



St. Pete Beach eNews

The Official Electronic Newsletter of St. Pete Beach

August 1, 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

~
Finance & Budget Review Committee
August 7 @ 3p

~
Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
August 12 @ 10a

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City Commission
August 13 @ 6p

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Planning Board
August 19 @ 4p

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Recreation Advisory Committee
August 20 @ 9a

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Beach Stewardship Committee
August 21 @ 9a

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Commission meetings
replay on Ch. 642 on a
continuous loop

-LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS-Saturday, 11:00 am - Magic & Mayhem present: The Moon Bunny; 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, 5:00-8:00 pm - Junior Achievement: Financial Literacy (registration required); Tuesday, 3:00 pm - Tech Tuesdays: Any help; Wednesday, 4:00-8:00 p.m. - Junior Achievement: Career Success (registration required); Friday, 2:00 pm - Topics in American History: The 45th Anniversary of the Resignation of President Nixon; guided viewing of *All the President's Men*.

-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:

August 9th: Smokey & the Bandit

-MESSAGE FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE-

Please note the change in City Commission meetings dates for September, 2019.

09/03/2019 at 6:00 p.m.: Budget Meeting, First Public Hearing
Regular City Commission meeting, immediately following

09/17/2019 at 6:00 p.m.: Budget Meeting, Final Public Hearing
Regular City Commission meeting, immediately following

The City Commission will NOT meet on 9/10/2019 or 9/24/2019.

-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-

- **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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-MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC WORKS-

St. Pete Beach held a public meeting on July 31, 2019 at the Recreation Center to inform the public about two upcoming construction projects. Elected Officials, City Staff and representatives of the Engineering Design Firms of the projects presented an overview of the projects and answered questions for about 60 Citizens and friends of St. Pete Beach.

The Sanitary Sewer Force Main project will install a new sanitary sewer pipe to increase the capacity of the transmission system to allow for future development and to help prevent sanitary sewer overflows into the Boca Ciega Bay. The new pipe connects to the existing force main under Gulf Blvd at 37th Ave and will be installed by an open trench method north to Gulf Winds Drive in the inside southbound lane. At Gulf Winds Drive the pipe will follow along to Boca Ciega Drive all the way to the pump station at 87th Ave.

The Undergrounding of the Overhead Electrical and Telecommunications Lines project will place all of the overhead lines on both sides of Gulf Blvd underground and replace all the street lights with decorative LED light fixtures. The project goal is to underground all of the overhead lines and replace all of the street lights from 75th Ave south to the Bayway. This project will improve the beautification of the Boulevard and harden our electrical service grid against storm damage.

Both projects are estimated to cost approximately \$12.5M each and are scheduled to start together in January 2019. The sewer project is expected to last up to 18 months and the electrical project up to 24 months. A Public Update Meeting is tentatively scheduled for November and will be advertised in advance.



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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, as well as, other issues of concern.

Judge says you can't punish local officials for deciding about guns in their communities. It's a start.

Tampa Bay Times

Imagine the subject is not guns. Or a state that seems to value gun rights over pretty much any other. Imagine lawmakers in Tallahassee passed a statewide law on, say, cigarettes, or electric scooters or what time you could buy alcohol. This law said that if your hometown mayor, county commission or city council dared to pass local rules regulating these things after the state already decreed the law of the land, those elected officials could be in trouble. As in: Getting fined thousands of dollars and kicked out of office for trying to represent the sensibilities of the particular communities they serve. Ridiculous, right? Except it's Florida. And the subject is guns. For decades, local gun laws have been banned through "preemption" – the state deciding it knows best despite the richly different communities that stretch from the Panhandle to the Florida Keys. But in 2011, in a flex of muscle from the National Rifle Association, which holds the deeds to a collection of legislative souls, lawmakers added needle-sharp teeth to that law in the form of threats. Local mayors or council members who wanted to, say, keep guns out of city buildings or parks or block the sale of military-style weapons in their towns would risk getting booted out of office and a \$5,000 fine. It bears noting we are a state with too much everyday gun violence and that we have seen tragedy and massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando and the high school in Parkland. So local governments pushed back in legal action that included several South Florida counties, cities and officials, and closer to home, St. Petersburg, Safety Harbor and Dunedin. And score one for sensibility, at least for a minute. Last week, Tallahassee Judge Charles Dodson ruled that those unprecedented and chilling penalties – my description, not his – are unconstitutional. His reasons were cleaner: Letting a judge fine a politician wrongly moves power from the legislative branch to the judiciary.



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

A judge provides much-needed sanity on Florida gun laws | Editorial

Sun Sentinel

When politicians in Tallahassee trample on the Florida Constitution, only an independent judiciary can hold them accountable. That happened the other day when Circuit Judge Charles Dodson struck down vindictive and unprecedented penalties designed purely to punish local officials who dare to question the state's vise-like grip on all local gun regulations. After last year's tragedy in Parkland, the city of Weston and nearly 30 other cities and towns challenged a 2011 Florida law that imposes \$5,000 fines and threatens removal from office without hearings for local officials who challenge the Legislature's exclusive power to regulate firearms and ammunition in Florida. The pre-emption of gun control to the state dates to 1987, when Democrats were in control. The gun lobby challenged city and county ordinances in Broward, Miami-Dade and elsewhere that dealt with the serious and daily threats of gun violence in urban areas and were stronger than what gutless wonders in Tallahassee would consider. But a one-size-fit-all, Tallahassee-knows-best mentality took hold. Stricter local gun laws vanished. Guns proliferated. Pre-emption was not an issue in this case — only the penalty provisions that power-hungry Republicans imposed eight years ago. Dodson ruled that fines, removal from office and even the firing of appointed county administrators is all illegal because they impair contracts and violate constitutional principles of legislative immunity and separation of powers. Dodson seemed especially troubled by a provision that gives the governor power to remove officials from office, when the Constitution allows him to only suspend officials on other grounds. There's a difference. The power of removal rests with the Florida Senate, only after a suspended official asks for a public hearing (as in the recent case of suspended Broward Sheriff Scott Israel). "The Legislature did not have authority to do that," Dodson wrote.

New law scuttles ballot signature fight

Florida Politics

Almost exactly a month after Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a new elections law, a federal judge has dismissed a long-running legal battle about the handling of mismatched ballot signatures. Both sides in the case said the new law resolved disputed issues about verifying signatures on vote-by-mail and provisional ballots. That spurred Chief U.S. District Judge Mark Walker, who in November entered a preliminary injunction against the state because of concerns about the signature-verification process, to issue an order Monday dismissing the case. Lawmakers passed a bill (SB 7066) in May that made changes in the signature-verification process, and DeSantis signed the measure June 28. "Because the preliminary injunction originally issued by this court has now



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

expired, and because the Florida Legislature has amended the law plaintiffs challenge, this court finds this case has been rendered moot,” Walker wrote in the two-page order Monday. Then-U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and Florida and national Democrats filed the lawsuit last year in anticipation of a statewide recount in Nelson’s re-election campaign against former Republican Gov. Rick Scott. The race went to a recount, with Scott ultimately winning. In issuing the preliminary injunction in November, Walker sided with Democrats and ordered additional steps to allow voters to “cure” vote-by-mail and provisional ballots where signatures did not match signatures on file with elections officials. “The precise issue in this case is whether Florida’s law that allows county election officials to reject vote-by-mail and provisional ballots for mismatched signatures – with no standards, an illusory process to cure, and no process to challenge the rejection – passes constitutional muster,” Walker wrote in the November injunction decision. “The answer is simple. It does not.” The new law, however, establishes a uniform process for elections canvassing boards to compare signatures and extends deadlines for voters to cure ballots with signatures that don’t match those on file.

Making losers pay opponents’ costs undercuts Florida’s Growth Management Act | Column

Tampa Bay Times

Two days after he took office, Gov. Ron DeSantis issued an ambitious executive order dedicated to “achieving more now for Florida’s environment.” Its highlights included a big boost in spending on Everglades restoration and water quality. Legislators went on to approve a budget giving the governor even more money in those categories than he requested. But they also passed a bill, HB 7103, with an insidious amendment that will undercut the green goals they advanced with their spending plan. If they truly care about Florida’s environment – and their constituents’ power to protect it – legislators will repeal this amendment at their first opportunity. Like most politicians, legislators tend to be reluctant to reopen policy debates. But this amendment, introduced on the Senate floor by St. Petersburg’s Jeff Brandes, was never debated. It was not considered in any of the six committees to which HB 7103 and its Senate counterpart were referred. It was never subjected to scrutiny and discussion from committee members, or analysis from their staffs, or public testimony. It was unveiled just three days before the end of the session, with legislators under the gun to finish their work on time. It’s not a stretch to argue the amendment could strike a mortal blow to the system created by the Growth Management Act of 1985. That law wisely stipulated that all local governments adopt and maintain a comprehensive plan to guide their growth, and that all actions they take in authorizing development must be consistent with their plans. Those plans serve many vital objectives, including environmental protection. Plans address a broad range of growth-related policies and services fundamental to protecting a community’s water supply and other natural resources.



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

Editorial: So far, so good with 2019 water quality, but long-term issues require attention

Naples Daily News

You'll forgive us if we flinch just a bit every time we see words like "red tide," "blue-green algae" and "water quality" in a headline. Like the household do-it-yourselfer who's been zapped when trying to change a light socket, last year's episodes with toxic pollutants have left us skittish. When might it happen again? Could the next report be the one that signals the start of bad news, like 2018's cascade of catastrophes that culminated with fish kills, sick people and a devastated coastal economy? So far this year the news has been mostly good. Whatever conditions led to an unusually high red tide presence in the Gulf and unprecedented toxic algae in Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers haven't recurred. In the meantime, public attention and that of Florida's elected leaders have been focused on solutions. Gov. Ron DeSantis has made a fresh start, replacing all the members of the South Florida Water Management District board and appointing a Blue-Green Algae Task Force to look into what went wrong and how to prevent it. The Legislature budgeted \$600 million for environmental projects.

The information above was published by Florida League of City in their July 31, 2019 issue of FLA Clips. Governor DeSantis is still signing bills. 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.
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Telephone: (727) 341-7385
Tallahassee: (850) 717-5069

Senator Jeff Brandes
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Telephone: (727) 563-2100
Tallahassee: (850) 487-5024



Junior *Register now!*
Achievement[®]

Financial Literacy

Monday, August 5

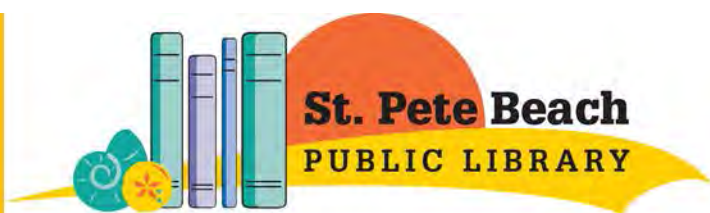
5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

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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365 73rd Avenue
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727-363-9238
SPBLibrary.com



Topics in American History: The 45th Anniversary of the Resignation of President Nixon

Friday, August 9 2:00 p.m.



Historian David Busch will lead you through a guided viewing of the movie “All the President's Men,” the 1976 movie starring Dustin Hoffman, Robert Redford, Jack Warden, Martin Balsam, Hal Holbrook, Jason Robards, and Jane Alexander.

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