahassee!*”

Thank you to those who serve with pride and dedication the residents of our great state. Together, with our Gov. Ron DeSantis, the state Cabinet, and 160 honorable state legislators, we all go boldly forward toward better cities, better counties, and a better Florida!

Let Cities Govern!

As the Florida Legislature prepares to convene the 2019 Legislative Session on March 5, 2019, let us all be reminded of the importance of Constitutional Home Rule. Next week I will begin to print those bills we have to fight either for or against. Don’t forget we cannot win this fight without you!

Terri Finnerty, Ed.D
Commissioner District #1
727-641-2314
tfinnerty@stpetebeach.org

Firefighter of the Year Award

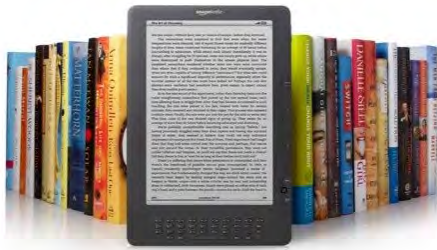


Firefighter/EMT Chris Mandia received the *St. Pete Beach Firefighter of the Year* award from the St. Petersburg Elks #1224 during their First Responder appreciation night on 2/23/19.

Congratulations Chris!!



Tech Tuesdays



Every 1st Tuesday

3:00-4:00 p.m.

E-book help

Every 2nd Tuesday

3:00-4:00 p.m.

iPads & tablet help



Every 3rd Tuesday

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Any Help

Every 4th Tuesday

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Smartphone help



St Pete Beach Public Library
365 73rd Avenue
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
727-363-9238
Spblibrary.com



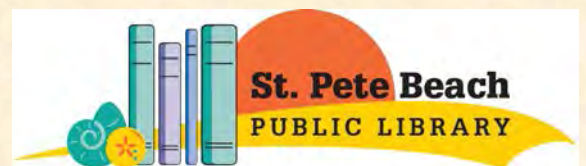
Blind Pass Rd Construction Discussion
led by the new
District 2 Commissioner

Doug Izzo



Wednesday,
March 6
5:30 p.m.

St. Pete Beach Public Library
365 73rd Avenue
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
SPBLibrary.com



Learn How To Become An Organ Donor



Thursday,
March 7
11:00 a.m.

- Learn about the life saving roles that organ donors play.
- Find out how you can become an organ donor and help save lives.
- Presented by LifeLink and Donate Life Florida.

365 73rd Avenue
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
727-363-9238
spblibrary.com



CHALK-LIT FAIR



Free family friendly event that celebrates the art community with a twist! Register to participate in the book themed side walk chalk contest and visit with local artist, watch live performances, enjoy carnival games, food, beer and wine! Spaces are 5x5 with limited spots available so register early! Registration begins February 20th.

Prizes will be awarded for each age category
St. Pete Beach Recreation

7701 Boca Ciega Dr. 727-363-9245 www.spbrec.com