



St. Pete Beach eNews

The Official Electronic Newsletter of St. Pete Beach

May 16, 2019

POOL INFORMATION

Water temp. always 82°!

POOL HOURS May 6-July 28

ADULT LAP SWIM

Mon-Thu: 7a-10a—(11a-4p limited lanes)

Fri: 7a-12p—(12p-6p limited lanes)

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

PUBLIC SWIM

Mon-Thu: 10a-4p

Fri: 10a-6p

Sat: 10a-3p

Sun: 12p-3p

COMMUNITY CENTER HOURS

Mon-Fri: 7a-8:30p

Sat: 9a-1pm

Sun: Closed

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Held at City Hall

~

Planning Board (CANCELLED)

May 20 @ 4p

~

Administrative Appeal

Hearing Officer

May 21 @ 8:30a

~

City Commission

May 28th @ 6p

~

Board of Adjustment

May 29 @ 2p

~

Recreation Advisory Board

June 4 @ 9a

~

Finance & Budget

Committee

June 5 @ 2p

Commission meetings
replay on Ch. 642 on a
continuous loop

~LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS~Friday, 4:00 pm - Topics in American History: 65th Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education, presented by historian David Busch; Sunday, 4:00 pm - Wendy Wax Book Talk: *My Ex-Best Friend's Wedding*; 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; Monday, 5:30 pm - Family Movie: *Lego Movie 2: The Second Part*; Tuesday, 10:30 am - Book Discussion: *The Handmaid's Tale*; Tuesday, 2:30 to 4:30 pm - Lighthouse of Pinellas: Information and equipment demonstrations for the sight impaired; Tuesday, 3:00 pm - Tech Tuesday: Any Help; Wednesday, 6:00 pm - Broadway Sing Along, presented by Christiane Vinet; Thursday, 4:00 pm - Topics in American History: Expansion and Slavery, presented by historian David Busch. St. Pete Beach Public Library: Celebrating 50 years at 365 73rd Ave.

~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.

~LEGO ROBOTICS CAMP~ 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.spbrobotics.wixsite.com/education 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 IV: May 20-27

~COMMUNITY INFORMATION & EVENTS~

- Sunday Market on Corey Avenue from 10a-2p
- Friends of the Library Spring 2019 Silent Basket Auction May 13th with the bidding ending 5pm June 12th. Contact the Library.
- Nerf Battle Tournament—Saturday June 8th starting at 8am at Horan Park. For more information, contact the Recreation center at 727.363.9245 or visit www.spbrec.com

CITY OFFICES CLOSED MONDAY MAY 27TH IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY.



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Pinellas: Sea turtle nesting season gets underway

Beach residents and visitors reminded to take precautions until Oct. 31

Sea turtle nesting season starts today, and Pinellas County is reminding beach residents and visitors to keep conditions safe for sea turtles to thrive.

Loggerheads are the most common sea turtle to nest in Pinellas County, and females generally nest from early May through August. The eggs in each nest will typically incubate for 50 to 60 days before hatching.

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium monitors the beaches from Clearwater Beach through Indian Shores. Sand to Sea Inc. monitors the beaches from Redington Shores through Treasure Island, and Sea Turtle Trackers monitors the beaches of St Pete Beach, Shell Key and Outback Key. Staff members conduct early-morning patrols to locate new nesting sites. Citizens should not pick up hatchlings heading toward the water, shine lights or use photo equipment with a flash. Hatchlings use starlight and moonlight reflecting off the water to find their way to the ocean, and if they become misled by artificial light, they can become disoriented and die.

Besides checking the beaches every morning for signs of new nests, nesting staff mark the nests and rope them off to avoid human disturbance. As endangered and threatened species, Kemp's Ridley and Loggerhead turtles are protected under state and federal law, and disturbing their nests is illegal. To report the disturbance of a sea turtle nest, or report the sightings of turtles or hatchlings lost, stranded or wandering in the street, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement at 1-888-404-3922, or *FWC from a cell phone.

Most of Pinellas County's beach communities have ordinances prohibiting lighting that casts glare on to the beach during turtle nesting season, which ends on Oct. 31.

During nesting season, residents and beach visitors should do the following:

- Turn off outside lights, draw drapes and avoid using flashlights or fishing lamps on the beach.
- Remove obstacles such as sand castles or sand pits that may make it too difficult for hatchlings to make their way to the shoreline.
- Keep the beach clean. Eliminate trash items that may entangle baby hatchlings and adult turtles.
- Do not approach or harass adult turtles as they make their way back to sea.
- If residents spot turtle tracks or a possible nest, and it does not appear to be protected by stakes ribbon, call 1-888-404-3922.

By obeying the law and following some simple guidelines, residents and visitors can greatly improve the chances of sea turtle survival.



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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.

Last week I reported on a partial list of bills that had passed this legislative session and stated I would be presenting more information this week. Since there are 22 more bills to report on. I will be listing only 11 this week and the final 11 next week. It was a long session!!!

Attorneys Fees and Costs (Mandate)

CS/CS/CS/HB 829 (Sabatini) provides for prevailing party attorney fees to be awarded in actions where a local government ordinance is alleged to be preempted by state law. The bill takes effect July 1, 2019 and is awaiting action by the governor.

Property Development

CS/CS/HB 7103 (Commerce Committee/Fischer), is a comprehensive bill that makes various changes to growth management law, including sections on inclusionary housing ordinances, development approvals, impact fees, and private providers. The bill also includes a provision that entitles the prevailing party in a lawsuit to have their legal fees reimbursed by the opposing side. Citizen groups that sue developers, for example, would have to pay the defendant's legal fees if they lose. The bill is effective July 1, 2019 and is awaiting action by the governor.

Medical Marijuana

At the request of the Governor, the legislature expanded medical marijuana laws to authorize the product in a smokable form. This legislation was limited in scope and did not grant cities any more flexibility in regulating the location or number of retail dispensaries. **CS/CS/CS/SB 182** (Brandes) was signed by the governor on March 18 and is now referred to as Chapter No. 2019-1 laws of Florida.



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Local Options Surtax Referenda

CS/CS/HB 5 (DiCeglie) requires any referendum to levy a local option sales surtax to be held at a state general election. The bill puts additional requirements, including a performance audit, on surtaxes that are placed on the ballot by petition. The bill does not require the referenda to be approved by two-thirds of voters for passage. The bill also revises the method and rules for collecting signatures for constitutional ballot initiatives. The bill is effective upon becoming law.

Tax Package

CS/HB 7123 (Ways and Means) is the tax package for the 2019 session. The bill includes a five-day back-to-school and a seven-day disaster preparedness sales tax holiday. The bill reduces the sales tax on commercial leases from 5.7 to 5.5 percent. The bill also includes multiple provisions to help the agriculture industry that was impacted by Hurricane Michael including a reduction of the assessment of agriculture equipment rendered unusable due to the hurricane; a refund of sales tax paid on fencing materials used to repair or places farm fences, and building materials used to repair or replace nonresidential farm building; and a refund of fuel tax used for agricultural shipment or hurricane debris removal after the hurricane.

School Safety

The topic of school safety generated a significant buzz at the Capitol. The majority of the conversation focused on arming teachers, but tucked within **CS/SB 7030** (Diaz) was language authorizing school districts to transfer additional funds from the Florida Education Finance Program towards school safety expenditures and expanding the authorized uses of the safe schools allocation. In addition to allowing armed teachers, the bill would give school boards the power to establish Guardian programs without the approval of local sheriffs and permit schools to contract with security companies for guards. It also would grant the state commissioner of education more power to punish school districts that don't comply with safety requirements and would tighten requirements for reporting data to the state. Sheriffs who don't want to train guardians can ask other sheriffs to lead the training under the legislation. Charter schools can request a sheriff to train guardians, even if the charter school's district doesn't participate in the program. The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

Utility Storm Hardening

CS/CS/SB 796. (Gruters) allows utilities to charge customers for storm-hardening projects and requires utilities to submit an annual report documenting storm-hardening costs. The bill takes effect upon becoming law and is awaiting action by the Governor.



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

Financial Disclosure

CS/HB 7021 (Public Integrity & Ethics Committee) requires mandatory electronic filing of full and limited financial disclosures by January 2022 and January 2023, respectively. The bill is effective upon becoming law and is awaiting action by the governor.

Micromobility Devices and Motorized Scooters

HB 453 (Toledo) dealing with micromobility devices (scooters), passed the Florida Legislature. The bill allows municipalities to regulate scooters locally without any preemption from the state.

Wireless Communications While Driving

HB 107 (Toledo) dealing with texting while driving passed the Florida Legislature. The bill would make texting while driving a primary offense. If signed by the governor, the law will include a grace period in which police will issue warnings through the end of the year while the state conducts an education campaign.

Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) Program

SB 7068 (Infrastructure & Security Committee) passed the Florida Legislature. The bill creates the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) Program within the Florida Department of Transportation. The program is designed to advance construction of regional corridors that will accommodate multiple modes of transportation and multiple types of infrastructure. The proposed bill identifies the following three corridors comprising of the M-CORES Program: Southwest-Central Florida Connector, Suncoast Connector and Northern Turnpike Connector. The bill also provides increase funding for the Small County Road Assistance Program, the Small County Outreach Program and the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.

As mentioned previously, more to come next week. Again, mark the bills you were not in favor of and contact you legislator. Let them know how you feel and what you think. They are there to serve you.

Terri Finnerty, Ed.D
Vice Mayor
727-641-2314

tfinnerty@stpetebeach.org

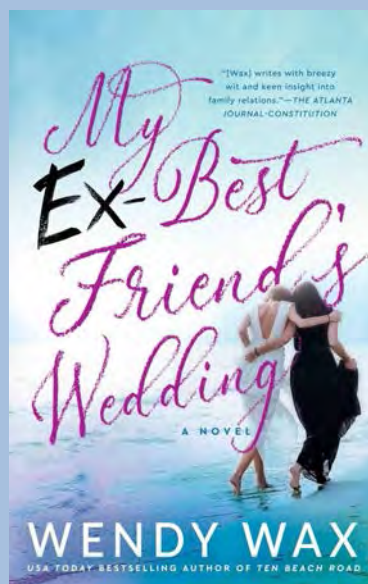
Representative Jennifer Webb
jennifer.webb@myfloridahouse.gov
Telephone: (727) 341-7385
Tallahassee: (850) 717-5069

Senator Jeff Brandis
Bradis.jeff.web@flsenate.gov
Telephone: (727) 563-2100
Tallahassee: (850) 487-5024

Wendy Wax

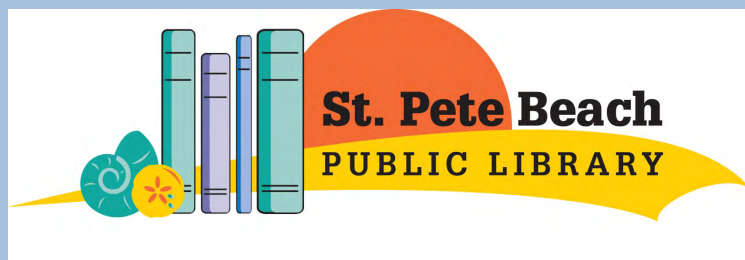
My Ex-Best Friend's Wedding

Book Talk



Sunday, May 19
4:00 p.m.

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



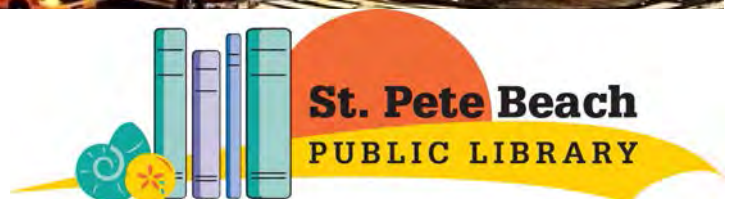
Broadway Sing Along **Presented by Christiane Vinet**

Wednesday, May 22 **6:00 p.m.**

Sing along to favorite Broadway songs and backing tracks with flutist, Christiane Vinet. Words will be provided, and corny Broadway-themed jokes will be told. Including numbers from: *Oklahoma, My Fair Lady, Fiddler on the Roof, Phantom of the Opera* and more!



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Topics In American History: Expansion and Slavery Presented by historian David Busch

Thursday, May 23
4:00 p.m.



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