

NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT 8

JORGENSEN LAKE

Issue 2 | February 2018

HELLO, NEIGHBORS !

It's hard to believe that in the first month of the year we are already working on the 2019 budget to make sure needs brought forward by our constituents receive attention in our annual expenditures. Infrastructure investments and economic development have made it to many Council Members' lists of priorities. I've also raised concerns about the need for additional staffing and expertise in planning and zoning to help remove red tape while protecting the character of our beautiful neighborhoods.

I've recently begun working with city staff to draft a scope of work for a master planning project for 34th Street and it's adjacent corridors. Not only do we need branding and cohesion, we must also be thoughtful about what redevelopment in this corridor looks like and how it will meet the needs of our residents. Stay tuned for public engagement invites as we will need your voice at the table.

This month, I filed a number of new business items focused on addressing the opioid epidemic in our community, reviewing the after action report from Hurricane Irma, and providing for more transparency when city funds are supporting our local non-profits. I'm currently working on a new business items to address workforce housing, ways to potentially reduce your water bills, and tools that will encourage additional public engagement on city issues. If you have an idea or concern, please don't hesitate to reach out! - Amy

FACES OF DISTRICT 8

I am Michelene Everett, 2018 President of the Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association. My husband and I are from NY/NJ and



proud to now call St. Pete home. I am a Corporate Event Planner and have managed events

ranging from 300 – 108,000 attendees. We purchased our first home in Kenwood in 2016 and shortly thereafter, I was appointed to the HKNA board. I ran for President of HKNA because we are a neighborhood that celebrates diversity. No matter who you are, who you love, who you worship or who you vote for – we understand that our differences are insignificant to the things that connect us. That is why I am proud to live here and serve as the first African-American President alongside my Pakistani Muslim husband. Neighborhoods like Historic Kenwood are what make cities like St. Petersburg great.

FOOD DRIVE

Please consider participating in a city wide food drive to benefit the CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse)



domestic violence shelter. Donation bins are located at every library and are open until February 28th.

STATE ISSUES

There are a number of bills currently in the state legislature that threaten to diminish local control. They range from topics related to CRAs, sports complex development, and tree trimming. Please stay informed about about these bills and contact your state representatives to tell them governments closest to the people know best.

CALENDAR

Localtopia

February 3 from 10 - 5 pm
Williams Park

Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association

Wednesday, February 7 at 7pm
3251 3rd Ave. North

Art Walk

February 10 from 5 - 9 pm
Throughout City

Craftsman House Centennial

Sunday, February 11 at 4:30 pm
2955 Central Ave.

Disston Heights Neighborhood Association

February 13 at 7 pm
4501 30th Ave. North

Disston Heights Breakfast Club

Saturday, February 17, 8-9:30 am
The Burg Diner

North Kenwood Neighborhood Association

February 20 at 7
2001 28th St. North

5th Annual Fine Arts Festival

February 24 and 25 from 10 - 5pm
Straub Park

Central Oak Park Neighborhood Association

February 27 at 6:30
4444 5th Ave. North

Grand Central Chili Cook Off

Saturday, March 3 from 12 - 4pm
2400 - 2500 Block of Central Ave.

LOCK YOUR CAR!

At the time of newsletter publication there had been 67 auto thefts so far in 2018 compared with 101 by the same day last year. About 25% of those auto thefts had their keys in the car! Although the situation is improving, it is important to lock your car, take the keys with you, and park in well lit areas.

CSX UPDATE

Many residents have expressed concerns about safety issues, brush overgrowth, and homeless encampments near the CSX railroad tracks from 22nd Ave N. to 30th Ave. N. The City is working with CSX in order to remedy the situation. See **this** recent news story for an update.

Localtopia



On Saturday, February 3, the 5th Annual Localtopia Festival will take place in Williams Park from 10am to 5pm. Hosted by the independent business alliance Keep St. Pete Local, the festival will showcase almost 200 local businesses and community organizations.

Festival organizers promise this year's event will be their largest and most sustainable yet. They are eliminating single-use plastics and Styrofoam as well as creating on site composting. A Skate Village featuring a competition style half-pipe will be featured behind the bandstand which hosts live, local music throughout the day. A Health and Wellness Village will feature outdoor spin rides and a live DJ. There is truly something for everyone at Localtopia!

STAY IN TOUCH



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