



# St. Pete Beach eNews

*The Official Electronic Newsletter of St. Pete Beach*

**August 30, 2019**

## POOL INFORMATION

Water temp. always 82 °!

### POOL HOURS

Jul 31–Aug 31

### ADULT LAP SWIM

Mon-Thu: 7a-10a—(11a-3p limited lanes)

Fri: 7a-12a -(13a-3p limited lanes)

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

Sun: 12-3p (limited lanes)

### PUBLIC SWIM (KIDDY POOL)

Mon-Thu: 10a-6p

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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  
September 3 @ 6p

~  
Historic Preservation Board  
September 5 @ 3:30p

~  
Code Enforcement  
Special Magistrate  
September 9 @ 10a

~  
Commission meetings  
replay on Ch. 642 on a  
continuous loop

**-LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS-**Friday, 1:00 pm - Beachcombing 101: Learn about seashells with Florida Naturalist Kevin van Dien; Monday - Library is CLOSED; Tuesday, 12:00-2:00 pm - Census 2020: Info & Recruiting; Tuesday, 3:00 pm - Tech Tuesdays: Any help; Thursday, 4:00 pm - Audubon Florida Shorebird Presentation: Presenter Holley Short will discuss monitoring, management and stewardship of shorebirds in the Tampa Bay region.

### **-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 21<sup>st</sup> from 8am-12pm. Registration starts August 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://www.spbrec.com).

### **-COMMUNITY INFORMATION & EVENTS-**

- Mistletoe Market—This year the St. Pete Beach Recreation Department will be hosting a holiday shopping event in the park! Come shop local vendors and find that perfect holiday gift for friends and family! The event will take place on Dec 7th from 12-6pm and will include the tree lighting ceremony as well as the Chambers Festival of Trees! Event is located at Horan Park 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. SPB FL 33706

[Vendor Application](#)

**DO TO HURRICANE DORIAN, CITY OFFICES & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD. THE CITY PLANS TO RE-OPEN WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH.**

**DEPENDING ON HURRICANE DORIAN'S PATH RE-OPENING FACILITIES COULD CHANGE.**



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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 Article 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.

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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.

### **Hurricane spurs state of emergency** *News Service of Florida*

Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency for 26 counties Wednesday in anticipation of a powerful hit from Hurricane Dorian during the Labor Day weekend. DeSantis’ executive order, which is expected to enable better coordination for state and local governments with federal agencies, was accompanied by an announcement that the state Emergency Operations Center would become fully activated Thursday morning. “It’s important for Floridians on the East Coast to monitor this storm closely,” DeSantis said in a statement. DeSantis added that the state was ready to support all coastal counties as they prepare for the storm. The order covers numerous functions of state government, while also clearing the way for agreements with other states to coordinate resources. It also ordered Adj. Gen. James Eifert to activate the Florida National Guard “as needed” to deal with the emergency. The order covers all coastal counties on the East Coast, from Nassau to Monroe, and a number of inland counties, including Baker, Bradford, Clay, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Lake, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Putnam, Seminole and Union.

### **State wraps cybersecurity review at county election offices** *ABC Action News*

Florida has wrapped up its election cybersecurity review after a hack that compromised voter data ahead of the last presidential election, that’s according to the Secretary of



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State's Office. The review was announced in June. It followed a discovery weeks earlier in which two – still nameless counties– were hacked by an email phishing scam. Hackers accessed voter data but didn't change 2016 votes. Now that state officials have met with all 67 counties, they'll look over data and work with election supervisors to fix any weaknesses. "The review of all counties was finished last week, and the Department is reviewing the information," said Sarah Revell, the director of communications for Florida's Department of State. "Any issues that are identified will be addressed or mitigated prior to the 2020 elections." Paul Lux, the former president of Florida's Association of Supervisors of Elections, and current election supervisor for Okaloosa County, felt the results of the review would likely be largely positive.

## **Florida bills seek to allow local governments to regulate guns, plastic bags** *The Center Square*

Don't show up to a gun fight armed with plastic bags unless, that is, you're bracing to do battle over state preemption in the Florida Legislature. Democrats have pre-filed two 2020 bills seeking to impose home rule over gun laws and in the regulation of plastic shopping bags and foam containers. After Republicans proposed 50-plus preemption-related bills during the 2019 legislative session - adopting at least four - turnout is fair play, even if the only time most home rule bills will see the light of day in the GOP-controlled Legislature is whatever notice they garner during the pre-filing period. Sen. Linda Stewart, D-Orlando, pre-filed Senate Bill 182, which would dispense with language in Florida statute that forbids municipalities from governing items such as plastic shopping bags and foam containers. "By removing this language, we give home rule back to cities and counties, allowing them to decide what best fits their needs," Stewart said in a statement. "Coastal or lakefront communities may wish to ban these containers to reduce pollution that negatively affects other sectors of their economies such as tourism."

## **Jane Castor announces \$15 minimum wage for city employees** *Florida Politics*

Beginning Oct. 1, all new and full-time employees working for the city of Tampa will earn at least \$15 an hour. Tampa Mayor Jane Castor announced the wage policy Wednesday in a press conference where the theme was doing the right thing. "We have a rapidly growing city, and that growth comes with a great deal of responsibility, and we have got to lead by example," Castor said. "If we aren't ourselves paying that living wage, how can we encourage others around us to do so?" Progressives nationwide have been calling for a mandatory \$15 minimum wage. Castor has no control over private-sector wages. Setting a statewide minimum wage falls on the Florida legislature. But she can create city policy that ensures her own employees are earning a living wage. The group Florida for a Fair Wage, backed by attorney John Morgan, is trying to get an amendment on the 2020 ballot in Florida to institute a \$15 minimum wage, beginning with \$10 an hour and rising \$1 every year until it reaches \$15 in 2026. Polls show support statewide for the amendment. Castor said the move was the product of continuing conversations with city staff and union leaders that began as soon as she took office in January. She said it falls under one of her five administrative priorities and falls under the purview of sustainability and resiliency.



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

### **Facebook Expands Tool That Lets Local Governments Send Alerts Route Fifty**

In the event of a flash flood, active shooter or major road closure, local governments have a new way to get information about emergency situations to residents. Facebook announced Tuesday the expansion of a tool that will allow governments to craft local alerts which “greatly amplify” their reach on the social media platform. More than 350 local governments have used local alerts as part of a pilot program Facebook launched in November to disseminate information about everything from flash flood warnings to bomb threats to missing persons reports. Facebook plans to make the local alert tool available to all eligible Facebook pages in the United States by the end of the year. “When authorities mark posts as local alerts, we greatly amplify their reach so that people living in an affected community are much more likely to see them,” Anthea Watson Strong, a Facebook product manager, wrote in a blog post announcing the expansion of the initiative. “We send notifications to people living in the affected area, and we also show that information on Today In, a new place on Facebook for local news, community information, and conversations between neighbors.”

### **State Supreme Court to decide fate of plan to open electricity market to competition Miami Herald**

The colossal fight to open electricity generation to competition in Florida – which is being led by a Gainesville-based natural gas marketing company – made its way before the new-look Florida Supreme Court on Wednesday and it became clear the constitutional amendment drive is no David v. Goliath battle. It looked more like David versus the world. The measure, known as Florida Energy Choices, asks voters to approve a major restructuring of electricity markets by giving consumers the right to choose their providers by dismantling the state’s existing utility giants. The concept is modeled after Texas, one of 17 states and the District of Columbia that have opened their monopoly-owned retail electricity markets to competition since the early 1990s. Supporters say the change will significantly lower utility costs, super-charge renewable energy and electricity innovation, create thousands of jobs, attract new business to the state and pump more money into rural areas. Opponents, led by the state’s powerful utility industry, warn that the change is too disruptive and will bring more problems than it solves by creating uneven service reliability and few cost savings. Whether the idea gets on the ballot depends in part on the court, which must determine if the ballot language complies with the single-subject provisions of the Florida Constitution and doesn’t mislead voters.

### **Energy Choice Amendment looks like a bad choice for Floridians The Floridian**

The idea of Floridians having a choice in energy, like the choice in Healthcare, could prove to be more problematic and costly to consumers than efficient. The Energy Choice Amendment, a measure that could give Floridian’s a choice in energy, could very well make it on the ballot and pass if it is able to garner 60% support on election day next year.



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

The amendment, which the Florida Supreme Court is still examining, could deregulate the state’s energy utility industry and raise monthly bills. The ballot initiative is not etched in stone, as supporters are still trying to garner the necessary petition signatures to get it on the ballot. Florida’s energy sector and its supporting organizations are fighting back, stating that the amendment was written using disingenuous language to sell the measure. The Florida League of Cities, who represents more than 400 cities, towns and villages across the state, recently published an opposing resolution to the proposed ballot initiative, all-but eviscerates the proposed energy amendment, calling it a puppeteering game that is “vague and misleading to voters” and should be “stricken from the ballot” by the courts.

### **Coral Gables pushes state to allow cities to ban single-use plastics and Styrofoam** *Miami Herald*

Coral Gables is fighting back on a ruling that struck down both its Styrofoam and plastic bag ban two weeks ago. At its Tuesday commission meeting, the city commission voted unanimously to appeal to the Florida Supreme Court a lower court’s decision preventing the city from banning single-use plastics and Styrofoam. “This is what most of our residents want,” Commissioner Michael Mena said. Coral Gables isn’t just pushing back for the sake of its own legislation. Also, on Tuesday, the commission passed a resolution asking the state to repeal state preemptions preventing local regulation of plastics and Styrofoam, which would allow cities across Florida to ban the materials. The preemptions are the basis for the 3rd District Court of Appeal’s Aug. 14 decision in favor of the Florida Retail Federation, which sued Coral Gables over its ban. The Retail Federation represents Publix, Walmart, Target and other retailers.

The information above was published by Florida League of City in their August 29<sup>th</sup> issue of FLA Clips. 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.

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

[tfinnerty@stpetebeach.org](mailto:tfinnerty@stpetebeach.org)

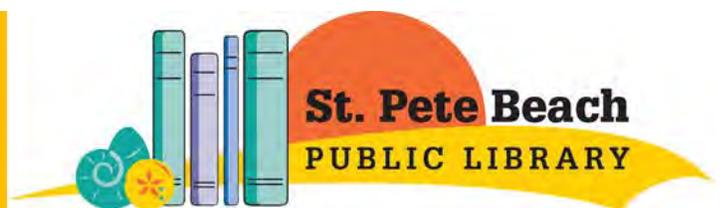
Representative Jennifer Webb  
[jennifer.webb@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:jennifer.webb@myfloridahouse.gov)  
Telephone: (727) 341-7385  
Tallahassee: (850) 717-5069

Senator Jeff Brandes  
[Brandes.jeff.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:Brandes.jeff.web@flsenate.gov)  
Telephone: (727) 563-2100  
Tallahassee: (850) 487-5024



**Census 2020:  
Info & Recruiting  
Tuesdays, September 3, 17  
Mondays, September 9, 23  
12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.**

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





# Audubon FLORIDA

## Shorebird Presentation

**Thursday, September 5**

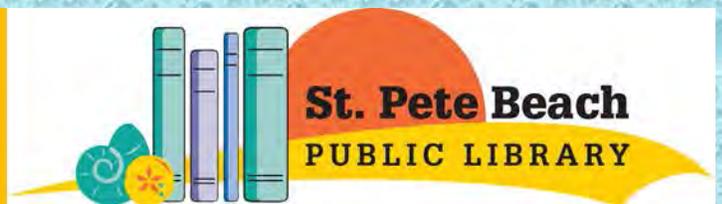
**4:00 p.m.**

**Audubon Florida's Holley Short is part of the organization's Coastal Program that focuses on the monitoring and management of shorebirds, seabirds, and wading birds along the Florida coast.**

**In her presentation, Holley will discuss monitoring, management, and stewardship of shorebirds in the Tampa Bay region.**



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





Utilities  
(727) 464-4000

August 2019

## **Important Drinking Water Notice from Pinellas County**

Effective Monday, September 23, Pinellas County will begin a routine system maintenance program to optimize water quality. The water treatment method is being temporarily changed from chloramine to chlorine disinfection. The switch to chlorine will be in effect from September 23 through October 12, 2019.

The water is perfectly safe to drink during this period, though you may notice a slight difference in the taste or odor of the water.

Users of kidney dialysis machines and owners of aquatic life should not be impacted, but should contact their respective service providers for more information.

If you have questions, please visit the Pinellas County Utilities website at [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities) or call Customer Service at (727) 464-4000.



## Water System Maintenance Program Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the “Water System Maintenance Program?”**

This program is a temporary conversion from chloramine to chlorine disinfection and is a routine maintenance measure designed to reduce the potential for occurrences of coliform or other types of bacteria in the water delivery system.

### **Why is the maintenance program being conducted?**

This is a planned treatment designed to provide protection to our customers against potentially harmful bacteria in the water supply. Many utilities using chloramine disinfection find it helpful to switch periodically to a free chlorine treatment program to maintain water quality. Based on water quality monitoring and sampling data, Pinellas County will perform the water system maintenance program once or twice a year.

### **What other benefits does the maintenance program provide?**

This method of water quality maintenance is an effective alternative to flushing millions of gallons of drinking water. As a result of enhanced water quality monitoring and flushing strategies, flushing volumes continue to be reduced.

### **Who will be affected?**

The program will include all water customers of Pinellas County as well as customers in the cities of Clearwater, Pinellas Park and Safety Harbor.

### **Will customers notice any changes in the water during the program?**

Pinellas County water customers may experience a slight difference in the taste and/or smell of the water during this temporary change in treatment. These are normal occurrences and carry no negative health effects for the general population. The impact to the customer will be similar to that experienced when a water main is replaced or other routine maintenance is performed on the water distribution system.

### **Can I drink the water during this maintenance program?**

Yes. The water will continue to meet federal and state standards for safe drinking water during this period. Health concerns associated with disinfection byproducts—total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids five (HAA5s) are related to long-term exposure and not short-term maintenance actions. Additional information can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, by visiting [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and the World Health Organization website, by visiting [www.who.int](http://www.who.int).

### **Do I need to boil the water?**

No, boiling the water is not necessary.

### **Will the program affect dialysis patients?**

Users of kidney dialysis machines should not be impacted, but should contact their dialysis care provider for more information about water testing and precautions regarding chlorine removal. Chlorine, like chloramine, is fatal if it enters the bloodstream during the hemodialysis process.

As a result, strict water purification standards are already followed by the kidney dialysis industry as established by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation.

**Will the chlorine affect aquatic life?**

The temporary change to chlorine should not affect fish owners if a system is already in place to remove chloramine. Those with questions should contact their local pet suppliers.

**Why do we flush the water distribution system?**

Having a written flushing plan is a regulatory requirement, however, Pinellas County Utilities has always employed flushing as one of the methods for keeping water quality at its best. Flushing the water mains improves water quality by removing sediment in the pipes and by eliminating stagnant water found in dead-end pipes in various locations throughout the system.

**What if I have a water softener or any other type of water treatment device?**

Residents with any type of water treatment devices should follow the manufacturer's specifications.

**When will the program be conducted?**

The second maintenance program for 2019 is scheduled to take place from **September 23 through October 12**. If there are any changes in the duration, customers will be notified through a news release and on [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities).

**If I have questions, how can I find more information?**

For more information, please visit [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities) or contact Pinellas County Utilities Customer Service at (727) 464-4000 or your water service provider.