



St. Pete Beach eNews

The Official Electronic Newsletter of St. Pete Beach

July 18, 2019

POOL INFORMATION

Water temp. always 82°!

POOL HOURS June 3-July 28

ADULT LAP SWIM

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

Fri: 7a-11a -(11a-6p limited lanes)

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

PUBLIC SWIM

Mon-Thu: 10a-4p

Wed: 6-8p (Late Swim)

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

~

City Commission
Budget Workshop
July 22 @ 8:30a

~

City Commission
July 23 @ 6p

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Police Pension
July 25 @ 1p

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Board of Adjustment
July 31 @ 2p

~

Historic Preservation Board
August 1 @ 3:30p

~

Finance & Budget Review
Committee
August 7 @ 3p

~

Code Enforcement
Special Magistrate
August 12 @ 10a

Commission meetings
replay on Ch. 642 on a
continuous loop

-LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS-Friday, 3:00 pm - Movie: *The Thing*; 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, 6:00 pm - Mayor's Open Office: Ask questions and discuss concerns with Mayor Alan Johnson; Tuesday, 10:30 am - Film Discussion: *Farewell My Lovely*; Tuesday, 3:00 pm - Tech Tuesday: Any Help; Wednesday, 11:00 am - Movie: *Flight of the Navigator*; Wednesday - "Albert Einstein and GPS" event has been **CANCELED**.

Register now for these Junior Achievement classes! Space limited!

Monday, Aug. 5, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm - **Financial Literacy**: Students ages 11-13 learn to manage their finances. Registration required.

Wednesday, Aug. 7, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm - **Career Success**: Students ages 14-18 learn about resumes, interviewing, and workplace skills. Registration required.

-CINEMA ON THE SAND- Bring your chairs, blankets and your floats and join us at Upham Beach for a night under the stars! The best part...the movie is being played from a boat so you can relax and float during the movie! Movie starts at 8pm. Paradise Grille will have food and beverages for purchase. For more information, contact the St. Pete Beach Recreation Department at 727.363.9245.

Movie Dates:

July 26: Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse

-MESSAGE FROM PINNELLAS COUNTY-

NOTICE: Of upcoming bridge structure repairs to the Pinellas County, Corey Causeway Drawbridge (connecting South Pasadena with St Pete Beach)

The northbound and southbound lanes will be closed intermittently during the hours of **9:00 p.m. through 5:00 a.m.** on these scheduled dates: Sunday, July 28th 2019 through Thursday, August 1, 2019, and again Sunday, August 4, 2019, through Thursday, August 8, 2019.

-COMMUNITY YARD SALE- Time to clean out those closets and storage rooms and turn unwanted items into cash at the St. Pete Beach Community Center Yard Sale on September 21st from 8am-12pm. Registration starts August 1st, space is limited so make sure to sign up early. Each space is \$15, to make a reservation call 727-363-9245. Make sure to visit our website for events and programs year-round www.spbrec.com.

-COMMUNITY INFORMATION & EVENTS-

- Meet Tank our New St. Pete Beach Fire Safety Ambassador—<http://thegabber.com/st-pete-beach-gets-a-new-fire-safety-ambassador/>
- **Family Fun Day**—Enjoy a family fun day at the pool. Music, games, pool bingo, prizes and more. **Sunday August 11th from 12-3p**. Fee: \$3 adult, \$2 youth/Senior



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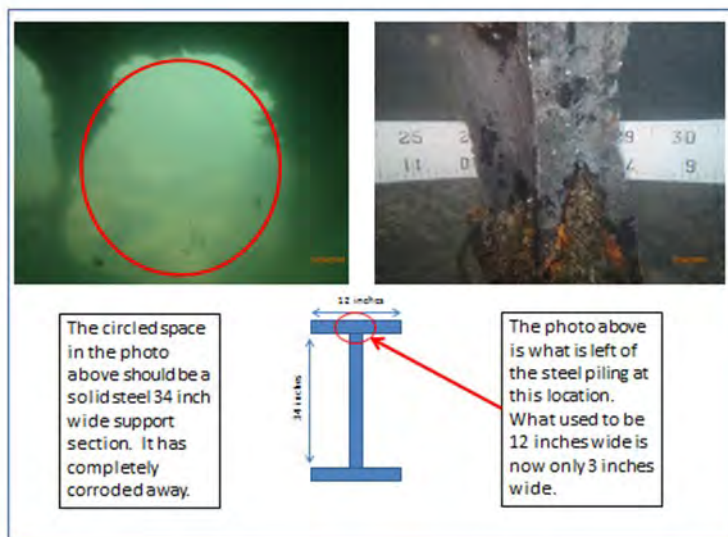
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CLOSED

The 1st Avenue Jetty Fishing Pier is closed due to structural concerns. The steel pilings supporting the concrete deck have significantly deteriorated over time due to sea salt corrosion. The pilings no longer have the strength to safely support the weight of the concrete deck and resist wave action.



As we continue to evaluate options, a date for re-opening the pier has not been set. Public safety is our highest priority and we thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,
St. Pete Beach Public Works



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Pinellas: Sea turtle nesting season gets underway

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

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 onto 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 VICE MAYOR 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.

Here are somethings happening throughout the state with regard to legislation passed during the 2019 session and signed by Governor DeSantis.

Stop being trashy: St. Pete launches composting program

Florida Politics

The city of St. Petersburg officially kicked off its new residential composting program this week. Residents can now request a composting bin to use at their homes in lieu of throwing organic waste into the trash. "Did you know that kitchen and yard waste make up about 30% of what is thrown away? Composting helps divert these materials from landfills to deliver nutrients back into the soil," the city wrote in its announcement. "Composting is the natural process of recycling organic material, like kitchen and yard waste, which breaks down to form a usable, nutrient-rich fertilizer." The city launched a voluntary composting program for residents to boost its sustainability initiatives. Composting organic waste like fruit peels, eggshells, stale bread or yard waste keeps those items from heading to the landfill. The matter breaks down over time into fertile soil residents can use for their own yard work or to donate to community gardens.

New study predicts higher high temperatures for Florida thanks to climate change

Tampa Bay Times

Amid Florida's ongoing July heat wave, a new study released Tuesday by the Union of Concerned Scientists predicts that by mid-century the state will experience some of the highest frequencies of extreme heat in the nation. How hot? The Tampa Bay area may face four months with a heat index of 105 degrees or more — in other words, it will be unsafe to work outdoors for a third of the year. Kristina Dahl, lead author of the study published Tuesday in the journal Environmental Research Communications, said the group put out its findings "because we wanted to give people a sense of what's coming down the pike." The Union of Concerned Scientists advocates for taking steps to curb climate change, such as imposing a carbon tax to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The study predicts that, in an average year, Florida will face "105 days with a heat index over 100 degrees F (up from just 25 days historically) and 63 days with a heat index over 105 degrees F."



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-MESSAGE FROM VICE MAYOR TERRI FINNERTY ED.D., DISTRICT 1—

700 days after Irma, FEMA grants to Florida cities, counties top \$1 billion

The Center Square

It's been more than 22 months since Hurricane Irma clobbered Florida, making landfall in the Keys as a Category 4 storm and slowly plowing up the peninsula before crossing into Georgia as a tropical storm, leaving destruction across a large swath of the state. More than 6.5 million Floridians were forced to evacuate, 7.7 million homes and businesses - nearly 75 percent of the state's electrical customers - were left without power and 84 deaths across 27 counties were attributed to the storm. While Hurricane Michael's savage Category 5 romp across the Panhandle last October was the most powerful storm to ever hit the state, the sheer size and scope of Irma made it the costliest storm in Florida's history. The estimated price tag is \$50 billion, which is about three to four times more than the economic damage caused by Michael. And while addressing the devastation on the Panhandle has been a focus - aggravated by Congressional partisan paralysis; a federal disaster relief bill was not approved until June 3 - recovery from Irma also remains an on-going concern for local, state and federal officials. Last week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] announced it was sending more than \$86 million to eight cities and six counties for debris removal.

HOUSE SEEKS TO JOIN 'MONUMENTAL' MARIJUANA CASE

News Service of Florida

Florida House leaders should be able to participate in a lawsuit that could revolutionize the state's medical marijuana market, a lawyer for the Republican-led chamber told a three-judge panel of the 1st District Court of Appeal Tuesday. But Tampa-based Florigrown argued that legislators instead should concentrate on fixing the law, aimed at carrying out a constitutional amendment that broadly legalized medical marijuana. Tuesday's arguments came a week after a different panel of the same appellate court upheld in part a Tallahassee judge's decision that the statute, approved by legislators during a special session in 2017, ran afoul of the constitutional amendment. "When a law is found to be unconstitutional, the Legislature goes and fixes it. They don't freelance and argue on their own, the constitutionality of what they already wrote. They could have written it in a constitutional way in the first place," Florigrown CEO Adam Elend told reporters following Tuesday's hearing. The House sought to intervene in the legal challenge after Leon County Circuit Judge Charles Dodson sided with Florigrown and ruled that the statute requiring pot operators to grow, process and distribute cannabis and related products --- a system known as "vertical integration" --- was unconstitutional. Dodson's ruling also struck down a portion of the state law that set a cap on the number of medical marijuana operators in the state. But the Tallahassee judge refused to allow the House to join in the lawsuit.



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-MESSAGE FROM VICE MAYOR TERRI FINNERTY ED.D., DISTRICT 1-

Groups sue to stop Florida's new hardline anti-immigration law

Florida Phoenix

Two weeks after a law banning so-called sanctuary cities in Florida went into effect, the city of South Miami and a host of advocacy groups have filed a federal lawsuit in the Southern District of Florida, seeking an injunction to stop any further implementation of the law.

While there are no sanctuary cities in Florida (a point made repeatedly by critics throughout last spring's legislative session), the new law does prohibit local governments from adopting policies to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation. Undocumented immigrants who are detained for breaking the law - even for minor violations - are now vulnerable to deportation. Linking federal immigration officers with local law enforcement "leads to racial profiling, civil rights violations, isolation of immigrant communities, and unjust deportations," said Paul Chavez, senior supervising attorney for the Southern Poverty Law Center's Immigrant Justice Project. The lawsuit alleges that the original version of the legislation was drafted by "anti-immigration hate groups," specifically mentioning the Federation for American Immigration Reform and its Florida affiliate, Floridians for Immigration Enforcement. The suit claims that the bill's sponsors (which includes Florida Republican Party chairman Sen. Joe Gruters of Sarasota and Jacksonville Republican state Rep. Cord Byrd in the House) used "biased data" provided by the Federation for American Immigration Reform and the Center for Immigration Studies in their staff analysis of the bill.

Here are the Florida citizen ballot measures you just might get to vote on in 2020

Florida Phoenix

Despite moves by state Republican leaders to limit citizen-led ballot measures, more than a half-dozen proposals remain in play with a Feb. 1 deadline approaching. They include efforts to raise the minimum wage, ban assault weapons, expand Medicaid, legalize recreational marijuana, overhaul the primary-election process and increase competition among electric utilities. Two key indicators can be used to gauge the chances of the proposals reaching the 2020 general election ballot: the number of signatures collected and the amount of money behind the petition drives. To be successful, the initiatives must secure at least 766,200 validated voter signatures to win a place on the ballot by Feb. 1. That task has been made more difficult by a new law, endorsed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, that imposes more regulations on the process of gathering signatures. Among the new regulatory hurdles, it requires petition gatherers to be registered with the state.



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-MESSAGE FROM VICE MAYOR TERRI FINNERTY ED.D., DISTRICT 1-

Opioid deaths down as state celebrates victory in opioid settlement

WFLA

The US scored a major victory in a lawsuit against a British opioid manufacturer on Thursday. The news comes as new statistics show Florida's opioid crisis may be on the decline. The latest interim report from the state's Medical Examiners Commission shows there were nearly 300 fewer opioid deaths in the first half of 2018, compared to the first half of 2017. "We are actually guardedly optimistic," said Melanie Brown-Woofter, President of the Florida Council for Community Mental Health. Brown-Woofter said the drop suggests Florida's multi-faceted approach to tackling the crisis may be paying off. "There's increased training with emergency responders, with ED departments and with medical prescribers, so that prescribing patterns have changed," said Brown-Woofter. The report was released just days before the US Government solidified a \$1.4 billion settlement with the British opioid manufacturer, Reckitt Benckiser. Florida was part of the lawsuit and could be entitled to a portion of the winnings.

The information above was published by Florida League of Cities in their July 15th and 17th issues of FLA Clips. I will continue to report on issues related to new legislation passed this year as they arise. Don't forget your elected state officials are back from Tallahassee for the summer, so now is the time to visit with them and let them know what your concerns and interests are for the 2020 legislative session. Let them hear from you now while they have the time to listen.

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 Brandes
Brandes.jeff.web@flsenate.gov
Telephone: (727) 563-2100
Tallahassee: (850) 487-5024



Junior *Register now!*
Achievement[®]

Financial Literacy

Monday, August 5

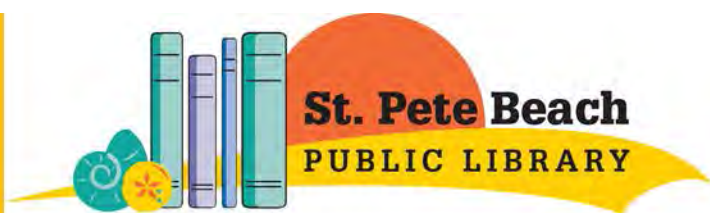
5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Registration required

Ages 11-13

This program gives students the information needed to build strong personal finances, a cornerstone to a happy, secure life. Students learn the importance of exploring career options based on their skills, interests, and values. They also learn about spending money within a budget; saving and investing wisely; and using credit cautiously.

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





Junior Achievement[®]

Register now!

Career Success

Wednesday, August 7

4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Registration required

(Ages 14-18)



This program equips students with the knowledge required to get and keep a job in high-growth industries. Students will explore the crucial workplace skills employers seek but often find lacking in young employees. Students also will learn about valuable tools to find that perfect job, including resumes, cover letters, and interviewing techniques.

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YARD SALE



SEPTEMBER 21ST

8:00AM-12:00PM

ST. PETE BEACH RECREATION

\$15 PER SPACE