



St. Pete Beach eNews

The Official Electronic Newsletter of St. Pete Beach

July 3, 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

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City Commission
July 9 @ 6p

~

Historic Board
July 11 @ 3:30p

~

Planning Board
July 15 @ 4p

~

Finance & Board Review
Committee
Budget Workshop
July 16 @ 9a

~

General Pension Board
July 18 @ 8:30a

~

Fire Pension Board
July 18 @ 10:30a

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Police Pension Board
July 18 @ 1:30p

Commission meetings
replay on Ch. 642 on a
continuous loop

-LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS-Friday, 3:00 pm - Children's Craft (ages 5-12): Pool Noodle Lightsabers; 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, 10:00 am-2:30 pm - S.H.I.N.E. Medicare Counseling; Tuesday, 3:00 pm - Tech Tuesday: Any Help; Wednesday, 3:30 pm - Blind Pass Road Meeting: Get updates on the current construction project; Thursday, 11:00 am - John Williams presents: The Moon Landing; Thursday, 3:00 pm - Snacks & Storytime (ages 5-12); Friday, 11:00 am - Movie: *Galaxy Quest*.

NEW at the Library! Download our new app (search "Pinellas Library Cooperative" in Google Play or the Apple App Store)! Search the catalog, manage your account and renew items, place holds, or scan any book's ISBN barcode to see if your library has a copy!

Also NEW, the film streaming service Kanopy is now available for free! Library card holders can sign up to start streaming films instantly by visiting spblibrary.kanopy.com. Films can be streamed from any computer, television, mobile device or platform by downloading the Kanopy app for iOS, Android, AppleTV, Chromecast or Roku. St. Pete Beach Public Library: Celebrating 50 years at 365 73rd Ave.

-COMMUNITY INFORMATION & EVENTS-

- **Rock the Beach this 4th of July** with awesome free live music performed by the Brian Caudill Band followed by headliner Stormbringer on Upham Beach (6850 Beach Plaza) in beautiful St. Pete Beach FL. Live music from the Brian Caudill Band is scheduled from 2:00pm-6:00pm followed by Stormbringer until 9:00pm. Fireworks are scheduled to be launched from the barge at 9:00pm located near 4700 block on Gulf Blvd (County Beach Parking Lot). For more information including parking, FAQ's and more visit www.spbrec.com or call 727-363-9245.
- **Phones away: Texting while driving becomes 'primary' offense**

A new law gives police power to pull you over if they think you're texting, here's what you should know. A ban on texting and driving is taking effect on July 1. In 2016, Florida had almost 50,000 distracted driving accidents that resulted in 233 deaths, according to Gov. Ron DeSantis. Now, he's implemented a new law he hopes will lower those statistics in the future. The new legislation expands the original texting and driving law by giving officers the power to pull over drivers because they are texting. This is different from existing laws that only allow officers to cite texters if they've already been stopped for another violation. The law also designates hands-free zones where Floridians will be prohibited from touching a wireless device at all. These include school zones.

-CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY JULY 4TH IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY-



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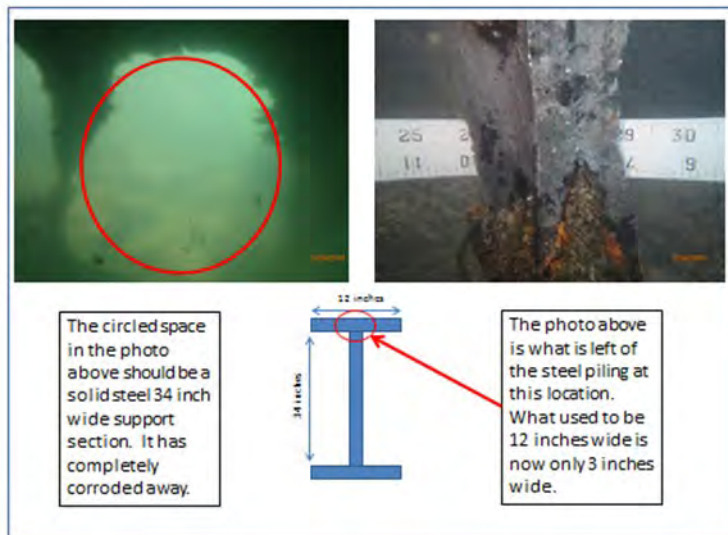
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CLOSED

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

~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.



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(Photo by Karen Mason)

BLACK SKIMMERS

Black Skimmers are back at St. Pete Beach, where they have once again established a colonial nesting site near the public parking beach access. This colony already has over 600 skimmers with over 200 nests! Black Skimmers make “scrapes” in the sand, which are small depressions, in which they lay 3-4 eggs. Once the eggs

hatch, both parents will work hard to raise their flightless, downy-covered chicks. As more chicks hatch and grow older, they will begin venturing outside of the colony’s protected area looking for shade or to cool off by the water. This is when they will really need your help! These wandering chicks will be at risk since they blend in so well with the sand, similarly to the well-camouflaged eggs. Skimmer parents are great at defending their eggs and chicks against predators such as gulls and crows, but they need a little extra help to make sure they can successfully raise their families.

Tips for Helping the Black Skimmers:

Keep your distance and respect posted areas. If the birds become agitated, you are too close! Take a few steps back until the bird(s) have settled down. Signs and rope help keep people from accidentally stepping on eggs or chicks.

Avoid flushing birds. Large flocks of Black Skimmers from the colony sit by the water’s edge to cool off, sometimes with their chicks. Running through flocks will scare the birds, causing them to fly away. This uses up the energy needed to feed and protect chicks. Flightless chicks and eggs will be left alone and vulnerable to predators.

Leave fireworks at home. Fireworks set off within 1,000 ft of the colony will flush skimmers off their nests and can cause abandonment of chicks, resulting in death.

Keep pets off the beach and away from nesting areas. Even the friendliest dog will spook an entire skimmer colony.

Avoid feeding wildlife, especially the gulls and crows. Attracting these predators to the beach and near the colony puts the nests and chicks at risk for predation.

Spread the word! Tell others what you’ve learned about these incredible birds!

Want to get involved? Audubon Florida is looking for volunteer bird stewards to help educate the public during the busy weekends and 4th of July holiday. If you are interested in learning more about the stewardship program, please email Holley Short (hshort@audubon.org) or visit www.FLbeachbirds.org.



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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 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 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.

Here are somethings still happening in Tallahassee with regard to bills that have been or have not been signed by Governor DeSantis.

FINAL BILLS FROM 2019 SESSION GO TO DESANTIS

News Service of Florida

The last of the 194 bills approved by the House and Senate this year landed on Gov. Ron DeSantis' desk last Wednesday. While DeSantis has acted quickly on most bills, he has until July 11 to sign, veto or let each of the 21 bills he received Wednesday become law without his signature. Among the final bills to reach DeSantis were a proposal to require out-of-state health care providers to pay application and renewal fees to provide telehealth services (HB 7067) and a proposal to restrict the formation and continuation of community redevelopment agencies (HB 9). As of Wednesday afternoon, DeSantis had signed 162 bills into law and vetoed two. One of those bills would have blocked local governments from banning plastic straws (HB 771), and the other would have revised voting requirements for the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District (HB 1417).

No love for the Panhandle: Survey shows Floridians don't want to help with Hurricane Michael recovery

Florida Politics

Public support for Hurricane Michael recovery efforts in the Florida Panhandle is lacking, according to a REBUILD 850 survey released Tuesday. The results showed nearly half of respondents would do nothing to help people affected by the hurricane and nearly 75 percent said they would not consider donating money to help with relief efforts. The lack of public support might be because Floridians mistakenly think life has gone back to normal in the panhandle after the hurricane leveled parts of the coast. As a new hurricane season ramps up, residents in the panhandle are still trying to recover from last year's Category 5 storm.



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

The Supreme Court Blocks Census citizenship question for now. Here's why that matters to Florida.

Tampa Bay Times

The U.S. Supreme Court stopped, for now, an effort by the Trump administration to put a citizenship question on the 2020 U.S. Census, returning the case to a lower court and requiring officials to provide a better explanation for why it's needed. It's a significant blow to

U.S. Department of Commerce officials who sought to add the question. The U.S. Census Bureau was planning to print forms as early as next week, and it's not clear if there will be time to argue for the question in court beforehand. Had the court approved the question, forms would have asked every resident in every household whether they are a U.S. citizen, a move expected to lead to undercounts of immigrants and Hispanics. It would have been the first time it was asked on such a scale since 1950. The question, approved by Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, was expected (by outside researchers and the bureau itself) to dissuade a sizable portion of the country, especially noncitizens, immigrants and Hispanic people overall, to respond to the Census.

Did you know?

- **Federal law protects** the confidentiality of all individual responses the Census Bureau collects
- **The U.S. Constitution** requires that each decade a count is taken of America's population
- **The census determines how many representatives** each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries.

House Passes Florida Congresswoman's Proposals to Fund NOAA's Efforts Against Toxic Algae

Florida Daily

Now in her second term on Capitol Hill, U.S. Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla., was able to get two proposals combating toxic algae through the U.S. House as part of the "Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act" which includes funding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Murphy was able to get her proposal for \$1.75 million for the NOAA to oversee the economic impact toxic algae has on Florida and the nation. This marks the first time since 2006 that such a study has been conducted. "The purpose of the study is to increase public awareness about the serious consequences of harmful algal blooms, which will push policymakers at the federal, state and local levels to dedicate more attention and resources to address this problem," Murphy's office noted.



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

Texting while driving law to go into effect Monday

Orlando Sentinel

Starting Monday, those texting behind the wheel should put their phone down. Otherwise, law enforcement will have to pull them over. Florida joins most of the country Monday when a bill signed under Gov. Ron DeSantis goes into effect making texting while driving a primary offense. Previously, law enforcement officers could not pull over and cite a driver for texting while driving unless they pulled them over for another offense, such as speeding. Under the new law, officers can pull over someone specifically for using their phone while operating a motor vehicle. The cost of the infraction is \$30 for the first offense and \$60 for repeated offenses.

Long-sought CRA reform is now law

Politics Florida

For years, lawmakers in Tallahassee have tried and failed to reform Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs). This year they got their wish. Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law Friday a bill (HB 9) that makes it much more difficult to establish CRAs and sunsets existing ones if they don't meet certain criteria. Local governments use CRAs to raise funds in areas in need of economic development and redevelopment. The CRAs use rising property taxes to fund projects within their boundaries. Such programs have been used in the Tampa Bay area to fund things like the Tampa Convention Center and parts of the new St. Pete Pier. The now-approved CRA bill puts a barrier on municipalities' continued ability to use CRAs as an economic development tool. The bill also provides strict oversight for CRAs. It would require ethics training for officials overseeing the funds and programs as well as implement state reporting and auditing.

Jacksonville tests aquarium-cleaner in ponds to cut food for algae

Florida Times-Union

Facing algae and water-pollution problems that could cost Jacksonville taxpayers many millions of dollars, scientists are testing a potential solution that's sold in pet stores. Water treatments that began last week at nine stormwater ponds belonging to the city and the state transportation department are part of a project to measure how much Microbe-Lift, an algae-killing blend of bacteria for cleaning aquariums and koi ponds, can lower nitrogen levels in water that flows eventually to the St. Johns River. If the results are good enough, the city might consider expanding Microbe-Lift treatments to more than 250 ponds across Jacksonville, said Melissa Long, chief of the city's Environmental Quality Division.



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

SOLUTIONS SOUGHT FOR ALGAE WOES

News Service of Florida

Experts looking into toxic algae outbreaks that have exploded in state waterways want to know if anyone has a proven, innovative cleanup strategy that can be used. And they want to know quickly. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is formally accepting information through July 15 on ways to prevent, combat or clean up harmful algal blooms in freshwater bodies and estuaries. Thomas Frazer, Florida's chief science officer, said Monday during a state Blue-Green Algae Task Force meeting in Fort Myers that he and good ideas." The better ideas will go before the task force at its Aug. 1 meeting, Frazer said. Gov. Ron other officials at the state department have already been fielding calls from people with ideas about fighting the algae. "I wouldn't want to limit the people who have expressed interest," Frazer said. "There are times that people may not have a ton of preliminary data ... but sometimes there are really DeSantis issued an executive order in January to create the task force in response to outbreaks of toxic algae and red tide across the state last year.

The information above was published by Florida League of City in their June 28th and July 1st issues of FLA Clips. Governor DeSantis will still be signing bills until July 11th. I will continue to report on these issues as they are announced. 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.

I wish everyone a safe and happy 4th of July!!

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

July 4th Frequently Asked Questions

Where are the fireworks being launched from?

They will be launched from a barge just off the Pinellas County Beach (4700 Gulf Blvd) in the Gulf of Mexico

When are they being launched?

On Thursday, July 4th at sunset (approximately 9pm)

Will Upham Beach close?

No, all public beaches (Upham and Pass-a-Grille will be open)

Can I bring alcohol on the beach?

NO! There is no alcohol, glass containers, pets, fire (including for the cooking of food) allowed on the beach at any time.

Traffic

Expect traffic delays in the city before and after the fireworks are launched. All traffic moving north of the Bayway Bridge will be directed off the island from 75th Ave into Pasadena. No exit into Treasure Island will be permitted. If parking in county parking lot, all exiting traffic from that lot will be directed to go south after the fireworks.

Parking


There is limited parking on the island, so ride sharing and public transit is encouraged.

Will there be entertainment on the beach?

The city is providing live music at Upham Beach. Music begins at 2pm with the Brian Caudill Band followed by Stormbringer at 6:30 until the fireworks launch. This event is free.

Local beach bars/hotels may have live music or activities available. Contact them directly to find out their schedules.

Be Safe and Have Fun!



**Children's Craft:
Pool Noodle Lightsabers
Friday, July 5
3:00 p.m.**



Ages 5-12

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



St. Pete Beach Recreation

Afterschool Program K-5th

Registration starts July 8th

- Enriching
- Fun
- Safe

For more information call 727-363-9245 or
visit www.spbrec.com

Transportation provided from
Azalea, Gulf Beaches &
Pasadena Fundamental



A UNIVERSE OF STORIES



&snacks
storytime



Thursday,
July 11
3:00 p.m.

(Ages 5-12)

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



© 2019 CSLP



John Williams Presents: The Moon Landing

**Thursday, July 11
11:00 a.m.**



John Williams, a retired SPC professor of Physics & Astronomy discusses The Apollo missions along with the reasons for not going back to the moon after the successful Apollo 17 mission. Conspiracy theories will be debunked using Newton's second law and practical science. In addition, the feasibility of colonizing the moon while dealing with radiation, communication issues and the question of water.

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