

Police Standards Raise the Bar



By Cathy Salustri
Gulfport Detective Hahn Pham clears the "wall" on his first try at last Friday's dry run of the Physical Abilities Test.

See *Story*, page 4

No More Outside Storage in Gulfport

Residents with leather couches in their front yards can soon face code violations. Tuesday night city council, as part of their ongoing efforts to fine-tune city code.

"This is a direct result of interior furniture being placed outdoors," City manager Jim O'Reilly said of an ordinance that would not allow indoor furniture outdoors in Gulfport.

"If it's not visible from the public street, I don't think that should be a code violation," councilwoman Jennifer Salmon said, adding that "it shouldn't be a violation because it's built to be an indoor piece of furniture" unless the furniture posed a health and safety issue, such as rats burrowing in the upholstery.

"I understand the whole thing with the couches," councilman Sam Henderson said, but expressed concern that the proposed changes left "too much up to discretion" that would allow people to report a neighbor for what another might consider art.

"It depends on what you want," city attorney Andy Salzman told council. "You can create an ordinance that creates community standards but you all need to be comfortable with what comm standards you're setting. These are the real difficult sections to draft."

"It's like a movie set - the front looks really great... I'm not in favor of someone putting a couch in the backyard, period," Vicemayor David Hastings said to councilwoman Salmon's suggestion that the city had no business, barring public health and safety concerns, with what people couldn't see from the street.

In the end, council voted to pass an ordinance that says

See *Storage*, page 7

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The Case For (and Against) The Coconut Inn

The Pass-a-Grille Inn is at the center of one hotelier's beef with the city.
By Cathy Salustri

Joe Caruso wants to build a gazebo. Three gazebos, to be precise.

The city of St. Pete Beach told him yes, then they told him no. Then they told him he needed to change his zoning before they would tell him yes again. Then they told him he couldn't change his zoning.

"It has nothing to do with the law. It's a popularity contest," Joe Caruso says.

All he wanted, he says, is a gazebo, but he claims

See *Coconut*, page 50



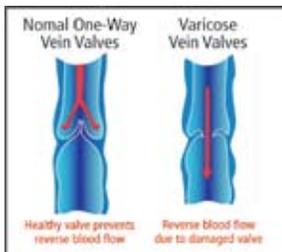
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Support the Prostate Cancer 5k Run

The 2nd Annual J. West Prostate Cancer 5k Run & Walk for Awareness kicks off on Friday, January 6 with a Mini Health, Nutrition & Fitness Expo at the Casino from noon to 6:30 p.m. The Race & Walk will be held on Saturday, January 7th starting at 8 a.m. at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard S. in Gulfport. Event features great looking t-shirts, awards, drawings, fruit, bagels, water and more. Visit www.active.com to register or call Race Director Mike Calamari at 727-638-2389. Late registrations are accepted Saturday morning from 6:30-7:45

Correction

Last week an article in the *Gabber* indicated that both arrests for sex crimes took place on Upham Beach. Police investigation has determined that while both crimes occurred within the city of St. Pete Beach, only one occurred actually on Upham Beach. The *Gabber* regrets the error.

a.m. Can't make it Saturday? Visit www.jswestprostatefoundation.org to donate.

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Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber Annual Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner and Installation of the 2012 Board is the Chamber's largest event of the year. They will also be announcing their Business of the Year Award Winners!

The Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its Annual Dinner and Installation of the 2012 Board of Directors on Thursday,

January 19 at the Hilton Clearwater Beach, located at 400 Mandalay Avenue in Clearwater. This year's keynote speaker will be Pierre-Yves Cousteau. Born in 1982 in Paris, France, he is the youngest son of the legendary Jacques-Yves Cousteau.

The event begins with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m. The cost is \$60 per member or \$75 per non-member, which includes a drink ticket and full dinner. For more information or to register, please contact Amanda Page at 727-360-6957 or RSVP@tampabaybeaches.com.

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Police Standards Raise the Bar

from front page

Friday morning Gulfport Detectives Hahn Pham and Jimmy Embry became the first two Gulfport police officers to pass the Physical Abilities Test (PAT) now required of all officers.

Gulfport police adopted the same obstacle course used by state law enforcement agencies. The course includes clearing a 40" "wall", jumping hurdles, crawling under low hurdles, dragging a 150 pound dummy 100 feet, and a 220-yard run. Every officer, including police chief Rob Vincent, must run the course in less than six minutes and four seconds.

Officers must pass the test in June to remain on the force. If they do not pass the test in June, they have three additional chances before facing disciplinary action.

Chief Robert Vincent started gearing the department towards a physical fitness standard when he officially assumed the role of police chief; the department finalized the

policy this past fall. He says he has always believed in fitness standards for police officers.

"A long time ago, I thought, when I'm the chief we're going to have fitness standards. I never understood why we didn't have them," he said.

Detectives Hahn Pham and Jimmy Embry will serve as instructors to help anyone who cannot complete the course in the allotted time. The two detectives passed the test on the first try Friday morning. Detective Pham completed the course in 4:31; Detective Embry beat that time by five seconds.

Chief Vincent believes his entire department will be able to meet the standard. Officers will get three chances to complete the course successfully; anyone who does not complete it the first time around will receive special training, courtesy of the two instructors.

"I think that we won't have anybody not pass," Chief Vincent said. "We have two instructors, so if somebody doesn't pass we will develop a remedial training plan just for them, to focus on what they need."

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Annual Wine & Cheese Party

The South Pasadena Civic Association will hold its Annual Wine & Cheese Party on Wednesday, January 11 at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall. Come see "Elvis Presley" for an entertaining afternoon. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. Call Agnes at 347-5292 for tickets.

Gulfport City Clerk Draws Names for March Ballot

At Tuesday night's council meeting city clerk Lesley DeMuth drew names to determine the order in which candidate's names would appear on the ballot. Here is the ballot order for the March election:

Incumbent Dave Hastings' name will appear before his challenger Dan Liedtke's.

Challenger James Perry's name will appear before incumbent Jennifer Salmon's.

Voters will can also vote on six charter referendum questions.

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Gulfport Community Players presents

The Curious Savage

by John Patrick

Directed by Eileen Navarro



The cast of *The Curious Savage* portray the heart warming comedy about Ethel Savage, who has been committed to a "genteel asylum" by her children, so they can bring her to her senses and get their hands on the fortune her husband has left her.

January 5th - January 22nd, 2012

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday @ 8 pm and Sunday @ 2pm

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Thanks from Operation Santa

The Gulfport Police on behalf of Operation Santa would like to thank all those who made Operation Santa 2011 a success by making donations. This year Operation Santa helped put a smile on the faces of 275 children in 119 families. Every donation, whether large or small, makes a difference to the children in Gulfport who might not have had much under the tree at Christmas. This was only possible through the generous outpouring donations of toys and money from organizations, businesses and individuals. Santa and his elves would like to thank all who contributed. We would like to thank everyone individually, but due to the overwhelming response this year, we have too many donors to list. We would like to recognize and thank Francine Whitten for her years of dedication and service to Operation Santa. Francine has been an integral part in making it a successful program that has helped many families. And a special thanks to the *Gulfport Gabber*.

New Parking Fees at Two County Parks

Visitors driving to Fort De Soto or Fred Howard parks seeking to reach the beach will see new parking fees. Daily parking passes can be purchased at each of the parks for \$5 and are valid all day.

The fees will be used for enhancements to the county's parks and maintenance of the grounds and facilities.

Annual parking passes will be available and can be purchased for \$75. The price is reduced to \$55 for senior citizens 65 and over. Annual parking passes are available at the administrative offices of Fort De Soto and Parks and Conservation Resources office, which is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo.

The annual parking passes can be used at Fred Howard, Fort De Soto and Sand Key parks. In addition, annual parking passes for county-owned boat ramps are valid in the three parks. The boat ramp annual permits are \$110 per year.

Visitors who walk or bike to the beach parks will not be charged a parking fee, and those who choose to stay on the mainland section of Fred Howard Park will not be charged for parking.

At Fort De Soto Park, daily parking passes can be purchased at the entrance to the park. At Fred Howard Park, they are available at automated pay stations.

For more information on the individual parks, go to www.pinellascounty.org/parks or call 727-582-2100.

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Storage, from front page

that residents may not store interior furniture outside. They removed the language that would not allow automobile parts and tires, building materials, and equipment to be stored outdoors.

Council will hear public comment, if any, and vote a second and final time, at the February 7 meeting in the Hickman theatre.

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See Tampa Bay in a Whole New Way

ST. PETE BEACH- The ever-popular "Senior Excursions" at the St. Pete Beach Community Center are starting back this January and running through April. Guests travel to popular attractions and shopping destinations all over Tampa Bay without the hassles of driving, tolls and parking. The trips run almost every Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a few special trips occurring on other days of the week. Travel to places such as the Hard Rock Casino, the Strawberry Festival, IKEA, Mixon Groves, a Rays Spring Training game, and much more. Trips are just \$12 for St. Pete Beach residents and \$15 for non-residents; additional entry fees may apply. All of these exciting trips are limited to the first 25 paid participants so be sure to reserve your spot. Call 363-9245 for details and see a full list of trips online at www.spbrec.com.

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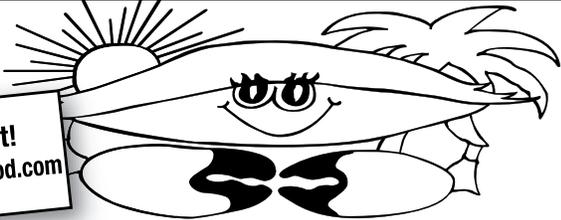


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“The Curious Savage” Opens Tonight

The Gulfport Community Players will open a heart-warming comedy by John Patrick entitled, “The Curious Savage”, on January 5th at the Hickman Theater of Gulfport. The play tells the story of Ethel Savage, who has been committed to a “sanitarium” by her children. It is their hope that this act will “bring her to her senses”, allowing them to get their hands on the \$10 million her husband left her upon his passing. The play is set in The Cloisters - a genteel asylum for guests struggling to cope with various mental problems.

The play is being directed by Eileen Navarro, who won a Cathy Award for Best Director for last season’s Noises Off! She has a great cast of 12 people to work with, including a few people you might know from their past plays. The cast includes: Linda Hamrell, Jessica Barthle, Guadalupe Gagnon, Linda Rosenfeld, Ross Johnson, Mitchell Le Vine, David Mathias, Maureen Kilroy, Corey Kramer, Janell Kramer, and Ellie LeVine

Join them and your friends for another great evening or afternoon of live theater at the Hickman Theater. This play will run for three weeks, with curtain times of 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays

and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are only \$15 each and are available at Eileen’s Resale Boutique, the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, the Gulfport Casino, the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, at the door, or by calling them at 727-322-0316 for advance sales.

For more information about this play or the Players, please visit their website at: <http://www>.

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Take a Safe Boating Course

USCG Auxiliary 7-16 will offer an ABS Course (one day, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) on Saturday, January 14 at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Building, 3120 Miriam Street S. in Gulfport. Cost is \$40.

Call 727-399-7986 for reservations and more information.

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Garden Club of St. Petersburg Events

On January 10th the Garden Club of St. Petersburg will have an All Members Meeting at 1 p.m. at the Garden Center, 500 Sunset Drive S. in St. Petersburg. The program will be floral designs you can create at home, by designers from Flower Arranging Circle. Visitors are welcomed.

On January 19th there will be a Horticulture Seminar - Joy of Growing Orchids presented by Michael Polen of Art Stone Orchids with coffee at 9:30 a.m. and the program to begin at 10 a.m. at the Garden Club.

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Gulfport Lions Club Spaghetti Supper

The Gulfport Lions Club will be hosting a Spaghetti Supper on January 7th and the event is open to the public. The menu will consist of spaghetti & meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert, coffee or tea. This is an all you can eat supper, so bring your appetite, your family and friends. Cost is \$7 per ticket. Children under 10, \$4. It is also a BYOB event, so bring your wine if you like. All of their Gulfport Lions Club members have tickets, so if you want to prepurchase them, ask any local Lion. Otherwise, they will have an adequate supply of them at the door. The Gulfport Lions Club is located at 4630 Tifton Drive S., right behind the Gulfport Marina. They will be serving from 4-7 p.m. Directions are as follows: go south on 49th Street to the stop sign at the water; turn left and follow the road around to the Lions Club.

All their events support community outreach programs in sight conservation; four Pancake Breakfasts (Nov., Dec., Feb., April), a Shrimp Boil in March, along with their Fish Fry (September), and our Spaghetti Suppers (October and January). Some of the entities that they sponsor are The Watson Center (Lighthouse) for the Visually Impaired, the Conklin Center for the Multi-Handicapped Blind, the Central Florida Eye Bank, Southeast Guide Dogs, WUSF Radio Reading Service, the Florida Lions Foundation, local eyeglasses and examination program, local Scouting and Little League programs, and many more. So please come out and support your local Lions.

Their next event will be on Saturday, February 4th with their Pancake Breakfast.

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Cleaning Closets?

Is your new year resolution to clean out your closets and free up space you desperately need? Well, Sophie's Attic Thrift Store would be thankful for all your clean, gently used household, clothing, small furniture and miscellaneous items.

Sophie's is always accepting donations which may be dropped off

at the church office M-F, 9 a.m. to noon at 2728 53rd Street S. or the Thrift Store Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, or call the church at 321-3620 for pick up at your convenience.

They are also in need of some free standing shelving for the store. If you have any not being used and would like to donate, please call 321-3620.

Sophie's Attic is a mission outreach of the First United Methodist Church of Gulfport.

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Students can get a Look at County Government

Have you ever seen a medic respond to a heart attack? Do you know how large a traffic signal is or what it's like to be behind bars?

Teens Behind the Scenes is a new program that takes an exclusive look at the inner workings of Pinellas County government. Once a month from January to April, teens will go behind the scenes to experience first-hand what goes into keeping the county running.

Presented by the county's Youth Advisory Committee, Teens Behind the Scenes was created by students for students and is modeled after the popular Pinellas Citizens University. The sessions will meet the fourth Wednesday of the month

from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the site of the featured department.

Program line-up is as follows:

Survivor ... Public Works on January 25. Take a trip to the public works building and explore traffic control, engineering and more.

Law & Order on February 22. Investigate the roles of law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys and the judge.

Most Wanted! on March 21. Take a tour of the Pinellas County Jail. Learn about intake, maximum security, and direct supervision. (Parental release required to participate.)

9-1-1 101 on April 18. Get an up-close look at the Pinellas County EMS system and get the chance to participate in a first responders' demonstration.

Awards Night (6 p.m.) on April 24. Be on PCC-TV with your County Commissioners and receive your certificate.

This free program is open to high school students who are at least 14 years old. The registration deadline for each session is two weeks before the program date. Don't delay, class size is limited!

To register, go to www.pinellascounty.org/yac. For more information, call 727-582-2656.

The Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee is comprised of high school students who provide input and assistance to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. Membership is open to high school students who reside in Pinellas County.

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Republican Club to Meet

Pinellas County Commissioner Neil Brickfield will address the members and friends of the St. Petersburg Republican Club on Wednesday, January 11 7 p.m. at the Piccadilly Cafeteria located at 1900 34th Street N. St. Petersburg. Following Commissioner Brickfield's presentation, he will answer questions from the audience. Everyone is invited to attend and participate in the Question and Answer session. There is no charge for this event.

For more information on this event and the club's activities, call Gus Pries at 864-0312.

...

Gulfport Public Library Welcomes Pinellas County Extension

Through its Pinellas Energy Efficiency Project, Pinellas County Extension is promoting a new gadget that aims to get citizens more energy conscious and eco-friendly. Gulfport is one of the eight Pinellas County libraries hosting the class. The presentation there is scheduled for Saturday, January 28th from 10-11 a.m. Gulfport Library is located at 5501 28th Ave. S. (enter on 27th Ave. S. side).

The Kill-A-Watt™ Energy Monitor is a simple tool used to see how much energy the devices in a home are actually using, whether they are on or off. Users simply plug the monitor into an outlet, plug an appliance into the monitor, follow The Kill-A-Watt's™ instructions and watch it work. The monitor measures various aspects of electrical consumption, from voltage of an outlet to watts and kilowatt hours. Users can find

out exactly how much energy and money is being consumed by most of their household electronics.

Pinellas County Extension and the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative have come together to make these Kill-A-Watt™ monitors available for check-out at their libraries to make the assessment of personal energy consumption even easier.

Extension specialists will also be holding upcoming classes at select libraries to further explain how the monitors work and to give easy tips to make a home more energy efficient in their effort to

decrease electric bills and increase environmental friendliness.

Massachusetts Society to Meet

The next meeting of the Massachusetts Society will be on Wednesday, January 11th at 1 p.m. at the Lion's Club, 4630 Tifton Drive S. in Gulfport. This month is their auction. Bring items but no small appliances please. All Bay State neighbors are cordially invited. Refreshments and coffee available.



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Democratic Club to Meet

On Thursday evening, January 12, the Greater Pinellas Democratic Club will welcome Pinellas County Commissioner and long time friend of the Club, Ken Welch and Reverend Manuel Sykes, President of the Pinellas NAACP and leader of Bethel Community Baptist Church. These two outstanding speakers will take questions and encourage discussion.

The meeting, to be held at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, will start with cocktails (cash bar) and social time at 6 p.m.,

followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30 (\$15, reservations please). Everyone is welcome. Call Betty Morganstein at 727-360-3971 for reservations.

...

Register now for Gulfport's Get Rescued

Gulfport's Get Rescued, the animal rescue festival and fundraiser, is preparing for its eighth annual event to take place on Saturday, February 25th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This popular street festival has evolved from one block and a handful of animal rescue groups in its first

year to a popular and festive event representing as many as 60 animal rescue groups from throughout the region.

Gulfport's Get Rescued is one of the largest such events in the state, with all profits to benefit participating non-profit rescue groups. Animal rescue organizations, many appearing with adoptable pets, take over Beach Blvd. to raise money and awareness for their causes. Additionally, animal-related vendors, artists and crafters offer their wares to festival-goers. Pet related activities will include a pet parade (bring your rescues and showcase them in the parade!), pet care education, pet services, a pet food and supplies drive, adoptable pets, free samples, training demos, food, music and games. Each year, thousands of attendees, many accompanied by their own canine companions, make their way to Gulfport to support what has become a beloved tradition.

Visit <http://www.suzieking.com/applicants/winter/applicants-get-rescued> for information and to register. As always, 501c3 non-profit rescue groups can participate for free, with proof of non-profit status. Deadline for applications is January 24, 2012.

...

Seniors' Chat Room

Join others as they experience table topics with the Gulfport Senior Center's Chat Room every Friday at 2 p.m. The Center is located at 5501 27 Avenue S. in Gulfport.

...

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USCG Safe Boating Program

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 78 has a 13-week continuous Safe Boating program every Tuesday, 7 p.m., Warren Webster Community Center, 1500 Pass-a-Grille Way, St. Pete Beach (1 mile south of Don CeSar) Start at your convenience. First day, come at 6:30 p.m. to register. Begin any Tuesday and finish 13 weeks later or take up to two years to finish.

January's program includes: "Boating Safety" January 10, "Piloting Your Boat – Part A" January 17, and "Piloting Your Boat – Part B" January 24.

Cost is \$40 for 13 weeks and includes new 400-pages of materials. Call Jim at 360-4846, Warren at 321-7801, or Phil at 865-2226.

...

Heritage Village brings Centennial Celebrations

On Jan. 1, 1912, Florida's 48th county was created as the Pinellas Independence Bill went into effect, establishing Pinellas County as a separate entity from Hillsborough County.

As the 100th anniversary of this historic event approaches, Heritage Village welcomes the New Year with twocentennialcelebrations sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society: Pinellas by the Decades and the Pinellas Folk Festival.

The year-long, Speaking of History lecture series entitled, Pinellas by the Decades: A Centennial Celebration will continue on Sunday, January 8 at 2 p.m. This lecture, "Tough Times but Citrus is at its Prime" illustrates how the land boom stalled and stopped in Florida and the Great Depression had strangled the nation at the end of the1920s.

Admission to the lecture is free, but donations support Heritage Village operations. Previous lectures can be viewed on the Pinellas County YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/pccvt1 and Heritage Village's website www.pinellascounty.org/heritage.

The celebrating goes on at Heritage Village throughout the month, as the Pinellas Folk Festival takes place on January 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dozens of the Tampa Bay area's premier folk musicians will spread the sounds of traditional folk, gospel, country and bluegrass music on stages throughout the village.

As the music plays, guests can take part in old-time games, traditional craft demonstrations, a traditional fiber arts show and "Fleece to Shawl" activities. Historical demonstrations and antique cars will also be featured. The event will also have a food court. A \$5 donation is suggested for adults and children older than 12. Admission is free for children younger than 12.

Heritage Village is located at 11909

125th Street N. in Largo. For more information on Pinellas County services and programs, visit www.pinellascounty.org.

...

Lithuanian-American Lunch this Thursday

The Lithuanian-American Club is serving lunch on Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. at 4880 46 Avenue N. in St. Petersburg. The cost is \$7 for entree, side, dessert and coffee. Today's lunch is Cepelinai (potato meat dumplings). Also available to buy is Lithuanian beer. Call Vida at 866-7936 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

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holiday season give yourself and your loved ones the gift of health, fitness and fun. Stop by the pool any day in January to purchase your discounted membership before this cool winter deal is gone! Call 363-9264 for more information.

...

South Pinellas Youth Baseball League

TIERRA VERDE- The Tierra Verde Tarpons, an affiliate of Dizzy Dean Baseball, has open registration for its spring season of youth baseball.

Registration will run through February with play beginning at the end of the month.

Tierra Verde Dizzy Dean is an instructional league with both recreational and competitive teams for youth ages 5-12. Its home field is located at 1420 Pinellas Bayway, Tierra Verde, next to the fire station. The league welcomes players from throughout South Pinellas.

Registration may be accomplished online at <http://www.eteamz.com/tarpons>. Contact Lou Wycoff, Lou455@aol.com, or Mike Rieth, splimbandbrace@aol.com for more information.

...

Stretch and Tone Returns in January

Stretch and Tone is back at the Gulfport Recreation Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. Come check out this fun class full of great people lead by Jean. The fee is \$3 for each class. Bring a mat and light weights. Please call John at 893-1079 for questions.

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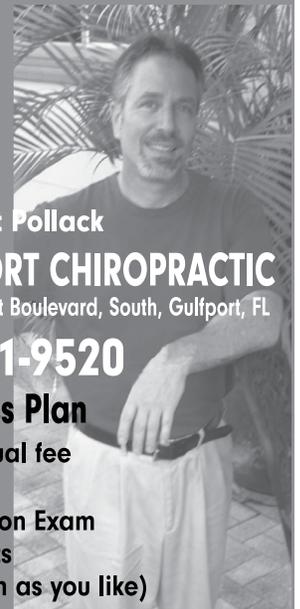
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WellNEWS

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By Scott Lafee

Live Today, Diet Tomorrow

The biggest problem with dieting is that, well, you have to stick with it -- day in and day out. But a new study presented at the recent San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium suggests cutting calories sometimes, in this case carbohydrates, may result in better weight loss than counting calories all of the time.

British researchers said that women who eliminated carbohydrate-rich foods such as bread, pasta and potatoes from their diet for two days each week lost an average of nine pounds in four months, compared to women who had a 1,500-calorie, Mediterranean-style diet every day. (They lost just five pounds in the same period of time.)

The researchers' goal was to develop a diet that people could stick with, particularly women with a high risk of breast cancer. Obesity is a known risk factor for the disease.

Besides helping take pounds off, the intermittent diet also boosted other markers of health, including levels of insulin and leptin. The latter is a hormone that helps regulate appetite and is associated with tumor development.

BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

An adult typically breathes in seven quarts of air each minute.

GET ME THAT. STAT!

The top five countries surveyed with the greatest percentage of people who said their life was boring were Turkey, Mexico, United States, South Korea and Greece, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

COUNTS

23.6 -- Percentage of all states' fiscal spending devoted to Medicaid in 2011. Source: National Association of State Budget Officers

STORIES FOR THE WAITING ROOM

It's an old saw that marriage produces happier, healthier, longer-lived people. If so, we're in trouble. A new analysis of U.S. Census data

shows just 51 percent of American adults are married today, compared to 72 percent 50 years ago. Folks are also putting off marriage longer. The average age for getting married now is 26.5 years for females, 28.7 for males.

DOC TALK

Dyspnea -- shortness of breath.

PHOBIA OF THE WEEK

Phagophobia -- fear of swallowing.

HYPOCHONDRIAC'S GUIDE

Cold urticaria is an allergic reaction to cold, resulting in hives or large, itchy red welts on skin exposed to a cold stimulus, such as an ice cube. The condition is usually temporary, but can become chronic. It can be inherited or acquired, most often occurring between the ages of 18 and

25. Some antihistamines help treat the condition, but the usual therapy is simply to stay warm.

OBSERVATION

"Despite all our toil and progress, the art of medicine still falls somewhere between trout casting and spook writing." -- American novelist and playwright Ben Hecht (1894-1964)

EPITAPHS

"Lector, si monumentum requiris circumspice" or "Reader, if you seek his monument, look around." -- English architect and astronomer Christopher Wren (1632-1723). The epitaph was written by his son, noting his father's burial in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, which the senior Wren designed.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH | 1:30PM

The Declaration of Independence

Yearning for a representative government and recognition of basic liberties, a group of men gathered in Philadelphia in the summer of 1776. The results truly shaped American history. Sterling University Professor Phil Leto will present and discuss.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24TH | 1:30PM

The "Making" of the Presidency: The Constitutional Convention

Professor Phil Leto from Sterling University returns to discuss the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. Learn more about the document that created a representative national government with separate and balanced powers.

TO ATTEND EITHER EVENT, PLEASE RSVP TO 1-727-474-8814 AT LEAST TWO DAYS PRIOR.



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Industrial Arts Center News

The Industrial Arts Center in Gulfport announces that the Kids Art Club continues on Saturday, January 7th and 14th at 10 a.m. Glass Blowing Ladies Night is scheduled for Friday, January 20th from 6-10 p.m. Registration is open for Sculptural Welding, Intro to Glass Blowing and Fun with Torches lampwork series. For more information or to register, call 727-289-9365 or visit www.IndustrialArtsCenter.org.

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Walking Club Returns

It is almost that time of year for the Gulfport Walking Club to begin. The walking club meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. From there they travel to different parks to do their walking. The first meeting and registration will be on Thursday, January 5th at 9 a.m. Cost is \$2 per trip. Please call John at 727-893-1079 if you are interested.

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Temple Beth-El Game Day

Temple Beth-El, 400 S. Pasadena Avenue is having a Game Day on Thursday, January 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please RSVP by January 10th to Jean Diamond, 727-360-5359. She needs to know how many there will be in your group and what game you will be playing. The cost is \$15 per person. Lunch will be at noon and there will be door prizes. You do not have to be a member of Temple to attend.

...

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The Sons of Italy, John Paul Lodge located at 2500 34th Street S. Bocce team entered two teams in the Florida statewide Bocce tournament. One team was eliminated due to an injury but the second team, against great odds, came in second place out of 46 statewide lodges. The final elimination game was played in Key Largo. Team captain Al Perilli, players Carmen Perilli, Joseph Talora and Alfredo Spitaleri (not pictured) made up the winning team. Congratulations!

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Gulfport Garden & Bird Club

The bus will be leaving the Senior Center at 9 a.m. for the January 12th trip to the Morse Museum in Winter Park to view the Tiffany glass collection. Please park in the library parking lot; return time is about 5 p.m.

There are still two seats left on the bus; if you want to go, get your money in right away. You do not have to be a member of the garden club. The cost is \$20 (this includes bus, entrance fee, taxes and tip for the driver); lunch will be on your own. Contact Joyce McMahon (321-9029) for further information or send checks payable to the Gulfport Garden and Bird Club to Barbara Dye, 2613 Beach Boulevard S., Gulfport, FL 33707.

The program at Allison's Orchids on February 9th has been cancelled. Instead the club is going to participate in the national Great Backyard Bird Count. Further details will be forthcoming.

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Michael Casciato, St. Petersburg: "Meeting people with unique needs and helping them with their problems."

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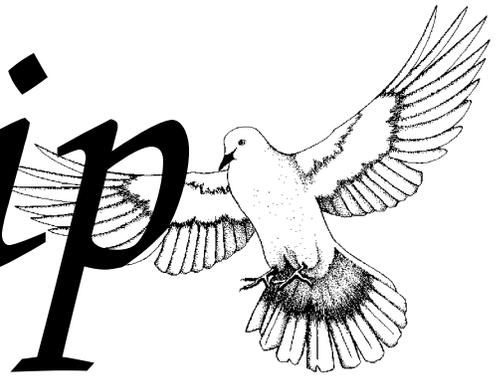
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Worship



GriefShare to Meet

The GriefShare support group will meet from January 6 through March 30. A professional DVD is shown each week with discussion on Fridays from 10 a.m. until noon at Cornerstone Community Church at 6745 38th Avenue N. in St. Petersburg. For information call 727-343-7747. The facilitator is Vivian Killion, Parish Pastor.

...

Care Givers Support Groups

Do you find yourself "caring" for the health concerns of another? If so, consider coming to one of Pasadena Community Church's Care Giver Support Groups in the Life Enrichment Center at 227 70 Street S. One group meets on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and the other meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Both groups are open to the public and provide a confidential setting for those attending to share with others who are in like situations their experiences, joys and concerns of "care giving". The person may be a relative or just a good friend. It is not necessary that the individual reside in the same house with you or even the same state.

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 St. Petersburg

Christmas Morning Worship at Gulfport
 Presbyterian Church 10:30 AM

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Town Shores Red Hatters

On Friday, January 13th they will have their first Bunko game for the year. Bring your \$2 down to the clubhouse lounge at 12:45 and be ready to play at 1 p.m. If you are new to Town Shores and would like to know what Bunko is come down and watch.

On Monday, January 16th they have a short Continental breakfast meeting scheduled to collect \$5 annual dues and share some ideas. New members are always welcomed. Come to the clubhouse lounge at 9:30 a.m.

They will be attending the St. Petersburg Little Theater to see

"Hairspray" on Sunday, January 22nd. Cost is \$19 and dinner on your own after the 2 p.m. matinee performance. Money must be in by tomorrow, January 6th. Call Gloria at 347-4064 for tickets.

Just a reminder, they leave on Saturday, January 28th for their Red Hat cruise. Pickups will be starting around 9-9:30 a.m.

MARSP

The St. Petersburg Chapter of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel will meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Piccadilly Cafeteria, 1900 34 Street N. on January 10th. Dr. William Parsons, a Professor at Eckerd College and an

expert authority about the two St. Petersburgs (Russia and Florida) will be the guest speaker.

On February 14, Joy Katzan-Guthrie will return with another music program. Guests are welcome at either meeting. For information, call Wendy Risk at 572-9854.

Visit Annual Health and Beauty Fair

The Gulfport Senior Center will hold their Annual Health & Beauty Fair on Monday, January 23 from 9 a.m. to noon. Event features health screenings, haircuts, manicures, massages, and information about avoiding the "Donut Hole". You need to purchase a \$3 ticket if you want to eat lunch from the Gas Grill. Call 727-893-2237 or 727-893-1231. The Center is located at 5501 27th Avenue S. in Gulfport.

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ACROSS

- 1 Tuna, for one
- 6 Guy, in London
- 11 ___ *Rosenkavalier*
- 14 Respond to reveille
- 15 #44, of the Braves
- 16 ___ *Man* Answers: 1962 film
- 17 Hash house
- 19 Postal abbreviation
- 20 Invoice stamp
- 21 Town SW of Rome
- 23 Cowboy's need
- 27 Purchasing partner
- 29 Compare
- 30 Lease from a lessee
- 31 DEA raids
- 32 Contradict
- 33 Cleaning cloth
- 36 Churchill Downs diet
- 37 Preach
- 38 Glenn's *Gilda* costar
- 39 Layer
- 40 Detects
- 41 Silent
- 42 Church songs
- 44 Seat belt feature
- 45 Greens
- 47 Nabs
- 48 Rice dish

- 49 L' ___, c'est moi
- 50 Sargasso Sea fish
- 51 Money
- 58 Somme season
- 59 Poet's Muse
- 60 Test format
- 61 Patriotic gp.
- 62 Ole Miss student
- 63 Land attachment

DOWN

- 1 Droop
- 2 Part of ETA
- 3 Stretch the truth
- 4 Nutty ___ fruitcake
- 5 Hitler, et al.
- 6 Pesto herb
- 7 *Dragnet* gp.
- 8 Aztec treasure
- 9 Chinese statesman
- 10 Raise to high status
- 11 Campaign tactics
- 12 ___ Klinker: Bergen dummy
- 13 Palindromic detector
- 18 Where Bill met Hillary
- 22 Bring suit
- 23 Jazz style
- 24 On even terms

- 25 Trout fly
- 26 Phooey!
- 27 Schismatic groups
- 28 Benson, of the Four Tops
- 30 Love and mercy, e.g.
- 32 Thin soup
- 34 Slanted
- 35 Airport exits
- 37 Org. since 1960

- 38 Motocross, e.g.
- 40 Newspaper employ-ee
- 41 *Happy Together* singers, with The
- 43 Actress Munson
- 44 Hee-haw, e.g.
- 45 Hurry
- 46 St. Peter's sculpture
- 47 Playwright Fugard
- 49 Kitchen add-on
- 52 Ill-temper
- 53 Research room
- 54 Calif. campus
- 55 R. E. Lee's country
- 56 Séance sound
- 57 Spud sprout
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If you are looking for a lot of love, attention and sandpaper kisses, then Cagan is your boy. Ten-month-old Cagan is all personality -- sociable, a talker and a lover. Just snap your fingers and he's in your lap, cuddling instantly. This handsome cat is quite laid back and gets along great with other cats and large breed dogs. Call 727-481-5262 for information on seeing our cats, including Cagan, at Petsmart locations.

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No More Door Hangers in Gulfport

The next time a Gulfport resident comes home to find an ad for pizza or new windows hanging from their front door, they can call the police to report the crime. Leaving any pamphlets, door hangers, or any literature without the owner or resident's permission is now a crime in Gulfport.

Although the law won't stop businesses from leaving flyers on car windshields -- resident Ann Marie Anderson asked but Attorney Andy Salzman said it would not stop it if the car was on public property -- councilman Sam Henderson's request and council's subsequent vote to stop flyer distribution is another step Gulfport is taking to cut down on litter and to change the city's curb appeal. When Councilman Henderson asked the council to consider banning such flyers, he pointed to raised awareness of litter as well as such flyers making obvious vacant homes.

People can still go door-to-door if they register as a solicitor but they may not leave handbills of any sort without getting permission from the property owner or the person living there. According to police chief Rob Vincent, the city has one registered solicitor.

"A number of people have asked about the yellow phone books," resident Margarete Tober asked council. "Where do they fall?"

City attorney Andy Salzman said that only if the phone books came from a phone company to which the resident subscribed, the company could leave the books at the home.

Some residents expressed concern that seniors around town may feel they had to open the door and tell people they couldn't leave the flyers.

Councilwoman Jennifer Salmon stressed that people did not have to do that. "All we're saying is they can't leave flyers. The whole point is they can't leave something," she said, saying that people don't have to open the door and tell the people not to leave pamphlets: the new law makes it illegal whether or not the resident says no. The only way a company can leave information at a home is at the resident or homeowner's request.

Council also agreed to look at the issue of leaving flyers on cars as a separate issue.

Attorney Salzman confirmed that presence of the flyer itself would prove the violation.

Treasure Island



First Art Show of the New Year

By Fred Wilder

Fulfill your New Years resolution to be creative by painting a picture then enter it in the Art Guild's January show. The entry date for the show is Thursday, January 5 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Treasure Island City Hall Auditorium, 120 108th Avenue. Members may enter up to two paintings. If you are not a member we invite you to become one and enter the show.

On Saturday, January 14 at 1 p.m. a reception for the winners of the show will be held. There will be an art demonstration by a professional artists. Refreshments will be served.

For more information go to www.treasureislandartguild.org or call Fred at 369-8390.

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Daily / Weekly Local Charts

What's in season

View What's in The Water
A photo of all florida fish species.

Click on Fishing & Boating,
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the **Gabber.com**

Volunteers Needed for Friends of Strays

Friends of Strays needs you if you love cats! Friends of Strays no-kill animal shelter is presently seeking volunteers for positions at the Shelter & Adoption Center location at 2911 47 Avenue N. in St. Petersburg. Hours are 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily. For more information call 727-522-6566.

...

Eat at the Gulfport Senior Center

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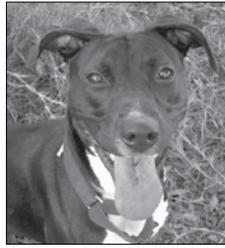
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SPCA Pet of the Week



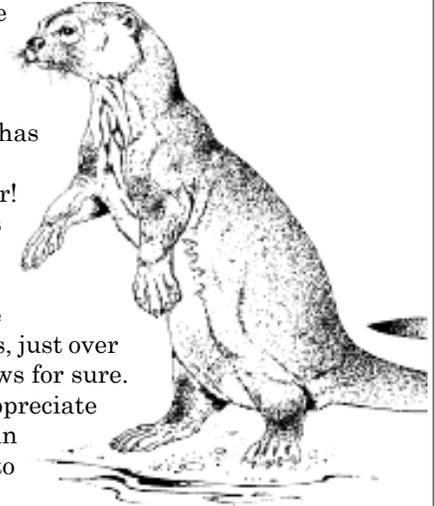
Skyy is an 11 month pit bull terrier and an absolute sweetheart. She has lots of energy so ample toys and play time outdoors will make her very happy. Skyy is both smart and sociable and would benefit from the canine behavior classes SPCA Tampa Bay has to offer. Meet Skyy at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave. N. in Largo or call 727-586-3591.

Wanted: One Otter, Possibly Caffeinated

Over the past few weeks the Gabber has heard reports of an otter... in the Art Village Courtyard, by T and Me Tea. According to our sources, this otter makes his or her way through the courtyard around 7 in the morning. So far, though, no one has caught him on camera.

We want your photos of this otter! While it's not uncommon to see otters near freshwater, this is the first recent instance of an otter on Beach Boulevard. Locals speculate that the otter may move between Clam Bayou and Wood Ibis parks, just over a mile apart, although only the otter knows for sure.

If you see the otter, snap a photo (we appreciate photos 1M in size) and you could see it in an upcoming Gabber. Send your photos to News@theGabber.com.



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Horoscope Guide

By Holiday Mathis

It is difficult to read the face of a person sitting beside you without craning your neck or bearing the awkwardness of an encounter that's too close for comfort. But the person sitting across from you is easily read. Communication flows effortlessly from this positioning. It's the same with the moon, fully illuminated in opposition to the sun. The full Cancer moon will allow unforced understanding of deep and complex emotions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Too much planning and predicting could rob you of some fun now. Give yourself a break from thinking about the future. It may seem as though that's where you're going to spend the rest of your life. But the reality is that the future never comes. The only moment that can really be lived is this one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This week brings opportunities for you to grow wiser. Try not to let those same experiences cause you to be jaded. Your sign mate the comedian George Burns, who lived to be 100 and worked until very shortly before his death, said, "You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What you own becomes a time-consuming issue, and in all likelihood, the hours passed in maintaining and/or fighting for your possessions won't be among the most pleasant of the week. Consider relieving yourself of dead-weight assets. Think of the animals who own nothing and seem mostly satisfied with it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Slow and deliberate action will take you far. Avoid doing too much at too quick a pace. Take a moment to decide which of the options available to you are likely to be the most powerful choices. Acting on one or two stellar opportunities will bring you more success than if you were to pursue every good lead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your first instinct is to create your own niche instead of adapting to the circumstances that others have

laid out for you. After all, what do they really know about you? Those circumstances were designed to serve their interests, not yours. By the end of the week, you'll find success in a compromise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be meeting with people who would like to join your cause but don't know how they can effectively fit into what you've already got going. Keep asking questions. Find out what they need and want. There's a way this can work, but it will take creative problem solving to figure out exactly how.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be a kind of poet. You won't actually write poetry, per se, but you'll present things that people already know in a way that they have never heard before, helping them form new neural pathways and emotional connections. Though you won't be conscious of having an agenda, you'll be most persuasive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). As much as you value loyalty and are impressed by unbridled enthusiasm, you usually behave more like a cat than a dog. You are independent, discerning and graceful in your approach. Others will get the impression that they must prove themselves before you'll let them into your world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll get the chance to follow one of your more unusual interests. Not everyone will understand why this pleases you so. In fact, most everyone won't. It's not important that they understand or even that you do. What's important is that you give yourself opportunities to joyfully express your unique spirit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You will craftily manage your impulses and appetites. To avoid disempowering feelings of being deprived or overwhelmed, give yourself a little of what you want. If you have trouble stopping after just a little, then try to divert your attention to other things you enjoy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have been so focused on tending to the maintenance of relationships and possessions that you've hardly had

a minute to think about what you want. Your needs are changing daily. You'll have the opportunity to step into a new role, take stock of what you have, assess what's missing and make requests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's no shame in desiring more than you can accomplish. It's one reason you attain such lofty achievements. Sometimes the striving makes you frustrated. Focus yourself on something other than the underlying current of defeat inherent in impossible goals. Think of all you've done and all you will do.

This Week's Birthdays: You have been known to plan your life far in advance, though this year a key part of your plan is not to plan. Your big ambition will be matched by the huge amount of faith you have in the magic of the universe. You'll be tuned in to whispers of fate, and you'll seize opportunities that you couldn't have possibly plotted out for yourself. Someone will invest in you in February. You'll travel in March. April will bring a creative influence. Your social life sparkles with excitement in June.

...

Music at Gulfport Beach Pavilion

Monday, 1-3:30 p.m.

Karaoke by The Toonsters, "J" & Lolita

Tuesday, 1-3:00 p.m.

Entertainment by Mark Blackwell & his harmonica

Wednesday, 1-3:30 p.m.

Karaoke by Arlene & Len - The Melody Tunes

Thursday, 1-3:00 p.m.

Karaoke by Cookie and Dave

Friday, 2-4:00 p.m.

Entertainment by "Geno"

Saturday, 1-3:00 p.m.

Music for listening & dancing by Chicago Rich or by Overdue Bill

Sunday, 1-3:00 p.m.

Entertainment for dancing by Woody & his accordion

Weather permitting

St. Pete Beach Classic Returns

The officials at the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida announce the details to the 2012 St. Pete Beach Classic/Wendy Johnson Memorial Run. The 9th annual road race is slated for the weekend of January 13 -15. The event includes a race for every level of participant.

The 5k, 10k and Kids' races will be held on Saturday, January 14. Making its debut in 2012 is the half marathon scheduled for Sunday, January 15. The races will take place on the streets of beautiful St. Pete Beach. The race courses are flat, fast and certified by USATF.

The event venue is the Sirata Beach Resort and Conference Center located at 5300 Gulf Blvd. All activities, including the start and finish lines for all races, are located at the Sirata. The three-day weekend event kicks-off with a health and fitness expo on Friday, January 13 and Saturday, January 14 and will feature many local and national vendors.

Registration is now open at www.stpetebeachclassic.com. For more information on the schedule of events visit raceinfor@runmsm.com or call 727-367-2730.

Proceeds from the three-day event will benefit the St. Pete Beach Community Center. The St. Pete Beach Classic/Wendy Johnson Memorial Run is a partner event for St. Jude Heroes to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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Email your request to News@theGabber.com

By Cathy Salustri

City of St. Pete Beach: Christmas Trees

Q: How should I get rid of my Christmas tree? Should I put it by the curb Monday?

A: According to St. Pete Beach Public Works Director Steve Hallock, St. Pete Beach residents can put their Christmas trees on the curb on any regularly scheduled trash collection day.

"Our solid waste provider, Waste Services of Florida, will pick it up," Hallock says.

Waste Services takes all Christmas trees to Pinellas County's Waste-to-Energy facility. Once at the facility, the county will incinerate the trees and sell the energy generated back to Progress Energy.



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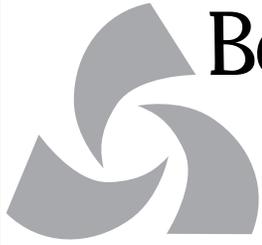
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THANK YOU ALL & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Gulfport City Council Meeting

Public Comment & Council Quotes

“The mayor is a little under the weather tonight and believe me it is almost impossible to get him not to attend a meeting, so you can imagine how under the weather (he) is.” – Vice Mayor David Hastings, about Mayor Mike Yakes’ absence from Tuesday evening’s meeting

“It was good that the meeting was started with the smallness of the lots.” – Resident Patricia Millward, about the November town hall meeting about proposed changes to the city’s code .

“You can assume that the writer is ignorant or there’s a political agenda...” – Resident Al Davis, about the misprint in the Gabber last month indicating that only Ward One and Ward Three residents would elect councilmembers in March. Please see today’s article for more information about the candidates. Every registered voter in Gulfport can vote in the March election.

“Thankfully, it was close to 80 degrees that day.” – Resident and Santa Speedo runner Emmett Walsh, about the Santa Speedo Run, which he called “a great benefit for the children.” The Run raised \$30,000 for children living with AIDS/HIV.

“There was at least 30 minutes of consistent gunshots... It doesn’t matter where you’re shooting it if you’re dead because of it.” – Resident Cindy Davis, about gunfire from both St. Petersburg and Gulfport on New Year’s. Police chief Rob Vincent said the police department took four reports from people reporting damage, including one man who had a bullet strike the bill of his hat and land in his drink. The chief talked about the difficulties of finding the people who fired the guns in celebration; councilman

Sam Henderson said he pulled two bullets out of his roof while putting up Christmas decorations.

“If you do not feel comfortable with the people at your door, please do not open the door.” – Councilwoman Barbara Banno, about concerns from people about solicitors.

“I picked up eight signs this weekend... is that not litter?... I think it looks like hell, and I don’t like it here.” – Resident Ann Marie Anderson, about “snipe” signs she picked up over the weekend. She also asked for clarification about which city department held responsibility for dealing with the enforcement and legal ramifications of illegal signs.

“I am never going to tell the police officers that that’s our top priority, because our job – our main job – is public safety.” – Chief Robert Vincent, when city manager Jim O’Reilly asked him to respond to Ms. Anderson’s question. The chief added that when the officers could pick up the signs, they should. He also explained that the officers had to see the violation taking place – someone installing the sign – to issue a ticket. He told councilwoman Barbara Banno the signs violated the city sign ordinance rather than a litter ordinance.

“Why would you need a sign to tell you not to litter? I mean, come on... get a brain.” – Resident Stan Kreuter, about citizen concerns that the city should post signs about littering fines.

“I thought it was from you guys. I thought you were saying this is our priority. I didn’t think it was a matter of choice or debate... someone has to convey that through the proper channels so

we see to it...(that it happens) - some other person in the government can’t stand up there and say maybe we’ll do it, maybe we don’t... I would be insulted...” – Resident and Executive Director of the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce Bob Newcomb, who told council he thought it needed to make clear the direction of where the city’s “policy comes from.” Mr. Newcomb spoke after the police chief said his officers’ priority was not removing illegal “snipe” signs and citing people for littering.

“I’m amazed at the amount of time and effort that’s spent by you... creating an ordinance... and then having city staff or city employee saying it’s really their discretion whether they enforce an ordinance or not. I find that really hard to believe and I think it’s unacceptable.” – Resident and Gulfport Neighbors Beautification Committee Head Doug Hudson, about the police chief’s comments

“I would ask for a set period of time that it is a focus.” – Councilmember Barbara Banno, asking that the police make litter a priority for a time.

“Mr Davis is right, this is pro forma.” – Councilmember Jennifer Salmon, about the city signing and agreement relating to federally-mandated pollution control issues.

“There’s a lot of talk in the media and it’s been going on for months... but as a council this is the first time we’ve been able to collaborate, but we need to be able to ask questions and talk as a council,” -Councilwoman Barbara Banno said, asking the audience for patience as council worked through issues surrounding outdoor furniture and storage.

Litter Fines Increase, Bring Criticism of Police

A discussion on increasing littering fines in Gulfport raises the vice mayor's ire with police litter enforcement

Throwing a soda can, cigarette butt or sandwich wrapper on the ground can mean up to a \$143 fine in Gulfport. Tuesday night Gulfport city council voted for the second and final time to increase littering fines.

Although council ultimately passed the law, it was only after residents voiced concerns about the practicality of the law and the city's intent to enforce it.

Concerns ran the gamut, from needing more trash cans to displeasure with the police chief's prioritization of litter crimes. Others felt that the increased fines didn't go far enough, while some said the city needed to enforce the laws at the current fine rate before increasing them. Others asked for more signs to let people know littering would result in a higher fine.

"I can't think of any place I've ever been where littering was legal... I guess I don't feel the need trying to inform people of something everyone should know," councilman Sam Henderson said.

"We really didn't test the waters that much with a \$94 fine," resident Gerry O'Regan said, but fellow Gulfportian Stan Kreuter disagreed.

"That's chicken feed," he said later in the meeting. "What's wrong with \$500, \$1,000?"

The fines will increase from \$93 to \$143 for littering violations where the alleged litterer does not contest the violation. For alleged litterers who contest the violation in court and are found guilty of littering, the fine will increase from \$138 to \$188.

The increased littering fine comes at the request of councilman Sam Henderson.

Throwing traffic out a moving car is a non-moving violation and results in a

non-moving traffic violation. Those fines, according to chief of police Rob Vincent, will not increase. That fine costs the litterer \$116.

If litter comes from a vehicle, the chief said, the litterer can get a traffic citation of \$100 that can affect someone's license. He told the council his officer's put public safety ahead of citing people for littering. In addition, he said that officers could choose to enforce the state littering laws, which carry a different set of consequences, or the city law. He told council their law would give his officers another "tool in the toolbox" to aid them in enforcing the law.

"I thought you were saying this is our priority," Resident Bob Newcomb, who also serves as the executive director for the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, told council about the chief's comments (Please see "Overheard at Gulfport Council for more detail on Mr. Newcomb's comments). He also told the council he "would be insulted" to have council's direction responded to with "maybe we'll do it, maybe we don't."

While some council members took a gentle approach to the chief's comments - councilmember Jennifer Salmon said she saw council's job as one of providing clarity to the staff and she didn't want to fault the chief or police - others on the dais took issue with the chief's explanation of how his officers enforced the littering laws.

Chief Vincent said if council wanted to specify "that something is more deserving of attention than something else where it may not ordinarily get that," he would see that his officers gave it the desired attention.

"When the council takes

the times to ask the city staff to come back

with an ordinance... that to me, should be clear," that council wanted the police to give it that level of attention, Vice Mayor (who was acting as mayor in Mayor Mike Yakes' absence) David Hastings said.

City manager Jim O'Reilly assured the council "we take your direction seriously," but added that "when we're out there doing the actual implementing," the staff had to balance all the issues.

"This is one other item that we're looking at," he explained.

The vice mayor expressed reinforced his displeasure at the chief's comments.

"What really caught my attention is when the chief said... that officer could do whatever he wanted," Vice Mayor Hastings said. "I thought the whole idea of the city council was to make the laws and send direction down to the employees of the city."

When the vice mayor said the council needed to know if it could expect the city to enforce the laws, the chief said he understood.

Later in the meeting resident Margarete Tober, who approached council to speak on another issue, thanked councilman Sam Henderson for his initiative.

"I did want to thank you very much for bringing those ordinances forward," she said, indicating Councilman Henderson, then added "I think we all agree that public safety comes first."

Trash Cans Can't Stay in Front Yard, Council Says
The change passed on first reading; council will discuss it again at the next meeting

Gulfport city council struggled Tuesday night to balance citizen requests for tighter community standards with some resistance to

change. Council discussed changing the code so that people would have to move their garbage cans out of their front yard after trash pickup.

"This is one that has been brought forward in the past - someone complaining about their neighbor leaving a garbage can in their front yard," City manager Jim O'Reilly said of the proposed rules about where residents should store their trash cans and when the trash cans should have to be removed from the curbside.

Whatever the council decided, resident Margarete Tober said, "we need to make sure... that residents are aware of what's required." She suggested that perhaps the city could make them aware when residents set up water accounts.

Only councilman Sam Henderson said he would not vote for an ordinance about garbage can placement, saying that his impressions at the town hall meeting last year was that residents were more concerned with litter around trash cans and piles of trash.

"I don't really feel like I want to tell people where to put their garbage cans," he told council.

"I understand that it's very important... but it's not a deed restricted community," councilwoman Jennifer Salmon said. "You just want it not to look messy... but I do think you need to keep in mind that it's not as easy to say 'just put it past the front of your house.'"

She suggested council change the wording to allow for flexibility.

"It should be that they designate a spot on their yard and it should be, as much as possible, out of view," she said. "Saying the side of the house, that's not going to be the answer."

Continued on next page

She suggested saying cans had to be a certain amount of feet off the curb, which attorney Andy Salzman was the best solution for the wording.

Vice Mayor David Hastings (who served as acting mayor in Mayor Mike Yakes' absence) favored the ordinance.

"What we're saying here is if we don't pass an ordinance like this, then the can can be anywhere in everybody's yard," he said. "I don't think that that's what I envision Gulfport wants to look like."

As the evening stretched later, he suggested the council take the ordinance to workshop. Councilwoman Barbara Banno said she preferred not to take it back to workshop.

Councilman Sam Henderson cast the lone dissenting vote against the ordinance. Council will have a second reading at the February 7 council meeting at the Hickman theatre, at which they will again hear public comment and fine-tune the ordinance before voting it into law.

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On Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. American Legion Post 305 donated \$1,000 to the St. Pete Beach "Support Our Troops", Inc. Program. In addition a Certificate of Appreciation was given to Teri Finnerty for her outstanding contribution to this program. Teri is the wife of Mike Finnerty, the former Mayor of St. Pete Beach.

Retired Officers Wives Club to Meet

The Retired Officers Wives Club of St. Petersburg will meet for luncheon on January 10th at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd, in Pinellas Park. Social hour will be 11:30 with lunch at 12:15 p.m. The program will be dances by the Florida Beach Girls. Call for reservations 347-7976 or 399-1272.

...

Catch a Jazz Concert

The Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Society will sponsor the following concerts:

- On Thursday, January 12th Bobby Tess and the Dixie Chaps will play from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Bilmar Beach Resort in Treasure Island. Admission is \$7. Call 727-522-6977.

- On Sunday, January 22nd Bill Allred's Classic Jazz Band will play from 1-4 p.m. at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Boulevard in Pinellas Park. Admission is \$10 members, \$15 guests. Call 727-397-1875.

...

Beta Sigma Phi

Laureate Epsilon Theta's executive board will meet on Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Smith. The regular meeting will follow at 7 p.m. and Donna will present the program.

Members are looking forward to the Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Dessert Auction sponsored by Sunshine City Council on Saturday, January 28 at the Five Towns – Magnolia Club House from 5-7 p.m. Several of the members enter the spaghetti sauce contest and also provide desserts for the dessert table and auction as well. It is a fun evening and the food is fantastic. Val Rankin is the chairman of this committee.

For more information, please contact Sharon Ingram at 321-2849.

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ST. PETE BEACH- This January, sign the kids up for archery classes with Coach Dan McKaeg. Archery classes are for kids ages 8 to 15 and students will learn the proper techniques of archery and have fun doing it. The winter program runs from January 9th to the 30th with classes held every Monday at the St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive. Cost is \$30 per student for the 4-week session. Contact Coach Dan McKaeg at 727-536-6207 for more information and to register.

...

Chamber Seeks Volunteer Mentors

Lawrence Burke of Gulfport, a long time electrical engineer and builder of commercial and residential properties, has been appointed as Chairperson of the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce's new Mentor Program. He will lead a group of active and retired business and professional people whose mission is to benefit young and expanding businesses by imparting years of diversified education and experience upon them as they start up and grow.

According to Mr. Burke, the Chamber Mentors is an aggregation of successful and experienced business and professional people who individually and jointly offer their advice and services to Gulfport Area Chamber members wishing to locate here or expand their businesses here. The group meets on a regular basis, sometimes with a speaker on current affairs and sometimes to work on the solution of issues impeding growth and development of businesses in the area.

Mr. Burke adds that given the number of retired business owners, executives and professional people residing in Gulfport and South Pasadena, the Chamber Mentors will provide a great social outlet as well as being an important service organization. He says, "my business

philosophy has always been, if it isn't fun, don't do it." The blend of active business people and retirees meeting together will provide important information and stimulation for both the Mentors and area businesses or professional firms.

Member business seeking assistance submit a brief outline of their problem that will be presented anonymously to the group. Those who feel they have the expertise to help will raise their hands and, as a group, will be assigned to assisting the requesting firm.

Right now, Mr. Burke is seeking qualified retirees and active

business people to serve on his Chamber Mentors. Anyone with entrepreneurial, management, financial, sales, marketing or accounting experience is welcome to join. Chamber members can register by calling the Chamber Office at 727-344-3711 or e-mailing the Chamber at info@gulfportchamberofcommerce.com. Retirees can join the Mentor Program at a special low rate by calling or e-mailing Bob Newcomb at the Chamber number, on his cell phone at 727-482-6211 or by e-mail at bobnewcomb@gmail.com.

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Meet the Gulfport Candidates: Four Candidates, Two Seats

On March 13, Gulfport voters will head to the polls to elect commissioners in two of the city's four wards. All voters may vote for a candidate in each ward, regardless of the voter's home ward. Here are your candidates:

Ward One



**Incumbent
David C. Hastings**

Contact him at
434-0074 or 322-0909
hastings4citycouncil@
gmail.com

President of David C.
Hastings, CPA, PA
BS in Accounting from
Virginia Commonwealth
University

He has lived in
Gulfport – and Ward
One – for 12 years



Dan Liedtke

Contact him at 233-0469 or
Dan@GulfportSpirit.com

President of DRL Consulting
Attended University of
South Dakota, Brookhaven
College, Richland College
and Texas State University
He has lived in

Gulfport and Ward One
– for almost nine years.

Ward Three



**Incumbent
Jennifer Salmon**

Contact her at 399-
7746 or Elect_Jennifer@
tampabay.rr.com

Research Consultant
for Aging Research
Group and teacher at
Eckerd's PEL program
BA in American Literature
from Middlebury College,
Masters of Librarianship
from University of
Washington and Ph.D. in
Aging Studies from the
University of South Florida
She has lived in
Gulfport – and Ward
Three – for 11 years.



James Perry

Contact him at
roadrunner696921@aol.com
Job: Specialty Contractor

Degree: Boca Ciega
High School and
PTEC, Contractor
Continuing Education
He has lived in Gulfport
for 55 years and his
ward for 28.

***We asked each of the
candidates for these
two seats to answer
the following questions.
These are their answers;
we have not edited them
for grammar or clarity.***

***What makes you the best
choice for city council?***

Ward One

Hastings: I have been invested in the city of Gulfport for many years now. I have served on the Master Board at Pasadena Yacht and Country Club for the past 12 years and as its president for the last eight years. I have served the city on two different volunteer boards for nine years and on the city council for the past two with the last year as vice mayor. I volunteer with many organizations within the city of Gulfport all for the betterment of our community and the city at large. I am also the non-paid

Senior Patient Advocate for the Oral Cancer Foundation and spend hours everyday helping patients deal with oral cancer. Not only do I have a vested interest as the current vice mayor, but between my wife and I, we have a beautiful home and two businesses (my CPA firm and her Habana Café) located in the city that keep us grounded here.

I am invested in a self-sustaining city and city government. As a CPA I understand the bottom line and how to run a business and the city is no different. Although nothing is ever black and white when it involves people, my role as a council person is to work with the city manager and all other components of the city to make sure that the we can continue moving forward in the most positive and financially stable way.

Liedtke: I believe that I have something to learn from everyone I meet and have always treated the opinions and ideas of others with respect and consideration. I also recognize that those in government must be transparent in the entire decision making process. When you are empowered with the whole truth we will be able to find that common ground when working towards solutions on controversial matters. These basic beliefs will be the foundation I will use to help ensure Gulfport remains a happy place to live, laugh, love and play.

I also have extensive public sector experience. For over 10 years I have had the privilege of working with multiple federal, state and county government organizations, some with budgets in the billions. Serving as a business and information

technology consultant while working in the nerve centers for major government organizations is the real world experience I will bring to the table. This is the experience I will draw from if elected to represent the people of Gulfport.

Ward Three

Salmon: I listen to every idea and work hard to find solutions that are best for the city and fair to the residents.

Perry: Third generation resident of Gulfport. Both parents were previous business owners and former council members in Gulfport (Joseph Perry and Colleen Camp). Knowledge of the city, community involvement and connection with the residents.

How do you view the role of a councilperson?

Ward Three

Perry: To be the voice for my ward and advocate for their concerns.

Salmon: Our job is to ensure that our core level of service is maintained and then respond to new concerns of residents or staff that would make the city even better, within our financial capacity.

Ward One

Liedtke: The role of a councilperson involves being a team member along with the city manager and other council members on the legislative and policy body for the city. The job of a councilperson is also about providing overall leadership for the city by enacting

ordinances and allocating city resources for programs, services, and activities that are in the best interest of the community.

An effective councilperson will find solutions to balance conflicting demands, provides oversight, possess the trust of the people, treats others with kindness and respect and most importantly helps to ensure personal liberties are not infringed upon. Effective council members will also find ways to sustain and improve city government using methods that work "for the people" under the powers granted by the city charter, Florida and the U.S. Constitution.

Hastings: I view the role of councilperson as a voice for many. That does not mean that I will always be everyone's voice, but the voice for the greater good. I do my homework for each and everything item that comes before me. If it comes before the council it means that it was important enough for someone or some group to foresee a need for change or adjustment and we need to acknowledge that effort.

I also believe that we need to support our city over and above just the council meetings and workshops. I believe that by getting out in the community and working with the different volunteer groups for the betterment of all, may help encourage others to find a new passion that will help to benefit their neighborhoods and our city.

What's the most important issue facing Gulfport?

Ward Three

Salmon: Making sure that we are always on solid financial footing so that we can thrive as a city.

Perry: Public safety.

Ward One

Hastings: The single most important issue this city is facing is our unstable worldwide economy and its trickle down impact on our state, county and finally our city. For at least the last two budgets we have faced a very large deficit and very likely will see that continue for our next budget process. We continue to make tough budgeting decisions that impact not only our residents but all of our loyal staff.

In this down economy, I believe that it is not just keeping the city status quo, but finding ways to move forward without disrupting services. It is supporting new residents in helping to make this their home. It is increasing revenue through encouraging and supporting small business (making it easier to "open") and the development of South 49th Street by utilizing brownfield and working in conjunction with the chamber of commerce to bring in businesses with the "right fit" to this part of our city.

Liedtke: One of the more important issues that I will address is shifting the focus of the city council onto matters that will help lead us down a road to long-term sustainability.

Instead of focusing on issues that are stripping individual liberties we need to be finding ways of increasing Gulfport's revenues without putting the burden on the taxpayer or eliminating positions within the city. New ideas for utilizing the existing assets while creating an environment that is more conducive to business than any other city in Florida will help lead us on a path to

long-term sustainability.

Please, visit www.GulfportSpirit.com to learn more about where I stand on all the issues confronting Gulfport.

How can Gulfport best marry its "old Gulfport" community feel with its desire for enhanced community standards?

Ward One

Liedtke: Phrases like "Old Gulfport" and "enhanced community standards" are vague terms that will have different meanings to different people.

When I hear "Old Gulfport" I see a place with a small town look and feel that has traditions, community spirit and where neighbors are helping neighbors. A town where you are safe and where "Liberty" reigns would also be inherent traits of an "Old Gulfport".

When I hear "Enhanced Community Standards" I think of the city councils recent efforts to implement increased code enforcement, more stringent codes and a "Special Magistrate" for disputes. I also think about the possibility of gradually more aggressive code enforcement and

more new stringent ordinances that will likely follow the implementation of the "Special Magistrate".

Marrying "Old Gulfport" with "Enhanced Community Standards" using these definitions would require sizable compromise and would likely result in an unnecessary loss of liberties for someone. I would like to see minimal intervention by the city because what one generation tolerates the next will embrace.

Hastings: This has been a touchy subject in recent

Continued on next page

Candidates,

from previous page

times. Some want to see the City remain unchanged and others want it to move forward. I truly respect both positions but believe we can seek a middle ground.

Ward Three

Perry: I feel that Gulfport has done an excellent job in preserving the “old Gulfport” community feel and will do my best to continue to preserve this

feel while encouraging new business and development.

Salmon: At the recent town hall on code enforcement I was impressed with how new and old residents suggested middle ground solutions. They understood that we need to protect our property values but also our property rights. For example, from that discussion, I suggested a solution that allows property owners to get permits for existing vehicles and vessels that can not be stored in the back or side yards as long as they are operational and the owner lives

at the current property. I also asked council to plan a town hall forum before each budget season begins so that all concerns are identified and addressed early in the process. It was healthy for council to be seated on the same level as residents and on the sideline with no opportunity to talk. All we could do is listen. More people participated and I think we will be able to make changes to our existing codes to meet those two needs—protecting property values and property rights.

The Gabber will be running a series of about the candidates running for Wards One and Three seats on the city council. Our next article will go more in-depth with each of the candidates.

Contact Cathy Salustri at CathySalustri@theGabber.com.



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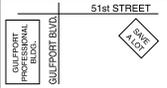


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SPCREA to Meet

The South Pinellas Retired Teachers Association (SPCREA) meets at 11 a.m. the second Thursday of each month from October through May at the Piccadilly Cafeteria, 19th Ave. and 34th St. N. Meetings are open to all who have worked in the field of education whether here in Florida or elsewhere, including teachers, support personnel and administrators. The meeting begins at 12 noon with an activity planned by the hospitality committee.

At the January 12th meeting AARP speaker Anne Marie Flannery will talk about the benefits available to them as members of this organization. The meeting adjourns by 1 p.m. SPCREA often plans fun field trips of interest to the group. Email Joyce Walters at jellen1943@yahoo.com for more information.

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As Low As \$30/mo.

Business Storage Welcome

CALL 321-9202

Gulfport Signs Pollution Agreement

"This establishes that we're all responsible for our own pollutants," Public Works Director Don Sopak explained of the city's agreement to take part in a federally-mandated pollution reporting program.

City council voted to participate in the program that requires all cities and counties to participate in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is part of the permit system for any city or county with a storm sewer system.

As a condition of the agreement, the city reports the amount of contaminants it estimates it collects and also discharges.

Local Scooter Shop Comes Into Code Compliance, Council Issues Outdoor Permit

Scooter Rescue and Repair received long-awaited permission to display scooters for sale outside the building at the corner of 51st Street South and Gulfport Boulevard.

Resident Stan Kreuter asked council if the permit they were considering issue, the shop wanted to display vehicles "like a car lot."

"I wouldn't go as far as a car lot; they would be scooters for sale and they would be removed by six o'clock each evening," city manager Jim O'Reilly said.

"What has happened was, he (the scooter business) was in violation and we told him he had to get into compliance before he could get his outside sales display," O'Reilly said. Compliance involved bringing outside storage issues, which business owner Jim Quinn corrected.

"We're trying to make that whole corner be something in the city can be proud of," Quinn said.

ATTENTION: Hyatt Optical has merged with us. We welcome All Hyatt patients and have your records.



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Board Certified Optometric Physician

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5712 5th Ave. N. • Medical Plaza Building



Gulfport Leisure

Recreation Center 5730 Shore Blvd. So 893-1068

RECREATION WEBSITE-www.mygulfport.us and follow the links: City Departments, Leisure services, Rec. Center.

ACTIVITIES

Open Gym- Tues., 6-9 p.m. and Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Annual reg. \$2 res./\$22 non-resident

Open Gym/Game Room- Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Annual reg. \$2 res/\$22 non-res.

PROGRAMS

2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR CHILD CARE PROGRAM

The School Year Child Care Program is for children entering Kindergarten thru age 14. It is also a quality program which provides a nurturing atmosphere where each child has the opportunity to experience many recreational, social, creative and enriching activities at a cost affordable to families. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board. Non-refundable annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$110 for non-residents. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Hours of registration are Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

2011-2012 TEEN NIGHT PROGRAM

The Teen Night Program is a great hang out for teens in middle school to age 18 (if still in high school). It provides recreation and social activities. It also offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the

gymnasium, gameroom and outdoor area. Program hours are Mon., Wed. & Fri. 6-9 p.m. Annual reg. \$2 res/\$22 non-res.

2011-2012 TOT TIME & VPK PROGRAMS

The Tot Time & VPK Program is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who have turned 4 years of age by September 1st. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. The Tot Time Program cost is a non-refundable annual registration fee of \$17 for residents and \$110 for non-residents with two, three and five-day monthly options available. Proof of residency is required for Gulfport residents. The VPK Program is FREE but parents must apply at Coordinated Child Care to receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs are limited to 10 children each. Program hours are from 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m. Hours for registration are from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Call 893-1068 for more information.

NEW CLASSES- Interested in teaching a class? Call John at 727-893-1079 for more info

CLASSES - Call instructor for more information.

- Cheerleading- Thurs. 5:45-6:30 p.m. Call Alison at 410-2227.
- Fencing - Wed., 4:30 p.m. Call Jim Campoli at 813-855-3112.

• Gymnastics-Fri. 5:30-6:15 p.m. Call Barbara at 804-9400.

• Karate - Mon. & Thurs., 6:30 p.m. Call Diane at 459-1399.

• Stretch N Tone - Tues. & Thurs., 9-10 a.m. Call Jean at 631-226-7894.

• Tai Chi - Tues. & Thurs., 9-10:15 a.m. Call Marge at 345-6708.

• Tennis - Tues., 5 p.m. & 6 p.m. Call Jack at 280-4276.

• Walking Club Returns Thur., Jan. 5th. Call John at 893-1079

• Watercolor with Patsi - Beginners/Intermediate - Thurs., 6:30 p.m. Call Patsi at 501-3559.

• Yoga in the A. M. - Wed., from 9-10 a.m. Call Valerie at 557-4258.

• Yoga-Wed., 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Call Tamara at 512-2763.

• Zumba- Call Valerie at 557-4258.

TOMLINSON SKATE PARK

Effective October 1st, all skaters/bicyclists MUST purchase a new City of Gulfport Skate Park sticker to use the City of Gulfport's Tomlinson Lake Skate Park. Stickers MUST be visibly placed on the helmet. Annual fee for stickers is \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents. Also, all skaters/bicyclists 17 years of age or younger MUST have a signed parental consent form filed at the Gulfport Recreation Center which is located at 5730 Shore Blvd. S. Availability to register: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Stickers valid from October 1, 2011 - September 30, 2012.

Bicycles permitted on SUNDAYS only.



Gulfport Library

**5501 28th Ave. So. 893-1074
or fax 893-1072**

GULFPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY - PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS JANUARY 2012

Search for/request books and other items on our online catalog: <http://pals.polarislibrary.com>

Pinellas County Food Council:

Thursday, January 5, 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Discussion leading to strategy and action regarding sustainable food issues. FMI, call 407-595-8103.

Suncoast Hospice:

Tuesday, January 10, 10 am - 2 pm. Recruiting new volunteers in this area. FMI, call 773-7124.

Coffee/Talk Book Club:

Thursday, January 19, 10:00 am. Discussion of *The Waste Land*, by T.S. Eliot, over

coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Reference Desk to pick up a discussion guide and a copy of the poem. Call 893-1073 FMI.

Winter Crafts Program:

Saturday, January 21, 1:30 pm in Youth Services area. Enjoy making seasonal creations with Pat. All ages welcome.

Kill-a-Watt Energy Saving Program:

Saturday, January 28, 10 - 11 am. James Stevenson of Pinellas County Extension Service will instruct on use of the devices, which will also be available for loan from the Library.

One-on-One Computer Instruction:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 am-1:00 pm. First come, first served.

Free Thinkers Open AA (Twelve Step) Meeting: Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm. FMI: Call 727-323-7660.

Gulfport Creative Short Story Writers: Wednesdays at 10:00 am.

Game on! Teen Board Game Afternoons: Wednesdays from 2:30-4:30pm. Stop by after school to challenge your opponents!

Open Monday-Friday: 10am-7pm
& Saturday: 10 am-4 pm

PROGRAMS AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

For more information, call: 893-1074, email gpublib@yahoo.com, or visit www.mygulfport.us/gpl

Gabber January 5 - January 11, 2012

Services 893-2237

5501 27th Ave. S.

Senior Center

SPECIAL EVENTS

Closed for Holidays: The Senior Center & GEMS will be closed on Mon. Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

2012 Gulfport Historical Calendars are available at the Senior Center for \$5.

Chair Yoga: No Chair Yoga on Jan. 16 and 23. Classes will resume on Jan. 30.

Coupon Club: Come join our Coupon Club every Fri. at 11am. Bring unwanted coupons for an exchange and learn ways to save money at the grocery store.

January: Pain Management Presentations

A series of presentations on Pain Management will be held at the Senior Center every Thurs. in January at 1pm sponsored by Palms of Pasadena Hospital. Free & open to the general public. Topics include: Different levels of pain; remedies for pain medication addiction; the role of nutrition; adaptive equipment/energy conservation and joint protection, etc. Watch for more health presentations in February!

Memory Workshop: Sign up now for a fun Memory Workshop with Peg Stella on Mon. Jan. 9 at 1pm. Call now to reserve a spot.

Stetson Students Provide Tech Assistance

Did you get a new I-phone, I-pad, digital camera, laptop, etc. and are having trouble figuring out how to use it? Bring it to the Senior Center on Mon. Jan. 9 from 2-4pm. Stetson College of Law students will be on hand to show you how to use it.

Great Backyard Bird Count Presentation

Be a part of this national event by participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count! A presentation will be offered by Jane Ogilvie on Tues. Jan. 17 at 1pm. Educational and fun!

Annual Health & Beauty Fair

Our annual Health & Beauty Fair will be held on Mon. Jan. 23, 9am to noon. Sponsored by Palms of Pasadena Hospital. Includes health screenings and lots of good info; free haircuts, manicures, beauty tips and massages (first come, first serve). A hamburger and hot dog lunch on the grill will follow. Must purchase meal ticket in advance: \$3.00. (No NCN lunch served).

Clothing Boutique: All small sizes of like new clothing will be available for sale on Wed. Jan. 25, 9am to noon. Come check it out!

Senior Talent Show: Don't miss the Senior

Talent Show on Wed. Jan. 25 at 1pm in the Hickman Theater. Tickets: \$5.00. Refreshments will be available for purchase at the theater concession during intermission.

Senior Trips: Start your new year off with some great day trips: Dale, Dali & Delightful Dining, \$79 on Thurs. Jan. 12; Hard Rock Casino, \$20 on Jan. 15 and 26; Glenn Miller Orchestra, \$54 at Ruth Eckerd Hall on Tues. Jan. 17 (includes box lunch; Call Carolyn at 347-0806 for more info.

Senior Dance: Our next Senior Dance will be held on Tues. Jan. 31 at 2pm with live music by Chuck and Friends. Admission: \$2.00.

Line Dancing is offered every Thurs. at 9:30am at Scout Hall (5315 28th Ave. S.). Great exercise and fun!

Support Group for Unemployed: If you are unemployed and would appreciate a support group, please contact the Senior Center. If there is enough interest, the group will meet on Mon., Jan. 23 at 6:30pm.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Transportation Service: GEMS Door-to-door transportation service for Gulfport seniors 55 and over is available Mon. thru Fri. 8:15am to 4pm. Annual registration fee is \$55 and each one way ride is \$1. Call GEMS at 893-2242 for more info.

AARP Driving Class: are offered on the first two Tuesdays of every month at 12:45pm. Must attend both days. Call 727-341-0130 for fee and registration info.

Elder Law Clinic: Volunteer attorneys will assist clients 60 and over with wills, living wills, powers of attorney, and health care surrogates on Fri. Jan. 20 at 9:30am. Must meet income criteria. Call for more info.

Phones for Hearing Impaired

Come to our Health Fair on Mon. Jan. 23, 9am-noon. Deaf & Hearing Connection will be on hand to share info about their services. Free phone distribution for hearing impaired Floridians will be available at noon but not during the fair. (Also, no phone distribution on Jan. 17).

Support Groups

Diabetic Support on Mondays at 9:30am. (No meetings Jan. 16 & 23)

Hearing Support 1st & 3rd Mon. at 2pm
Visually Impaired Support, 2nd & 4th Mon. at 2pm.

Caregivers: Every Wed. at 2pm

More Activities: To view the Senior Center calendar in its entirety, please log on to HYPERLINK "<http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org>".

Neighborhood Center
1617 49th St. So./893-1070
Faith Cathedral International Church:
9:30am, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays;
4th Sunday Bible Study
Overeaters Anonymous: Sun.
6:15-8:15pm



5501 27th Ave. So.
893-1070

Gulfport Community Players

present

"THE CURIOUS SAVAGE"

a comedy by John Patrick

Jan. 5-22

Thurs.-Sat., 8pm

Sun. Matinee 2pm

Tickets \$15, available at Gulfport Casino, Eileen's Resale Boutique, Beach Bazaar & the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce or call 727-322-0316



5500 Shore Blvd. So.
893-1070

ELLIS HALE'S BAND & DANCE

Social & Ballroom Dancing

Sun., Jan. 8, 6-10pm, \$7

WEEKLY DANCES

Every Tuesday

Ballroom Lessons 12-3pm, \$7

12-1 Intermediate

1-2 Beginner

2-3 Dancing

Argentine Tango 6:30-10:30pm, \$7

6:30-8pm Lesson,

8-10:30pm Dance

Every Wednesday

Swing Dance

6-7pm Bonus Lesson

7-8pm East Coast Swing Lesson

8-11pm Swing Dance, \$7

Every Thursday

Salsa Dance

6:30-8pm Beg. & Inter. Lessons

8-10pm Dance, \$7

MINI HEALTH, NUTRITION &

FITNESS EXPO

Fri., Jan. 6, Noon-6:30pm

Open to public

Jewish Genealogical Society to Meet

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will meet at Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd. in Clearwater on Sunday January 8, at 2 p.m. for a genealogy problem solving session – what to do when you bump into a “brick wall”.

The problem-solving panel will include Debbe Hagner and Emil Isaacson, their resident experts. In this working session a panel of

experienced resident genealogists will assist those who have come up against a dead end in their family research and don't know what to do next. The solutions presented should be of value to anyone doing family research.

Those who present a “brick wall” problem by e-mail to jgstb@tampabay.rr.com prior to the meeting will be given priority by the panel. Time permitting; problems presented from the floor will also be addressed.

The Second Annual

J. West Prostate Cancer 5K Run & Walk For Awareness

Saturday - January 7, 2012

Starting at 8:00 AM Location – The Gulfport Casino 5500 Shore Blvd. South Gulfport Florida
USATF Certified Course # FL04058DL

Great looking Awards – Overall Male/Female Standard age groups, 3 deep from 14 & under to 80 +

REGISTRATION - www.active.com -

J. West Prostate Cancer 5K Run & Walk

Feet First, 4949 4th. Street North, St. Pete. Fl.

Shapes, 5651 38th. Avenue North St. Pete. Fl.

Amenities, Great looking T-Shirts, Awards, Prize Drawings, Food, live music more.

Open to the public

Mini Health, Nutrition & Fitness Expo Friday January 6, 2012 in the Casino

12 Noon to 6:30 PM.

Race Sponsorship's Still Available. Information Call Race Director Mike Calamari

727-638-2389 or email diggermc@earthlink.net

Free Prostate Cancer PSA Test for 1st. 50 Men

www.jwestprostatefoundation.org

"It's a Family Affair"

The pre-program social with refreshments and library access begins at 1:30 p.m., and the featured program starts at 2 p.m. For information about the organization or directions to the meeting, call Sally Israel at 727-343-1652.

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Take a Basic Drawing Class

The Gulfport Arts Center, a City of Imagination Project, will offer a Basic Drawing Workshop on Saturdays starting January 14 and running through February 18 from 1-2:30 p.m. The Center is located at 2726 54th Street S. in Gulfport. For more information or to pre-register, contact the instructor, Joseph Weinzettle, at 727-418-5083 or email to weinzettle@hotmail.com.

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Junior Sungoddess Scholarship is Open

The Suncoasters of St. Petersburg are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Annual Junior Sungoddess Scholarship Program. The Junior Sungoddess program, which began in 1956, is a scholarship-based program which recognizes high school Junior and Senior girls in Pinellas County who display community awareness and involvement, academic achievement, and embody the values and poise to represent the Suncoasters of St. Petersburg as goodwill ambassadors.

Keonna Welch, a freshman at Florida A&M is the current Junior Sungoddess. Keonna was selected last spring while a senior at Gibbs High School.

Over \$7,000 in scholarships and awards were provided to the winner and two runners-up last year.

Applications are available in the Guidance Office at all Pinellas County high schools or by calling the Suncoasters office at 727-821-9888.

All applications must be completed and returned to the Suncoaster office by January 13, 2012. Applicants must be the daughter of a family residing in Pinellas County with plans to further her education after high school and must be 16 years of age by March 1, 2012.

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Gabber January 5 - January 11, 2012

Learn How to Play Bridge from the Best

Leslie Shafer, a nationally renowned bridge teacher, will be spending the months of January and February at St. Petersburg Bridge Club to teach several classes.

Leslie is a past president of the American Bridge Teachers Association, a Certified Master Teacher and a national columnist with the American Contract Bridge League. She conducts an excellent and extensive bridge teaching program in Maryland. Leslie's dramatic flair has earned her a reputation as one of the most entertaining bridge teachers in the United States. Her enthusiasm, humor and passion for bridge are contagious.

Leslie, who involves her husband in many of her classes said, "We believe that the more hands you play, the faster you'll learn. We are not lecturers! Rather, we give you a short lesson (usually no more than 10-15 minutes) and then get you playing hands as soon as possible. Playing as many hands as possible in class (and on your own) will give you the confidence and skills you need to succeed. And besides, playing bridge is a lot more fun than hearing a long, dull lecture.

"Our best known teaching method is humor, sometimes very risqué. Come to class prepared to laugh, smile and simply have a marvelous time."

Leslie will be teaching a beginner's class on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. starting on January 11. The first lesson will be free. She is also teaching classes on Monday and Tuesday mornings for those who have some bridge experience. The classes will be held at the St. Petersburg Bridge Club, 8800 49th Street N., Suite 110, in Pinellas Park starting the week of January 9.

An open house will be held at the club on Monday, January 9 from 6-7 p.m. Visit www.stpetebridge.org or call 727-363-1136.

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**We Want
YOUR NEWS!**

Send us your press release by
noon on Monday
321-6965

Gabber January 5 - January 11, 2012

Learn How to Use a Mariner's Compass

Mariner's Compass, a two hour class presented in one evening by the St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron, is available to anyone 12 or older. This seminar explains how to select, install, calibrate and use a boat compass. You will learn which features are most important for you, how to deal with variation between true and magnetic north, and how to adjust your compass to remove

most of the deviation caused by local magnetic influences. This is an essential seminar for all boaters.

Course will be held on Wednesday, January 18 from 7-9 p.m. at the St. Petersburg Sailing Center, 250 Second Avenue SE, Demens Landing in St. Petersburg. Instruction is free, materials cost \$25 per family. There is a maximum of 20 students. Pre-registration is required. Register on-line at www.boating-stpete.org.

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The J. West Prostate Cancer 5K Run & Walk 2nd. Annual 5K Run & Walk For Awareness Benefiting Education - Detection - Counseling For Prostate Cancer

T - Shirts for first 250

*** USATF Certified Course**
FL04058DL

Date/Location

Saturday January 7th.2012
Gulfport Casino, Gulfport Beach, Fl.

Start Time

5 K Run & Walk Starts at 8:00 AM
Flat Course - Walker Friendly !

Entry Fee

5K \$20.00 - Walkers & Runners
After 12/31/2011 - \$25.00

Awards

Great Looking Awards
Overall Male/Female and
Standard age groups 3 deep
From 14 & under to 80 +

Registration

By mail please make checks payable to The JWest Prostate Cancer Foundation - Race.
Mail to J West Prostate Cancer Foundation Inc. - Race, P. O. Box 35141 St. Petersburg,
Fl. 33705-2649

On line at WWW.Active.Com J. West Prostate Cancer 5K Run & Walk

Information

Call Race Director Mike Calamari
727- 638-2389
Email - diggermc@earthlink.net

Amenities

Great looking T-Shirts,
Awards, Drawings, Fruit,
Bagels, Water & More

Packet & T-Shirt pick up at the Casino Friday 1/6/12 - from 12 to 6:30 PM. Late Registration at The Casino Saturday 6:30 AM to 7:45AM.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - MINI HEALTH & NUTRITION FAIR AT THE CASINO - FRI. 12 NOON TO 6:30
SATURDAY 9:30 TO 12: NOON.

**Registration Form - Prostate Cancer 5 K for Awareness,
Shirt Size - S _ M _ L _ XL _ - I am a Runner _ Walker _ . I
would also like to donate \$ _____ to the Above Charity.**

Name _____ E-Mail _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Age _____ Sex _____

In consideration of this entry, I, for myself, my heirs, devisees, executors, administrators and assigns hereby waive, release and discharge any and all claims against RPM promotions, Race Place Magazine, Gulfport Police Department, The City of Gulfport and The Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, JWest Foundation sponsors conducting this event, or the employees, representatives, or successors, for any and all damages or injuries I may suffer. I hereby grant permission for the free use of my name and picture in any broadcast, brochure or account of this event. **Insurance does not cover these activities, Bikes, Skateboards, Roller Blades, Multi-Sport event, Animals & Radio Headsets.**

Signature _____ Date _____ E-Mail _____
(parent signature if under 18)



Following are some of the calls that Gulfport Police responded to during the past week.

Friday 12/23

- Drunk Driver-** 2200 Blk Beach Blvd. S.
- Drunk Person-** 5300 Blk 29th Ave. S.
- Criminal Mischief-** 900 Blk 53rd St. S.
- Theft-** 700 Blk 58th St. S.
- Narcotics/Drugs-** 2000 Blk 49th St. S.
- Suspicious Circumstances-** 5200 Blk 10th Ave. S.
- Soliciting-** 2000 Blk 53rd St. S.
- Suspicious Circumstances-** 5200 Blk Tangerine Ave. S.
- Abandoned Vehicle-** 4900 Blk 27th Ave. S.
- Suspicious Circumstances-** 2500 Blk 53rd St. S.
- Call for Officer-** 2700 Blk 47th St. S.

Saturday 12/24

- Call for Officer-** 5100 Blk 11th Ave. S.
- Threatening Bodily Harm-** 6200 Blk Fairway Bay Blvd. S.
- Suspicious Vehicle-** 1900 Blk 49th At. S.
- Suspicious Person-** 2700 Blk 44th St. S.
- Trouble with Individual-** 900 Blk 49th St. S.

Crime Awareness Meeting

The next City Wide Gulfport Crime Awareness & Prevention Meeting will be held on Monday, January 9th at 7 p.m. at the Neighborhood Center located at 1617 49 Street S. All residents are welcome to attend.

- Trouble with Individual-** 5000 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
 - Domestic Verbal-** 2700 Blk 57th St. S.
 - Suspicious Circumstances-** 5200 Blk Jersey Ave. S.
 - Call for Officer-** 6100 Blk 7th Ave. S.
- Sunday 12/25**
- Noise Complaint-** 3000 Blk 49th St. S.
 - Civil Matter-** 2100 Blk 52nd St. S.
 - Animal Complaint-** 5300 Blk 18th Ave. S.
 - Call for Officer-** 2600 Blk 45th St. S.
 - Theft-** 6000 Blk Shore Blvd. S.
 - Battery-** 1400 Blk 55th St. S.
 - Drunk Person-** 2800 Blk Beach Blvd. S.
 - Noise Complaint-** 5100 Blk 16th Ave. S.
 - Noise Complaint-** 3000 Blk 58th St. S.
 - Trouble with Individual-** 3000 Blk 49th St. S.
 - Call for Officer-** 2700 Blk Kipps Colony
- Monday 12/26**
- Trouble with Individual-** 5400 Blk 18th Ave. S.
 - Call for Officer-** 3000 Blk 49th St. S.
 - Animal Complaint-** 3000 Blk 58th St. S.
 - Call for Officer-** 2200 Blk 53rd St. S.
 - City County Code Violation-** 2600 Blk Quincy St. S.
 - Theft-** 3200 Blk 58th St. S.

- Tuesday 12/27**
 - Narcotics/Drugs-** 1000 Blk 49th St. S.
 - Suspicious Vehicle-** 5000 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
 - Animal Complaint-** 3000 Blk 58th St. S.
 - Call for Officer-** 5800 Blk 20th Ave. S.
 - Call for Officer-** 5000 Blk 29th Ave. S.
 - Trouble with Individual-** 3000 Blk Beach Blvd. S.
 - Trouble with Individual-** 2400 Blk 53rd St. S.
 - City County Code Violation-** 3200 Blk 58th St. S.
- Wednesday 12/28**
- Suspicious Vehicle-** 5000 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
 - Suspicious Circumstances-** 3000 Blk Beach Blvd. S.
 - Trouble with Individual-** 5100 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
 - Trouble with Individual-** 2000 Blk 49th St. S.
 - Disabled Vehicle-** 2100 Blk 49th St. S.
 - Suspicious Circumstances-** 600 Blk 54th St. S.
 - Burglary-** 5100 Blk 15th Ave. S.
 - Theft-** 3000 Blk 49th St. S.
 - Trouble with Individual-** 2600 Blk Miriam St. S.
 - Trouble with Individual-** 5700 Blk Shore Blvd S.
 - Theft-** 3000 Blk 49th St. S.
 - Noise Complaint-** 5400 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Thursday 12/29**
- Noise Complaint-** 5400 Blk Shore Blvd. S.
 - Domestic Verbal-** 5900 Blk Bayview Cir. S.
 - Animal Complaint-** 4900 Blk 14th Ave. S.
 - Suspicious Vehicle-** 1100 Blk 62nd St. S.
 - Call for Officer-** 1700 Blk 54th St. S.
 - Call for Officer-** 5600 Blk 15th Ave. S.
 - Burglary-** 2900 Blk Beach Blvd S.
 - Animal Complaint-** 2600 Blk Upton St. S.
 - Call for Officer-** 2900 Blk Beach Blvd. S.

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Natural History Speaker Series

Don and Lorraine Margeson, Naturalists, will speak at the Natural Speaker Series on Tuesday, January 10th at 7:30 p.m. at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, 1101 Country Club Way S. in St. Petersburg. The topic is "Robins as Far as the Eye can See: Roost Rings in St. Petersburg". The St. Petersburg roost ring is the largest recorded roost ring in the nation three years running according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The area has had over a million birds winter here in the past. What attracts them to come here? Where are the best places to observe them? Come and learn more about them as the speakers discuss their diet, habitat requirements, potential survival threats and conservation status.

The Speaker Series are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., September through April. Programs are free of charge and open to the general public. Call 727-893-7326 or visit www.stpete.org/boyd.

...

Take America's Boating Course

Are you ready to expand your boating knowledge and skills? America's Boating Course will

be presented beginning Monday, January 9, from 7-9 p.m. and continue for an additional six weeks on Monday nights. This program, presented over seven evenings by the St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron, is available to anyone 12 or older. It covers Required Safety Equipment, Boat Handling, Rules of the Road, Navigation Aids, Anchoring, Adverse Conditions, Communications, Trailering, PWC Operation, Knots and Lines, Introduction to Charts and more.

This is an essential course for all boaters. Graduates qualify for a Florida Boating Safety Education ID Card and may qualify for insurance discounts.

Course will be offered at the St. Petersburg Sailing Center, 250 Second Avenue SE, Demens Landing in St. Petersburg. Instruction is free, materials cost \$35 per family. There is a maximum of 20 students. Pre-registration is required. Register on-line at www.boating-stpete.org.

...



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Solution on Page 18

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	7		1		6			2
3		1				8		4
	8				7		4	
6			5		2			8
	4		9				2	
4		7				1		6
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	1			5	4	2	3	

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Local Obituaries

DOSTERT, EDWARD, 89, of South Pasadena, died Dec. 31, 2011. Survived by wife June; children, Renee, Robyn, and Dennis, 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. www.sylvanabbey.com.



F A S S L E R , WILLIAM J., passed away on December 21, 2011 in PA where he lived part of the time and also at Town

Shores. He was born in Nyack, NY. He was a veteran of the US Navy during World War II. Prior to his retirement, he was a scientist for Lederle Laboratories in Pearl River, NY, now a subsidiary of Pfizer. He was also a self-employed farmer in Montrose, PA and a truck driver. He was an intelligent, hardworking family man. He was always eager to give advice on politics, laws and welfare. He placed a high value on hard work and helping yourself. Bill's saying was "live your life day to day, because you don't know what tomorrow holds". Pre-deceased in January 2011 was his sister "Willie" Gammon who also lived at Town Shores for many years. Surviving are his children Deborah Marino, Billy Fassler, Butch Fassler, Robert Fassler, Tim Fassler, Shirley Soho and Paula Ariano, his soul mate and companion, Wendy Bibalo of Carbondale, PA and numerous grandchildren.

...

FOLSOM, LILY M., 87, of South Pasadena, died Dec. 30, 2011, at her home. She is survived by her loving family. Beach Memorial Chapel, 360-5577.

...

HONEY, RICHARD, 52, died on Dec. 23, 2011. Born in Aruba, grew up in Thonotassa. Moved to South Pasadena. Graduated St. Petersburg Catholic HS. Graduated USF and UF with 2 degrees. He had been employed by the St. Petersburg Times in IT. Preceded by parents, Hale and Katherine Honey. Survived by his wife Brenda; son John; step son Justin Fawcett; sister Margo Keesler and brother Robert Honey. There will be visitation at the Brett Funeral Home on Monday, Jan. 2, 2012, from 2 until 4 p.m. with a prayer service at 3 p.m. Brett Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 4810 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, 727-321-3321.

...

KALPAKIS, BETTY J., 86, of South Pasadena, passed away on Dec. 23, 2011. A visitation will be held at Memorial Park Funeral Home on Thursday, Dec. 29th, from 12-2 p.m. with the service at 2 p.m. For further information, please visit memorialparkfuneralhome.com.

...

KUTZLI, SHARON L., 74, of St. Pete Beach, passed Dec. 30, 2011. Survived by daughter, Cally R. Thompson; grandson, Shawn R. Thompson. Abbey Affordable Cremation Largo, 727-517-2640.

...

RASMUSSEN, DOLORES C. "DEE", 77, of South Pasadena, passed away Friday, Dec. 30, 2011 at Hospice House Woodside in Pinellas Park. Dee was born in Omaha, NE and came here in 1983 from Elgin, IL. She was the Co-Owner of Ameri-Print, Ink. in St. Petersburg and was a member of the Zonta Club in Elgin, IL and St. Petersburg. She was a member of the Cathedral Of St. Jude The Apostle where she was a Eucharistic minister and member of St. Vincent De Paul Society. She is survived by 2 sons, Michael E. (Lynn) Rasmussen of St. Petersburg, Thomas E. (Connie) Rasmussen of Hilliard, OH; 3 daughters, Tricia M. (Ted) Strand of Clearwater, Deanne M. (Jonathan) Driver of RAF Alconbury, UK, Annette M. Roath of St. Petersburg; 1 brother, Daryl Greger of Omaha, NE; 4 sisters, Sr. Eileen Greger, Maureen Bourne, Marilyn Synowicki all of Omaha, Rosemary Feldhacker of Scottsdale, AZ; and 12 grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband of 50 years, Robert E. "Bob" and a sister, Lucille Clavin. Visitation 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012 at The Cathedral Of St. Jude The Apostle Our Lady's Chapel where the Funeral Mass will be celebrated 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012. Entombment will follow at Calvary Catholic Cemetery. The family requests memorials to the St. Vincent De Paul Society or Suncoast Hospice. Online memorial and guest book at www.gunterfuneralhome.com. E. Dale Gunter Funeral Home St. Petersburg, 727-528-2880.

...

RUSSELL, ROBERT PAUL, 68, of Gulfport, left his body Dec. 28, 2011. Navy veteran. Survived by loving wife, Sheilah and family. Gee & Sorensen, 323-5111, www.geeandsorensen.com.

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Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show/Sale

The members of the Pinellas Geological Society and other local Gem and Mineral Clubs will be showing their cut gems, silver and gold jewelry, wire wrap, beading, cabachons, ornamental mineral eggs and collections of rocks and minerals at their 36th Annual Show and Sale on January 13th, 14th and 15th in the Parkside Room at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park in Largo one block east of Seminole Blvd., south off East Bay Drive.

The hours of the show are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free. Call Hugh at 727-894-2440.

...

Town Shores Bocce News

They started the New Year right off with games on Tuesday, January 3rd. This year the game standings and schedule for each week are on Channel 96. You can check to see who is playing each day. It's not too late to join a team. All residents, owners and renters are invited to join in the fun. They also need referees, please call Ruth at 347-9723.

...

Huge Yard Sale in St. Pete Beach

ST. PETE BEACH- The City of St. Pete Beach is hosting its next huge yard sale on Saturday, January 21st from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive. All are welcome to sell their items or come seeking great bargains. There are both 10' x 10' indoor and outdoor spaces available on a first-come basis: \$15 for SPB residents and \$17.50 for non-residents. There is no fee for shoppers. Registration is going on now; spots fill up fast so call or come by the Recreation Office to reserve yours! Call 363-9245 for more information.

...

Bark for Life

Come join the American Cancer Society in Gulfport's first annual Bark for Life Event. On January 21st, dogs and their owners can come out to Gulfport Recreation Center field to *Gabber January 5 - January 11, 2012*

help raise funds and awareness for the fight against cancer. The event begins at 2 p.m. with registration and a walk honoring survivors and concludes at 6 p.m. with a doggy parade down Shore Blvd. (so bring your pups dressed to impress!). This noncompetitive walk is a fundraising opportunity that honors the caregiving qualities of canine companions. It is \$10 to register and all proceeds go to the American Cancer Society to help find cures, fight back against cancer and help the world celebrate more birthdays.

There will be music, doggy giveaways and plenty of fun.

Canine participants must be kept on a leash at all times (max. 6 feet), have proof of current canine vaccinations and be six months old or older. Only canines and their humans may participate and should respect each other's space at the event.

Gulfport Recreation Center is located at 5730 Shore Boulevard S. Contact Sandy Valentine at 727-320-2069 or like them on Facebook at Bark For Life-Gulfport.

...

Attorney Keith Sanders, Handles Foreclosure Defense and Bankruptcies with Experience and Sensitivity

You could say my motto is 'been there, done that,'" says Keith Sanders, from Sanders Law, P.A.

He says that for two reasons. First, he says his more than 18 years of experience as an attorney specializing in handling "literally thousands" of bankruptcies means that he has dealt with virtually any kind of problem or issue that might arise with them. And, secondly, he had to file a Chapter 13 bankruptcy himself. He says that experience makes him very sensitive to the kinds of things people face when making the difficult decision to file.

"Most attorneys have never been in a situation where they have been worried about how to keep the lights on, but I have been there myself so I can really relate to what people are going through," said Sanders. "Plus, many people are very embarrassed when they come to me, but when I tell them how embarrassing it was for me to have to stand in front of judges and colleagues who knew me

and go through the process myself, that usually helps to put people more at ease and understand that I have been there and done that MYSELF."

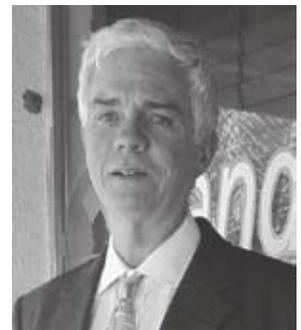
"You know, in 99 percent of bankruptcy cases the situation is that bad things happen to good people. They have gone through an expensive health crisis or a divorce or just got in over their head with debt."

He began his career as a staff attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in Atlanta. He is licensed to practice law in both Florida and Georgia.

"I like what I do because I feel like I can help people get a fresh start," said Sanders.

"Since the initial consultation is free, you really don't have anything to lose to meet with me and we can assess your situation and see how it might be best for you to proceed. **Bankruptcy can be one solution to getting back on your feet financially, but it may not be the best or only solution for you.**

Sanders has held a number of seminars and



written professional papers concerning bankruptcy law in general, ECF requirements and new issues. He is a former director of the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Georgia. **The firm also handles Short Sale negotiations, defense against foreclosures, wills & trusts, civil litigation and loan modification.**

Outside of the courtroom, Sanders lives in an unusual home in Gulfport that was one of the featured properties in a recent Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes. It has a tree growing right up through the floor and up through the ceiling of his kitchen. He has four dogs and a cat.

Keith Sanders, Esq.
Sanders Law, P.A.

5922 9th Avenue North, Suite C Second Floor, St. Petersburg, FL 33710
727-209-0744
ryan@ksanderslaw.com

Sanders Law P.A. offers evening, weekend and early morning appointments to fit the needs of our clients.

We are expanding our services to also include Personal Injury cases.

The firm is proud to announce the addition of Attorney Joe Kopp.

City Whys? Have you got a question for your city government?

Email your request to News@theGabber.com

By Cathy Salustri

City of Gulfport: *Boards and Committees*

Q: How can I get appointed to a city board or committee? Where can I find a list of requirements?

A: The city has several different boards and committees: Planning and Zoning, Adjustment, historic preservation committee, charter review committee, general employee pension board, police pension board, firefighter pension boards and teen council.

"So to speak, I don't think there's any requirements. You just submit the application and (the charter) really doesn't have any requirements," Deputy city clerk Kathy Tatay told us.

The city uses one application for all its boards and committees, Tatay said. On it applicants will detail their qualifications, if any, and may be asked to provide a financial disclosure. To apply for a committee or board, simply fill out the application (accessible from the clerk's web page at MyGulfport.us or by reading this article online at TheGabber.com) and return it to the clerk.

Have a question about the way your city works or why it does what it does? Send it to News@theGabber.com.

Gulfport Celebrates Arbor Day

On Friday, January 20th at 10 a.m., the City of Gulfport celebrates the life of trees and their importance through honoring Arbor Day. This event will be held this year at Tomlinson Park (corner of 54th St. S. and 19th Ave. S.). The Gulfport Recreation Division have included the children from the School Year Child Care Program to read excerpts, the Gulfport Teen Council will provide refreshments and a new tree will be planted in Tomlinson Park. Free Pecan and Myrtle Leaf Holly seedlings will be available to the guests who attend. The Mayor and Council will also be there during the celebration. All are welcome.

...

Classic Car Show to Benefit Charities, Teens

A Classic Car Show is coming on February 4th on the Tangerine Greenway (49th St. and 18th Ave. S.) in Gulfport from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show fee is \$30 per vehicle and there will be trophies awarded for Best of Show, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Mayor's Choice. Event features food and crafts, live music all day, moon walks, bungee jump and rock wall for the kids and 50/50 drawings and raffles. Motorcycles are welcome; same fees apply. Email jsrtraining@aol.com for vendor information and competition entry forms. Call Phil at 727-327-3509 for vendor and sponsorship opportunities.

Proceeds will benefit Sun Coast Law Enforcement Charities, Gulfport Teen Council and the Gulfport Police Explorers.

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Welcome to the First Gabber's Kids Page!

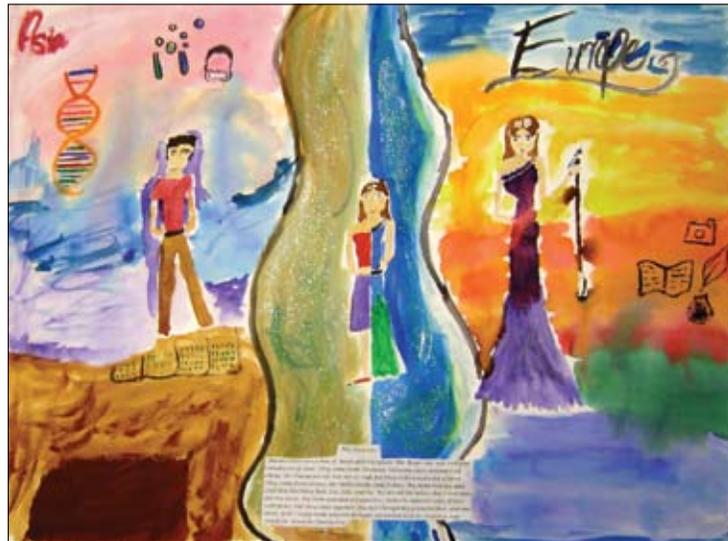
WE NEED A NAME!

While we can call it "the Kid's Page," we think our youngest readers can come up with something better. If you have any suggestions as to what we should name this page, send them to us at Publisher@theGabber.com. If we pick your name for this page, you'll get a \$30 gift certificate to Tyrone Square Mall.

-•-

If you're under 18 and want a place to express your creative side, here's where you can do it. Send us your very best poetry and artwork, and once a month we'll publish as much of it as we can! For our first-ever kids-only page, we have two entries: a watercolor from Gulfport elementary fifth grader Alexia Intravichit and a poem from Gulfport teen Kayla Becker.

Send your artwork and poetry to News@theGabber.com.
Scanned artwork should be roughly 1M in size.



Alexia Intravichit's watercolor, "My Ancestors." Lexi entered the Word and Image student art competition at the Morean Art center in St. Petersburg and received an Honorable Mention.

Winter Rose

By Kayla Becker

A winter rose so sweet and true,
One i grew thats solemnly for you.
One that can survive the snowy rain,
And take away all the pain

A winter rose so beautiful and pure
A symbol of love, I want you to procure
The petals so soft and delicate,
One so vulnerable it needs an advocate.

A winter rose made to stride
One that needs to overcome its pride
To realize that theres so much more,
All the way down, deep to the core.

A winter rose that will never burn
But for our hearts, it will yearn.
The only one that truly knows how I'm weak
And knows my hearts open for you to seek.

Fade to Black

The days turn black
And our love starts to lack
I wonder if well ever be
Together as one you and me
Slowly as the days go by
I realize its just one big lie
Never have i thought this way
I love you forever you used to say
Living it all as one big dream
All perfect and happy it would seem
Till it came time to waking up
All we wanted to do was back up
Together we walk hand in hand
But knowing we are just like sand
We used to be the beautiful shell
Now all crushed up i can tell
Lately theres no focus between you and me
You by my side is what i want to see
Its just everything we lack
And sadly...we fade to black

Stetson Selects College of Law dean

GULFPORT - Christopher Pietruszkiewicz has been named the new dean of Stetson University College of Law in Tampa Bay, Fla. Pietruszkiewicz joins Stetson from the LSU Law Center at Louisiana State University, where he serves as vice chancellor for business and financial affairs and as the J.Y. Sanders Professor of Law. Pietruszkiewicz will start at Stetson this summer.

"I am delighted to join the College of Law with a fantastic faculty that is committed to creating an educational environment where students learn both inside and outside of the classroom," said Pietruszkiewicz. "I look forward to working with a dedicated staff to advance Stetson's educational mission and with a student body that will become lawyers and leaders, benefiting the profession and society. I am enthusiastic to work with President Wendy Libby, Provost Beth Paul, and Stetson's vibrant

alumni community to advance the College of Law's national prominence in legal education."

Pietruszkiewicz was selected following a national search led by a committee of faculty, administrators, students, alumni, overseers and trustees, chaired by Stetson Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth "Beth" Paul and Professor of Law Michael Allen.

"Chris Pietruszkiewicz is recognized and respected nationally as a leader in legal education. I am confident that with his dynamic leadership, the Stetson University College of Law will continue to flourish as an excellent law school and earn distinction as an exemplar of 21st century legal education," said Provost Paul.

...

Club to Hold Annual Card/Game Party

On Wednesday, January 26th the Gulfport Women's Club will be holding its Annual Card/Game Party at The First United Methodist Church on the corner of 28th Ave. S. and 53rd St. S. in Gulfport. The Card/Game Party is the Club's largest fundraising event with proceeds to be awarded to help the schools and Gulfport's senior residents.

Most tables are sold for games of four, six or eight. It is open to the public. Typical games played are bridge, canasta and tiles. Using your imagination and start your own game with a few friends (Scrabble, Boggle, etc.). If you don't have a group they will put you with one.

Door prizes will be given and an auction for additional prizes. Hold the date and join them on January 26th for fun, friendship and a great lunch.

For more information or to buy your tickets (\$12 donation) call Petie at 727-343-6450 or Julie at 727-343-6587.

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Blue Feet and Discoloration



Community Treasures

Owen Pach: Ribbons of Color

By Cathy Salustri

Working out of a converted garage, Owen Pach earns his living in glass and sculpture. For almost the past four decades he has honed his talent, coupled with his knack for rehabbing interiors, has fed and clothed him.

"My last real job was in 1976," he says. He was the east coast supervisor for a chain of liquor stores. Before that he worked as banker. Neither job, he says, made him happy.

"I wasn't cut out for any of that. That was going to be the course of my life: I was going to be a business guy, but I wasn't cut out for business. I had a pretty nice place in south Miami, pretty close to the Grove. The living arrangement was good, I had a company car, but I hated what I did," he says.

He left corporate America behind, but he didn't take an immediate path from 9-to-5 guy to glass artist. Instead, he started doing landscaping work. That led to building decks, which led to building additions.

It was while he was building additions that he met a cabinet maker and a stained glass maker. He appreciated their work and wanted to learn their trades.

"I got them to teach me their trade in exchange for work I did in their houses," he said.

That's where his life took a turn that would set him on the path that led him to his studio in Gulfport.

He carved pieces for the Shriner's hospitals and others. He made glass jewelry, which sold easily. He made candlesticks. He kept learning, apprenticing for two years with S. Murinni Master, then as a teaching *Gabber* January 5 - January 11, 2012

assistant to renowned artists such as St. Petersburg's Harvey Littleton.

Today, Owen works out of an old garage on Beach Boulevard. In addition to



Owen Pach: Owen Pach, local glass artist, creates both massive sculptures and tiny creations. Here he polishes a glass pebble and prepares to attach it to a piece of marble. "I maintain an open studio," he says "Any time the door is open, all are welcome."

his corporate commissions, he's created metal and glass work for locals. The Gulfport Merchant's Association commissioned him to create public art, a commission he's sharing with local metal artist Frank Strunk III (featured this past September in *the Gabber*.)

If you ask him, he credits his talent for shaping glass shards into pleasing objects, but if you keep him talking there's no doubt his success as a working artist comes not just from talent, but hard work and determination.

"I still have these mad skills to do some interior work," he grins. Right now he's working on a property rehab in Clearwater, but every night finds him at his studio well into the early morning, chiseling glass and smoothing it into exploded

ribbons of color.

In his studio he reveals how he makes the ribbons: chips of colored glass roll into streaks of color, aided by ridiculously high temperatures. His studio, open only to the public on ArtWalk nights, is

a study in juxtaposition: part polished glass with colored ribbons streaking through each piece, part German Expressionist industrial tools and decor (think Wizard of Oz meets Metropolis)

"I'm trying to see how many things I can do with it before I die. Lately no material has been safe with me; I've been using wood, steel, stone and glass... I call it Four Element Improvs," Owen says of his latest series and the sheer variety of materials in his studio.

Owen takes a seat in front of a mishmash of smooth shards of glass, pebbly glass beads, and a thin UV light. He selects a piece of manufactured glass he chiseled off a larger piece last night and erases its rough edges with a Dremel. He selects an asymmetrical

fire-polished glass with carmine streaks and a chunk of discarded marble; he smooths them both on a diamond lap, which looks like a flat, motorized whetstone.

While a larger piece can take him months to complete, these small pieces, he explains, offer him a creative outlet. He uses a special glue to affix the glass to the marble, waits for it to set in the UV light, and then tops the miniature tower with the glass pebble. When the glue doesn't set the way he expects, he brings it out into the sunlight to set.

When he's satisfied with the set of the glue, he takes it back inside and sets it down. The entire process took less than 15 minutes. Time, you realize, is his biggest challenge. His hard work and talent have gotten him work in spades. He's not complaining, but a few extra hours in the day probably wouldn't hurt.

"I'm doing my dream job. What I would change about it is that I would have a hot shop," he says. Without a hot shop, he can only make glass sculpture pieces, not blown glass. He'd like that to change. "The city has made it clear that they're ready for me to build a shop, but I really don't have time to stop and build a hot shop; I have about six months of work (ahead)," he says.

A hot shop is a facility designed to blow glass. It includes a furnace, a reheating furnace called a glory hole and an annealer (an oven that runs at about 920 degrees and then slowly cools the glass).

Owen builds custom glass equipment, so he'll be able to build his own hot shop.

As soon as he has a spare second.

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Have an artist you think we should know about? Tell us at News@theGabber.com.

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Coconut,

from front page

he's not allowed to build because Vice Mayor Bev Garnett incited fears in residents.

Vice Mayor Garnett contends that Caruso wanted to build something much more than a gazebo.

After several rounds with the city, Caruso decided he'd had enough. Now a court will decide who is right.

The Background

For years locals knew it as the Leroy Hotel. In 2008, the owner died and his heirs listed the property at \$3.5M. An agent contacted Joe Caruso, who owned nearby Sabal Palms, and told him he should make an offer.

Caruso wasn't interested. He told the agent that what he would offer was so far below the asking price it would be an insult; the agent encouraged him to make an offer nonetheless.

Caruso offered \$800,000. To his shock, the buyers accepted. On July 28, 2008, Caruso's company, Coconut Inn, LLC, became the official owner of the Leroy Hotel. Caruso began renovating what he called "a derelict hotel." He added a pool and put on a new roof. He opened for business in February 2009.

He started thinking he could add a gazebo.

That's when the trouble started.

A Gazebo...

Caruso owns the Coconut Inn and the adjoining lot. He wanted to put three gazebos for his guests on the lot, so he asked the city for permission. On March 23, 2009, the city of St. Pete Beach granted him a permit.

He started building the gazebos.

On September 16, 2009, the city revoked the permit.



Joe Caruso owns the Sabal Palms and the Coconut Inn on Pass-a-Grille. He is suing the city for two reasons: he wants the Coconut Inn rezoned and he wants the city to reimburse him money he spent on a gazebo for which they gave him permission to build, then rescinded permission.

Caruso said the city said it revoked the permit because he planned to "increase my nonconformity into a structure."

"They considered my gazebos structures (and said that) I was expanding my hotel use," he said, shaking his head. City officials told him to halt construction. They also told him he needed to tear down the construction performed before they revoked his permit.

The city, city manager Mike Bonfield said, has not pushed the issue. "It was being challenged, so in all fairness, why have him take it down when he could prevail? As long as we're getting towards some resolution."

Before he could add a gazebo, he'd need to change the zoning to something called a "Traditional Hotel District", or THD.

The Community Development Department issued the permits; the former Community Development Director, Karl Holley, resigned in November. He did not return a call to his home number. Bonfield told

the Gabber the city rescinded Caruso's permit "because it was issued in error. The gazebos are not allowed under the current zoning."

Traditional Hotel Zoning

Although the Coconut Inn, and before it the Leroy Hotel, operated as an inn, the city long ago zoned the property as residential, which made the gazebos a violation.

In 2010, Caruso applied to change the zoning for the Coconut Inn. Such a change would mean he could finish building his gazebos.

"Historically, it's been a hotel for 80 years," Caruso said. The Coconut Inn operated as a nonconforming hotel, but a change to THD would, in addition to allowing his gazebos, offer him the ability to "rebuild within reason," he says, if a hurricane swept through and destroyed the inn, an assurance he doesn't enjoy as a nonconforming hotel.

Bonfield told the Gabber that Caruso wouldn't need THD zoning to rebuild in the event of a catastrophic loss.

"He has the same ability

to reconstruct after a catastrophic loss as any non-conforming residential or tourist lodging property," Bonfield said.

If the Coconut Inn received THD zoning and if Caruso opted to rebuild – something he vehemently says he does not want to do (more on that below)– he wouldn't be able to add more hotel rooms or even expand the hotel's footprint by much.

According to St. Pete Beach senior city planner Catherine Hartley, "the number of units that he has would not change if he electively redeveloped the property. He may be able to get a little more square footage, based on the fact that the ordinance allows for a five percent increase over what it is on the ground."

Caruso had his other inn, Sabal Palms, rezoned THD, and he said he had no problems rezoning.

This time, he says, "there's a lynch mob."

Vice Mayor Bev Garnett remembers things a little differently.

"Joe came to me back

when I was first a commissioner,” she remembers. He asked for her help getting a THD designation for the Coconut Inn. She asked him for drawings what he wanted to do.

She then pulls out drawings of a three-story building. This, she says, is what Caruso presented to the city on January 12, 2010. This, she says, is what the city won't allow.

The three story building, she explains, is the issue. The gazebo “is not what we object to,” she says. “We love the Coconut Inn.”

“I want to protect property rights,” she says. “It’s about intensity and density.”

A Three Story Resort?

A review of the meeting online reveals that initially Caruso did submit plans to erect a three-story, cottage style building.

He says he only wanted a gazebo but former commissioner Christopher Leonard told him he should create plans to show how he would rebuild if he received his THD designation and he opted to rebuild.

“When I first set to do my plans, I was putting gazebos back there and I was going for my THD zoning at the same time because I wanted to protect the property. Then when I went to apply for my zoning, some of the commissioners said ‘I can’t possibly vote for you’ unless they knew what I would build, and that’s why I put the plans there,” Caruso said.

“When I showed the plans, there was all this outrage, ‘see, he tricked us!’ but I was told they wouldn’t vote for me unless I had the plans done,” to show what he might do if his hotel was destroyed, he says.

“It was never my intention to build that... It was my intention to build that if I was destroyed. It was my intention to build that in 20 years if the place was infested with termites. I just redid the hotel and spent a fortune to do that, it would make no sense to tear it down.”

In addition, he says, he couldn't increase capacity if he knocked down the Coconut Inn and rebuilt. He estimates he couldn't charge more than \$40 more per room per night.

“It doesn't make financial sense,” to knock it down and rebuild he says. “It’s doing as good as it could possibly do.”

Hartley agrees with Caruso.

Gabber January 5 - January 11, 2012

“He did not turn in any formal plans for approval for a three story hotel. What he submitted was the plans for the gazebos. I think that was what he was saying what he would like to do if he was going to redevelop, but he was offering not to redevelop unless it was a catastrophic loss. If the building got blown away or it was more than 50% damage, that’s when he wanted to be able to redevelop the property but there were no plans to do so now.”

Concessions?

City documents show that on May 6, 2011, Caruso offered, in writing, to never voluntarily redevelop the Coconut Inn (except to complete a recreational area) if the city granted him THD zoning. In addition, he offered to make several other concessions (read this article online for a PDF of the full list of concessions).

This past fall, the commission voted not to rezone the Coconut Inn.

Before that vote, in the fall of 2010, the city’s planning board, the historic board, and the commission had the opportunity to change the rules so that only properties on Pass-a-Grille Way, Gulf Way and 1st Avenue would be eligible for the sort of rezoning Caruso wanted for his property, which was not on one of those three streets. Such a change would forever exclude the Coconut Inn – and others like it – from rezoning as a Traditional Hotel, unless the commission later voted to change the boundaries.

All three boards voted not to change the rules, which meant the Coconut Inn could qualify as a Traditional Hotel, according to Hartley.

Hartley also says the Coconut Inn meets other criteria for rezoning as a THD.

“He had all the licensing he was supposed to have. He met the geographic eligibility,” Hartley said, but on April 19, 2011, the planning board heard Caruso’s request to change the Coconut Inn’s land use, the first step in changing the Coconut Inn’s zoning. The board voted 3-1 to deny the request, with member Will Jacoby casting the only vote to approve the change. The other three members were Sandie Lyman, Jay Anderson and Don Breitwhiser.

The Lawsuits

Currently Caruso’s suing over the

permit revocation as well as not getting approved for rezoning as a Traditional Hotel District.

He says he has offered to settle. The city did not agree to settle.

He says the city could end the lawsuits if it offered to reimburse him the money he spent on construction based on the permit they gave him before they revoked it.

“If they made a mistake – which they clearly admit – why do I have to pay the consequences? I’m not asking for pain and suffering; I’m asking for the money I spent. It comes in at the high \$20,000 range.”

He says he would drop the other lawsuit if the city granted the Coconut Inn its THD zoning.

Bonfield told the Gabber the city offered to settle but Caruso refused the offer. The terms of the settlement, he says, are that Caruso settle both the zoning and the gazebo lawsuit, drop his request that the city repay him for items needed to apply for the permit, and that he show receipts or canceled checks for money spent on the gazebo.

“He refused the offer,” Bonfield said.

“I do not think I was treated fairly by my commissioner. I never wanted to sue the commission. I was forced to,” he says.

Vice Mayor Garnett maintains that she likes Caruso.

“I do not dislike Joe. I send people to his hotel. The problem is, Joe won’t allow us to have a conversation. He doesn’t talk to me. If I see Joe and wave, he turns the other way. How do you have a conversation with someone who won’t even acknowledge you’re existing?” she asks.

Caruso says all he wants is the same protection others like him have. He wants the same protections as other inns with THD zoning.

All he wants, he says, is a gazebo.

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*Contact Cathy Salustri at
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Somethin' on my mind

By Bill Northrop

B_Northrop@theGabber.com

Getting with the Process

If I had to guess, I'd say that most people are tired of the "political process". Too much of everything, too many candidates, too long a time, too much talk. And, think about it: this has been the process, not the election. The 2012 presidential election campaign is just beginning. The process is winnowing out candidates to determine who will best represent the Republican party.

Democrats aren't doing any winnowing. They have chosen Barack Obama and they're sticking with Joe Biden as VP. At least that's the story now. It kind of makes it simple and avoids the spotlight that is shining on the GOP contenders. That spotlight exposes a lot of warts and Democrats are enjoying all the

negative attention their opponents are getting.

In the search for perfection - a no blemish person, from birth always consistent, perfect living, all knowing, all meaning, candidate who is wealthy enough to not need any outside money, but too poor to be identified with the rich, highly experienced and knowledgeable with a perfect track record from at least 100 perspectives, contenders are pricked and prodded, like pieces of fresh meat.

While Republicans get questioned and question each other in as many as 23 debates, Obama strolls around the planet pretty much unquestioned. I think he's held one press conference with a handful of questions being taken in a format he controls. Not bad work for a candidate. Of course, his daily performance gets daily

commentary, but he's rarely asked direct questions about anything of substance. In the meantime, he's free to comment about his opponents directly and through his surrogates. Unfair, but that's the way the "process" works.

The real question is whether any of this benefits the public. While I would like to see a shorter campaign period (it seems to begin the moment a person is elected), I think the public benefits from the scrutiny the candidates get. The only problem may be that all the attention falsely distorts the candidate. Candidates are not the perfection I described earlier. They are generally quite ordinary human beings with many talents, but many foibles.

Also, on the positive side, few should be able to say that they don't know much about the candidates or that they lack government experience. Of the eight candidates still standing, one is a state governor, three are former state governors, one a former U.S. Senator, one a former House Majority leader, and two are House representatives. Some have published books. Two who dropped out were state governors and only one had no political or public exposure. So, if you haven't been paying any attention to the rhetoric you can still look up their records. It was a bit more difficult with Obama whose past prior to politics was obscure, and whose public service included one undistinguished term in the Illinois State Senate and a half a term as a U.S. Senator.

Anyway, whether you like it or not, the "process" goes on. Ultimately, you have the right to vote for your choice. Even if you've shut out all the campaigns, you'll still be faced with two choices: whether to vote or not or whom to vote for. And, if you're holding off looking for that perfect candidate (maybe meaning you? Who hasn't dreamed, "if I ran the world"?), you really aren't prepared to vote anyway.

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Energy Express The latest trends for staying healthy

by Marilyn Preston

2011 in Review: What's Hot, What's Not, What's Rot

My No. 1 resolution for the new year is to live in the moment (I've mastered the Here, but the Now needs a little work.) At the same time, it's great sport to look back at 2011 and point out what's hot, what's not and why the Tummy Tuck infomercial is the wackiest thing to happen to TV since the return of "Fear Factor":

HOT: WELLNESS AT WORK

-- An overweight employee costs his company \$5,000 more a year in medical care than a healthy-weight person. That's one of many reasons why more and more employers are giving financial incentives to workers to motivate them to lose pounds, boost fitness, quit smoking.

It's an enlightened trend, but it arrives with a darker side: increasing numbers of companies are requiring workers who smoke, are overweight or have high cholesterol to pay higher premiums for their insurance. So I ask you: If penalizing employees with unhealthy lifestyles makes business sense, why don't we, who pay for health care with our tax dollars, ask

our government to start penalizing businesses that make unhealthy food? We can start in 2012 with a tax on soft drinks, including diet colas.

HOTTER: MORE SOCIAL NETWORKING FOR BETTER HEALTH. Web-based wellness is exploding, with thousands of apps to support every kind of healthy behavior you can think of -- from counting calories to calculating biorhythms, from tai chi and Pilates routines to apps that track your weight, body mass and cholesterol. If you can dream it, you can download it. So here's a question for Siri: Will an app a day really keep the doctor away? I have my doubts.

NOT: Negativity is anti-fitness, but as part of this year-end review, I couldn't resist coming up with three habits you do not want to take with you into the new year:

-- Do NOT skip breakfast. A healthy morning meal jump starts your day, levels your metabolism, and helps prevent overeating later on.

-- Do NOT grunt through an exercise plan that is no fun. It won't last.

-- Do NOT ignore your stress. 2011 was tough, and 2012 looks hair-raising. Develop and execute a plan for letting go of daily tension

-- Meditation? Breathing? Yoga? -- to keep your energy flowing and your immune system strong.

2011'S SILLIEST TV INFOMERCIAL: It's called the Tummy Tuck system, and if you believe this foolishness will help you lose weight, I've got a piece of land on the bottom of my shoe I'd like to sell you. The Tummy Tuck infomercial -- I saw it myself! Is this actually legal? -- details a two-step process that promises to melt your fat away while you do absolutely nothing.

Isn't that amazing? You just rub on the Tummy Tuck Accelerator Cream, and put the Tummy Tuck belt around your middle, and sit there for 8 minutes while all your unwanted pounds dissolve into the void. That's right: no exercise, no dieting, no change in your lifestyle whatsoever. In fact, the woman in the infomercial was shown wearing the TT belt and eating cookies between sessions, and it still worked. It's a miracle ... that they allow this insanity on TV.

MOST STARTLING HEALTH NEWS OF 2011: What's it going to be, I wondered, poking through a pile of health studies I've collected over the past year: "Long-term endurance training linked to heart damage." "Eating baked or broiled fish on a weekly basis reduces your risk of Alzheimer's Disease." "The low-salt diet the U.S. government advocates for all Americans puts many people into a danger zone where stroke, heart attack and death are more likely."

All those stories tickled my serious bone, but the one that stands out is the 2011 research on the hazards of sitting. Sitting too much, without moving around, causes cancer. Bummer. According to an analysis presented this year at the American Institute for Cancer Research, more than 49,000 cases of breast cancer and 43,000 cases of colon cancer are due to physical inactivity and prolonged periods of sitting. "Sitting disease" also increases your risk of endometrial and ovarian cancers.

How much sitting is too much? Even an hour increases your risk, according to Mayo Clinic's Dr. James Levin, who adds that many people sit an average of seven to nine hours a day. Arise, dear reader ... here and now!

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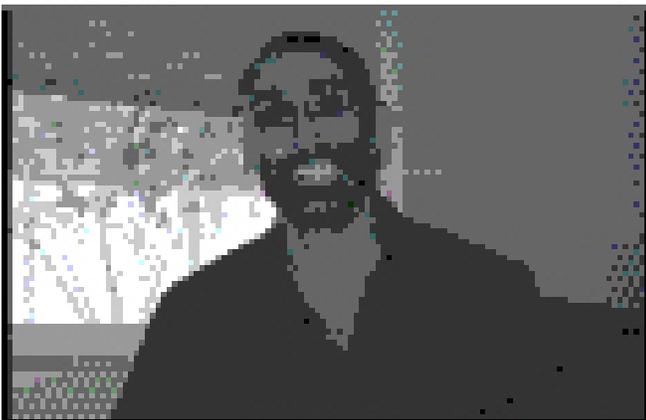
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Anand Vadehra, Astrological Consultant

By Kirby Salami



If in these new year, you're looking to become more self-aware and change your life, consider getting a clear consultation with Anand as an investment in your future.

If you've read your horoscope in the paper and thought, "yeah, this isn't for me," you're probably right: traditional sun sign astrology only gives you a sliver of the huge picture that makes up your individual astrological chart.

If you're looking into the new year and have specific goals for yourself, Anand Vadehra will analyze your astrological chart (also called a natal chart), or birth chart, and show you how you can change your life and meet your goals.

Anand Vadehra specializes in painting the big picture for his clients. He says a natal chart is "a snapshot photograph of the sky when you were born" and has spent over a decade of his life learning how to show you what the photograph means.

"I help people find and embrace the narrative of their life, based on what the sky looked like when they were born," he explains. He combines a host of traditional tools—years of study combined with the experience of analyzing thousands of charts, for example—with modern technology. His specialized astrology software, to create a portrait of who you are, why you do what you do, and how you can better get what you want from life.

"Any and every person who wants to live a happier, more self-directed, self-aware life" is who should get their charts done, Anand says.

Anand runs your birth reading, your, they will then do analysis and synthesize your chart before you meet with him.

"Then we simply sit down and have a conversation, about, for the initial consultation, I do most of the talking" he says. He records the session for you, and encourages you to ask questions.

By looking at the 30 to 40 most crucial features in your chart, he can assess your natural strengths, challenges and potentials in order to help you understand why you are the way you are, something, he says, psychology can't do. Only then, he says, can you move on to accepting yourself. This, he claims, is absolutely the key to self-growth because, without it, we continue to judge ourselves and feel judged by others, "keeping us locked

in a cycle of behavioral cycles of conditioned responses to traditional social, religious and cultural expectations".

"The Universe makes responses perfectly, exactly as they should be" he says. The key is knowing how to maximize what the Universe provides.

Once self-awareness and acceptance has been achieved through consultation with Anand, he then offers what he calls "directed advice": how to use the information to be the person you want to be.

"It's a science, no doubt about it" says the astrologer. In fact, he is also a trained scientist in more traditional terms. The man working towards his doctorate from Caltech years ago when he realized he needed to leave and pursue his inclination towards astrology, as he took a master's instead and hasn't looked back since.

"Most people think it's just a matter of sign, thing, house—a general science" he says, explaining that geometry, physics and other measured sciences chiefly contribute to enhancing the needed potential described in astrology's chart.

Anand is critical of modern psychotherapeutic methods. "Psychology focuses on the clinic astrology looks at the why," he says. "For example, let's say two people commit. Astrology can help determine why each person commits, instead of approaching their issue the same way because it looks the same on the surface. In other words, once you know why, we can find solutions specific to you to change the habit".

If in the new year, you're looking to become more self-aware and change your life, consider getting a clear consultation with Anand as an investment in your future.

When you meet with Anand, he'll already have spent about day or more preparing for your reading. He'll make specific suggestions based on your chart and your circumstances, and those suggestions are the tools you need to make the changes in your life.

After your reading (they run about 90 minutes on average), he'll give you an audio recording of your reading so you can listen and refer back to it any time you like. His clients tell him this is invaluable since there's so much information told not during the reading.

Anand also works with couples, co-workers, families and hopes to expand into the corporate setting, helping companies understand interpersonal dynamics and untapped skill set potentials with their employees.

Further readings receive 50% off the \$150 reading in January, so call him today and set up an appointment to start changing your life.

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Sustainable Living

By Shawn Dell Joyce



Green New Year's Resolutions

Luckily for us, Santa is very kind, or else we would have received a lump of coal in our stockings for being major contributors to climate change.

Instead of giving us more stuff, I imagine Santa probably would have snuck into our houses and swapped out those incandescent bulbs for compact fluorescents. He's probably pretty peeved about the climate changing at the North Pole and that his flying reindeer may soon join all the other Arctic creatures on the endangered species list. Indeed, we Americans have been very, very, naughty.

Most of us realize that we can't go on this way. We are running out of planet to consume and will need three to five more Earths to maintain the

rate of our current consumption. We cannot continue to gorge ourselves at the all-you-can-eat buffet created by our fossil-fueled agricultural system. Nor can we keep adding more and more coal-burning plants to feed our lust for power or continue driving gas-guzzling SUVs. We have already burned through our share of the world resources and are now dipping deeply into our children's and grandchildren's meager allotments.

Each American household must commit to change -- changing both light bulbs and paradigms. Let's embrace a culture built on conservation of resources instead of waste and excess.

Here are a few New Year's resolutions that will set us on the right track:

-- Go on a low-carbon diet.

Woodstock author David Gershon leads you through energy-slimming

actions to lose 5,000 pounds of carbon or more. Considering the average American household has a carbon footprint of 22,000 pounds per year, there's plenty carbon to cut. (EmpowermentInstitute.net)

-- Take the 100-Mile Diet challenge.

Eating local is the single best thing you can do to curb climate change. The average American fork-full of food traveled 1500 miles to reach your mouth. By eating locally, we save emissions of transporting food and the livelihoods of local farmers. We also eat fresher, more nutritious food, and we become intimately connected to the land and the seasons. (100MileDiet.org)

-- Set a zero-waste goal.

Make recycling, composting, washing and reusing into common practices. Carry your own mug or reusable water container to avoid generating more petroleum-based plastics. Stash a set of tote bags in your car for shopping, and refuse to accept any disposables. (GRRN.org)

-- Take the 10 Percent challenge.

Try spending 10 percent of your income at locally-owned businesses. Move your mortgage to a local bank or credit union, buy from consignment stores instead of chain stores, and eat at locally owned restaurants. This keeps your money flowing locally, where it grows and multiplies as local businesses frequent other local businesses. This one act will improve your local economy and save Main Street -- and maybe even your job. (LivingEconomies.org)

-- Convert to renewable energy.

Curb 30 percent of your family's emissions by switching to renewable energy. If solar panels or a wind turbine are out of your price range, consider buying wind energy through your utility for about \$15 per month. NewWindEnergy.com

-- Create Community.

Be the change you want to see. Take time to know your neighbors, walk to the store and see what small businesses you could be frequenting that you didn't even know existed. Spend precious time and energy getting involved in your community by volunteering and becoming politically active. Become deeply rooted in your community and bloom where you are planted!

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Notice is hereby given that Teri Evans desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name Virtual Asset Team located in Pinellas County, Florida, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State, pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes. January 5, 2012.

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G.F.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN (Never Known to Fail) - Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me & show me here you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request).

There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3) times. Holy Mother, I place this prayer in your hands. (3) times. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days and then you must publish it and it will be granted to you. L.M.C.

NEVER FAILING PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

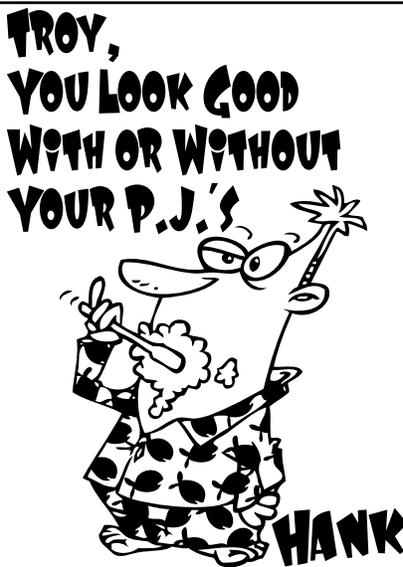
- St. Michael, the Archangel, Defend Us In Battle; Be Our Defense Against the Wickedness and Snares of the Devil. May God Rebuke Him We Humbly Pray; and Do You Oh Prince of the Heavenly Host, By the Power of God, Thrust Into Hell Satan and the Other Evil Spirits Who Prowl About the World For the Ruin of Souls. Amen. St. Michael, I Resort to Your Protection and in My Faith, Offer This Light Which Shall Burn Every Tuesday. Comfort Me in My Difficulties and While Lodging in the House of Our Savior Intercede for Me and My Family That We Will Be Able to Hold God Close to Our Hearts and Be Provided for in All of Our Necessities. I Beseech You, to Have Infinite Pity in Regard to Favors I ask of You (Name Them) So That I May Be Able To Overcome All Difficulties as You Did the Dragons at Your Feet. Our Father (Say 3 Times). Hail Mary (Say 3 Times). Glory Be (Say 3 Times). This Prayer is to be Said 9 Tuesdays, in Succession and Each Tuesday a Candle Shall Be Lighted and a Copy of This Prayer Lft in the Church to Help Another Soul in Distress and Support the Devotion to St. Michael. This Miraculous Saint Grants Everything, No Matter How Difficult, Before the Termination of 9 Tuesdays. G.F.



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PATRIOT SQUARE- 37th St. S., 38th Ave. 55+. No Pets. Large 1BR, 2nd Floor, Balcony, A/C, Pool, Tennis, Fenced. \$599/Mo. Also 3BR/2BA, \$749/Mo. Secured Parking. 727-867-7022.

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HAMPTON 114 - 1450 s.f., 2/2 Many upgrades, jacuzzi in bath, waterluscious views, most desirable location **CONTRACT PENDING IN 1 DAY!** \$179,900

MANCHESTER 603 - 2/2 Deluxe beautifully done with open concept floor plan. Kitchen and bath have been tastefully updated. This condo has picturesque water views. Truly move in ready. Covered parking. Small cat accepted. **\$139,900**

FAIRFAX 311 - 1 BR Deluxe featuring all new tinted hurricane windows throughout. Laminate and tile flooring. Newer appliances and countertops. Pride of ownership reflected, Fabulous water views, immaculate, covered parking, pet friendly. **\$82,500**

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Embassy #607	1 Bed/1.5 Bath, Deluxe Unit, Updated, Move in Ready, Bay Views	\$138,000
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