



St. Pete Beach eNews

The Official Electronic Newsletter of St. Pete Beach

April 25, 2019

POOL INFORMATION

Water temp. always 82°!

POOL HOURS

April 1st-April 30th

ADULT LAP SWIM

Mon: 7a-11a—(11a-5p limited lanes)

Tues-Thu: 7a-11a-(11a-3p & 4-5p limited lanes)

Fri: 7a-12p -(12p-6p limited lanes)

Sat: 8am-11am—(10am-3pm limited lanes)

PUBLIC SWIM

Mon & Fri: 11a5p

Tues—Thurs: 11a-3p & 4-5p

Sat: 10a-3p

Sun: 12-3p

COMMUNITY CENTER HOURS

Mon-Fri: 7a-8:30p

Sat: 9a-1pm

Sun: Closed

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Held at City Hall

~

Historic Preservation

May 2 @ 3:30p

~

Finance & Budget Committee

May 8 @ 3p

~

Code Enforcement Special Magistrate

May 13 @ 10a

~

City Commission

May 14 @ 6p

~

Beach Stewardship

May 15 @ 9a

~

Planning Board

May 20 @ 4p

~

Administrative Appeal Hearing Officer

May 21 @ 8:30a

Commission meetings replay on Ch. 642 on a continuous loop

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ST. PETE BEACH LIBRARY. THEY WERE AWARDED THE 2019 POWER OF THE LIBRARIES AWARD.



-LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS-Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm - Alzheimer's Association Memory Bus: Learn about the early signs of Alzheimer's and how to help those with Alzheimer's disease (free service); 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 - Tea & Cookies Social: Mix and mingle event for adults only; Wednesday, 6:00 pm - James Wright Book Talk: *A Florida State of Mind*. St. Pete Beach Public Library: Celebrating 50 years at 365 73rd Ave.

DONATION TO THE ST. PETE BEACH AQUATIC CENTER—

On Saturday, April 20th, Al Johnson presented a check for \$2000 to Jay Witte, aquatics coordinator at the St Pete Beach Aquatic Center to go towards the Wendy Johnson Aquatic fund. The donation was from proceeds of St Pete Beach Classic. The money will go toward Aquatic events like the Underwater Egg Hunt and Splash and Dash.



-SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS AT ST. PETE BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER—

Registration starts March 18th at the St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive, for full and half day summer camps. Programs are being offered for children completed kindergarten through 6th grade. Our full day camp programs will keep kids entertained all summer long with weekly field trips, swimming and indoor/outdoor activities. If your child has more specific interest we are offering half-day specialty camps such as archery, basketball, robotics and more. For more information, including registration paperwork, [visit www.spbrec.com](http://www.spbrec.com)

-BECOME A CERTIFIED AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFEGUARD— The St. Pete Beach Recreation Department is offering certified lifeguard training from the American Red Cross. Get the training you need to be a confident and knowledgeable lifeguard and get a great summer job! More information can be found on our website at www.spbrec.com or call us at 727.363.9245.

-MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS SAFE IN THE WATER THIS SUMMER! - St. Pete Beach Recreation is once again offering spring and summer swim lessons at the St. Pete Beach Aquatic Center. Each session consist of eight 30 minute sessions. For more information call 727-363-9245 or visit www.spbrec.com

Session III: May 6-16

Session IV: May 20-27



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Administrative Appeal

Hearing Officer

May 21 @ 8:30a

Commission meetings
replay on Ch. 642 on a
continuous loop

~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.

~COMMUNITY INFORMATION & EVENTS~

- Sunday Market on Corey Avenue from 10a-2p
- Salute to Veterans at Horan Park Sunday April 28th from 10a-4p



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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.

Below is an up to date report on legislation being voted on by the House and Senate this week. There is only one week to left and the 2019 legislative session will end. Expect things to change dramatically next week as legislators scramble to get their bills passed. The following information was provided by the Florida League of Cities "Clips April 25, 2019".

Curtains for Visit Florida? In talks, Senate bows to House plan to let tourism agency fade away

Orlando Sentinel

Senate leaders are prepared to let Visit Florida, the state's tourism marketing agency, fade away, according to their latest budget offer to House budget negotiators. Senators last week voted to pass a bill to extend Visit Florida, which is set to expire Oct. 1 under current state law. But House leaders, who are skeptical taxpayer funds should be used to support the tourism industry, have ignored the bill and put just \$19 million in its budget to keep the agency funded through September. Sen. Travis Hutson, R-St. Augustine, the Senate's top economic development budget writer, said his chamber would prefer to keep Visit Florida, but it's up to the House. "It's up to (top House budget negotiator Rep. Jay Trumbull, R Panama City) right now and (House Speaker Jose) Oliva," Hutson said Tuesday night. "If they want to offer something higher, I'm glad to consider it but at this point if it's going to sunset and go away, we can't throw extra money at it." Visit Florida was created in 1996 as a public-private venture to support Florida's tourism industry, allowing the group to market the Sunshine State.

As we move into the final days of the 60-day legislative session, budget negotiations take front stage. Now is the time to be vocal. Urge the state legislature to support the Governor's recommendation to invest \$76 million in VISIT FLORIDA's marketing efforts, not only for the industry's sake, but for the 1.4 million employees the tourism industry represents.



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

Florida lawmakers propose ways to fix state elections

Tampa Bay Times

With the dust settled on another tumultuous recount, Florida lawmakers are closer to changing election laws to hopefully avoid the problems that plagued the 2018 midterms and reduce the number of rejected ballots in a state where literally every vote counts. Legislation that would give election supervisors more time to count mail ballots and voters more time to fix problematic signatures began moving again Tuesday in the Florida Senate, passing out of committee after more than a month of inertia. With Florida's legislative session nearing a close, election officials who helped craft the bill are hopeful that it's on its way to becoming law. But anyone hoping for a broader philosophical discussion on the future of voting in Florida — or more time to conduct recounts — is bound to be disappointed this year. Outside of actions influenced by lawsuits, any changes to Florida's elections are likely to be limited primarily to those tailored to prevent the 2018 recount drama from reoccurring in the 2020 presidential election.

Florida Senate-House budget conferencing begins with 10 days left in session

Florida Watchdog

Formal budget negotiations between the Senate and the House began Tuesday afternoon and will continue through Thursday evening with conferencing between the chambers potentially continuing until the traditional hanky drop signals the end of the session on May 3. While the Senate and House are only about \$400 million apart in their proposed fiscal year 2020 spending plans, there are significant differences in how each chamber wants to allocate revenues and resources. Senate President Sen. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, announced at the start Tuesday's Senate floor session - the 50th day of the 60-day session - that conferencing between the two chambers would begin in the afternoon. The budget conference committee is led by Senate Appropriations Chairman Rob Bradley and House Appropriations Chairman Travis Cummings, both Republicans from Fleming Island.

House unanimously passes bill helping firefighters battle cancer

Florida Politics

After the legislation faced an uncertain future as recently as a week ago, the Florida House has passed a bill beefing up insurance coverage for firefighters battling cancer. House members voted in favor of the measure 116-0 Wednesday afternoon. The House adopted the Senate version of the bill, which was unanimously approved by that body Tuesday. House Speaker José Oliva originally blocked a companion bill from advancing in the House, but eventually allowed the measure to move forward. ... The measure (SB 426) is what's called a "presumptive cancer law." While workers' compensation typically covers one-the-job related ailments, it's much more difficult to prove the direct link to cancer.



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

Firefighters win cancer coverage benefits in the Florida Legislature
Miami Herald

Firefighters in Florida will soon receive health coverage for cancer as part of their jobs, after House lawmakers voted Wednesday to designate the disease as an occupational hazard for those first responders.

The votes, unanimous in both chambers of the state Legislature, are a win for firefighters who have sought such coverage for several years running. The state Senate had voted Tuesday 39-0 to approve the bill, and the House that day had positioned it for passage. SB 426 requires firefighters receive full coverage for cancer, along with disability and death benefits, and deems 21 cancers an occupational hazard tied to firefighting. Firefighters would qualify for that coverage if they meet requirements, such as not smoking in the last five years, and would also receive a one-time lump sum of \$25,000 after they are diagnosed.

Florida House passes 'sanctuary cities' bill

Daily Commercial

After a long and fiery debate about how the state should deal with illegal immigration, the Florida House on Wednesday passed legislation that seeks to crack down on local governments that do not fully cooperate with federal immigration authorities. The measure, if passed by the Senate and signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis, would ban so-called sanctuary city policies in the state and punish any local officials who limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities. That would include local governments that restrict law enforcement agencies from participating in a federal program that deputizes local officers to perform the duties of federal immigration agents. If they are found to be in violation of the bill, local officials could be removed from office, and local governments could be fined up to \$5,000 for each day they have sanctuary-city policies.

Should a Governor be able to remove local officials backing 'sanctuary' policies?

Florida Politics

An amendment to a so-called "sanctuary cities" ban would give the Governor power to remove officials running afoul of the legislation. Sen. Joe Gruters expects to present his immigration bill (SB 168) to the Senate on Thursday. In advance of that, Gruters filed an amendment adding the following language: "Any executive or administrative state, county, or municipal official who violates his or her duties under this chapter may be subject to action by the Governor." "I want to give a little more teeth to the Governor," the Sarasota Republican said. The bill remains less than a version passed by the House on Wednesday. That companion legislation (HB 527) includes fines for officials who implement 'sanctuary' policies. Notably, the House has passed similar legislation the past several years. But Gruters' bill has come as close as any to the Senate floor. Throughout Session, Gruters listed the bill as his top priority for the year. He's been working throughout the process with GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis and the House sponsor, Rep. Cord Byrd, a Neptune Beach Republican.



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

Stay tuned. I am sure I will have much more to report next week which will mark the final week of the 2019 legislative session and about the bills I was in Tallahassee lobbying against.

Terri Finnerty, Ed.D

Vice Mayor

727-641-2314

tfinnerty@stpetebeach.org

If you are interested in contacting your legislators in Tallahassee who represent you, please use the information below:

Representative Jennifer Webb

jennifer.webb@myfloridahouse.gov

Telephone: (727) 341-7385

Tallahassee: (850) 717-5069

Senator Jeff Brandis

Bradis.jeff.web@flsenate.gov

Telephone: (727) 563-2100

Tallahassee: (850) 487-5024

Alzheimer's Association Memory Bus



**Dementia
education and support
brought directly
to the community.**

The Memory Mobile is a traveling office of the Alzheimer's Association Florida Gulf Coast Chapter intended to bring public awareness and dementia-related information to the community. The Memory Mobile offers education and support to those living with Alzheimer's disease and early-stage of dementia. There is no charge for services.

**Friday,
April 26
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Celebrating

50

Years!

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



Tea & Cookies Social

Tuesday, April 30

3:00 p.m.

This mix & mingle event
is for adults only.

Celebrating

50

Years!



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

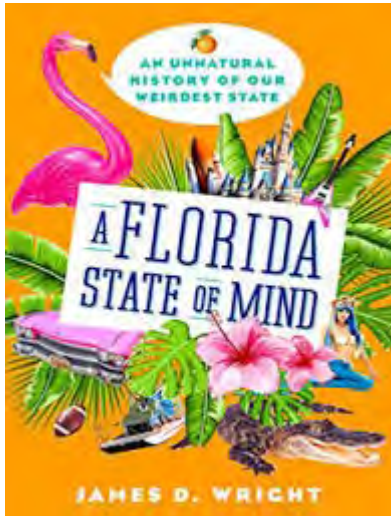




James Wright *A Florida State of Mind* Book Talk



**Wednesday, May 1
6:00 p.m.**



Join us for the release of James Wright's newest book
A Florida State of Mind:
An Unnatural History of our Weirdest State,
a witty history of the state that's always in the news,
for everything from alligator attacks to zany crimes.

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



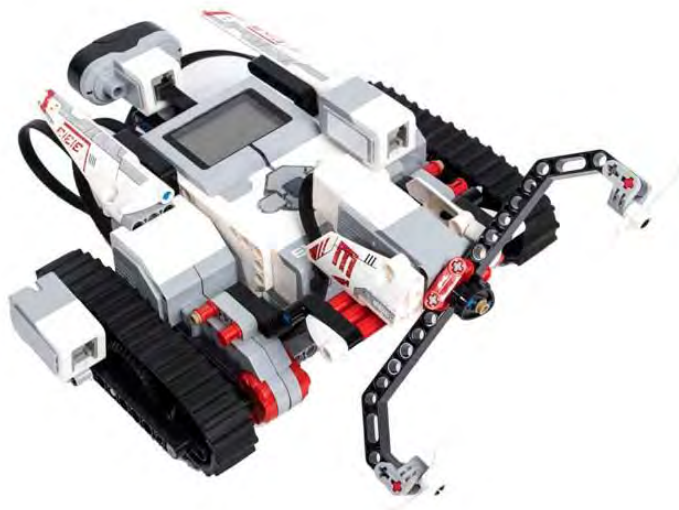


Lego Robotics Camp

Media Release

For Immediate Release
April 24, 2019

St. Pete Beach, FL; Looking to learn and build fun new skills this summer? Look no further than our Lego Robotics Specialty Camp this summer at the St. Pete Beach Recreation Department! Students will form Lego-Robotics teams to learn programming, design and building of robots! Each day teams will complete missions in exciting robotics completions. Sessions are \$80.00 per child and the session dates are: June 3-7, June 17-21, July 8-12 and July 15-19. For more information visit www.spbrec.com or www.sprobotics.wixsite.com/education or call us at 727-363-9245.





Nerf Battle Tournament

Media Release

For Immediate Release
April 24, 2019

St. Pete Beach, FL; Battle friends and foes in the St. Pete Beach Recreation Departments Nerf Battle Tournament on June 8th in Horan Park. Battles will be double elimination 4 vs 4 team death match style. Each team must have two team members under the age of 16, the other two team members can be any age each round will be a best of 3 to advance, and losers will have the opportunity to advance thru loser's bracket. Prizes will be awarded to top 3 teams. Cost is \$20 per team with pre-registration required. For registration and general information visit www.spbrec.com or call 727-363-9245.





Splash & Dash Youth Biathlon

Media Release

For Immediate Release
April 24, 2019

St. Pete Beach, FL; Join the St. Pete Beach Recreation Departments Inaugural SPLASH & DASH youth biathlon on June 22nd! Kids ages 6-15 are encouraged to join; all racers will receive a free swim cap and goody bag. Sign up today and join us for a fun, fit and active day on St. Pete Beach! All participants must be able to swim independently. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$15 per child. For more information visit www.spbrec.com or call 727-363-9245.

