- **LIBRARY NEWS** - Please note change of venue for some events as we prepare for renovations at the library. Wednesday, 10:00 am-2:00 pm - S.H.I.N.E. Medicare Counseling (at the Community Center); Thursday, 6:30 pm - Tim Dorsey Book Talk: Meet the New York Times bestselling author and get a signed copy of his new book, *Naked Came the Florida Man: A Novel* (at the Community Center Gym).
  - **Tim Dorsey**

- **SENIOR EXCURSION HOSTED BY THE ST. PETE BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER** - The St. Pete Beach Community Center has new Senior Excursions on the schedule January-March. The excursions are a great way for local seniors to travel with friends. All excursions will depart from St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. All participants must pre-register the Wednesday prior to the excursion. Each trip is $15. Cost covers transportation only. All admissions or lunch are extra and the responsibility of the participants. Time of trips are from 9a-4p unless stated otherwise. For more information call the Community Center at 727.363.9245 or visit [www.spbrec.com](http://www.spbrec.com)

  **Trip Schedule**

  **Jan 4th:** Florida Railroad Museum (additional fee for admission)
  **Jan 11th:** Disney Springs
  **Jan 18th:** Antique & Collectors Extravaganza
  **Jan 25th:** Tampa Premium Outlets
  **Feb 1st:** Florida Holocaust Museum (additional fee for admission)
  **Feb 8th:** Sarasota Classic Car Museum (additional fee for admission)
  **Feb 15th:** Florida State Fair (additional fee for admission)
  **Feb 22nd:** St. Armand’s Circle
  **Feb 29th:** Florida Strawberry Festival (additional fee for admission)
  **March 7th:** Tampa Bay Downs (additional fee for admission **Leaves at 8:30a**)
  **March 14th:** Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (additional fee for admission)
  **March 21st:** The Florida Aquarium (additional fee for admission)
  **March 28th:** Brooker Creek Preserve (additional fee for admission **Leaves at 8:30a**)

- **HONOR WALK AT UPHAM BEACH** - The 2019-2020 Brick Campaign has officially launched. Orders will be received from November 4, 2019 until March 16, 2020. Installation of the bricks will occur early summer. For more information call 727.363.9232 or download the form [Honor Walk at Upham Beach](http://www.spbrec.com)

- **COMMUNITY EVENTS**
  - Free Lunch and Learn Wednesday January 8th at the St. Pete Beach Recreation Center from 12-1pm. Topic of Discussion—Heart Smart Nutrition. For more information or to reserve your seat, call 727.363.9245.
  - Community Yard Sale January 11th from 8am-12pm.
  - **Don Cesar Beach Polo Classic** January 11-12, 2020
  - Corey Avenue Arts & Craft Festival January 11th & 12th
  - **St. Pete Beach Classic** January 18th & 19th. Expect delays during the race.
  - 8th Avenue Block Party in Pass-A-Grille January 18th from 5-10p
  - Music in The Afternoon January 19th from 2-4p at the recreation Center. For more information, call 727.363.9245.
  - Sunday Market on Corey Avenue from 10a-2p
First, let me wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year! 2020 promises to be a great year for our wonderful city as we continue to move forward with many projects we planned and obtained money to complete in 2019. Some examples are, installing a band-new sewer system, undergrounding utilities on Gulf Boulevard, continuing the beautification of Corey Avenue, completing the Blind Pass Road project, continuing our street improvement and paving program, expanding our new public transportation system with Freebee on the Beach, implementing a complete library renovation project and restoring Hurley Park, just to name a few. These infrastructure improvements will greatly impact the quality of life for all of us and the future of our city.

In addition, probably one of the most important projects Alex Rey, our City Manager, launched in 2019 is the Strategic Planning for Vision: 2030 which will produce a working document of our goals by Spring of 2020. These goals have been created by many members of our community, city staff, elected officials and businesses in St. Pete Beach. This plan will provide us with a cohesive plan to reach our goals as a united city.

As I said, 2020 promises to be a great year for our wonderful city as our City Commission stays focused on our goals and committed to continuing to move our City forward.

The following have been taken from the Florida League of Cities Clips December 30th and 31st issues. These “clips’ relate to issues concerning St. Pete Beach and our beach community, such as: changes in the state over the next 10 years, environmental stewardship and new laws going into effect January 1, 2020.

Editorial: Prepare for changes over next decade

Florida Times-Union

The year 2030 is just around the corner for the state of Florida. Addressing challenges on a statewide level requires an action plan. That’s what the Florida Chamber Foundation has done with its report, “Florida: 2030.” The challenges at first glance appear overwhelming. Florida will be transformed by 2030. The population will continue to grow with about 5 million new residents. Retiring boomers will come to Florida as their elders did. About 1 in 4 Floridians will be 65 or older. People will pack the cities. Rural areas will account for 86% of Florida’s land area but just 10% of its population. Florida has five of the top 25 fastest-growing metro areas: Fort Walton Beach, the Villages, Orlando, Cape Coral and Naples. Millennials will take over as the dominant age group, but they will be dealing with massive amounts of student loan debt, outpacing credit card and auto loan debt. At 83 town hall meetings involving over 10,000 Floridians in all 67 counties, 87% of respondents said they were optimistic about Florida’s future, but most said their own communities weren’t “positioned for global competitiveness, prosperity and vibrant and sustainable communities.”

A bevy of new Florida laws go into effect New Year’s Day

Florida Politics

A new year means more than just a toast at midnight (and a hangover the next day). In Florida, there will be a number of new state laws that will have far-reaching effects. Here is a look at the Florida laws taking effect Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020: Texting-and-driving law: Getting behind the wheel? Put down the phone. Starting July 1, Florida law enforcement officers were allowed to stop drivers and cite them for texting and driving. The second part of House Bill 107 upholds the hand-held ban in school and construction zones. That took effect in October. However, many Florida law enforcement agencies — including the Florida Highway Patrol — had a six-month grace period by issuing warnings instead of fines. The grace period ends Wednesday. Source

Bob Knight: New Year’s resolutions for Florida’s springs

Gainesville Sun

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is the state’s lead agency for environmental management and stewardship and is tasked to protect the state’s air, water and land. Reading from DEP’s website, its vision is "... to create strong community partnerships, safeguard Florida’s natural resources, and enhance its ecosystems." Headquartered in Tallahassee, but with staff statewide, DEP has approximately 3,000 employees and an annual budget of about $1.5 billion. Composed of 13 divisions, including the Division of Parks and Recreation, DEP oversees all aspects of Florida’s 175 state parks. Those parks, preserves and recreational areas encompass more than 800,000 acres and have won top honors nationwide four of the past 20 years. Annual visitation to Florida’s state parks exceeds 30 million visitors. Source
Joe Gruters’ online sales tax proposal could secure around $670 million in new revenue, according to state budget experts. The bill (SB 126) requires internet retailers and online marketplaces to collect state sales tax on items delivered within Florida. The Sarasota Republican has said the effort to balance the playing field for Florida businesses would generate more than $700 million for the state. That guess remains in the ballpark of what the Legislature’s Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) found Friday, EDR coordinator Amy Baker said. In the estimating conference, budget experts made revisions to its methodology. Source

Don’t forget the 2020 Legislative sessions begins on January 14th. I will begin to provide updates on legislative as the session gets started. There are a lot of issues coming up that affect our community and we need to stay aware.

Please be sure to contact your state representatives listed below and let them know how you feel about upcoming legislation pertaining to issues that have an impact on your life and the life of your family, as we move toward the 2020 Legislative session.

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