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Puppy Love

Young readers at the St. Pete Beach public library brought homemade Valentine's Day cards to Tucker, a Welsh Springer Spaniel, last week.

Find out why this dog is our latest Community Treasure on page 56

Gulfport and St. Pete Beach Election Information

On March 13 **Gulfport** voters will decide on two elections: Wards One and Three, currently represented by David Hastings and Jennifer Salmon, respectively. Dan Liedtke is running against Hasting for Ward One; Jim Perry is running against Salmon in Ward Three.

All voters will decide this election, regardless of their ward.

Gulfport voters will also vote on several changes to the city charter; the Gabber will run a copy of the ballot the week before elections.

St. Pete Beach voters in District One **ONLY** will decide the runoff race between incumbent Al Halpern and challenger Lorraine Huhn.

Voters who wish to vote by absentee ballot must request a ballot by 5 p.m. on March 7. The Supervisor of Elections office must receive the ballot by 7 p.m. on March 13. Voters may also drop off the ballots at any Supervisor of Election office during regular business hours. Please visit VotePinellas.com for more information.

Good Corporate Citizens

ST. PETE BEACH – At city commissioner Jim Parent's request, the commission discussed how to handle what the commissioner said were "corporate citizens" who were not so good. The commission said he had heard from several residents about a couple of businesses in town that residents felt were too loud too late at night.

"I urge them to call the police, but it doesn't seem to do any good," commissioner Parent said,

See *Citizens*, page 2

A City Commission Valentine's



At the February 14 St. Pete Beach Commission meeting, City Clerk Rebecca Haynes swears commissioner Marvin Shavlan in for a second term as his wife, Cindy, stands by his side.

Citizens, from front page

saying the residents felt calling was ineffectual.

City manager Mike Bonfield said the problem was not unique to St. Pete Beach. "Gulfport has these problems. Any time you have single family homes and businesses, you have these problems," he said.

"To them, it is unique," Commissioner Parent said. In an interview he explained this situation further.

"There's businesses in town where they can impact residential areas with noise, and if they're not at 65 decibels," he said, "there's not much we can do about it. We've got bars where we leave the back doors open."

"I don't know what the right thing is to do, but I know one of our toughest jobs is to balance residential and commercial," he also said, adding that the larger businesses like the Tradewinds weren't the issue.

"In the summer nights when the wind's blowing right, hell, we can

dance to their music. I don't think noise is always the issue; sometimes it's the 'how good a corporate citizens are the businesses?' Our big businesses tend to be good corporate citizens. Some of our small businesses are just hanging on by a thread," he said, which they tried to combat by playing loud music "so people know they're there."

The city manager urged people to call the police as a first step.

The commission reached no consensus and will revisit the issue at a future meeting.

...

Unveiling of Clymer Park Sculpture

On Saturday, February 18 at 6 p.m., Gulfport Artist, Tom Pitzen's City sponsored sculpture will be unveiled at Clymer Park at the intersection of Gulfport Blvd. S. and Beach Blvd. S. This event is free and the public is invited.

During the September 22, 2011 Council Workshop, Pitzen was chosen out of four artist/artist groups to create the sculpture leading into the Art District in Gulfport. Pitzen's was chosen by Council to create his "Tree Sign". Pitzen stated in his proposal, "The style, flavor and symbols of this sculpture could be made to accentuate public buildings, businesses, signs and other landmarks of the city in an energetic and cohesive way." After six months of creating the project, he is now ready to make his conception public.

All are welcome to the unveiling of this exciting new addition to the City of Gulfport's Clymer Park as part of Gulfport's Third Saturday Artwalk. Call Gail Biron at 727-893-1118.

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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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CORRECTION

Gulfport city council did not change the rules about alley trash can storage. Residents may still leave their cans at the edge of the alleyway. An article in last week's paper suggested otherwise.

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Community Band in Concert Tonight

The South Pasadena Community Band will present a free concert on February 16 at 7:30 p.m. Musical Director Max Millsbaugh has entitled this concert "Classics to Swing". Come and enjoy a program that includes, among others, music from Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" to Mancini's "The Swing March", from excerpts from Wagner's operas to "A Tribute to Harry James". The "Cheerio March" will leave you singing and whistling.

The casino provides adequate free parking and handicapped accessibility. Refreshments are available. Seating capacity has been increased for the concert. The City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce sponsor the concerts. The South Pasadena Band is sponsored by the City of South Pasadena and community donations.

...

Classes Continue this Month at the IAC

Blown glass heart ornaments are still on the menu for Saturday night's Art Walk, 6-10 p.m. at the Industrial Arts Center. Arrive early and be the first to warm up at the glory hole and blow your own glass masterpiece. Anyone you love will be happy to receive a beautiful glass heart ornament in your choice of colors and blown with your own breath.

Just want to watch? IAC lampwork instructor Jason Bourgholtzer will also be demonstrating his

fascinating medium during Art Walk. Jason's Fun With Torches class continues Monday, February 27, and Wednesday, February 29, 7-9 p.m.

The next Sculptural Welding series with Jonathan Schork starts Thursday night at 7 p.m. Two more sessions are scheduled Saturday, February 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and Sunday, February 19, noon-4 p.m. This course is limited to four students, so early registration is suggested. Ages 12 and up.

Registration is open for the next glass blowing beginner classes

including Intro to Glass Blowing with Christian Zvonik, a series of six 3-hour workshops, beginning in March. Intro to Glass Blowing, held Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m. for six weeks, is designed for students who want to learn more about hot glass as an artistic medium. This is a popular class with limited seats, so early registration is encouraged.

For information about any of these classes or special events visit www.IndustrialArtsCenter.org or call 727-289-9365.

...



Re-Elect

David Hastings

City Council - Ward 1

For the Future of Gulfport

I will be out and about and look forward to meeting you this weekend!

- **Friday - Checking in for lunch at Stella's @ 12pm**
- **Saturday 11 am -1 pm- Family Fun Day at Tomlinson Park**
- **Saturday 6 pm- Cylmer Park Sign Unveiling then walking Third Saturday Art Walk**

I AM INTERESTED TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS, QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS. FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT:

2207 54th St S, Gulfport

Phone: 727-322-0909 Cell: 727-434-0074

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Paid for and Approved by David Hastings for City Council, Ward 1

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Parking Meter Increase

ST. PETE BEACH – Parking on the beach will increase to \$1.50 per hour if the commission passes Ordinance 2012-14. Commissioners asked for public comment about the proposed increase at its regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday night.

The commission will hear public comment and vote a second and final time at the February 28 meeting, which starts at 6 p.m. at city hall.

...

Gulfport Yard Sale Permits Required

As a reminder to all Gulfport residents, Code Enforcement would like to remind everyone who plans to have a yard sale, to review Code 13-25 at www.mygulfport.us. A yard sale permit must be obtained from the code enforcement office located at 5330 23rd Avenue S. Please review the instructions on this permit as to where and how to post signs related to the yard sale. On several weekends up to 2/7/2012, Code Enforcement observed multiple violations of yard sale signs. These signs not only

bring down the beauty of Gulfport, each violation can be addressed separately, starting with a Class V with a \$93 fine.

Some residents involved with yard sales this weekend were not aware that as of June 21st, 2011, the "First Saturday of the Month Yard Sale" resolution was amended. Current code allows for a NO-COST permit that would allow a person to have a yard sale from 1-3 consecutive days once every 60 days.

- Gulfport Officer LK Garrett

...

Family Fun Day

Family Fun Day is presented by the City of Gulfport Recreation Division. The event is Saturday, February 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Tomlinson Lake Park (corner of Tangerine Ave. S. and 54th St. S.). The free event will include inflatables, entertainment, arts and crafts, family competitions and food (hot dogs and bottled water while they last). Please come join them for this wonderful family event! For more information, please contact 727-893-1068.

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Women's Club to hold Annual Flea Market

The Pasadena Women's Club located on the corner of Central Ave. and Sunset Dr. in St. Petersburg is having their annual flea market sale on Saturday, February 18th from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. featuring something for everyone from antiques, china, clothing and many other goodies. Please come and join them for this annual event.

...

Time for Tickets is Running Out

Come by for your dinner Saturday evening and enjoy the Gulfport friendliness, or grab a take-out on your way home. John Verville, the "Ribdog" and Master Kansas City Barbecue Society judge, is back at First United Methodist Church, Gulfport, on Saturday, February 18th cooking some old time championship pork. In addition to generous portions of competition quality hickory-smoked pulled pork, dinners will include hickory smoked baked bean, cole slaw, bread and dessert. Tickets are \$8 per person in advance, \$9 at the door. Hot dog dinners for children under 12 are also available for \$3. Dinners will be served from 5-7:30 p.m. and takeouts are available. Everyone is welcome.

Right now fewer than 100 tickets are available. Buy your tickets at the church, 2728 53rd Street S. in Gulfport or call 727-321-3620 or 727-488-9031.

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Deadline Nears for Property Tax Savings

Representatives from the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's office will visit the Gulfport Senior Center on Friday, February 24 from 9 a.m. until noon to assist seniors file applications for a 2012 Property Tax Exemption.

Permanent residents of Pinellas County may qualify for one or more property tax exemptions, which may result in hundreds of dollars in property tax savings. But, they must apply before the March 1st deadline.

Florida offers several types of property tax benefits for qualified residents:

- Homestead Exemption for a primary residence
- Low Income Senior Exemption
- Widow/Widower Exemption
- Disability Exemptions and Exemptions for Blind Persons
- Exemptions for Veterans with a Service Connected Disability (or for his or her surviving spouse)
- Discount for combat wounded Florida Veterans over age 65 who entered the service while a Florida resident.
- An additional property tax exemption for certain deployed members of the United States military.

Some important facts to remember:

- The homestead exemption automatically renews each year, but not all of the exemptions do.
- If you purchased a property that had a homestead exemption at the time of purchase, that exemption will be removed on December 31, and you will need to apply for your own.
- The deadline to file for a personal exemption for 2012 is Thursday, March 1, 2012.

Each exemption has its own set of qualifications. To find out if you qualify, or for additional information, call the Personal Exemptions Division at 727-464-3294, or visit the Pinellas County Property Appraiser website at <http://pcpao.org>.

Re-Elect
Jennifer Salmon
FOR GULFPORT CITY COUNCIL WARD 3



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Political Advertisement paid and approved by
Jennifer Salmon for Gulfport City Council, Ward 3.

Town Shores Gas Leak

Town Shores residents had to evacuate their homes Monday afternoon when a contractor broke the regulator off a natural gas meter at the Avalon building.

While pressure washing the Avalon building, a contractor lowered a crane onto the building's gas meter, breaking off the regulator and causing a gas leak.

Gulfport firefighters – as well as South Pasadena and St. Petersburg firefighters – responded to a 911 call about the gas leak.

“There was a large amount of gas coming out when the fire department arrived, making a very large sound,” fire chief Jim Marenkovic told the Gabber. Firefighters closed several Town Shores streets and started evacuating the Barclay and the Avalon buildings; by the time they evacuated roughly 20 residents,

firefighters had the leak under control and were able to stop the evacuation and allow residents to return to their home. and closed nearby Town Shores streets, shut off the gas, and allowed the residents to return to their homes within 30 minutes.

Some residents required assistance evacuating, but “they had no medical problems” resulting from the gas leak, Chief Marenkovic said.

Tampa Electric (TECO) was on site and working on fixing the broken regulator Monday afternoon. According to Chief Marenkovic, Avalon residents will be without gas until TECO fixes the regulator.

Cherie Jacobs, a spokeswoman for Peoples Gas (TECO) told the Gabber that workers should have natural gas service restored Monday night, “unless they run into an issue.”

Jacobs said the 41 Avalon condominium residents had gas service restored by 8 p.m. Monday night.

...

Woman's Club Supports the Homeless

The GFWC St. Petersburg Woman's Club at 40 Snell Isle Blvd N.E will be holding their monthly meeting on Friday, February 17th at 1 p.m. Guest speaker will be Sara Snyder, Director of the Pinellas Coalition for the Homeless. They urge attendees to support the relief effort by bringing healthy, non-perishable snacks to fill back packs for the children of these families. Back packs have been made by members of the club and will also be donated. Come early (12:30) to enjoy flute and oboe music! Refreshments will be served after the business meeting. Guests are welcome. Call 727-822-4982 or visit www.StPetersburgWomansClub.org.

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Join the Gulfport Toastmasters Club

The Gulfport Toastmasters club meets every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 at the Gulfport Meeting Center, 5021 Tangerine Ave. S. in Gulfport (the sage green building with the red awnings at the corner of Tangerine Ave. and 51st St. S.). Visitors and new members are welcome.

Would you like to become a better communicator? Would you like to be more comfortable speaking in front of others? Find out how Toastmasters

can help in a safe and supportive environment. Contact Don Stafford or Stephanie Decker at 727-328-2921 or Don at don@rsri.net or just show up at the meeting.

...

Calling All Celts

The New World Celts (NWC), are a group of people dedicated to preserving Celtic culture. They meet on the third Monday of the month at the Horse and Jockey Pub, 1155 Pasadena Ave. S. in at 7 p.m. If you are Scottish, Irish or Walsh, come and join them.

...

May I have this Dance?



Sage and Dalin kick up their heels at Valentine's dance.

On Monday, February 13th, the Gulfport Recreation Center's Tot Time & VPK Program held a "Valentine's Tea Dance". The children and their parents enjoyed homebrewed tea, snacks and a visit from Cupid.

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Auntie Lynda

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Upcoming Events

- Third Saturday Art Walk**
Saturday, February 18th
6 pm to 10 pm
- Fresh Market**
Tuesdays, Feb. 21st and 28th
9 am to 3 pm
- "Gulfport's Get Rescued" Street Festival**
Saturday, February 25th
10 am to 6 pm
- "Gulfport's Get Rescued" Evening Celebration at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom**
Saturday, February 25th
7 pm to 11 pm

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Gulfport Candidate Debates:

Three Questions For Each Candidate

Questions Collected From Gabber Readers

During last week's candidate debate, audience members asked the candidates for Gulfport city council questions. Candidates had one minute to respond to each question. Based on e-mails we received and comments on our Facebook page, we selected three questions for each candidate and asked them to elaborate on their answers.

Here's what they told us:

To watch the full debates, please read this story online and look for the link to the video. This article is intended as a supplement, not a replacement, to the debate, and the Gabber encourages all voters to watch the full video of the debate before making their decision.

Dan Liedtke

Q: *You said you wouldn't want your wife walking along 49th Street after dark. How much money should the city spend to make 49th Street a place where you would feel comfortable?*

A: First, I am not a law enforcement professional and I will not claim to know more than those who are. The amount of money needed to make the 49th Street corridor a safer place depends on what recommendations and ideas are brought forward to address the issues. Representatives from the city of Gulfport and the Gulfport Police Department should be scheduling meetings or round table discussions with the St Petersburg Police and the Sheriff to talk about what can be done to improve personal safety along 49th Street. If those agencies recommend video monitoring then we should look at our options for that type of approach. If the funding for personal safety enhancements along 49th Street is an issue then how about we use the money that has been set aside for the mooring field?

Q: *You said if a private company wanted to give the city money for a mooring field, you would be OK with it. Does that mean you would favor privatizing the city's marina?*

A: No...I am not in favor of privatizing the city's marina. My point is that when the city cannot afford its police services (dispatch) and the marina is not full... then we do not need to be spending time or city monies on another place to park a boat.

Q: *You said: "I'm not sure that our current city council is totally transparent." Are you making an accusation and on what do you base this?*

A: I am not making any accusations. The question in the forum was "Do you believe the city staff and city council operate with transparency?" I stand by what I said in the forum because I honestly cannot prove or disprove there is 100% transparency in our



David Hastings
Incumbent
Ward One



Jennifer Salmon
Incumbent
Ward Three



Dan Liedtke
Candidate
Ward One



James Perry
Candidate
Ward Three

current city council. I watch all the city council meetings. I see in various meetings where some on council are not prepared for that evening's agenda. I see in other meetings where votes are quickly cast 3-2 with little to no discussion. So based on these inconsistencies I am not able to draw a conclusion on whether or not the current city council is totally transparent and following the Sunshine laws.

One item where I know transparency with the people of Gulfport is lacking is with the Red Light Camera program. It was originally projected that the City of Gulfport would generate around \$400,000/year from this program. That projection has now been reduced to \$100,000/year. In the forum my opponent stood by the claim that the city would

still be making \$100,000. But after the first 6 months the city has only generated \$41,000 and the last month reported (October) the city only made \$695. Monetary returns on the Red Light Camera program are diminishing fast. People have learned to "look out" for these intersections. So unless the city starts writing tickets for those who are "thinking" about running a red light, this program will not reach its revised goal of even the reduced projection of \$100,000. This example may be more of a case of not fully researching the program, the vendor (ATS) and other cities across the country than a lack of transparency, but the true status of the program shows all is not as we are being told.

David Hastings

Q: You responded to Mr. Liedtke's suggestion that council may not be transparent with a comment about his lack of attendance, but what reassurances can you offer the residents that council does operate transparently? Some voters have suggested that certain decisions, such as outsourcing police dispatch, were made outside of council chambers. What reassurances do you offer voters that you are not discussing city business and how the council will vote?

A: When I took the oath of office I swore to execute my duties while upholding the laws of the State of Florida. I have done that and plan to continue to do that. I do not know what other assurance I can give other than to say that I have the utmost respect for the process and the people that elected me. I can assure the voters that I always put the city and it's residents first and that I am always open, assessable and available. My extensive record of volunteerism throughout this city demonstrates my openness and public service commitment.

Q: You said that if resources like the marina generate a profit, the city can use that money. How much of that money should those enterprises be allowed to use to service their customers?

A: Enterprise operations, like the marina, must first meet all of its operating expenses. Each year a budget is prepared for the marina listing all expected revenue and detailing all necessary expenditures to service their

Gabber February 16 - February 22, 2012

customers. If there remains a surplus or profit from the budgeted numbers then a distribution of what remains depends upon an economic analysis which includes a review of the total city budget and other factors including the economic times we are experiencing.

Q: You spoke of Gulfport's budget issues. If re-elected, what will you suggest cutting from the budget?

A: The budget is a major index of the overall health of our city. Council, along with the city manager and his staff, is responsible to ensure whatever funds are available from taxes, fees and grants best serve our city and resident's needs. After council is presented with a preliminary budget prepared by the city manager we typically hold several workshops where we explore all available options with input from residents, staff and the city manager before a final budget is passed by a council majority. Since we have not started that process yet it would be premature to discuss any option that may present itself.

Jim Perry

Q: You said "We need to make people feel safe" on 49th Street. How can you do this?

A: Because 49th Street divides St. Pete and Gulfport, this task becomes more difficult to control the current environment. One suggestion would be to insure that all buildings are maintained without broken windows and litter to avoid the appearance of vacancy. I would also suggest "no loitering signs" be posted and enforced. There is also the suggestion of coordinating with the city

of St. Pete code enforcement and police departments to achieve these goals and to assure equal monitoring so that citizens on both sides of the divide feel safe.

Q: You said "It was certainly a lot better when they had dispatchers here." On what do you base this?

A: I, as well as many of the Gulfport citizens that I have talked to throughout this campaign, felt much safer knowing that our dispatchers were located within our city, as they have been throughout the history of Gulfport. It may have assisted in balancing the budget, but I feel it removed a critical service and asset to our citizens. It saddens me now that a call for assistance is directed to an individual at a Pinellas County dispatch center to relay a message to the police department located less than a mile from my home. Our local dispatchers were familiar with the city geography, the police officers and many of our citizens. I think the decision to eliminate our local dispatch department was a hasty decision.

Q: You said "There's many ways to bring in revenue." Can you give us three solid examples?

A: This is a question that gets me excited because Gulfport is such a beautiful city and has so much to offer.

Our marina is one of our best assets. It can produce revenue in several ways. A few suggestions to increase revenue at the marina might be lower rates to increase slip rental, increased advertising, expansion of the ship store, maybe even the addition of a drive-through boat wash.

Our casino: Interior cosmetic upgrading to increase marketability. Additional

advertising to include party and wedding planner shows.

Our recreation center: We have a beautiful facility on the water. Lower rates for non-resident after school care and summer program to increase participation.

It may seem like small ideas, but small money adds up to big money and we have to have a broad approach to increasing revenue versus the quick easy solution of cutting services and raising taxes.

None of this can be achieved by one person's efforts. I look forward to serving on a council that works together in the best interest of our city.

Jennifer Salmon

Q: One question focused on 49th Street. Please tell us what, specifically, you have done to improve the quality of life for residents along the 49th Street corridor?

A: The quality of life for residents who live along the 49th Street Corridor is affected by the same issues important to all residents: safety, parks, viable businesses, programs to support seniors and children, and code enforcement.

Safety is a top priority. I am committed to keeping our local police. I voted in the interest of safety and our budget to contract with the Sheriff's office for police dispatch. Although 911 should always be your first call in an emergency, you can still use the same non-emergency number (893-1030) and there are always at least two dispatch officers on every call. Our Gulfport officers see your call at the same time the dispatcher sees it and now they have radio backup and state of the art GPS in their squad cars. This action has saved

Continued on next page

our city \$300,000 annually, and all dispatch officers who wanted to keep their jobs were hired by the Sheriff's office. Our police and our residents on 49th Street and throughout our city are safer.

I invited Keep Pinellas Beautiful to conduct their litter survey throughout Gulfport. Thanks to their data and increased awareness of this issue, police are enforcing the state and local litter laws and ordinances that will improve property values throughout the city. We hired an engineering firm to shepherd our application for federal Brownfields funds which is one piece in attracting new business to 49th Street. I have also pressed for completing the storm water project on 49th Street.

During my first year on council, I volunteered 100+ hours at Gulfport Elementary in two kindergarten classrooms. I was a parent volunteer for t-ball. I have called in repairs to Tomlinson Park and participated in cleanup efforts there. Recently, I volunteered with Gulfport Neighbors in assisting a resident who needed help with his yard and fence in order to be safer. I was a strong proponent of the property tax exemption for low income seniors who live in all parts of the city.

Q: You suggested that you disagree with SWFWMD's course of action in Clam Bayou, although at one time you endorsed it. On what science do you base your statements

about Clam Bayou and the ineffectiveness of SWFWMD's efforts?

A: As a council member I have a responsibility to look at each issue with an open mind and not just from my previous role as an activist. I want to see this long-standing problem in our city resolved in a responsible way that both protects and brings back the marine and bird life that used to exist in great numbers in the basin on the Gulfport side. This is an environmental issue, not a navigation issue.

My comments are based on data from the 2008 study conducted for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (Karlen et al., 2009) which found contaminants in the top two centimeters of sediment at significantly higher concentrations than in the control sites in 2008 or 2001 for the following: cadmium, copper, lead, zinc, PCB, lindane, dieldrin, chlordane, DDT, lead, PCB, and PAH. Additionally, based on data provided by the Audubon society, I learned that in 2002 there were 35 bird species and 2,433 birds in Clam Bayou. In 2009, there were only 26 bird species and 325 birds. This story is not unique to Clam Bayou; but other cities are reclaiming their estuaries and flowing waters while we sit silent.

In my December 2010 meeting with SWFWMD engineers, which the *Gabber* reporter attended, I learned that the current project will not increase flushing in the basin as promised but it will reduce the amount of new toxins entering our part

of the Bayou. They finally finished the 40 foot deep retention ponds upstream from this basin, which will hold new sediment and trash that previously went into the basin. Now, we need to safely remove the accumulated toxic sediment by obtaining proper EPA permits as was done for Lake Maggiore and Sawgrass Lake in St. Pete. We can apply for Brownfields or other grant funds to clean it up. Let's make all of Clam Bayou a safe place to fish and a destination for watching, birds, manatee and dolphins.

Q: Can you address the accusation Mr. Liedtke made that council may not be operating transparently? What reassurances can you offer the residents that council does operate transparently? Some voters have suggested that certain decisions, such as appointing the vice mayor and outsourcing police dispatch, were made outside of council chambers. What reassurances do you offer voters that you are not discussing city business and how the council will vote?

A: I only discuss city business with council members at properly noticed meetings. The Florida Sunshine Law requires that these public meetings are open and accessible to the public.

In terms of the dispatch decision, at our August workshop, I was surprised when the vice mayor

brought back the staff recommendations to balance the budget. A few months before, I was alone in wanting to use the roll forward rate, which would garner the same revenues as the previous year because property values had gone down. At that meeting, we also supported staff's desire to look at contracting dispatch with the Sheriff but there were a lot of questions that needed to be answered.

I contacted the Sheriff's department to get these answers and he invited our crime watch leader and me to see their communications center. I also contacted the candidates for Sheriff and learned that they would honor all contracts if they were elected. I reported on what we learned at our next Council meeting. Two other council members and staff made the same trek and expanded or confirmed what I learned in their own independent reports at subsequent council meetings.

I have a lot of respect for my colleagues on Council. We each have our own world views. We listen to each other's opinions and work out solutions in the Sunshine. Because we have to do this in front of you, it can appear messy and sometimes it takes a lot of time. Not all city business requires this much work but when it does, I'm glad we have the latitude to talk it through and not feel pressured to get the work done fast. This is not a show. This is hard work on a public stage.

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Pancakes at Pass-a-Grille Beach Church

The Men's Ministry of the Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church will host its annual pre-Lenten pancake breakfast on Saturday, February 18th from 8-11 a.m. The church is located at 107 16th Avenue in St. Pete Beach. The "all you can eat" breakfast menu consists pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee or tea. Tickets are \$5 per person and all are welcome. Tickets are available at the door or can be obtained prior to the breakfast. For more information, please call the church office at 727-360-5508.

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Mardi Gras Events to Benefit Charities

ST. PETE BEACH- The Kiwanis Club of Gulf Beaches, is hosting the 4th annual Month of Mardi Gras through February 19 to benefit a variety of children's charities, including the Miracle League, Pinellas Hope, All Children's Hospital, The Pinellas

County Schools Homeless Education Assistance Team and, its Every Child a Swimmer program.

Events are as follows:

- The Mardi Gras Weekend Beach Midway on Saturday, February 18th and Sunday, February 19th behind the Alden Beach Resort at 5900 Gulf Boulevard on St. Pete Beach. Call 727-492-7621.

- The Miracle League Motorcycle Poker Run Saturday, February 18th.

Registration will be between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on the day of the run at the Friendly Fisherman Restaurant,

150 John's Pass Boardwalk. Call Dave Romine at 727-423-5953.

- Mardi Gras Charity Ball will be held on Saturday evening, February 18th from 7-11 p.m. at the Gulfport Casino. Call 727-647-1014.

- The Fourth Annual Mardi Gras Custom Car Show will take place at The Blue Parrot, 85 Corey Circle in St. Pete Beach, on Sunday, February 19th, from 10a.m. to 4 p.m. Car show registration forms are available through George Stone at 727-278-7846.

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 Patron Tequila \$36.99 <small>750 ml</small>	 Captain Morgan Spiced Rum \$20.99 <small>1.75 Ltr</small>	 Crown Royal \$39.99 <small>1.75 Ltr</small>	 Moët Imperial Champagne \$34.99 <small>750 ml</small>	 Canadian Club Whiskey \$19.99 <small>1.75 Ltr</small>	 Dewars Scotch \$29.99 <small>1.75 Ltr</small>
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 Skyy Vodka \$22.99 <small>1.75 Ltr</small>	 Karkov Vodka \$10.99 <small>1.75 Ltr</small>	 Pinnacle Whipped Cream Vodka \$17.99 <small>1.75 Ltr</small>			

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CITY OF GULFPORT PUBLIC WORKS

SPECIAL PICKUPS - TRASH



Call Public Works at 727-893-1089 to schedule a special pickup.

- Single Item (furniture, mattress, and other like items) - \$11.25/item
- “White Goods” (such as refrigerators and other appliances) - \$22.50/item
- Vehicle Tire - \$11.25/each
- Car Battery - \$5.62/each
- Propane Tanks (20 lbs. or less and empty) - \$11.25/each
- T.V. and Computer Components - \$16.87/each

Charges for large single trash pick-ups not listed above are based on size and type of equipment needed to remove. An additional fee will be charged according to the size of the load and billed as an additional charge on the utility bill.

When any owner/occupant does not notify Public Works of a special pickup item(s), item(s) will be picked up and billed as an additional charge.

SPECIAL PICKUPS YARD - WASTE

Wednesday’s free yard waste pickups are for small piles of tree and shrubbery trimmings.

Trimming must not be bagged or bundled, but gathered neatly in a pile not to exceed 3.5 feet high, 4 feet wide or 4 feet long and cannot exceed 4 inches in diameter.

Any amount of debris exceeding the above limitations, must be scheduled with Public Works for pick up, and will be billed as an extra charge on your utility bill.



Call Public Works at 727-893-1089 to schedule a special pickup.



All hired lawn service, tree trimming service or other such contractors are required by City Ordinance to remove and dispose of the yard waste. If your contractor offers you a discount for leaving the yard waste and having the City pick it up, please be aware that this must be called in as a “special pickup” and will be billed as an extra charge on your utility bill. The contractor may also receive a fine.

Mower clippings and leaves must be bagged.

You must call Public Works at 727-893-1089 to schedule a free pick up of these bags.

When any owner/occupant does not notify Public Works of a special pickup item(s), item(s) will be picked up and billed as an additional charge.

All special pickup piles must be placed curbside or by the alley for pickup.

Meet the Artist

City of Imagination~Gulfport Arts Center is proud to welcome Kimberly Dawn Clayton. Opening reception for new works to be held at the Arts Center on Saturday, February 18 from 5-8 p.m. during Art Walk. Preview and purchase the artist's work at Domain Home Accessories 3129 Beach Blvd. S. COI Gulfport Arts Center is located at 2726 54th St. S. between the small and large dog parks. Visit www.cityofimagination.info or call Jessica 727-686-2564.

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Concert at Pasadena Community Church

Pasadena Community Church invites you and all your friends, family and neighbors to their concert, Starlight goes Country, on Friday, February 17th at 7:30 p.m. It will feature the church choir singing favorites like "I'll Fly Away", "Country Road", "Your Cheatin' Heart" and many others, with guest artists on the fiddle, banjo and bass. Soloists doing favorites like "Blue Bayou", "Crazy", "Mississippi Squirrel Revival". Charlie Weaver and Minnie Pearl will be there too. Dancers will do clogging, the Texas two-step and square dancing. Admission is \$6 and all seats are reserved with tickets available Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church office, 227 70th Street S.

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Gulfport's Third Saturday Art Walk

GULFPORT, FL- Visit Gulfport's Waterfront Art District and purchase original works at the Third Saturday Art Walk on February 18th from 6-10 pm. Meet new friends and acquaintances, while reveling in Gulfport's authentic "Old Florida" atmosphere. Take home a new piece of art and marvel at the work of over 50 artists and crafters, as well as authors and entertainers stretched

over a half-mile up and down scenic Beach Boulevard. Live musicians will be appearing at venues throughout the Village. Observe the talented artists at work all along Beach & Shore Boulevards. The Industrial Art Center continues to offer "Blow Your Own Glass Masterpiece" mini classes by master glass blower Jackie Ballard and the IAC team. While browsing the art and craft booths, don't miss Gulfport's unique shops, boutiques and galleries. Enjoy dinner at one of over a dozen fine restaurants within the Art District, now one of the foremost dining destinations in the Bay Area and one of six small-town finalists from across the country in the 2011 Rand McNally/USA Today "Best of the Road" competition in the "Best Food" category.

Gulfport Art Walk takes place on the First Friday and Third Saturday of

every month, year-round. Parking is always free and free trolley rides are available from off-site parking areas. Pet and family friendly! Experience a new dining, shopping and cultural experience unlike any other. Once you discover Gulfport's Waterfront Art District, Tampa Bay's "best kept secret to a really cool summer", you'll want to come back for more.

For information on the Gulfport Merchants Association and Gulfport events, please visit www.GulfportMA.com. The Gulfport Art Walk and event recorded information line is 866-ART-WALK. Artists and Crafters interested in participating can find more information and download an application at www.SIKPromotions.com>Vendor Info. 3007 Beach Blvd. S., Gulfport.

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Town Shores Golf

The next golf outing for Town Shores residents and friends is set for Saturday, February 25th at Terra Ceia Golf Club, 2802 Terra Ceia Bay Blvd. in Palmetto. The format will be captain and crew. Tee off time is 8:30 a.m., registration begins at 8:15 a.m. The \$40 fee includes 18 holes of golf with cart, burger and fries lunch with beverage at the club, and prizes. Submit your own foursome or you can be paired up. This outing is open to any level of player. Cash payments can be submitted to Ellen

Johnson, Manchester Bldg, #207 by Monday, February 20th. Questions? Contact Ellen at 727-345-2109, email elenajota@hotmail.com or Natalie Reardon, Diplomat #107, at 813-343-8918, email natreardon@gmail.com. Note: Volunteers are needed to help with future golfing events.

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Floral Design Class

Come join them at Gulfport Recreation Center for their continuing Floral Design classes. Laurie Marino floral designer and instructor is offering two classes. You will learn

the secrets of professionals. Each week you will make a different style arrangement using long lasting fresh flowers. Materials and flowers are provided. Classes are either 4-5:30 p.m. or 6-7:30 p.m. and are on Wednesdays February 22nd and 29th. Classes are \$25 per or \$60 for the series of 3. Visit the www.youmakeitandtakeit.com web-site. Contact Laurie directly at 617-247-9278 (makeitandtakeit@yahoo.com) with questions. Pre-registration and a deposit are required for this class.

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Junior League to hold Whale of a Sale

ST. PETERSBURG-- The Junior League of St. Petersburg (JLSP) announces today the organization will bring back the legendary one day rummage sale, A Whale of a Sale, on Saturday, February 18 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Petersburg Woman's Club located at 40 Snell Isle Boulevard NE.

Come and be the first to see what is for sale by purchasing a ticket to the Sip & Sea Preview Party VIP Reception on Friday, February 17th. Enjoy a specialty cocktail and swag bag with early entry at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each. The Sip & Sea Preview Party continues with hors d'oeuvres, drinks and raffles while shopping for great bargains! Purchase a ticket for \$25 to experience this treasure hunting party from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at www.jlspete.org. Proceeds from this event will support the Junior League of St. Petersburg's community projects and programs. Call JLSP headquarters at 727-895-5018 or visit www.jlspete.org.

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<p>Friday, Feb 17th, 5-7pm Baked or Battered White Fish, French Fries, Slaw, roll & butter \$7.75 or Boneless Baked Herbed Chicken Breast w/ Stuffing, Mashed Potato, Gravy, Vegetable, Roll & Butter \$6.75</p>	<p>Saturday, Feb 18th, 5-7pm Legion Dinner Roast Beef, Potatoes Au Gratin, Vegetable, Roll & Butter, Dessert \$7.00</p>	<p>SUNDAY BREAKFAST 8:30am - 11:00am Breakfast Buffet Complimentary Bloody Mary or Mimosa \$4.75</p>	
<p>Serving Lunch! Wed-Thur 11-3 Fri. 11-3 Sunday 2-5</p>	<p>Music & Dancing: Tue/Thur: 7-10 pm Karaoke Friday Night Southern Saturday Night Nights</p>	<p>March 25th BLOOD DRIVE FREE Breakfast for donors</p>	

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Sustainable Living

By Shawn Dell Joyce



A Green-Collar Future?

Our buildings account for more than half of our carbon emissions, and three-quarters of existing buildings will need to be renovated or remodeled in the next 20 years. We also have a small army of unemployed and underemployed contractors with tools just itching for something to do. What if these ingenious folks were put to work retrofitting existing buildings with energy-efficient upgrades?

Cambridge, Mass., is doing just that -- and setting an example for municipalities across the nation. Cambridge set the goal of reducing carbon emissions by 20 percent and drawing 20 percent of municipal power from renewable sources. To meet these ambitious goals, a nonprofit, city-sponsored group was formed to create green-collar jobs and increase building efficiency. The Cambridge Energy Alliance connects local business owners with energy-efficiency experts and bankers willing to loan them the money for these upgrades.

The Alliance generally reduces a business' energy use 15 to 30 percent. The loans they help to secure are low-interest and can be paid by the savings from the business's utility bill. Retrofitting thousands of old buildings has helped to stimulate a green-collar job market in Cambridge.

Green-collar jobs that are generated by encouraging energy efficiency would include jobs like home energy auditors, insulation installers, weatherization workers, retrofitters for buildings and solar installers for electricity and solar hot water systems, among other jobs. According to former green-jobs czar Van Jones, green-collar jobs are manual-labor jobs that can't be outsourced.

"You can't take a building you want to weatherize, put it on a ship to China and then have them do it and send it back," Jones said in a 2007 New York Times interview. "So we are going to have to put people to work in this country -- weatherizing

millions of buildings, putting up solar panels, constructing wind farms. Those green-collar jobs can provide a pathway out of poverty for someone who has not gone to college."

Picture this: Your child graduates from high school and has the option of going away to college or enrolling in a local trade school, which now includes green alternatives. Let's say that young Sally, who might have opted for "beautician" as the only viable local career last year, can now choose from a \$12/hour job

weatherizing senior housing, with potential to grow to \$40/hour as a certified home energy auditor. Or perhaps your fledgling will start with \$18/hour working as a solar technician and work his way up to \$50 per hour as a certified solar installer.

"If we can get these youth in on the ground floor of the solar industry now, where they can be installers today, they'll become managers in five years and owners in 10. And then they become inventors," Jones said to The New York Times. "The green economy has the power to deliver new sources of work, wealth and health to low-income people -- while honoring the Earth. If you can do that, you just wiped out a whole bunch of problems."

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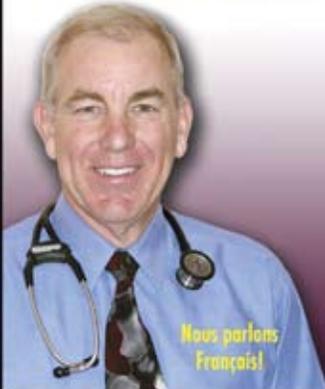
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This year the Garden Club will be participating in the national Great Backyard Bird Count which will be held February 17-19. Registration papers and instructions can be picked up at the home of Joyce McMahon, 2614 Beach Boulevard on February 9th (their regular meeting day) between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

All members are encouraged to participate. If you live in a home, just look in your backyard. If you live in an apartment, go to a friend's backyard or to the beach. Or a group can get together and go to a nearby park. It is easy to help with this worthwhile project.

After recording the birds you have seen, return the data sheets to the Senior Center, Attn: Jane Ogilvie.

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The Gabs

With the romance of Valentine's Day a few days behind us, we asked people in long-term relationships their key to making love last.



Bob Smith: "People ask us and she always says, 'He makes good coffee.' That's so stagnant. I always tell her, 'Tell them I'm a good lover.' If the husband keeps saying, yes, dear, you're right, dear."

Joyce Smith, Married 56 years this August: When we first got married my grandmother said, 'I want you to remember this: just be kind to each other.' I thought, of course! But, there are times where I don't know if we want to be kind to each other."

...



Jeanette Haddock, married 43 years, now widowed: "You do your own thing but you never tell 'em."

...



Nancy Bronson, eight years: "Honesty. Good humor. And know when not to express an opinion."

...



RoseMarie Coper, married 33 years: "When the magic is gone it's time to bail."

...



Marie Friszolowski, married 56 years this May: "Compromise. Just treating each other like you want to be treated yourself."

...

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Daily / Weekly Local Charts

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<p>Fantastic Sams YOUR STYLE AWAITS™</p>	
<p>Color Service Free Style & Shampoo \$37⁹⁵ Fantastic Sams Price will vary w/length or condition of hair. Haircut extra. GAB Expires 3/7/12</p>	<p>Quick & Easy Perm Free Cut & Shampoo \$36⁹⁵ Fantastic Sams Price will vary with hair's length/condition. Design wraps extra. GAB Expires 3/7/12</p>

Players to hold Membership Meeting

The Gulfport Community Players will hold a General Membership Meeting on Friday, February 17th at 7 p.m. at the Players' Back Door Theater located at 1619 49th Street S. in Gulfport. Board and financial reports will be read and the latest news about the Players will be announced. All members and non-members are urged to attend.

...

Community Wellness Expo

ST. PETERSBURG- Make a day of fun, fitness and health at the St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Community Wellness Expo on Saturday, February 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Willis S. John Recreation Center located at 6635 M.L. King Jr. Street N. Event features educational

wellness presentations with live healthy cooking and fitness demos. Vendors focus on health and wellness with valuable health information and free vision and blood pressure screening. Enjoy a family fun area with a rock wall, inflatable games, raffles, prizes and more. All ages welcome. Call 727-892-5994.

...

Animal Services offers Saturday Adoptions

Pinellas County Animal Services' adoption center will now be open from 9 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of the month starting February 18th. The extended hours are part of an effort to increase the number of pets being adopted at the shelter. Volunteers are also expanding adoption opportunities at local retail pet stores on Saturdays.

On Feb. 11 and 25, March 10 and 24, April 14 and 28, and May 12 and

26, volunteers will be at PetsMart, Largo Mall, 10500 Ulmerton Road, Largo from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Pinellas County Animal Services is located at 12450 Ulmerton Road in Largo. Normal hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the adoption center closing at 4:30 p.m. The adoption center is also open the third Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon.

For news on how to adopt, donate or volunteer, join Pinellas County Animal Services on Facebook. To learn more about the shelter, visit www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices or call 727-582-2600. The lost or found pets hotline is 727-582-2604.

...

Main Library to Close for Maintenance

ST. PETERSBURG- St. Petersburg's Main Library, 3745 Ninth Ave. N., will be closed for required building maintenance beginning the close of business Sunday, February 19 through Thursday, February 23. During the closure, all Main Library operations, including AARP tax assistance, will be discontinued. Power to the facility will remain disconnected while a new chiller, boiler and electrical gear are installed. Patrons are encouraged to visit other branches of the St. Petersburg Public Library System while this project is underway.

All library branches, with the exception of West St. Petersburg Community Library, will be closed for the Presidents' Day holiday, Monday, February 20.

...

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Letters

Gulfport City Council Elections

Dear Editor: Town Shores of Gulfport has been here for 40 years without a single fire or smoke fatality. It's like living in a concrete fortress.

Alex Sink, when Florida State Fire Marshal, put through regulations that the trade unions had been seeking for a long time. Their goal was to see candidates favorable to their agenda were elected. Implementing those unnecessary new regulations will cost each Town Shores residential unit about \$900.

Our concerns about these unnecessary expenditures were brought before the City Council but were met with deaf ears. Let us start this year with a simple solutions. We have to elect a new City Council. Let's throw out all the current incumbents and elect the newcomers; no need to read their bios.

The City Council elects the Fire Chief and City Manager who brought about this debacle.

This is an important election for Gulfport.

Larry Wickman
Town Shores resident for 27 years

...

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St. Pete Beach Gets Manager First Raise in Four Years

Commissioners voted unanimously to give city manager Mike Bonfield a two percent merit increase. The commission evaluated the city manager prior to the meeting.

This will be Bonfield's first raise since 2007. Before his raise, he earned \$119,700 a year.

Upon hearing the unanimous vote, Mr. Bonfield thanked his department directors and the entire city staff for their support.

Read the commission's review of Mike Bonfield online at theGabber.com.

THE PINELLAS PIONEER SETTLEMENT PRESENTS: 3130 31ST STREET SOUTH ST. PETERSBURG

Pioneer Music Jamboree

Grab a blanket!
Grab a chair!
Bring a friend!



Listen to the sounds of:
The Dunn Duo, Linda Darlin
The Leigh Humes Band
Gypsy Wind, James Hawkins,
Mike Jurgensen,
The St. Petersburg City Theater's
PIAZZ Song & Dance Troupe

Date: February 18th, 2011
Time: 10 am to 4 pm
Cost: \$5 Adults / \$1 Child

Get an earful of the toe-tappin', can't-sit-still music of the fiddle, guitar, harmonica, and other various instruments.

Craft vendors will exhibit exciting sale items while local musicians entertain.

Don't miss the tractor pulled hayrides exploring the backwoods!

We have two of the oldest wooden buildings in St. Petersburg, come see Woody's General Store.

Try your hand at log sawing and corn grinding!

The Summer Kitchen is always cooking fresh samples.

Be sure to check out all the improvements to the Endicott House and our newest.. The Filling Station!

For more information please call:

(727) 893-7326



**City of South Pasadena
Public Notice
Cancellation of Election**

Notice is hereby given to all registered voters within the corporate limits of the City of South Pasadena, Florida, that the City's general election scheduled for March 13, 2012 has been canceled.

Investment Club Meets

An Investment Club meets on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Gulfport Library, 5501 28th Avenue S. Share ideas and get questions answered.

**Pioneer Music
Jamboree**

ST. PETERSBURG- Grab some friends, bring a blanket or chair and come down to the Pinellas Pioneer Settlement's annual Pioneer Music Jamboree. Experience the music of "The Dunn Duo", "Linda Darlin", "The Leigh Himes Band", "Gypsy Wind", "James Hawkins", "Mike Jurgensen and St. Petersburg City Theater's Pizzaz Song & Dance Troupe" on Saturday, February 18, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at 2900 31st Street S. The Pioneer Music Jamboree offers fun for the whole family with craft vendors, hay rides and old time activities. Experience a living museum with the historic buildings open and in operation. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children. Call 727-893-7326.



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Crossword Puzzle

Solution on Page 18

ACROSS

- 1 Formerly, once
- 5 Wight, for one
- 9 General Bradley
- 13 Off the beam
- 14 Spring tides
- 16 Be dependent
- 17 By steamship
- 19 Greek colonnade
- 20 California fort
- 21 Miss, for short: Sp.
- 22 Chinese city
- 24 Actresses West and Murray
- 25 Cotton cloth
- 26 Arose
- 29 By submarine
- 32 Above
- 33 Tehran's country
- 35 Claire, of the theater
- 36 Retinal cells
- 37 American hog
- 39 Fit of pique
- 40 Wrath
- 41 Boy from Castile
- 42 Tennis star Sampras
- 43 By space shuttle
- 47 Approached
- 49 Instruct
- 50 New Testament book

DOWN

- 1 Most secure
- 53 Fighting Christians college
- 54 Stock market abbreviation
- 57 Fox or turkey follower
- 58 By helicopter
- 61 Concerning
- 62 Like many roofs
- 63 Compass of most calendars
- 64 1981 Beatty film
- 65 Lebanese port
- 66 Congers
- 1 Sailors' patron saint
- 2 Deafening sound
- 3 Type of missile
- 4 High peak
- 5 By yacht
- 6 Legislative memberships
- 7 Singer Cantrell
- 8 Cycle or center prefix
- 9 Roman princely family
- 10 By passenger train
- 11 Medicinal herb

- 12 An O'Neal
- 15 Hindu ascetic
- 18 Son of Isaac
- 23 Key
- 24 Type of wear
- 25 Accepted standard
- 26 Official papal body
- 27 On a vessel's left
- 28 By automobile
- 29 Nostril
- 30 Come together
- 31 Uncomfortably full
- 34 Confrontation
- 38 By airplane
- 39 Baden, and others
- 44 Mountain ridges
- 45 Scientific org.
- 46 Championship
- 48 Sicilian landmark
- 50 Author of boys' books
- 51 Culinary directive
- 52 British composer
- 53 A deadly sin
- 54 Writer and film critic
- 55 Marine animal
- 56 Goes astray
- 59 Grain
- 60 American humorist
-

Getting There

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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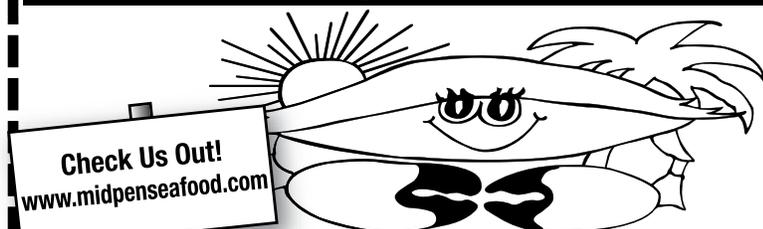
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31st Annual Doll and Bear Sale

The St. Petersburg Doll Club will be sponsoring their 31st Annual Doll and Bear Sale on Saturday, February 18th from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Avenue N. in Largo. Doll appraisals and repair clinic are available during the show. Donation at the door is \$4; children under 12 are free. Call 347-7556.

...

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 10a.m. to 6 p.m.

This popular event, which Gulfport Merchant's Association (GMA) hosts, 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 with domestic and adoptable pets, pet care education, pet services, a pet food and supplies drive, animal rescue groups, free samples, training demos, Canine Massage, food, music & Games. Each year, thousands of attendees, many accompanied by their own canine companions, make their way to Gulfport to participate in what has become a beloved tradition.

Well behaved pets and their leashed people are welcome! The daytime event is free for the public to attend, with plenty of free parking in and around the area.

...

Garden Club of St. Petersburg Events

- Feb. 23, 24 & 25: Garden Club of St. Petersburg presents their Annual Flea Market/Collectables/Plant Sale.
- Thursday, Feb. 23rd: Preview Night with Wine & Cheese - \$5 (preview night only) from 5-7 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 24th from 9-3 and Saturday, Feb. 25th from 9-1: Trash to Treasures Sale: Something for everyone, jewelry, collectables, clothing, household items, plants and homemade lunch/snacks/drinks available.

...

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for the Best Latin Cuisine Cookbook in the World in 2004
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SPCA Extends Saturday Hours

LARGO- SPCA Tampa Bay announced today that it is expanding its Saturday service hours to the public beginning November 12th. The extended hours on the agency's busiest day of the week can help more animals find their forever homes. The new hours are Tuesdays through Fridays from 1-7 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

To preview adoptable pets visit: www.SPCATampaBay.org or visit in person at 9099 130th Avenue N. in Largo.

...

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Now here's a boy who will keep you 'afloat.' Bouy is a 4-year-old male Chihuahua who enjoys spending time sitting in a human's lap and watching the world go by. He likes the company of other dogs his size as well as delicious doggie treats. Bouy is neutered, up to date with vaccinations and microchipped. To meet this 'lil' lifesaver of unconditional love, visit Bouy at 405 22nd Street S., St. Petersburg, 727-328-7738 or www.petpalanimalshelter.com.



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Olivia is a tortoiseshell cat. "Torties" have striking black and orange markings and unique personalities. As a typical Tortie, Olivia is talkative, very affectionate and loves to sleep with her human companion. Her green eyes make her even more exquisite. Olivia loves other cats and small dogs and will make someone a great pet.. She has been spayed, is current on her shots and is microchipped for ID purposes. To see this great feline, call 727-481-5262 or visit saveourstraysinc.com to check out more kittens and cats for adoption.

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

Email your request to News@theGabber.com

By Cathy Salustri

City of Gulfport: Council Chambers Construction

Q: What's going on at city hall in council chambers? How much is it costing and is it a necessary expense?

A: We asked Don Sopak, the city's public works director, to explain this. He told us that the HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system, installed in the new building in 1994, isn't working properly.

The computer that regulates the temperature and air flow in city hall is broken, Sopak says. "It's outdated and cannot be repaired. The city is replacing it with a more modern system that functions more efficiently, needs less maintenance and uses less energy.

The project also includes other repairs, such as replacing aging fiberglass ducts with insulated metal ducts, replacing ceiling grid and tiles, installing additional fire sprinklers and installing new thermostats.

The cost of the project – just under \$165,000 – is included in the city's annual budget. The project should be completed by the end of April.

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

Learn how to Silk Paint

Want to learn the technique of silk painting? No experience is necessary, so come learn and enjoy the exciting process while creating two hand-painted silk scarves. Workshop will be held at the Gulfport Arts Center building located at 2726 54th Street S., adjacent to the dog parks. Cost for this one-day workshop, which includes all materials and two silk scarves, is \$60. The next scheduled workshop is Wednesday, February 22, at 10 a.m., and are bi-weekly after

that. Pre-registration is required, contact Silvia Tamira-Powell at Tamirart1@yahoo.com, or 727-551-1000 for more information and to register for an upcoming workshop date. View images of her work at www.Tamira-art.com. Event is sponsored by the City of Imagination. Visit www.cityofimagination.info.

Catch a Jazz Concert

The Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Society will sponsor the following concert:

- On Sunday, February 19th

Tom Hook and the Original Black Dogs will play a Mardi Gras Dinner/Dance from 6-9:30 p.m. at Banquet Masters 8100 Park Blvd. Admission is \$35 members, \$40 guests. Call 727-397-1875.

Gulfport Little League News

Registration takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. upstairs at the little league field or you may register your child on-line at www.gulfportlittleleague.net. If your child would like to play ball, please register them as soon as possible. This will allow them to place the child on a team, connect you with his or her coach, insure the correct uniform size, and get them practicing sooner.

The Second Annual Gulfport Little League Reunion will be held on Sunday, February 19th at 4 p.m. Come reminisce with old friends and meet new ones. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. Everyone is encouraged to bring his or her glove and join in a softball game.

Opening Day is Saturday, March 3rd at 10 a.m.

Freedom Fighter Award Winner to Speak

KrisAnne Hall will speak on "Defending the US Constitution", at the Pinellas Park Library Conference Room, 7750 52nd Street, on Sunday, February 26th, at 2 p.m. She is a former prosecutor and Constitutional attorney. She is a disabled veteran of the US Army, a Russian linguist, a mother, a pastor's wife and a patriot. She now travels the country and teaches the Constitution and the history that gave us our founding documents. She has received numerous awards and is the author of "Not a Living Breathing Document."

This free event is sponsored by the South Pinellas 912 Patriots. Seating is limited. Visit www.912Pinellas.org.



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Shell Club to hold Show and Sale

The St. Petersburg Shell Club will present their 65th Annual Shell Show, "Treasures of the Seas". Come on February 25-26th to learn all about shells and the creatures that inhabit them. The exhibit will be held at the Seminole Recreation Center; 9100 113th Street N. in Seminole on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$3 for adults and children under 15 are free when accompanied by an adult. There will be beautiful exhibits of local and worldwide shells, shells in arts and crafts, a special kids area, a raffle and door prizes. Dealers will be there to sell shells, books and much more.

...

BPW to Meet

During this all-important election year, the St. Petersburg/Pinellas local organization of Business and Professional Women (BPW) proudly presents a panel of distinguished women addressing the question: Why do state and federal elections matter

to working women? The event will take place Tuesday, February 28, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Marriott St Petersburg Clearwater, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd., St. Petersburg.

Well-known political consultant Dr. Susan MacManus, USF, will moderate the event which includes three panelists: Deborah Clark, Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections; Democrat Nina Hayden, former Pinellas County School Board member and current Attorney and Assistant Director of Academic Success & Bar Preparation Services at Stetson School of Law; and

Republican Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner.

The format of the program will include networking opportunities, a panel forum and discussion, and one-on-one interaction with the panelists.

Attendance will be limited, so purchase your \$15 tickets soon. Tickets are available on the BPW website, www.bpwstpetepinellas.org.

For more information, contact Kristine Ketcham-Szerenyi, kristine@kristineketcham.com or 727-366-3439.

...

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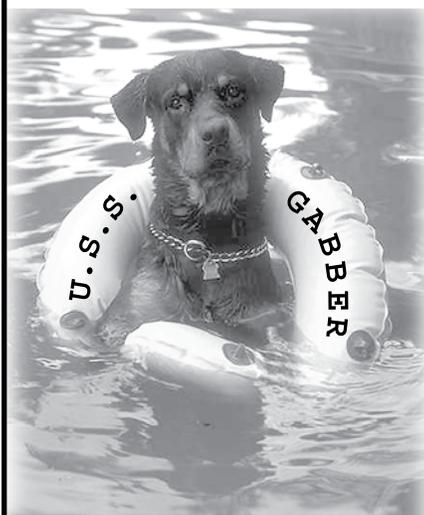
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Horoscope Guide

By Holiday Mathis

You may not constantly think about what you believe, but what you believe is constantly impacting your life nonetheless. This first full week of the 2012 solar transit through Pisces and an alignment of the sun and dreamy Neptune shine a light on your belief system, which can best be detected by what's happening in your world. "He does not believe that does not live according to his belief." -- Sigmund Freud

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be sensitive this week, which is good because correctly interpreting emotional signals will help you understand the opportunities available. For instance, when someone doesn't want to leave a conversation with you, it indicates either loneliness or further interest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People change when they are ready to change. The most thankless task you could possibly take on is to try to explain reality to the oblivious in hopes of a transformation. Save yourself the trouble by meeting people where they are instead of where you want them to be. For enormous satisfaction, focus on you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have to understand something to possess it. You'll take steps to learn more about your interests, to really get inside the world of them. Your passion will grow with your knowledge. This is how dreams come into being. Every little bit you learn this week will bring you closer to the reality you desire.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Consider giving yourself a flattering nickname. It's probably something to keep between you and you. The point is that some of the things you've been saying to yourself are less than supportive. It's about time you get on your own side and start showing your positive feelings about yourself in tangible ways.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your sign rules communication, but that doesn't mean you are always talking. You will be thoughtful and quieter than usual this week, intent on

learning all you can about the people and subjects that come up. Financial opportunity comes to you precisely because your mind is so open and your mouth is so shut.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are both perceptive and agreeable. That's partly why you wind up in a position to lead others. You'll be as clear as possible about the exact behaviors you want to see and will structure all contingencies so that people get more attention for doing things right than they do for getting things wrong.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your happiness probably is not the force that keeps the Earth from crashing out of orbit. Still, it is important. Take stellar care of yourself. If you knew that your happiness was vitally crucial to survival -- not just yours, but everyone's -- what would you do differently? Seize all opportunities for smiles and laughter this week.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you don't know your own mind, how do you know whether you are changing it or not? Life will lead you on a journey that helps you to understand what you believe and to become aware of certain forgotten or unconscious beliefs, as well. This personal inventory will allow you to take charge of a situation that has held you back.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It may be challenging to keep people from wasting your time, namely because you are patient, kind and compassionate. Be kind to yourself, too. Do not suffer in silence because another person is too oblivious to move things along or because someone maintains a monologue ad infinitum on your watch.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will be inspired to let go of your ego and become humble. It's not because the other person is so powerful, but rather because you want to learn from everyone you encounter. You'll have the sense that through surrender you will receive more than you gave up. And your sense will prove correct.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This week you'll be a genius

at conflict resolution. You may be afraid, but you won't back down, because you know that action is the antidote to fear. You want to master the situation. The other person also wants to do this. Step away, and come up with a way for both of you to win. You will succeed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You recognize that the Golden Rule is not a binding contract, and you do not expect others to "do unto you" just because they owe you one. Others may have a more "quid pro quo" approach, and there may be strings attached to their niceties. This is especially true of business contracts now. Read the fine print!

This Week's Birthdays: Things are going your way. The opportunity that comes to you in the next month is a no-brainer. April takes more intuition, research and wisdom to sort out. You'll be increasingly aware of what you're contributing. You may become closer to different people because of what you wish to learn. May brings a venerable honor. Someone leans on you as though their survival depends on it through the summer, and you'll feel good about your strength. July brings romance and travel.

...

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 Blackwood & 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

Sunday, 1-3:00 p.m.

Entertainment for dancing by Woody & his accordion

Weather permitting

Great Chefs of Tampa Bay Benefit

Join them on Saturday, February 25 from 6-9 p.m. for the best food in Tampa Bay and the stunning glass artwork of Duncan McClellan. For one night only, the most talented chefs in the bay area serve their signature dishes, all for a good cause. Meet the artist, participate in the live and silent auctions or simply relax and enjoy the evening with a glass of fine wine and spectacular food.

The event will be held at the Duncan McClellan Glass Studio, 2342 Emerson Ave S. in St. Petersburg. Art work from other local artists will be on display as well, including painting, sculpture and clay. All proceeds will benefit Family Resources, a non-profit organization which provides counseling to families in crisis, shelter to troubled teens and support to grandparents raising grandchildren.

For a night to remember and a wonderful way to give back, visit gretchestfb.org or call 727-521-5202 for tickets (\$100 for one or \$75 each for two or more). Hurry, tickets will sell out quickly. Complimentary beer and wine. Free valet parking. Casual elegant attire.

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City Whys?

Have you got a question for your city government?

Email your request to News@theGabber.com

By Cathy Salustri

City of St. Pete Beach: Election Costs

Q: How much will the March runoff between Al Halpern and Lorraine Huhn cost the city? Is this in the budget? Where does the money come from?

A: While the January 31 election cost the city about \$5,500, the runoff should cost less – the city clerk Rebecca Haynes said the Supervisor of Elections estimated about \$4,000.

“Factoring in any unanticipated costs and legal advertising costs, we anticipate around \$12,000 for both elections,” Haynes told the Gabber.

City manager Mike Bonfield said the city budgeted \$20,000 for elections, so even with the runoff the city should come in about \$8,000 under budget.

Have a question about how your city works?

Send it to News@theGabber.com



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Friday, February 24th, 2pm

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727-345-6337, Brianna



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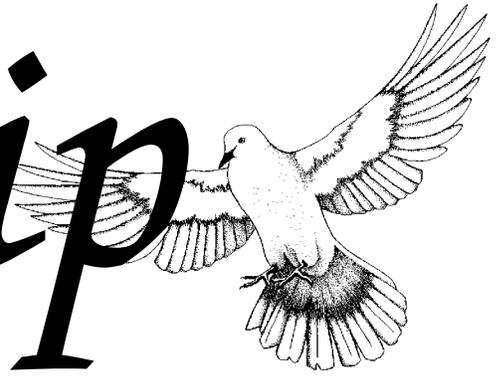
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with Rev. Gloria Standish
Wed 1/22 Drumming Circle 7-9pm
Visit our Website for DETAILS & Events
www.templeofthelivinggod.org

Worship



Upcoming Events at Pilgrim Church

On Sunday, February 19th at 3 p.m. the Youth Chorus from Ruth Eckerd Hall presents a concert in the sanctuary at Pilgrim Church, 6315 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg. Donation is \$5. On Wednesday, February 22nd at 7 p.m. an Ash Wednesday service will be held. For those unable to attend the service, Pastor Wayne A. Robinson will impose ashes in the sanctuary from noon until 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate in this sacred 40 day period of prayer, meditation, repentance and renewal.

For information, call the church at 727-347-1226.

...

St. Petersburg Aglow Lighthouse

St. Petersburg Aglow Lighthouse invites you to its meeting on Saturday, February 18th at Piccadilly Restaurant, 1900 34 Street N. in St. Petersburg at 11:30 a.m. The speaker is Evangelist Gloria Childs, Vice President of Lighthouse Development, West Central Area Board. In order to use the restaurant facility, a food purchase (large or small) is required. Call 727-327-9070 or 727-348-3587.

...

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Rotary Golf and Tennis Challenge

The Rotary Club of the Gulf Beaches meets every Tuesday at noon, at The Club, Treasure Island, 400 Treasure Island Causeway, Treasure Island. Guests are welcome to attend these lunch meetings.

The 13th Annual Gulf Beaches Rotary Golf and Tennis Challenge is scheduled for February 23-25 at Treasure Bay Golf & Tennis, 10315 Paradise Blvd., Treasure Island. Play Glow Golf on Thursday night,

watch the St. Petersburg College Women's Tennis Team Match on Friday afternoon, attend the Silent Auction preview and draw party dinner on Friday night, or join in the Tennis round Robin or Scramble Golf Tournament on Saturday morning. Proceeds benefit the Treasure Bay Junior's Program, Gulf Beaches Rotary Foundation and the Treasure Island Recreation Children's programs. For more information, please contact Karen Keaton, at 727-822-2200, extension 4.

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"An Inspector Calls" Opens Soon

The Gulfport Community Players will be opening J.B. Priestley's suspense-packed play, "An Inspector Calls" on March 1st. The play will run through March 11th at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater of Gulfport.

This play will keep you in suspense from beginning until the end. Set in 1912, an upper class English family is interrupted by a police inspector investigation of the suicide of a lower-class girl. Any or all of the family could have had a hand in her death. But just who is this mysterious inspector and just what could he want of them?

Tickets are just \$15 each and are on sale now at Eileen's Resale Boutique, the Gulfport Casino, the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, or reserve them by calling them at 727-322-0316 for will-call tickets.

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Ashtanga Yoga Classes in Gulfport

Ashtanga Yoga will be available at the Gulfport Recreation Center on Fridays February 24, March 9 and March 23 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This is a training group of teachers and on any given Friday you may have up to five instructors assisting with correct alignment, breath control and meditation practices. Donations are accepted. Contact Tamara Harte at 727-512-2763 or tharte@tampabay.rr.com for more information.

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Sunday February 19th at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary

The Youth Chorus from Ruth Eckerd Hall

\$5.00 Donation at the Door

Ash Wednesday Service February 22nd at 7:00pm

Rev. Robinson will impose ashes 12:00pm until 6:00pm

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Meet the Candidates for Gulfport Council

GULFPORT- On Thursday, March 1, the Gulfport Democratic Club will sponsor its third Meet the Candidates Forum at which Gulfport voters will be able to meet and get to know the candidates for city council in the upcoming election.

The forum will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held at the 49th Street Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street S. The candidates will each make a brief statement and take questions from the moderator and the audience.

This forum is open to all Gulfport voters, regardless of party affiliation. They welcome you to take this opportunity to educate yourself about the upcoming election so that you can make a more informed choice.

Democratic Executive Committee Meeting

Alex Sink, Florida's former Chief Financial Officer and founder of the Florida Next Foundation, will

speak at the February 23rd meeting of the Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee. Also on the agenda is St. Petersburg physician Dr. Mona Mongat, the southeast regional director of Doctors for America. Florida Next Foundation was created to build a stronger economic foundation for the state while protecting quality of life. Doctors for America is a national movement of physicians and medical students working together to insure that everyone has access to affordable, high quality health care.

The PC-DEC meeting is at 7 p.m. at the St. Pete Marriott Hotel, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd. N. in St. Petersburg. Call county Democratic headquarters at 727 327-2796.

Skate Park Closed for General Maintenance

The Gulfport Skate Park is closed for general maintenance and will reopen in time for Gulfport Little Leagues opening day on Saturday, March 3. For more information, contact 727-893-1066.



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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.

- Ashtanga Yoga- Fri. 6:30-8 p.m. Call Tamara Harte at 727-512-2763
- 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.

• Floral Design - Wed., 4-7:30 p.m. Must pre-register with instructor. Call Laurie at 617-247-9278.

• 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., 9 a.m., Call John at 893-1079

• Watercolor with Patsi - Beginners/Intermediate - Returns in Feb. 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.



Gulfport Library

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or fax 893-1072

GULFPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY - PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS
Search for/request books and other items on our online catalog:
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Book Sale! Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library is asking for donations of clean & gently used items (currently unable to accept magazines or tapes) for their upcoming 2nd Annual Book Sale on Sat., March 3rd from 9 am - 2 pm at Scout Hall. Donations gladly accepted at the Library for this event & also throughout the year for the Friends Book Shop located in the Library.

AARP Income Tax Assistance: Fridays & Mondays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. FMI, call 893-1073. **TAXPAYERS MUST BRING SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS FOR ALL PERSONS LISTED ON THEIR TAX RETURNS, A PICTURE ID, AND ALL PERTINENT RECORDS SUCH AS W2'S, 1099'S, other in-**

come & credits, & a copy of last year's return if available. Free Electronic filing is available at all sites.

Coffee/Talk Book Club: Thursday, February 16, 10:00 am. Discussion of American Tragedy, by Theodore Dreiser, over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy of the book. Please call 893-1073 FMI.

Discovering Your Story... A Checklist Approach for Unpacking Craft Elements in Story Writing: Wednesday, February 22, 1:00 - 2:00 pm. Are you suffering from writer's block? Do you need a refresher on the craft of writing? Do you just love being in the company of other writers? If so, plan to attend this workshop! Participants should bring one-to-two (double-spaced) pages of new writing or a synopsis for a story idea to the workshop. A brief lecture, followed by practical exercises, readings, and helpful

handouts will follow at the Reference. Space is limited, please preregister at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

INTRO TO GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR YOUNG ADULTS: Wednesday, February 22, 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Veteran comic-book writer/editor Barbara Randall Kesel talks about how comics and manga are made. Find out how to script or draw your own comics! Get answers from a pro in the business!

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 727-360-9069.

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!

Services 893-2237

5501 27th Ave. S.

Senior Center

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Senior Center Mardi Gras: It's Mardi Gras time! Don't miss out! The Senior Center will be hosting this exciting event on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2-4pm. Tickets: \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door. Includes refreshments, "Best Mask" Contest, great door prizes, strawberries/chocolate fountain, entertainment, and more! Get your tickets early. Another fun activity spearheaded by volunteer Julie Fuce.

Dealing with Pain: All are welcome to attend free Pain Management presentations every Thurs. at 1pm. February topics include: the benefit of exercise, therapies such as yoga, meditation, massage, acupuncture and patient self advocacy. Sponsored by Gardens of Yoga, The Longhouse, and RN Patient Advocates of South Pinellas, LLC.

Sudoku Class: Come and learn how to play Sudoku on Mondays at 1pm. Great for brain fitness and fun, too.

Senior Trips: Call Carolyn at 347-0806 for info on upcoming day trips: Feb. 29: Hard Rock Casino (\$20); Feb. 28: The Irish Rovers at Ruth Eckerd Hall (\$54). Two day trips also available.

Property Tax Exemption: Representatives from the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's office will visit the Senior Center from 9am until noon on Friday, February 24 to help seniors file applications for the 2012 Property Tax Exemption.

Betty Staebell's Art Class Exhibit: The Gulfport Senior Artists Workshop, under the direction of volunteer art instructor Betty Staebell, will celebrate their 20th anniversary. Students will display their artwork at the Gulfport Public Library (5501 28th Ave. S. in Gulfport) during the month of March. Please come to the

opening reception on Fri. Mar. 2 from 6-8pm. The art will be on display at the library for the entire month. Each student has prepared at least three new original paintings in watercolor, acrylic or oil. Open to the general public.

Coming Soon: "One Man Show": Mark your calendar now for another "One Man Show" by "J" Wygant on Wed. Mar. 7 at 1:30pm in the Senior Center dining hall. Tickets: \$2.00 to support the Senior Center's Food Pantry for low income seniors.

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.

"Healthy Meals on a Budget" and "How Fitness Fits": All are welcome to come to this two-fold presentation on Fri. Mar. 9 at 10am courtesy of nurses from St. Petersburg College.

Senior Follies: It's time for our annual spring Senior Follies on Fri. Mar. 23 at 7pm in the Catherine A. Hickman Theater. Tickets are \$8.00 and sell quickly so don't delay.

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., Feb. 17 at 9:30am. Must meet income criteria. Call for more info.

Phones for Hearing Impaired: Phones for hearing impaired Floridians will be available for distribution on Tues. Feb. 21, 9:30-11:30am courtesy of Deaf & Hearing Connection.

Support Groups

Diabetic Support on Mondays at 9:30am.

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 onto 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



5500 Shore Blvd. So.
893-1070

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MARIO DELEON'S BAND
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Sun., Feb. 19, 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

Thursday, Feb. 23
Salsa Dance
 6:30-8pm Beg. & Inter. Lessons
 8-10pm Dance, \$7

Everyday Cheap\$Kate

By Mary Hunt

Mortgage Insurance? Not on Your Life!

Dear Mary: I just bought a house, and I've been getting a lot of flyers about mortgage protection insurance. Is it something good for a new homeowner or just a waste of money? -- Donna, email

Dear Donna: Great questions. "Mortgage protection insurance" (not to be confused with "private mortgage insurance" or PMI) is really life insurance with a specific provision that if paid out upon the death of the insured, the proceeds must go to pay off the mortgage.

I do not recommend that anyone agree to this type of insurance for two reasons: It's pays only the outstanding balance on the mortgage, which is declining every month while the high premium stays the same. That's a bad deal.

Second, if the homeowner were to die, the proceeds of that policy will be

paid directly to the mortgage holder. The surviving spouse will have no option in the matter. But that might not be advisable given that survivor's financial situation. What if the mortgage is now that survivor's lowest interest debt? Or his or her financial counselor suggests there are much better places to use or invest that money than in paying off the mortgage? So rather than specific insurance that covers only the mortgage, I recommend term life insurance in an amount sufficient to replace his or her income for at least five years, including the cost of carrying that mortgage.

Now, if that policy pays out, the surviving spouse has options to pay off more toxic types of debt (like credit card debt or student loans), pay off the mortgage (if advisable at the time) or invest it for the future. Or some combination thereof.

Dear Mary: Many years ago, you wrote about Direct Purchase Stocks

(DRIPS). I would love to get resources or updated information on companies that offer DRIPS. You wouldn't believe how many people I've shared your info and books with over the years. Thanks! -- Mary, California

Dear Mary: As you suggest, many publicly traded companies allow investors such as yourself to invest directly with the company without going through a stockbroker or paying a sales commission on the transaction. "DRIP" is an acronym for "dividend reinvestment plan," but "DRIP" also describes the way the plan works. With DRIPs, the dividends that an investor receives from a company automatically go toward the purchase of more stock, making the investment in the company grow little by little.

These programs do not require an investor to purchase whole shares, which makes these plans somewhat unique. A person could, for example, buy \$25 worth of stock in the company on a regular schedule, like once month. That might purchase only a portion of a share, but that's OK. The corporation keeps detailed records of share ownership and dividends paid. Companies that offer their stock through a DRIP plan really do want you to buy directly from them, starting with just one share.

To learn more about how to get started investing in DRIPS on your own, including a specific information on companies that offer these programs, I recommend learning all you can at DirectInvesting.com.

Dear Mary: Thank you for writing such an excellent article about the student who wanted full financial support for a summer mission trip. You said what I've wanted to say many times to the young people in our church and family. Many of us worked during college, and we survived! With summer coming soon, I thought your readers could use a reminder from you that it's OK to say no to kids raising funds for trips, missions and special programs. -- Elgie, email

Dear Elgie: I don't need to do that because you just did. Thanks.

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Audition for "Breaking Legs"

Open auditions for "Breaking Legs" will be held on February 27th and 28th at 7 p.m. at the Players' Back Door Theater located at 1619 49th Street S. in Gulfport. Director Eileen Navarro needs five men, ages 40 to 50, and one sexy woman, age 25 to 30. Must have an Italian accent for this comedy. The play will run from April 19th through 29th at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater of Gulfport. All interested people urged to try out for a part. Visit <http://www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org> for a map showing directions to the Back Door Theater.

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Teens Ready for Second Visit behind the Scenes

On January 25th, about a dozen high school students got a close-up look at Pinellas County Public Works. They saw firsthand what it takes to control the timing of traffic lights, make roadway signs, run Mosquito Control and operate a host of other services provided by the department. They learned about the new Emergency Responder building, constructed to withstand a hurricane so Public Works staff could safely stay there during a storm and quickly spring into action to clear roads before other recovery efforts could begin.

For the next Teens Behind the Scenes on Wednesday, February 22, teens will visit the grand jury room of the Criminal Justice Center and learn about the Sheriff's Office, state attorney and Sixth Judicial Circuit Court.

The program offers students the opportunity to experience the inner workings of government while touring the various facilities. The monthly program runs through April and is presented by the county's Youth Advisory Committee, modeled after the Pinellas Citizen University.

Program line-up is as follows:

- 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.

The sessions are offered the fourth Wednesday of the month from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the site of the featured department. 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. Class size is limited.

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

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Mardi Party at Woman's Club

You don't want to miss the Mardi Gras Dinner & Masquerade at the St. Petersburg Woman's Club at 40 Snell Isle Blvd. N.E on Tuesday, February 28th at 6:30 p.m. A delicately flavored Cajun menu of appetizers, entrée, desserts (including beignets) and coffee. This inclusive dinner with professional entertainment is \$18 per person. There will be a cash bar, featuring Hurricane Punch! Costumes

and masks are encouraged to make it a truly festive evening. Proceeds of the event will benefit the Historical Building Restoration Fund.

For reservations, call 727-823-9258 or email: mayflowersharpe@tampabay.rr.com.

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Learn about Florida-style Gardening

ST. PETERSBURG- St. Petersburg's Water Resources Department will offer a series of free workshops on

Florida-style gardening through March 7th. The series - which will help gardeners save water, time, and sweat equity - will include presentations, hands-on activities, give-away items, displays, publications, and tours of a Florida-friendly Demonstration Garden. The sessions will be offered by specialists from Pinellas County Extension and St. Petersburg Florida-friendly Landscapingtm.

Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the St. Petersburg Water Resources Department's "green" administration building located at 1650 Third Avenue N. in St. Petersburg. Pre-registration is strongly suggested as seating is limited. To pre-register, call 727-551-3177 and leave your name, phone number, selection of the workshop(s) and date(s), and number of attendees.

- February 22: Landscape Design 2- Clinic (continuation from Feb. 8th class). Experts work with you on your landscape plan. Also, Proper Plant Installation and Establishment, including the latest research results. Tour of the city's Florida-friendly Demonstration Garden prior to workshop.

- February 29: Sensible Sprinkler Systems and Micro-Irrigation Clinic. Includes hands-on activities and product demonstrations.

- March 7: Landscape Maintenance - Everything from Proper Fertilizer and Pesticide Use to Pruning, Composting, and Mulching. Includes a tree pruning demonstration.

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St. Pete Beach City Commission Meeting Public Comment & Council Quotes

"I want to thank the voters of District Three for returning me to the dais for another two years."

– Commissioner Marvin Shavlan, who also thanked his wife and his volunteers.

"I know that FDOT's doing the work, but it seems there are too many days where nothing is going on. It gets worked on for two or three days, and then nothing happens. The city looks awful. Today I noticed some men were out there working, but I counted only three. Somehow or another I think we need to tell FDOT we need to move faster on this project." – Rosemary Manning

"I have to admit, I don't feel so good about this after hearing what other people are going through." – City manager Mike Bonfield, about the agenda item dealing with his merit increase.

"Well, we could bring Mr. Metz back in." – Mayor Steve McFarlin, in reference to former Commissioner Harry Metz, who had just left

commission chambers after speaking about combat-wounded veterans.

"How do you think I know anything about it?" – Commissioner Jim Parent, when Mayor Steve McFarlin asked Senior Planner Catherine Hartley if she had done any research on LED signs and city code.

"It does not meet your sign ordinances... so I'm asking for special consideration to put a temporary sign for one year."

– Glen Hanna, on behalf of Pass-a-Grille Community Church. The sign would be a 4' x 6' banner and read "Celebrating 100 Years." The mayor asked if the church had applied for a variance, but Mr. Hanna said the church couldn't afford the \$530.76 for the variance which, senior planner Catherine Hartley says, covers the cost of the work involved with issuing the variance. Hartley also said she told the church that if it reduced the sign by a foot the sign would be in compliance.

"If you don't want to eat breakfast it'd be nice to come

down and shake hands with our soldiers and say 'Thank you for the job you're doing'." – Harry Metz, about the Veterans of South Pinellas County event on March 30 and March 31.

"These care packages are saving lives." – Gary Littrell, who says that the soldiers who receive Support Our Troops care packages overseas share candy and soccer balls with children. Soldiers noticed that after they did so, the next time they came through the town, the children would give the soldiers the universally recognized sign for IED.

"We should do something about the Quaker parrots who gather in one tree and make a racket." – Commissioner Al Halpern, about how to handle noise complaints

"It's called, 'If Daddy says no, go ask Mommy. If Mommy says no, go ask Daddy again'." – Vice Mayor Bev Garnett, about Coconut Inn owner Joe Caruso's lawsuit with the city.

About Better Explaining the City's Comprehensive Plans

Commissioner Marvin Shavlan asked commission to consider making the comprehensive plan easier to understand and making short presentations about different facets of the plan at city meetings.

"Folks, if you're out there watching and you think this is something we should do, e-mail Mike Bonfield."

– Vice Mayor Bev Garnett, about whether or not residents want to know more about the comp plan.

"When money comes in here to invest, they're not going to be waiting for Tuesday night." – Mayor Steve McFarlin

"They don't know 615, they have no connection to the Internet." – Carol Walker, about putting a presentation about the city's comprehensive plan on the Internet.

"The less it's in the public it seems like it's better. We need to stop making the comp plan an issue in the media." – Mayor Steve McFarlin, about the comprehensive plan

"I don't agree with that." – Commissioner Jim Parent, in response to the Mayor

...About the City Manager's Raise

Here's what the commission had to say about Mr. Bonfield's performance:

"As far as I'm concerned, he's up for it, he's got the experience. We did cut his severance package back a little bit." – Mayor Steve McFarlin, who asked the city manager to work on improving employee morale.

"I think you're one of the best managers I've ever worked with, quite frankly. I've learned a heck of a lot working with you. I think you're very Zen in your approach to things. I think it's been a while since you've got a raise. I know times are tough but I don't think that inflation has zeroed out." – Commissioner Jim Parent

"I think Mike does a great job here in the city. There were a few issues we talked about in the review process, but I'm more than satisfied." – Al Halpern

"I just think 10 years is impressive in this particular city." – Marvin Shavlan

"I think Mike has done a tremendous job. Some of the potshots that have been taken publicly at him, he stood there and took it with grace and did a good job." – Vice Mayor Bev Garnett



Somethin' on my mind

By Bill Northrop

B_Northrop@theGabber.com

Keeping the Church Out of It

It's fairly simple. Solve the controversy about government mandated contraceptive and abortion coverage in health insurance policies by having each person purchase his or her private, personally selected (no mandates) health plan. If she wants contraception covered, or tubal ligation, or the morning after pill, or none of the above, that's between her and her insurance company and/or physician. The church is out of it.

Full disclosure here: I'm not Catholic; I'm in favor of contraception; I'm neither pro-life nor pro-abortion; I have no problem with women priests, or non-celibate priests and nuns, or gays; and I'm not against the death penalty. I support none of those strongly conservative religious viewpoints. These issues are between the church and their members and members are free to choose. Even when all those covered aren't Catholics, I support the church's stand against government commands that the church be required to pay for

Besides, more commands are to follow from a 2000 page Affordable Health Care Bill that gives power to the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services to make rules and regulations for 300 million people. The first command, that all organizations of a certain size must provide health insurance, has already resulted in thousands of exemptions as has the contraception issue. Even the exemptions are controversial because government is picking the

winners and losers.

These problems are solved by private, individual insurance plans. Each can pick from a so-called cafeteria of coverages (I think federal government workers get this now). If you want everything covered, fine. If not, choose a program to fit your pocketbook. Or, self insure. Or insure only for catastrophic - your determination what is catastrophic - health problems. Pricing would be appropriate for coverage.

One could insure for unforeseen pre-conditions (such as having a child with serious health problems). Everything would be portable because it's your insurance. Because the big choices would be between covering everyday health costs such as contraceptives, drugs, annual check ups and major problems such as operations and hospitalization, most would choose coverage for the big items. As a cost saving measure you could choose to do your own paper work.

The effect would be users of the health system being more cost conscious as well as health conscious. None of that, "oh, well, the insurance company is paying for it". It would make the health system more cost conscious, too, and would result in better health pricing. Certainly people would be more selective about accessing the services.

Moving from a system where you buy insurance (some do that now) rather than an employer buying it for you might be a bit complicated, but doable. After all, company paid insurance is a part of your salary so the money could come directly to you. If government wanted to help, it could make such payments non-taxable. As

for Medicare, it already provides for purchase of supplemental insurance from an all coverage to a non-supplemental coverage.

Complicated? Possibly. However, when Part D of Medicare - the drug plan - came in, critics said seniors were too confused to handle the choices and complications in the plan. They did quite well, and many are happy with the coverage. Dangerous? I don't think so. Just because government isn't incentivizing (is that a real or a tv word?) certain procedures and preventative measures doesn't mean that individuals will ignore their own health. Indeed, it incentivizes health care providers as well as insurers to confer and persuade patients about wellness measures.

As an aside, I wonder whether the big "get checked for" movement will be supplanted by selective check ups based upon genetic information. In the meanwhile, having colonoscopies to prevent cancer has proven to be a life saver. At any rate, based upon the past, we can almost be assured that a large chunk of medical "truth" (as well as procedures) that we believe today will be debunked in the future.

None of this is uncomplicated nor simple any more than the present system or proposed government system is simple. We're used to the complexity of the present system - and, I don't buy that we don't have good health care - and accept the natural complexity of anything government. A major change to individual policies and individual responsibility won't be any more complex. Health and hospitalization insurance came into being in the 1930s during the depression, to save hospitals and doctors who weren't getting paid. That's an over-simplification, but basically what happened.

There's neither space, time nor inclination to explore all facets of the system, but I provide this "let individuals have the choice and responsibility" as a bit of thinking outside the box. Certainly, turning the system over to the government is creating a very large in scope, but very small in execution, box.

What's on your mind?

Email your opinion to:

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Lunch Served 11am-3pm Ron's Karaoke 7pm	Kitchen Open 11-2pm Dinner 5-7pm Southern Knights Band 7-11pm	Dinner 5-7pm Southern Knights Band 7-11pm	Breakfast 8:30-11am Kitchen Open 2-5pm	No Lunch Served	Ron's Karaoke 7pm	Lunch Served 11am-3pm Euchre 1pm Bingo 6pm Kitchen Open for Bingo

The Auxiliary's Valentine's dinner and "Not So Newlywed" game were great fun! Poppy's are on sale through Sunday. These are made by our local vets and proceeds go to them. Please support this worthy cause.

We invite Auxiliary members to attend our meetings the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. We welcome your ideas. Please plan to join us on Sundays starting at 1p.m. for Steak-Ums games. Have fun and win great food!

Service Officer, Bob Cannon is at the Post on Thursday's from 9a.m. till noon to offer assistance.

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Bar Bingo 7 pm Food served	Fish & Chicken 6-8pm Barry Karaoke 6:30-9:30pm	Steak Dinner 6-8pm Sound Unlimited 6:30-9:30pm	Steak-O 2pm	Bucky Burgers 5-8pm Dee Karaoke 6:30-9:30pm	Reg. Post Mtg.-6pm Harry 7-10pm	Legion Dinner 6-8pm Music

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Friday 2/2

- Suspicious Person-** 49th St. & Gulfport Blvd. S.
- Animal Call-** 1200 Blk Gray St. S.
- Suspicious Vehicle-** Tangerine Ave. & 54th St. S.
- Person Under Influence-** 5100 Blk 23rd Ave. S.
- Theft-** 5900 Blk Shore Blvd. S.
- Neighbor Problem-** 5200 Blk 29th Ave. S.
- Suspicious Person-** 3200 Blk 59th St. S.

Theft- 4600 Blk Tifton Dr. S.

- Forgery-** 2900 Blk Beach Blvd. S.
- Domestic-** 5400 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.

Saturday 2/3

- Suspicious Person-** 900 Blk Hull St. S.
- Noise-** 1400 Blk 49th St. S.
- Reckless Driver-** 5900 Blk 30th Ave. S.

Stolen Vehicle- 52nd St. & 15th Ave. S.

Juvenile Trouble- 5400 Blk 12th Ave. S.

Theft- 5100 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.

Noise- 1200 Blk Gray St. S.

Sunday 2/4

Domestic- 5900 Blk Pelican Bay Plaza.

Animal Call- 1200 Blk Gray St. S.

Animal Call- 5800 Blk 27th Ave. S.

Juvenile Trouble- 5900 Blk Seabird Dr. S.

Animal Call- 5100 Blk 15th Ave. S.

Animal Call- 1200 Blk Gray St. S.

Domestic- 5900 Blk Pelican Bay Plaza.

Shots Fired (Heard)- 2700 Blk Upton St. S.

Neighbor Problem- 2500 Blk 50th St. S.

Noise Complaint- 5200 Blk 10th Ave. S.

Monday 2/5

Harassing Phone Call- Location Withheld.

Domestic- 2600 Blk 44th St. S.

Animal Call- 1200 Blk Gray St. S.

Ordinance Violation- Tangerine Ave. & 54th St. S.

Hit & Run- 2700 Blk 53rd St. S.

Neighbor Problem- 1200 Blk Gray St. S.

Person Under Influence- 5100 Blk 23rd Ave. S.

Noise- 5600 Blk 19th Ave. S.

Vandalism- 1800 Blk 53rd St. S.

Disorderly Conduct- 1800 Blk 53rd St. S.

Tuesday 2/6

Noise- 51st St. & 12th Ave. S.

Shots Fired (Heard)- 4600 Blk 26th Ave. S.

Animal Call- 3100 Blk Beach Blvd. S.

Assault/Battery- 2200 Blk 51st St. S.

Accident with Injuries- 49th St. & Gulfport Blvd. S.

Shots Fired (Heard)- 46th St. & 26th Ave. S.

Juvenile Trouble- 1200 Blk 58th St. S.

Domestic- 5000 Blk 24th Ave. S.

Neighbor Problem- 800 Blk 64th St. S.

Neighbor Problem- 2500 Blk 50th St. S.

Civil Matter- 2900 Blk Beach Blvd. S.

Animal Call- 1200 Blk Gray St. S.

Accident with Injuries- 49th St. & Gulfport Blvd. S.

Trespass- 5100 Blk 9th Ave. S.

Suspicious Person- 6000 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.

Wednesday 2/7

Drug Call- 58th St. & Shore Blvd. S.

Disturbance- 2400 Blk 53rd St. S.

Suspicious Person- 55th St. & 11th Ave. S.

Juvenile Trouble- 1800 Blk 52nd St. S.

Neighbor Problem- 2500 Blk 53rd St. S.

Suspicious Person- 1000 Blk Gray St. S.

Thursday 2/9

Ordinance Violation- 1800 Blk 49th St. S.

Hit & Run- 5700 Blk Shore Blvd. S.

Drug Call- Gulfport Neighborhood Center.

Ordinance Violation- 5100 Blk 13th Ave. S.

Theft- 1800 Blk 53rd St. S.

Trespass- 3200 Blk 58th St. S.

Trespass- 5100 Blk 14th Ave. S.

Disturbance- 4900 Blk Gulfport Blvd. S.

911 Hang Up- 2800 Blk Beach Blvd. S.

Lost Property- 5100 Blk 12th Ave. S.

Burglary- 3000 Blk Beach Blvd. S.

Animal Call- 700 Blk Hull St. S.

Person Under Influence- 5500 Blk 15th Ave. S.

Domestic- 5100 Blk 8th Ave. S.

Vandalism- 5500 Blk 15th Ave. S.

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Women's Self-Defense Class Offered

ST. PETE BEACH- The St. Pete Beach Community Center and Aquatic Complex is proud to offer a new and exciting program, "Self Defense for Women." This course focuses on the development of core competencies and confidence. This simple yet effective program can help you avoid becoming a victim. Learn defensive strikes, kick and escape maneuvers, and how to use everyday items such as shoes and keys for self-protection. The small class size will offer personal attention so that every woman leaves feeling safe and prepared. Classes are held every Monday night from 7-8:30 p.m. and the month-long course costs \$40 per person. This course begins in March and has limited enrollment so make sure to call and reserve your space; contact instructor Jay Komisky at 727-252-6270.

...

Democratic Party to Host Dinner

The Pinellas Democratic Party invites you to the 2012 Kennedy King Dinner on Saturday, March 10th from 7-9 p.m. at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Boulevard N. in Pinellas Park. The theme is "Democrats – serving our communities at the local level." The dinner will be co-chaired by Rep. Rick Kriseman, Rep. Darryl Rouson and Comm. Ken Welch, and will honor the many Democrats that serve in their local city and town governments. Keynote Address delivered by Alan Grayson.

Dinner tickets are \$75 or VIP Sponsor costs \$250 (includes 2 tickets). Tickets are limited. Visit <http://www.pinellasdemocrats.com/> or call 727-327-2796. If paying by check, please make the check payable to "Pinellas County DEC" and mail it to 2250 First Avenue N., St Petersburg, FL 33713-8817.

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Got Books?

The Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library will hold their 2nd Annual Book Sale on Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Scout Hall at 5315 28th Ave. S. in Gulfport.

If you have books, DVDs, CDs in nearly new condition and you are looking to find a new home, please drop your donations off at the Gulfport Library at 5501 27th Ave. S. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. during Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The Friends are unable to accept video and audio cassettes or magazines at this time. Donations are gladly accepted throughout the year for the Friends Book Shop in the Library.

For more information, email phylirose@gmail.com or call Phyllis Rosenblum at 727-368-1598.

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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. Today's lunch is cepelinai (potato meat dumplings) with soup, dessert and coffee. By popular demand, they are doing cepelinai one week and koldunai every other week. Also available to buy is Lithuanian beer. Call Vida at 866-7936 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

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Solution on Page 18

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By Robert J. Myers, Esq.

How is your Legal Health? (Part 2)

In our last article, the need for periodic legal checkups was examined. The following are some of the legal problems which may be uncovered by a legal checkup:

WILLS AND ESTATE PLANNING

An indicator of good legal health usually includes having a valid will and some basic estate plan. If you don't have a will, your personal and real property may not be distributed in accordance with your desires. In addition, unnecessary expenses and taxes may be incurred and certain family members could possibly inherit your assets contrary to your desires.

A trust is another effective estate planning document. A trust allows you to transfer property to your designated heirs utilizing a successor trustee to implement your specific instructions. If you create a trust in a last will and testament, this is called a testamentary trust. Another form of trust is a living trust which is created by written contract. Living trusts are very useful estate planning tools for everyone--not only the very wealthy. A living trust assists in the avoidance of probate and will help in keeping your affairs out of the public record and private.

It is critical to review your estate planning documents whenever important changes in your life occur. If you marry, move to a new state, have a child or lose a loved one, an update of your legal documents may be necessary. Also, it is an excellent idea to discuss with your lawyer if your estate plan is keeping pace with the value of your property and is updated to address changes in Florida law and tax laws. Revisions may be made with the drafting of new documents or an amendment to existing documents

may be necessary. It is important to never make a change in your old will or trust by writing on or crossing out words or phrases which you want to eliminate as this may invalidate your documents.

DIVORCE

A lawyer should be consulted if your marriage is ending or you are contemplating ending your marriage. Issues concerning child custody, financial support and a fair division of the marital property will need to be addressed. If your spouse threatens to harass or harm you, hide marital property or take your children in violation of your visitation or custody rights, a lawyer can assist you in seeking protection against these improper acts of your spouse.

Mr. Myers is the owner of Akerson Law Offices which is located at 1135 Pasadena Avenue South, Suite 140, St. Petersburg, Florida. The telephone number is 727-347-5131. Mr. Myers welcomes calls regarding this article and other related legal topics. This column outlines general legal principles and is not intended to give you legal advice. If you have a specific question about the law, please consult an attorney.

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WellNEWS

All the news that's fit.

By Scott Lafee

Halt the Salt

You consume too much salt. I can say that with confidence because, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 9 out of 10 Americans do.

In the CDC's latest Vital Signs report, the federal health agency finds that 10 types of common food (primarily processed) are responsible for almost half of people's sodium intake. They are breads and rolls and luncheon meats such as deli ham or turkey. Pizza, poultry, soups, cheeseburgers and other sandwiches as well as cheese, pasta dishes and meat dishes such as meat loaf, not to mention snack foods, like bags of potato chips, pretzels and popcorn are also on the list.

Foods such as bread get a bad rap because while individual servings aren't necessarily high in sodium, most Americans have multiple servings per day. It all adds up -- to increased disease risk.

"Too much sodium raises blood pressure, which is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke," said Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, the CDC's director. "These diseases kill more than 800,000 Americans each year and contribute an estimated \$273 billion in health care costs."

According to the CDC study, the average American consumes about 3,300 milligrams of sodium per day, not including any salt added at the table. That's more than twice the recommended limit for about half of Americans and 6 of every 10 adults. The U.S. Dietary Guidelines recommend limiting sodium intake to less than 2,300 milligrams per day; 1,500 milligrams per day for people aged 51 and older or anyone with high blood pressure, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and African-Americans.

Do not take this recommendation with a grain of salt. The CDC estimates that if Americans reduced their sodium intake just 10 percent, it would save more than 28,000 lives annually.

BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

In chemical terms, the substance human blood most resembles is seawater.

GET ME THAT. STAT!

The total lifetime estimated financial costs associated with just one year of confirmed cases of child maltreatment (physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse and neglect) is approximately \$124 billion, according to a report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

COUNTS

4,500 -- Estimated number of children sent to hospitals annually due to abuse

300 -- Number who die from their injuries

Source: Yale University

DOC TALK

Dose sponge -- a radiology worker

PHOBIA OF THE WEEK

Koumpounophobia -- fear of buttons

BEST MEDICINE

After years with a psychiatrist, a man who thought he was a dog was declared cured. A friend asked him how he felt. The former patient replied, "Fine! Just feel my nose."

OBSERVATION

"Half the modern drugs could well be thrown out the window except that the birds might eat them." -- German-American physician and author Martin Fischer (1879-1962)

LAST WORDS

"Only you have ever understood me. And you got it wrong." -- German philosopher Georg Friedrich Wilhelm Hegel (1770-1831) to his favorite student

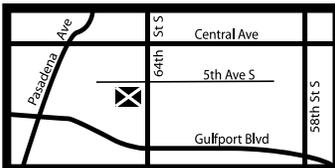
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Town Shores Billiards



Photo by Roland Chew

The photo shows some tournament winners and members of the billiard club gathered for their weekly Saturday morning games of pea pool.

The annual Town Shores Billiards Tournament was completed on February 12th with an exciting 9 ball match which saw nonagenarian Elmer Kreml and partner Jerry Trissel salvage three of five games from octogenarian Harry Kainaroi and new comer Gary Metzger for the doubles championship. This was just one of the many (over 70) contests that had been played throughout the past five weeks. Individually, Jerry Trissel showed his expertise by winning first or second place in five of the eight categories. All winners and runners up will be honored in the traditional way by having their names added to the "Board of Champions" in the billiard room. Congratulations to the winners and also, thanks to all the entries who participated and made for a competitive season of Billiards.

Results of the tournament showed the following winners and runners up:

SINGLES	Winners	Runners-up
Snooker	Jerry Trissel	Tom Bell
Strait Pool	Jerry Trissel	Gary Metzger
8 Ball	Richard Neice	Jerry Trissel
9 Ball	Jerry Trissel	Blair Libby
DOUBLES		
Snooker	Boris Berlin & John Roberts	Henri Derouin & Jack Sutphin
Strait Pool	Boris Berlin & Richard Neice	Henri Derouin & Andre Huot
8 Ball	Tom Bell & Jack Sutphin	Blair Libby & John Roberts
9 Ball	Elmer Kreml & Jerry Trissel	Harry Kainaroi & Gary Metzger

Gulfport Senior Artists Workshop Exhibit

The Gulfport Senior Artists Workshop, under the direction of volunteer art instructor Betty Staebell, will celebrate their 20th anniversary. Students will display their artwork at the Gulfport Public Library (5501 28th Ave. S. in Gulfport) during the month of March. Please come to the opening reception on Friday, March 2nd from 6-8 p.m. The art will be on display at the library for the entire month. Each student has prepared at least three new original paintings in watercolor, acrylic or oil. Open to the general public. For more information, please call 727-893-2237 or 727-893-1231.

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Borrow the Kill-A-Watt™ Monitor

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. You can view the video of the Gulfport Public Library presentation from Saturday, January 28th on the City of Gulfport's Youtube site at <http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport>.

You can borrow the Kill-A-Watt™ monitor for two weeks from the Gulfport Public Library with your library card. The YouTube video will explain and give easy tips to make your home more energy efficient, assist to decrease electric bills and increase environmental friendliness. For various Pinellas County Libraries (PPLC) that offer the live presentation, go to <http://pce-sustainableliving.eventbrite.com/>. For more information, call 727-893-1073.

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BCHS Names New Assistant Principal

Ms. Felicia Davis has been approved as the new Assistant Principal for the Fundamental School Within-a-school Program at Boca Ciega High School. After several years serving as a teacher and acting assistant principal at Tyrone Middle School, Felicia joined the staff last year. During her time at BCBS she has taught 10th grade CWMP English. Felicia has also spent many extra hours working with other administrators preparing herself to be an administrator.

In addition to coordination of the SWAS, Ms. Davis will work closely with and evaluate the same group of teachers Dr. Lowery worked with before his promotion.

Moving? Sophie's Attic can Help

If you are planning a move, call Sophie's Attic Thrift Store at 321-3620 and they will come and pack up or pick up all those clean, gently used household, small furniture, clothing and miscellaneous items that you don't need any longer, but Sophie's does.

The 50% off winter sale is still going on as they are busy putting out summer 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.

Free Tax Preparation for those who Qualify

AARP will be offering free tax preparation and assistance at the Gulfport Public Library at 5501 28th Avenue S. on Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 13th.

This service is offered for households with low to moderate incomes, for taxpayers of all ages, but with an emphasis on those over 60 years of age. Taxpayers must bring social

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security cards for all persons listed on their tax returns, a picture I.D., and all pertinent records such as W2's, 1099's, other income and credits and a copy of last year's return. Free electronic filing is available. To locate other sites in the area, please contact 1-888-227-7669.

Call for Vendors

"Island Festival", an event celebrating culture of the South Pinellas Gulf Beach Communities,

will be held at Gulf Beaches Historical Museum, 115 10th Avenue in St. Pete Beach, on March 3rd. Artists, crafters and antique/collectible vendors are invited to participate. There will be space for 25 vendors in Pass-a-Grille park adjoining the museum. There is no fee, but a donation would be greatly appreciated in exchange for your participation. Email alicegails@gulfbeachesmuseum.com or call 727-599-1442 to reserve.



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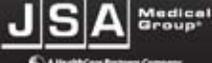
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Here's How

By Pat Logan

Repair & Fix

Make New Home Accessible for a Wheelchair

Dear Pat: I am going to build a house for myself, my two children and my elderly mother. She sometimes needs a wheelchair. What specific design features should we keep in mind so she has easy access? -- Jennifer N.

Dear Jennifer: It is wise for you to think of access to the house entrances at the initial design phase of your new home. Providing proper access can have quite an impact on the design of the entire home and the construction materials used. With today's aging baby boomers, making your home wheelchair accessible can increase its resale value years from now.

The two primary factors when considering easy wheelchair access

are the slopes to enter and leave the home and the open area near doors in which to maneuver the wheelchair. Since your mother is elderly, she most likely does not have a lot of upper-body strength to negotiate a steep slope.

Ideally, you should design the house to have the first floor entrance doors at nearly the same elevation as the driveway and walkways. This is not always possible because the ground usually is sloped away from the house to provide for drainage. You may be able to route the walkway leading from the driveway such that it is level with the door opening without blocking the drainage.

A concrete slab-on-grade floor is the easiest to work with because drainage is not a significant problem. A wood framed house with a basement is at the other extreme, with drainage being a major concern.

With this construction, even without a basement, the entrance is usually above the ground level to maintain a gap between the ground and the lumber framing.

You have several options for making the door accessible. A gently sloped walkway is probably the easiest and least expensive method if you have the space for it. The maximum steepness someone can comfortably and safely handle is about a 5 percent grade. Make the curves a large radius, and make it extra wide.

A straight ramp is another option. It is typically raised up from the ground for drainage, but it can also be filled in beneath with drainage tiles. Since the ramp will be much shorter than a long walk, a slightly steeper slope is sometimes acceptable depending on the person's strength.

A third option is a longer, gently sloped raised bridge along the front of the house. This can also double as a porch if you make a level section midway along the sloped bridge. This will maintain the proper distance from the ground level to the wood framing. If you use this method, design the house with the door near one end to allow length for the gradual slope.

Once your mother gets to the door, there will have to be an area for her to stop, and unlock and open the door. A 5-foot-square access area usually provides adequate clearance for someone in a wheelchair.

Building codes often require a step up from the garage floor into the house. This is to prevent gasoline leaking out of a car from flowing into the house. Talk to the inspectors, and you may be able to get a variance to make the garage floor level with the house floor. If not, you will have to add several feet to the garage width and pour a ramp up to the door.

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Take a Boating Class

USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 7-16 Gulfport will offer the next ABS Class on Saturday, March 10 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the USCG Building, 3120 Miriam Street S. in Gulfport. Enter through the rear door. Cost is \$40 per student. For reservations or more information call 727-399-7986.

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Country Gospel Sing-a-Long Sundays

Each Sunday you can join in a country gospel sing-a-long from 6:30-8 p.m. at 4017 56th Avenue N. On Sunday, February 19th New England's 1st Family of Gospel Music, the Campbells, will be featured. Call 565-8856.

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Community Center hosts Huge Yard Sale

ST. PETE BEACH- The City of St. Pete Beach is hosting another huge yard sale at the St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive, on Saturday, March 10th from

8 a.m. to noon. Indoor spaces in the gym and outdoor covered spaces are available on a first-come basis for just \$15 for SPB residents and \$17.50 for non-residents. There is no entrance fee for shoppers. Don't waste your time and energy having a sale at your house or driving around from neighborhood to neighborhood-

sales at the Community Center have up to 60 sellers all in one place and are usually frequented by nearly 500 shoppers. Registration is going on now and continues until all spaces are filled. Come by the Recreation office or call 363-9245 with questions or to reserve your spot.

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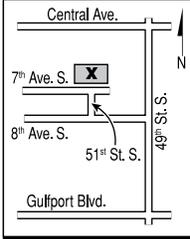
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New Parking Fees at Two County Parks

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.

...

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time

TAMPA- Girl Scouts of West Central Florida (GSWCF) announces the start of the 2012 Girl Scout Cookie Program throughout its eight-county jurisdiction. Through mid-March, thousands of Girl Scouts will take orders for your favorite Girl Scout Cookie varieties.

In celebration of Girl Scouts' 100th anniversary in 2012, a new Girl Scout

Cookie is making its debut: Savannah Smiles™. Named after the city in which Juliette Gordon Low founded Girl Scouts in 1912 – Savannah, Ga. – Savannah Smiles is a lemon-flavored cookie dusted in powdered sugar that is sure to become a fast favorite.

Friday, February 24 marks the start of booth sales, so keep an eye out at your favorite businesses and stores and take a box – or a dozen – home with you! Also beginning February 24, visit www.gswcf.org and search for a Girl Scout Cookie Booth by zip code using the cookie booth locator system.

For those who want to support Girl Scouting in their communities but don't want to enjoy the cookies themselves, GSWCF offers the Cookies from Home Program. Donations of cookies through the Cookies from Home Program will be sent directly to our military troops serving in combat zones overseas through a partnership with Support Our Troops. Donations to the Cookies from Home Program may be made in person through a Girl Scout at anytime during the Cookie Program through March 18.

For more information regarding purchasing Girl Scout Cookies and supporting Girl Scouting in your area, visit www.gswcf.org/cookies, or call 800-881-4475, ext. 1838.

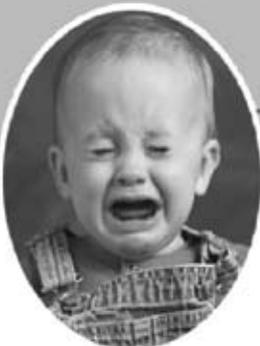
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Market Offers Non-Profits Free Space

GULFPORT- The Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market has announced it will set aside one free vendor space each week for community non-profit organizations. Groups may use the space to offer free information, promote upcoming events and community outreach, to raise funds, or to sell items for fund-raising. Any items to be sold must be pre-approved by Market managers. All funds raised in any manner must be for the benefit of the non-profit organization, rather than any individual(s).

The free space for non-profits is currently being scheduled and any interested and qualified non-profit groups may apply to use the space as available in upcoming weeks and months. Call Daniel Hodge, Fresh Market Coordinator, at 727-366-4086 or dan@igc.org.

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Volunteers needed for Spring Fling

The 2012 Gulf Beaches Rotary Spring Fling, hosted by the City of Treasure Island and the Gulf Beaches Rotary Club, will take place on March 15th through March 18th at the Treasure Island Community Center Park. In order to make this great event a success and raise as much money as possible for local charities, they will need help from other community organizations and local residents. They will need volunteers to help operate the ticket sales booths and parking concessions. Each volunteer will receive a commemorative t-shirt, meal ticket, drink ticket, and a beach parking pass.

Visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20FOA4FA8A829A13-ticket> to sign up online. Volunteers can also sign-up by sending an email to dfagan100@msn.com or calling Dennis Fagan at 727-643-7111.

...

Congregation Beth Sholom

Congregation Beth Sholom of Gulfport (1844 54th Street S.) will hold their Semi-Annual Rummage Sale on Thursday, March 15th; Friday, March 16th; and Sunday, March 18th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Event features clothing, furniture, housewares, jewelry, shoes, artwork, linens, Judaica, and decorative items. Contact Toby Hurtado at 321-3380.

Beginning Hebrew lessons are available to members and non-members, one-on-one or in a group. Call Dr. Paul Cohen at 321-3380.

Haftorah lessons are available to members and non-members as well. The ability to read Hebrew is required. Call Dr. Paul Cohen at 321-3380.

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Vendors needed for Festival

Vendors are sought for the 2nd Annual James Weldon Johnson Literacy Festival which will take place on Saturday, March 3rd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the park land

behind the Johnson Branch Library and the Enoch Davis Center located at 1059 18th Avenue S. in St. Petersburg. This event will feature a puppet show, moon walks, free books for children, music and more. Bay News 9's Erica Riggins has agreed to be the Keynote Speaker and they will also present their 2nd Annual Community Service Award winner.

Vendors can rent a 10'x10' space for \$25; nonprofit organizations are free. Vendors must supply their own tables, chairs and tents (tents

must not be larger than 10x10). The completed vendor application, general release form and \$25 check must be received by February 24. Set up time for all vendors is between 8-9:30 a.m. Make checks payable and mail to: The Friends of the Johnson Branch Library, POB 1061, St. Petersburg, FL 33731. Proceeds will benefit the library. Call the library at 727-893-7113, Kevin Johnson at 727-342-2235 or email to kevinjohnson5370@yahoo.com.

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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."

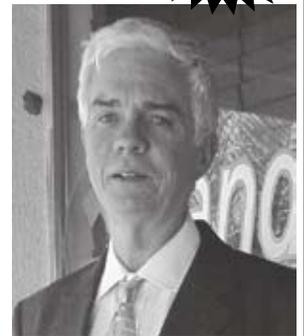
"You know, in 99 percent of bankruptcy cases the situation is that bad things happen to good people. They have gone through an expensive health crisis or a divorce or just got in over their head with debt."

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
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ryan@ksanderslaw.com

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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.

Local Obituaries

ALONSO, GLADYS E., 93, of St. Pete Beach, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012 with her husband Raul and daughter Lillian at her side. She had a love of traveling but mostly for her family, to whom she was very devoted. Gladys was of the Catholic faith. She is survived by her loving husband of 74 years, Raul; her children, Raul (Gladys) Alonso, Esther (Guillermo) Garcia and Lillian (Terrence) Lewis; grandchildren, Raul, Richard, Gladys, Guillermo, Esther, Lourdes, Christina and Cynthia; 13 great-grand-children; 2 sisters and 1 brother. A visitation will be at Memorial Park Funeral Home on Monday, Feb. 13th from 10-11 a.m. with funeral service at 11 a.m. Memorial Park Funeral Home, 727-527-1196.

DAGRACA, AMELIA 87, of St. Pete Beach, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012, at her home. She was a member of The St Petersburg Opera Guild, The Portuguese American Suncoast Association and St. Jude Cathedral Catholic Church. She is survived by her husband Alvaro Dagraca; sister Rose Mary Botelho; nephew Dr. George Botelho; niece Linda Shiamone; great-nephews Philip Botelho, Christopher Botelho, Brian Shiamone and Stephen Shiamone; great-niece Ashley

Shiamone; great-great-grandnieces Madison and Cambia Shiamone. Visitation will be on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012, from 2-4 p.m. and from 6-8 p.m. at Beach Memorial Chapel St. Pete Beach. Catholic Mass will be held on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Jude Cathedral Catholic Church St. Petersburg.

JOHNSON, MORRIS CARTER, 77, of South Pasadena, passed away on Feb. 7, 2012. He is survived by wife, Barbara Crane Johnson; sister, Helen Johnson Sunday; daughters Jenifer Slocum and Cynthia Glover; and son Jeff Johnson. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Brenton Glassgen, Nicole Slocum, and Taylor and Addison Johnson. Memorial remembrances will be conducted in the Goodwin Chapel at Pasadena Community Church on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 10:30 a.m. Our father will be deeply missed.

MELLEN, WAYNE, 63, passed away quietly on February 13, 2012. Wayne and his family were long time residents of Gulfport. In recent years he made his home in Northern California. He will greatly be missed by his loving family and friends. A memorial will be planned for the Gulfport area in the near future.

Grief Support Group

If you have suffered a loss of a loved one, you are invited to attend a 13 week grief support group through April 1. It meets on Fridays from 10 to noon at Cornerstone Community Church at 6745 38 Avenue N. in the Fellowship Room. Top expertise in grief recovery will be featured on the professional DVDs. Call 727-343-7747.

Monthly Prayer Gathering

Like-minded individuals are meeting for the third time at the Gulfport beach park on Shore Blvd., shelter #5 on Sunday, February 19th from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to share prayers. All are welcome. This is not a political event and is sponsored by the local Bahá'í community.



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Small Spaces

By Christine Brun

Think Simple, Smart and Stylish When Renovating Your Space

We want smart, warm and snug spaces where we can bond. Those who predict home trends resoundingly proclaim that American homeowners are scaling back and settling into cozier, smaller spaces. As our economy slowly strengthens, remodeling and home renovations are also creeping along an upward path.

"Homeowners are looking for ways to update their current homes, rather than buying a new property," said Sarah Reep, director of designer relations and education at KraftMaid Cabinetry. It might be as simple a task as cleaning out closets and finding ways to make the space you have function better. Purging from a disorganized abundance of clothes, shoes and hats or ties might allow you to create visual order.

Consider finding storage pieces at resale shops or yard sales instead of calling in an expert closet company if the budget is tight. Most people buy white bookcases, you can always find an assortment of random storage components at furniture consignment stores, thrift stores or even yard sales.

Reep went on to say that from simply adding a new faucet to completely gutting a bathroom, there are many ways to revitalize any home. Look for storage units that might sit over the toilet area, towel bars that feature a shelf and vanity filler pullouts that create storage while saving space. If you're in a position to redo your bathroom cabinetry, mull over

the idea of a pull-out for makeup -- just like a spice-rack pull-out in a kitchen. With use of a sink that is ADA compliant, you may also gain a Euro-style storage drawer that fits around the plumbing for the sink.

Think outside of that old, proverbial box for excellent ways to decrease clutter and increase organization in your bathroom and kitchen. A majority of Americans have told researchers that they want no-space-wasted design and ample storage in their next home, whenever that new home might become necessary. At the same time, we're seeing about 30 percent of families "doubling up" with multi-generational living that demands efficient use of space in existing homes and new purchases.

An urban revival kitchen is situated in a loft condo. Obviously, maximum storage is more artfully attained when you start from scratch. Remodeling this space enabled abundant storage, and an open floor plan allows for attractive storage of artifacts; cooking and serving pieces; and books. One can store CDs, household files and

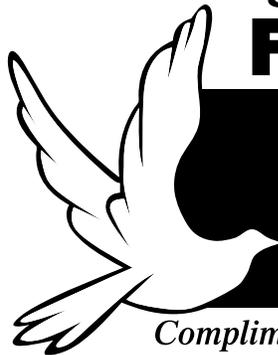
records or photographs. A smashing purple finish from Wood-Mode's Designer Color Collection enables the refrigerator and wall ovens to float in the space as a room divider with panache! Optimal city views are retained while a huge amount of storage is created.

Whether your situation calls for a complete do-over or demands that you get smart about how to coax more performance from your existing situation, there remain many terrific ways to get a kitchen to be more than just a place where you cook. We want "catchall" kitchens that are the center of activity in the home -- a place to pay the bills; do work or homework; and entertain guests. Homeowners no longer seem to mind seeing a computer or large, wall-mounted TV screen in a living area. We are more practical, more centered on use of available space than ever before and more demanding that our homes be friendly to how we actually live day-to-day.

Simple, smart and stylish are the watchwords for our times.

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Energy Assistance Available for Seniors

Senior citizens may be eligible for \$600 to help pay power bills through the Emergency Energy Assistance Program.

To receive assistance, county residents who are age 60 or older must have a crisis with a delinquent notice from the utility company or a notice that power has been shut off. They may also qualify for a voucher for heaters and blankets. In hot weather, they may qualify to receive

repairs to a cooling unit or a voucher for a fan.

Funded by the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco/Pinellas Inc., the program enables eligible seniors to receive help up to twice a year during each high-demand season. Pinellas County Health and Human Services staff members screen applicants to determine if they meet income limits: 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, a limit of \$16,355 a year on a household of one. For two people, the income limit is \$22,065. There is an addition of \$5,730 for

each additional household member.

Prospective clients can either stop by a Health and Human Services office or call for an appointment and information. Call Annie Shaw at 727-464-8400 in Clearwater or Anne Eicher at 727-582-7781 in St. Petersburg. Health and Human Services offices are located at 2189 Cleveland St., Suite 230, Clearwater, and at 647 First Ave. N., St. Petersburg.

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Card Party for Charity

On March 14, the Women's Chamber of Commerce of the Greater Gulf Beaches, a not for profit organization since 1936, will hold their annual "Card Party" and luncheon at the Wine Cellar located at 17307 Gulf Blvd., No. Redington Beach. They will play cards from 10:30 till 3 with lunch at noon. Cost is \$20 payable at the door with a reservation. This includes a raffle. For reservations please call Mary Alice at 866-2688. All money collected will go to their charity, "Angels Against Abuse".

...

Need School Clothes?

Do you know a child in grade K-12 who needs school clothes? If the child receives free or reduced lunch, they also qualify for a free week's worth of clothing and a fun shopping trip at Clothes To Kids (CTK). Eligible children receive five new pairs of underwear, five new pairs of socks, four bottoms, five tops, and a pair of shoes...and more! An appointment is easy. In South County call 727-327-7100 (St. Pete store) and in North County call 727-441-5050 (Clearwater store) Once you have your appointment, simply bring in your Free & Reduced Lunch Letter. Visit www.ClothesToKids.org for more information about the program at CTK.

Clothes To Kids, a nonprofit organization, provides free clothing to low-income, school-age children in Pinellas County, free of charge. For more information, or an appointment please call 441-5050 or visit our website at www.ClothesToKids.org.

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Stretch and Tone

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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Boating Safety Courses

USCG Auxiliary Gulfport Flotilla 7-16 will offer a BS & S Class (four weeks) on Feb. 16 and 23 from 7-10 p.m. Cost is \$50.

Classes are held at the USCG Auxiliary Building, 3120 Miriam Street S. in Gulfport. For reservations and details about the class or to schedule a vessel safety check call 727-399-7986.

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Chair Yoga for Everyone in St. Pete Beach

ST. PETE BEACH- The St. Pete Beach Community Center and Aquatic Complex is offering a Chair Yoga class for people of all ages and fitness levels. This gentle yoga class is perfect for beginners and promises many health benefits such as improved flexibility and strength. Classes are offered Wednesday mornings from 10-11 a.m. and cost \$7 each. Interested participants must call and pre-register with instructor Joyce Bloom at 727-345-0679.

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Registration Open for 2012 Clown Alley

Registration is now open for the 2012 Clown Alley Clown School, produced by the Suncoasters of St. Petersburg and sponsored by All Children's Hospital. This popular community program, which is open to students of all ages, has been a tradition in St. Petersburg since 1972.

Christine Davison, a graduate of the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey

Clown School, teaches character definition, make-up, costuming and performance techniques during the one day class. All participants will be invited to show off their new skills in the Illuminated Night Parade on Thursday, March 22nd and again in the Santa Parade in December.

The class will be held on Saturday, March 10th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the All Children's Hospital Education Conference Center, 701 Fourth Street S. in St. Petersburg. The cost is \$20 per person, plus \$10

for each additional family member. The fee includes instruction, a Clown Alley t-shirt and a box lunch. Clown make up will also be available for sale during the class. Registration forms are available on the Clown Alley page at suncoasters-stpete.com or by calling the Suncoasters office at 727-821-9888. Advanced registration is recommended. Same day registration begins at 9 a.m. until the class is full. Call 727-821-9888

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Community Treasures

Tucker the Therapy Dog

By Cathy Salustri

Tucker spent a goodly portion of his early life in a kennel, living outdoors in Iowa year-round. He had the soul of the champion, but to the woman who bought him from a California breeder, that wasn't enough. He won a few ribbons, but once he stopped winning, she viewed him as a bad investment. Out in the kennel he went, in sun and snow.

Welsh Springer Spaniels are, as the American Kennel Club describes them, a "velcro breed" meaning they stick pretty close to their humans. For a dog like Tucker, there was no worse punishment than depriving him of his companion by banishment to a kennel outside.

That's where Kathleen Johnson found him. Lucky for Tucker, Kathleen had a young Springer Spaniel – a "wild" girl – and she thought maybe a male would calm down her young girl. She called her breeder, who said she had placed a puppy in Iowa a few years ago but was worried about Tucker's well-being.

Kathleen called Tucker's owner, who told her to come up to meet Tucker. Kathleen met the 63 pound red and white spaniel. On the last day of her visit, the woman brought Tucker to Kathleen's hotel room. She left Tucker there without so much as a goodbye to her dog.

Tucker didn't so much as look up when she left. He's been by Kathleen's side ever since.

"It was like he knew he was free," Kathleen says. Tucker was four years old.

Eight years later, Tucker

has a new life. It was a few years before Kathleen and her husband realized Tucker's full potential.

"We would garden in the backyard, all he would do is pace back and forth," like



In 2008, Tucker won the Yerrid Foundation Hero of the Year. He received his award at a Tampa Bay Lightning game. Here, he listens as Skylar Didio reads.

he was still in a kennel, Kathleen says. No matter. They just knew they loved him; the rest came later. On a driving trip, they stopped in St. Augustine.

"There were a bunch of classes on field trips, and the kids converged on Tucker," Kathleen remembers. Her other puppy – the "wild child" – cowered behind Kathleen, but Tucker had found his element, mingling with the kids and loving every minute of it. At a dog show, they saw a sign advertising a group testing dogs for therapy potential. Kathleen paid her \$15 and had Tucker tested. People pretended to have Alzheimer's and wandered around; others hobbled on crutches. Still others used

either wheelchairs and walkers to weave around Tucker. Finally, the test proctors told Kathleen to go hide and, if Tucker showed no more than "mild distress," he would have cleared every hurdle.

Tucker, once a caged and forgotten show dog, passed

with flying colors.

Today, the relaxed senior citizen divides his days between visiting sick children and letting other kids read to him. He grabs dog naps where he can.

"He's not exactly energetic," Kathleen says as Tucker drifts off to sleep at the St. Pete Beach library. Nonetheless, he gets around.

Wednesdays he visits sick children – and often adults – at Bayfront and All Children's hospitals. For the past six years he's also visited families at the Ronald McDonald House.

In his tenure as a therapy dog, Tucker has helped kids who just needed a furry paw to hold. He's also played a

crucial role in helping some kids come out of comas.

One such case was the boy who neglected to buckle his helmet before showing a friend a skateboard trick. Things went badly from there – very badly – and he lay in a coma at All Children's when his mother insisted that Tucker visit and get in his bed. His mom would take his hand and make it pet Tucker. By Tucker's third, the teen started moving his hand ever-so-slightly. Soon he struggled to move his hand on his own down Tucker's body. Ultimately, he came out of his coma.

Every Thursday Tucker helps kids read. Kids who struggle with reading may be embarrassed to read in front of classmates, but it's nothing to read to Tucker. He doesn't laugh when they mispronounce a word. He just looks at them over his speckled nose and lets them work out the word on their own. Therapy dogs like Tucker help uncertain readers gain confidence, librarian Mary Jane Hyatt says.

"He doesn't judge," she explains. Kids who might be embarrassed to make a mistake when reading to their classmates know that Tucker won't make fun of them if they get a word wrong.

Kathleen credits librarian Mary Jane for Tucker's job as reading tutor.

"She was so excited because she used to have the children read to stuffed animals. She knew there would be much more excitement over reading to Tucker. She wouldn't let me out of the library without signing me up," Kathleen says.

On this particular Thursday, Skylar Didio sits next to Tucker and reads him "Are You My Mother?"

"This is one of those books she won't even read to me,

but she'll read it to the dog," her mom Sharon says. Mrs. Didio drives from Tierra Verde so Skylar can read to Tucker.

"She had a good foundation, but Tucker put it all together," she says.

The moms line up to praise Tucker, one after another telling stories of how sturdy, big-pawed, red and cream dog who failed at being a show dog has changed their children's life.

"Her reading has changed in the five weeks we've been here. We went from reading the easy 'I Can Read' books to the chapter books," Martha Parsons says of her daughter Neve's progress. Sitting in a circle, six-year-old Neve now helps other readers sound out words.

The kids, too, have a sense of accomplishment.

"I read this whole book!" Danford Wilson says. He scoots closer to Tucker, who turns his sleepy eyes up to the six-year-old. "Can I read this one?"

Tucker and his missus, Paige, had five boys a few years ago. Kathleen says she thinks at least one of the boys will, in time, make an excellent therapy dog. She's in no hurry to replace Tucker, though.

"He's very special. There'll never be another one as calm and intuitive and understanding," she says as Tucker raises his head and looks at her.

"There will never be another Tucker."

Tucker is a registered therapy dog. To find out more about if your dog could help children or adults, please visit Therapy Dogs International on the web. (<http://www.tdi-dog.org>)

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I'm happy to send these photos revealing our commitment to make a difference to these Afghan kids through your untiring support for our troops here. When I read your letter inside, I took the initiative to go out and bring these toys to kids with help from my Soldier and Afghan National Army. Most kids don't have any clue about dolphins or fish at all, they like animals. This is very normal here because they don't have TV.

I'm the one with lots of kids gathered around me. In one compound alone there are 6-8 little ones but we give toys to little girls only. Thank you for your generosity.

SSG Charlito Reyes

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Adult Basic Sailing School

Boca Ciega Yacht Club will be offering a five week Adult Basic Sailing Class beginning Wednesday, March 7th. The course includes five Wednesday evening classes as well as four weekend waterfront sailing sessions. Students will put classroom theories into practice sailing the club's Catalina 16.5 feet. Cost is \$250 per person including all classroom materials and an U.S. Sailing Association Basic Keelboat manual. Participants will receive a complementary three month

membership. With a 2:1 student teacher ratio this is the most reasonably priced program in the Tampa Bay area. For registration information, visit www.sailbyc.org or call Jennifer Rogers at 727-345-7544. Pre-registration is required.

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Book Donations Needed

Donations of books are needed by the Bookstore of The Friends of the West St. Petersburg Community Library located on the St. Petersburg College Gibbs Campus, corner of 8th Ave North and 67th Street

North. The proceeds from the sale of these items are used to fund special children's and adult programs to benefit the community. They are a volunteer non-profit c-3 organization and can provide a receipt to you for your possible tax deduction. Please call Elaine Wenstrom at 253-6904.

...

Elections Association Offers Scholarship

If you are a college junior or senior majoring in political science, public administration or business administration, journalism or mass communications at an accredited Florida college, you may be eligible for a scholarship!

The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, comprised of the 67 county supervisors, will award a \$1,200 scholarship this year to an eligible student.

Applicants must be registered voters who have lived in Florida at least two years and must have maintained a "C" average or above during the past year.

Other requirements are listed on the scholarship application and in the scholarship guidelines, which are available for download at www.voteinellas.com.

Applications should be submitted in the county in which the student is registered to vote.

Scholarship applications must be received by 5 p.m. March 19 in any Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections office: 315 Court St., Room 117, Clearwater; 13001 Starkey Rd., Largo; or 501 First Ave. N., St. Petersburg.

For a mailed application or additional information, please call the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections office at 727-464-6108.

...

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Take the Gabber on Vacation...



Lois Ericson with Roger Born and daughter Janice in Chicago over Thanksgiving week. We were gifted a trip there to be with his family and to see the Quincerana for Shannon. -Submitted by Lois

Send us your picture with you and your Gabber on vacation.

Include a brief description and your name.

News@TheGabber.com

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Flea Market Vendors Wanted

Vendors are wanted for a flea market at King of Peace MCC, 3150 Fifth Avenue N. in St. Petersburg on Saturday, March 3 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Space rental is \$20; tables are \$5. Please call Jeannie at 727-735-7094 or Peggy at 727-323-5857 for information and registration form.

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8th Annual Pink Flamingo Home Tour

Gulfport's 8th Annual Pink Flamingo Home Tour will be held on Saturday, March 10th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tour begins at Stetson University College of Law, 1401 61st Street S. in Gulfport. Tickets are \$15 or pre-sale for \$13. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 727-344-3711 or visit www.PinkFlamingoHomeTour.com.

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43rd Street Seniors Club to Meet

The 43rd Street Senior Citizen's Club meets on the third Friday of each month at 12 noon at Christ Lutheran Church, 3451 30th Avenue N. in St. Petersburg September through May. Bring a covered dish and a \$1 donation. Public is welcome for fun and games. Call Mary Ann at 727-595-8648 or Beverly at 727-328-1266.

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Wine Talk

with Lee Neal, a fine wine merchant for over 30 years.

Featuring the Victoria Region of Australia

Over the last several years, Australian wines are getting their finesse back.

To the south of New South Wales is Victoria, where some exciting wines are being produced from the cool coastal areas. Victoria is a small state in area, located within easy travel distance of Melbourne. Victoria has a wealth and diversity of wine regions. Victoria's 22 wine regions offer cool climates, which produce excellent quality wines. Victoria is tucked into the southeastern corner of the Australian mainland. The warm-climate regions of Murray Darling and Swan Hill are situated along the Murray River in the north west of the State.

Victoria's other wine regions are generally cooler than those of the States to the north and west. One major advantage of Victoria's wine regions is that all are within close proximity of Melbourne, Victoria's main wine producing region is the Rutherglen/Milawa area in the northeast but smaller Victorian wine regions are at Yarra Valley, which is the closest to Melbourne, and those in the Mornington Peninsula and the Geelong area. The region of Rutherglen is known for unique fortified wine styles like Muscat, which highlight the sweetest fruit flavors concentrated by long dry autumns.

The Yarra Valley region, which is a half an hour's drive from Melbourne has a cool climate district and is producing some of Australia's finest elegant and delicate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir wines. The Mornington Peninsula is producing some of the few interesting Pinot Noir wines produced in Australia. The third of the cool coastal regions is Geelong. Mildura is located in the north west of Victoria and is famed for its citrus cultivation and of course its wineries. Some of Australia's biggest and most well known wineries are based in Mildura because of the favorable conditions for grape cultivation. The Grampians are located in the mid west of Victoria. The wild sandstone formations form the western extremity of the Great Dividing Range. In the Alpine Valleys region, autumn comes fast and vigneron and winemakers strive to ripen the fruit before the frosts, creating rich, complex wines that are produced through cool summers. One of the most notable wines of the Victorian wine industry is the Shiraz.

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To Schedule Appointment

Recycling Directory Now Available

The new Recycle Today: 2012 Pinellas County Recycling Directory has just been released. The directory is packed with the latest information about how to recycle in Pinellas County including local options for recycling cans, bottles, paper, yard waste, electronics, chemicals, motor oil, cooking oil and much more. Find out what's new in 2012, such as expanded recycling programs for plastics #1-7 in Tarpon Springs, Oldsmar and Gulfport. In addition,

pizza boxes and plastic bottle caps may now be recycled.

Citizens can pick up a free copy at local libraries, Sweetbay stores, Nature's Food Patch Market or Pinellas County drop-off recycling centers. The directory may be viewed online at www.pinellascounty.org/recycle.

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Donate a Bike

YNOT Ministries is a 501c3 youth outreach located at 1000 55 street so in Gulfport. They are focused on leading teens closer to Christ through service to others. They are in need of

bikes that can be reworked for the homeless and youth of the area. Their youth plan to recondition these bikes so others can have transportation to work and school free of charge. If you have new or used boys or girls 24" or 26" bikes, or would just like to make a donation please contact Nick Harper at 727-418-7777. They are also looking for a storage location to work on these bikes. If you have one please email Nick at ynot4jesus@gmail.com.

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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.

February's program includes: "Weather" Feb. 21, and "Your Boat's Radio" Feb. 28.

March's program includes: "Which Boat is for You" March 6, "Equipment for Your Boat" March 13, "Waterway Watch/Trailing Your Boat" March 20, and "Handling Your Boat" March 27.

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

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Hard Candy

By Cathy Salustri

An Election Primer

You know what I'm sick of? Elections. It's the most annoying time of the year. What bothers me the most – no one is who they seem to be, and while I know that all year, it's markedly more intense during elections.

The other thing that bothers me more than I like to admit is that I'm not actually allowed to tell you who I think deserves your vote. Now, it's not that I think my opinion matters – please believe me when I tell you you're an idiot who lacks critical thinking skills if you do what I say without question – it's that this time of year the, uh, jerk factor is kind of high, and I see the worst of it. Paper policy prohibits me from telling you what I think about the people running for office, so I have to sit here and stew and write nice columns about cooking or my cats or whatever.

You see, it is now and always has been the position of this paper that we do not endorse a candidate. My editor doesn't believe it's a newspaper's job to tell people how to think. Instead we slog through December 1 through mid-March every year, trying to present the issues objectively, which we never do in the eyes of everyone, because invariably someone who has an agenda is upset that we don't share it.

What does all this mean for you? Well, quite honestly, it's just a whole lot of me whining, because trust me, making a living as a writer – even one who is making her living election after election covering issues like "SignGate 2012" and – is a pretty sweet deal. So forget everything I just said. I am lucky beyond measure. I just get frustrated.

However, if there is anything you can take away from this column it's how you can make voting decisions. I can share with you a few things I find handy when it comes to how to figure out who's best suited for the thankless job of "elected official." I hope they help you out, too.

1. Don't ask yes or no questions. At

the last debate, someone asked the candidates if they had attended a car show. A yes or no answer doesn't tell you anything. Ask why, and don't stop until you know why. Think "Did you attend the car show?" as compared to "Why did you attend or not attend the car show?"

2. Let them talk. Salesmen will tell you the person who speaks first loses. This works when you're trying to get a take on somebody, too. Just let the candidate talk, even if you disagree or know they're wrong. Often they'll answer questions you didn't think to ask.

3. Figure out their lie. Everyone lies. I lie. Your mother lies. Every bi-pedal carbon based life form on this planet – and a few we haven't discovered yet – lies. Get past that and figure out the magnitude of the lie and you'll be well-served. Is your candidate lying about whether or not they're a natural blonde or why they really went to jail in Mexico?

4. Look at the company they keep. Look, I know you should judge a person based on their actions, and so do you. But elections ask you to judge a person based on little other than lip service. Is the guy challenging the incumbent going to be any better at balancing the budget? Who knows? I

don't. You don't. But look at who the candidate calls "friend." Like attracts like, and if you don't like the people who endorse a candidate, it's possible you may not like the candidate, either.

5. You really can judge a book by its cover. Go meet your candidate. Shake their hand. Tell them what bugs you about them and ask them the tough questions. You know that feeling you get in your gut when they answer? Go with it. It's your first impression and, sadly, I've found it's usually dead-on accurate, whether I want it to be or not.

6. Where there's smoke, there's fire. Rumors are easily proved and disproved, and facts and statistics are easily distorted, but odds are people aren't making things up entirely. For example: Someone who dislikes me may tell you I lean towards a certain candidate, and there may be a glimmer of truth because yes, I have an opinion on who's best for the city. But they won't ever say I base my opinions on something an alien told me, because let's face it, aliens don't vote. My point? Don't believe rumors, but don't assume they're totally false. The truth is somewhere in between.

No matter who you think deserves your vote this March 13, please go vote. Local elections are the only real power you have over government. Make your voice heard.

••

Contact Cathy Salustri at
CathySalustri@theGabber.com.

•••



The Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library's 1st Annual Membership Meeting featuring author and Pulitzer Prize winner, Thomas French, was a huge success thanks to the 120 people who attended this event.

Very Special Thanks to the following Gulfport Businesses
for their support and donations:

**Diane's Homemade Baked Goods, Gulfport Café, HeartMade
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Senior Center, Peter Suarez and our business members, SIK Promotions, Inc.,
AllenAnn Jewlery and Janet Mercer.**

Beta Sigma Phi

Laureate Epsilon Theta members enjoyed the Sunshine City Council Sweetheart Luncheon on Saturday, February 11 at the Wine Cellar on North Redington Beach. It was a delicious meal and celebrated our chapter sweetheart Elaine Penner. The committee did a wonderful job and everyone attending looked lovely in their hats.

On Wednesday, February 8 at the home of Kay Brown another celebration for our sweetheart

was held in conjunction with the regular meeting. A special cake and refreshments were served along with Elaine receiving many lovely gifts.

The next regular meeting of Laureate Epsilon Theta will be held on Wednesday, February 22 at 7 p.m. at the home of Val Rankin with Val presenting the program.

Laureate Epsilon Theta members and guests enjoyed watching the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 5 at the home of Kay and Jim Brown. The "Souper Bowl" party was hosted by Lucy Brushaber, Kay and Jim

Brown. Those attending enjoyed Clam Chowder and Chili along with a variety of other treats prior to the game. We cheered on our favorite team and celebrated the Giants' win in the end.

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

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Take a Safe Boating Course

Take the Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Skills and Seamanship course. Programs are conducted from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. each Tuesday and are conveniently located on the USCG base at 1300 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg. Visit www.cgaux72.info/ or call 727-898-1324 for information. Completion satisfies the state of Florida boater I.D. safety education requirements.

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Calling all Crafters and Artisans

Girls Incorporated of Pinellas is now accepting applications for "Crafts in the Park," a premier showcase for handmade crafts and custom artisans scheduled for all day Saturday, March 17th in Pinellas Park. Crafts in the Park is part of the larger Country in the Park weekend celebration sponsored by the City of Pinellas Park and the Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber of Commerce.

Crafts in the Park attracts crafters from all over Florida and as far away as New York. Attendance records in recent years have topped 20,000.

Vendor spaces are 10' x 10' and are \$50 for Saturday. Space is available for 125 crafters. Vendors have the option of setting up Friday afternoon and selling on Friday evening March 16th during the wildly popular Chili Blaze Cook-Off sponsored by Pinellas Park Firefighters. The vendor fee for selling Friday evening is \$25. The fee is \$75 for both Friday and Saturday.

Vendor registration fees benefit Girls Incorporated of Pinellas, a non-profit youth development organization in Pinellas which operates an empowerment-based before/after school program and a full time summer day camp for girls ages 5-17. Visit the Girls Inc. website at www.girlsinc-pinellas.org.

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HEY KIDS!

REGISTER TODAY!

Gulfport Little League is Now Registering For The Spring Season

Registration: Tuesdays and Thursday from 6pm to 8pm upstairs at the little league field or you may register your child on-line at www.gulfportlittleleague.net. If your child would like to play ball, please register them as soon as possible. This will allow us to place the child on a team, connect you with his or her coach, insure the correct uniform size, and get them practicing sooner.

Second Annual Gulfport Little League Reunion Has Been Rescheduled to Sunday February 26th @ 4:00pm. Come reminisce with old friends and meet new ones. Hors d'oeuvre and drinks will be served. Everyone is encouraged to bring his or her glove and join in a softball game.

Opening Day Parade Saturday March 3rd @ 10:00 am.

Please Contact
Bruce 727-327-7383 OR John 727-565-5511

Dr. George Zarillo

By Cathy Salustri



Dr. George Zarillo demonstrates his technique on his partner Vivi Steinfeld

work here in Gulfport, where he can connect with and be part of a community, and where he can ride his bicycle to work. "I had a chiropractic practice in New York State for 28 years and it was very hard to say goodbye to all my wonderful patients and friends". His choice to create a more relaxed lifestyle for himself also translates into his style of patient care.

Dr. Zarillo enjoys learning about his patients and working with them to develop a course of treatment to help their bodies heal. A visit with him is a personal experience that will differ from patient to patient. A visit to Dr. George is a friendly, gentle experience. He takes his time to connect with you as a person, he listens to you and he listens to your body. He explains what treatments he would like to do and why. Dr. George is highly motivated toward getting the best results in the shortest amount of time. "I feel happy when I am able to help a patient regain as much mobility as possible while feeling as great a reduction in pain as possible. My goal is to restore vitality and energy to the patient" he says.

Dr. George's hands on treatments often involve work on the muscles and fascia, also referred to as soft tissue. Dr. George believes, as many chiropractors do, that the alignment and proper movement of the spine and joints are important to your wellbeing. The muscles are what move these bones and joints, and fascia is the connective tissue that holds muscles, bones, ligaments, tendons and organs together in the body. Many chiropractors have massage therapists on staff to work with this myofascial component. Dr. George likes to do this work himself because, as he says, "By palpating and working with these pathways of restricted connective tissue, I feel I am often able to get a clearer sense of the source of the problem, and of the whole person. Often this is a discovery process for the patient as well, because they are able to identify and better understand how they got to where they are. Recurring patterns of pain or dysfunction are often

"I'm at the point in my life and career where I can do what I love, and that's what I'm doing now," Dr. George Zarillo says as he sips tea at The Longhouse in Gulfport, where he has his practice. This includes the choice he recently made to live and

deeply embedded in this myofascial network. These patterns can be the result of old injuries, repetitive motion, emotional traumas or other stressors".

He especially enjoys the challenge of working with patients with chronic problems that haven't yet found relief. He says "Recurring pain, restricted motion, numbness, tingling, headaches and many other dysfunctions are a sign that things are blocked or out of balance in the body or lifestyle". Many chiropractors believe that working with the soft tissues that connect to the spine or joints where the patient is feeling pain, restriction or discomfort can help relax the area and make for gentler, easier adjustments. "Chiropractic and Wellness philosophies are oriented to finding the cause and correcting it. It is a great feeling when you have made a real difference in the quality of someone's life!"

Dr. George's choice to have his practice at The Longhouse reflects his approach. "There is a sweet, loving atmosphere at The Longhouse, conducive to wellness. In addition there are other practitioners and services here for me to collaborate with and refer to, such as acupuncture, massage, counseling and other healing and transformative services", says Dr. George.

Dr. Zarillo doesn't take insurance. He wants his practice to be personal and accessible. He wants to spend as much time as he feels is necessary with each person. Dr. George believes a 'whole body/whole person' approach is empowering for patients. His fees are affordable for most people at \$65 for the first treatment visit and \$40 for follow-up visits. He is available for home visits in some special cases.

If you have neck or back pain, headaches, arthritis, numbness or tingling, fatigue, or if you simply threw your back out lifting something, come see Dr. George Zarillo. "Many dysfunctions of the body can relate back to energy and nerve flow," he explains. "If it has to do with a structural or energy blockage, chiropractic care can have a positive effect on your health and comfort level."

"What I offer is a relaxed, personal and caring experience. I'm happy with my life and I'm happy with my work. I'm doing it because I love it," he says.

Dr. George Zarillo
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City of Gulfport

Permit Free City–Wide Yard Sale Brochure listing application

Saturday, March 17, rain date, Sunday, March 18th

Gulfport Residents only – Sale is Dawn to Dusk

Gulfport Address (one address per form) _____

Phone # _____

**Email Address (optional) _____ **

Please return to Gulfport City Hall (2401 53rd St. S.) or Gulfport Public Library (5501 27th Ave. S.) no later than Friday, March 9, 4:30 p.m. to make the map brochure deadline for set up and print time. Please print clearly. Thank you.

Your email address will be added to the City Events email list which goes out weekly and the yard sale reminder email, bi-annually. The City will not share your email address.



KEEP THIS PORTION

What you need to know about the next Gulfport City-Wide Yard Sale:

- You can have your yard sale at your Gulfport residence and it is Permit Free on Saturday, March 17th at no charge! (Rain date, Sunday, March 18th).
- For your Gulfport address to be added to Yard Sale Brochure: You can fill out a form at City Hall, 2401 53rd St. S. or Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28th Ave. S., or easily email your Gulfport address to gbiron@mygulfport.us. The address information is due Friday, March 9th by 4:30 p.m. (There will be no exceptions as to allow for set up and printing time.)
- The Gulfport City Wide Yard Sale Brochure is available on Wednesday, March 14th at all City Facilities and online. On the day of the event, The Gulfport Public Library, 5501 27th Ave. S, will be the main hub to pick up your brochure. If you choose to print your brochure online, go to the www.mygulfport.us main page under “City Wide Yard Sale” link (use 2 pages of 8” ½ x 14” paper).
- So dig into the garage, closet or shed and get rid of all that stuff you haven’t used for a year or more! Most likely, someone’s looking for what you don’t want anymore. Get on the brochure today!

Additional Information:

Signs: Temporary signage will be permitted on public right of ways where the sale is being held, as long as it does not interfere/block pedestrian/vehicle traffic views or permanent street signs. In addition, other temporary signs may be placed on other private property with the permission of the owner or occupant. Please do not display signs more than 24 hrs before the sale day. Signs must be removed by 7 P.M. on Saturday, November 5, 2011.

Parking: Vehicles will be permitted to temporarily park in residential only or resident decal required parking the day of the sale as long as they do not interfere/block any right of ways or normal flow of traffic. All other parking provisions under state law will be enforced. Please try not to block driveways, park on sidewalks or park against the flow of traffic. Walking a little further may help you find the bargain of a lifetime!

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NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Tuesday, Feb. 28th, 2012 at 11:00 AM** the Storage House, located at 1219 49th St S, Gulfport FL, will conduct a cash sale to the highest bidder pursuant to Statute 83.906 of Florida Self Storage Facilities Act.

TENANT	UNIT NO.	CONTENTS
Richardson, Naden	1542	Household
Olwen, Kendra	1422	Household
Faulkner, Victoria	89	Household, Furniture
Carway, Bondale	130	Clothing
Mincey, Clint	840	Household

February 9th & 16th, 2012

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Yard/Garage Sale

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Yard/Garage Sale

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ESTATE SALE-Collectibles, Furniture & Misc. Items. Licensed Emmitt Kelly figurines. 7517 Par Ave. N. Fri. & Sat. 9am.-?.

4463 40TH ST. S.-Sat. & Sun. 8am.-1pm. Furniture, Many Items.

Huge Sale Saturday, Feb. 18 2012

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No pets, please.

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LOST KEYS-2 Keys on Ring. Friday night 2/10/12 in Gulfport. Call 603-419-0300 and I Will Identify key ring.

Card of Thanks

POWERFUL PRAYER TO - Holy Spirit, you who solves all problems, who lights all roads so that I can attain my goal, you who give me the divine gifts to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me, I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things and confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you, in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor, only your initials should appear at the bottom. T.D. 4M.D.D.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE - This novena has never been known to fail. This novena must be said for 9 consecutive days. Publication must be promised. Oh Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present urgent petition. In return, I promise to make your name known and call you to be invoked. St. Jude, pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. Say 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys & 3 Gloria's. R.S.

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Card of Thanks

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. 4 E.T. C.T. H.T.

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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Happy Talk

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BEAUTIFUL GARDEN APT. \$625 1BR/1BA, St. Petersburg, Very Safe, Power/Cable/Internet Included. Looking for Professional or Student. Close to Schools & Highways. 727-410-8423.

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TOWN SHORES WINDSOR 55+-Large 1BR/1.5BA. Open Water. Annual Lease \$799/Mo. Also Patriot Square 37th St. S. Large 3BR/2BA 5 Appliances \$799/Mo. 727-867-7022.

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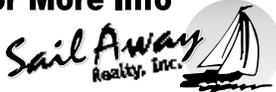
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New on Market

- MANCHESTER 508** - 2/2 Standard, freshly painted throughout, newer windows in Florida room. This 2br is bright, cheery, immaculate, and move-in ready. Don't miss out on this great opportunity. Come and enjoy the beautiful water views. Small cat ok, covered parking \$110,000
- CHATAM 204** - Large 1br deluxe, newer appliances, great open kitchen, beautiful matching tile throughout, completely furnished in great taste. Pet friendly, covered parking \$76,900
- HAMPTON 114** - 1450 s.f., 2/2 Man jacuzzi in bath, waterlicious views, most desirable location **CONTRACT PENDING IN 1 DAY!** \$179,900

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 1-3

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**

JAMISON #515 - West end unit overlooking marina. 2/2 Deluxe, newer kitchen and baths, storm shutters, gorgeous wood flooring and tiles. Panoramic water views, covered parking. Must see to appreciate! **Price Reduced \$119,900**

JAMISON #110 - 2/2, Standard, freshly painted form head to toe, brand new flooring in every room, and much more... Direct view, literally steps to pool. **\$81,900**

BUCKINGHAM PENTHOUSE 5 - 2 br/2 **SOLD \$179,900**



2/2 Deluxe, Pet Friendly
\$725/mo. Annual
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BUCKINGHAM 302 - 2Br./2Ba. Condo with separate eat-in nook in kitchen, tile floor, new carpet flooring, outside balcony allowing you the most stunning view of Boca Ciega Bay. Washer/Dryer in unit. Covered parking **\$163,000**

KENMORE #205 - **SOLD** newer AC & heating, all new windows, laundry, tile floor, pool in backyard, covered parking. **Reduced \$66,500**

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**

NOTTINGHAM #114 - 2/2 Deluxe remodeled 1st floor living at its best! outside patio, sp... **SOLD** views. **\$149,000**

HAMPTON #203 - 1 br Deluxe, new kitchen & windows, great floor plan, covered parking, water views abound! **\$95,000**

BUCKINGHAM #503 - **SOLD**
MANCHESTER #607 - **SOLD**

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