HAPPY APRIL!

Spring is my favorite time of year here in St. Pete, and April is full of exciting events! I hope to see you out and about enjoying our beautiful city this month. For anyone who knows me, you know my passion is advocating for everyone to have a safe and sustainable place to call home. In March, I had the honor of traveling to DC to speak on Capitol Hill about sea level rise, it's affects on Real Estate communities, and reform of the National Flood Insurance Program. Check out more about this event on page 2. Also this month, we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. Feel free to stop by City Hall on April 12th at 3:00 pm to hear the reading of the proclamation. We have long strides to go as we work toward equality for all, but it is also important to pay homage to how far we have come. Until next time, have a great April and don't forget "Earth Day is Every Day!"
-Brandi

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Paul and Donna Coumoulos opened the first Paul’s Chicago Pizza in Clearwater 17 years ago and, late last year, they opened a second location in St. Petersburg. The new location, at 11002 4th St. North, occupies the former Ricky P’s and has been a welcome addition to District 2. Paul’s serves up the iconic deep dish pizza most people associate with Chicago, but also offers stuffed and thin crust options as well as a variety of specialty pizzas. They also serve a variety of sandwiches, salads, and pasta dishes and have a catering menu. The newly renovated restaurant has a laid back vibe featuring exposed brick walls, plenty of TVs and comfortable seating for a crowd. Paul’s has experienced great success online, boasting a 4.5/5 star average rating on Yelp! The local website St. Pete Foodies also approved and gave them a 5/5 star review. Paul’s Chicago Pizza is open Tuesday - Saturday from 11 am to 10 pm and Sunday from 12 pm to 8 pm. For more information, find them on Facebook.

GATEWAY MASTER PLAN

Forward Pinellas, the County’s land use and transportation planning agency, recently began an 18 month long effort to create a master plan for the Gateway/ Mid-County area. Councilmember Gabbard serves as a board member for Forward Pinellas and will participate in discussions about how to improve transportation connections and incentivize future development in the area. The Master Plan will be funded with a $1 million contribution from the County, the cities of St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, Largo, and FDOT.
**EARTH DAY!**

Celebrate Earth Day on April 21st from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Williams Park! The St. Pete Earth Day Festival is free to the public and is hosted by Chart 411, Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Suncoast Sierra Club and various other groups. Attendees are encouraged to walk or bike to the festival.

**CLIMATE AND SEA LEVEL RISE PANEL**

Last month, Councilmember Gabbard traveled to DC to participate in a Congressional Panel about housing resiliency to climate change and sea level rise. St. Petersburg is a high risk area with 3.2 million residents, over 50% of the population, living less than 10 ft above sea level. Governments, Realtors, and citizens can all take steps to mitigate damages from these natural events. Gabbard recommended that Congress extend the National Flood Insurance program for at least 5 years, allow private insurance carriers into the market place, and continue to educate homeowners about risks specific to their property. You can find more information about this panel at [www.essi.org](http://www.essi.org).

**CALENDAR**

- **Tampa Bay Blues Festival**
  - Friday, April 6 from 2 pm to 10 pm
  - Saturday April 7 from 12 pm to 10 pm
  - Sunday, April 8 from 12 pm to 10 pm
  - Vinoy Park
- **Tiny House Festival**
  - Saturday April 7th and 8th 10 - 6
  - SPC Allstate Center
- **Healthy St. Pete Fit City 5k and 1 Mile Walk**
  - Saturday, April 7 at 7:30 am
  - North Straub Park
- **St. Pete Earth Day Festival**
  - Saturday, April 21 from 10 - 5
  - Williams Park
- **Tampa Bay Job and Career Fair**
  - Monday, April 9 from 10 am - 2 pm
  - The Coliseum
- **Americana Cove Neighborhood Association**
  - Wednesday, April 18 at 7pm
  - Community Clubhouse
- **Mainsail Art Festival**
  - Saturday, April 21, from 10am - 5 p.m.
  - Sunday, April 22, from 10 am - 5 p.m.
  - Vinoy Park
- **Green Thumb Festival**
  - April 28 & 29th from 9- 4
  - Walter Fuller Recreation Center

**OPIOID TASK FORCE**

Another life is lost to opioid overdose in Pinellas County every 32 hours and the number of lives lost nationwide continues to grow. In order to address the opioid crisis, Pinellas County is working with 55 partners including law enforcement groups, governments, and treatment providers since last June to create and implement a strategic plan that identifies strategies and procedures in five different goal areas. The Task Force also created a user-friendly *Story Map* which details signs of opioid overdose and addiction, as well as some highlights of the strategic plan. So what can you do to help? First, spread awareness that if you call 911 for someone who may be experiencing an overdose, you cannot get in trouble by law enforcement. Second, if you have old prescription drugs you no longer need, properly dispose of them by dropping them off at the St. Pete Police Department. And lastly, if you or someone you know may come in contact with a user visit a pharmacist to get a Narcan kit. Pinellas has a county-wide prescription for this life saving drug that can be obtained at any local pharmacy with no questions asked. If you or someone you know is struggling with opioid addiction, please call Operation PAR at 1-888-727-6398 or visit [www.operationpar.org](http://www.operationpar.org) for more information.

**STAY IN TOUCH**

Email: Brandi.Gabbard@stpete.org

Twitter: @Brandi4StPete

Phone: 727-893-7232

Facebook: facebook.com/Brandi4StPete

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