A Special Word of Thanks!

Hello St Pete and Happy March!

There is so much going on in St Petersburg and as always I will cover some of that in this months newsletter. First, I wanted to take a moment to address a unfortunate incident that occurred earlier in February.

On the morning of February 8th, volunteers from across the city came together to feed the residents of St Petersburg in conjunction with the organization Farm Share Inc.

Approximately 30 residents, city staff, Firefighters and Police Officers donated freely of their time to set up and pass out food to 500 residents. Unfortunately, due to circumstances out of our control Farm Share, Inc was not able to deliver the food that was promised. While this was a incredibly disappointing outcome I did not want that to damper the overwhelming thanks I feel for those who were committed to serving our residents. They are appreciated and my heartfelt and undying gratitude is owed to them.

In addition, I want to extend a sincere apologize to any resident who we were not able to serve that day. I also want to share a letter of explanation and apology that was sent to the residents of St Petersburg from Farm Share Inc. Click here to read the entire letter.

St. Petersburg Grand Prix

The 9th Annual Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg will take place from March 8-10. This three day festival is full of activities that are fun for the whole family and it’s a great opportunity to show off our city to visitors from all over the country! Beginning bright and early at 8 am on Friday, you can get up close for practice runs and races of a variety of different cars like GT4 and Indycars. There's also a 5k race on the course on Friday evening and autograph signings and meet and greets throughout the weekend. To buy tickets or learn more about the weekend's events, click here. Hope to see you there!

Tiered Stormwater Rates
Currently, in St.Pete, all single-family properties are charged the same rate for stormwater, regardless of their impervious (not allowing fluid to pass through) area while non-single-family properties are charged based on their square footage. Last month, Council voted to change these rates to something more equitable in which all customers will be charged a stormwater rate based on their square footage of impervious area. Impervious areas include: driveways, structures, parking lots and walkways. Properties will be divided into four tiers depending on their impervious area. In tiers 1 and 2 (smaller lots), the stormwater fees will remain the same or become slightly lower, while tiers 3 and 4 (larger lots) may have a slight increase in fees. An online portal that allows customers to review the impervious area and tier of their property is currently being created. The proposed implementation for this plan is October 1, 2019. As we continue to invest in our infrastructure and look for ways of funding these improvements, I am committed to making sure we find equitable ways of charging our residents on their utility rates.

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**Tour of the New St. Pete Pier!**

Last month, I got the chance to check in on the progress at the new St. Petersburg Pier. Seeing the progress made over the last few months since my last visit was astonishing. The marine education center, elevated lawn, pier head building, Doc Ford's, spa beach, and the pier approach are all coming along very nicely. The views of the city skyline and Albert Whitted airport are truly amazing! The next step will be completing the designs and beginning work on the kid’s playground and shade structures. This summer, public art and courtesy docks will be installed while construction on individual buildings continues. I can't wait until the public gets to share in the pride I already feel about this project that will live for generations to come! For the latest updates, more pictures, and even drone video footage of the construction, check out http://www.newstpetepier.com/
Here we grow again! I am excited to announce that starting this week, we have hired a new legislative aide to assist me with my day to day duties.

While this is a much needed change that will ensure the highest level of constituent services are delivered, I am admittedly sad to no longer work with the amazing Kayleigh Sagonowsky. Kayleigh will remain with our staff and continue her duties with Councilwoman Foster. I want to just take a moment to say a special thank you for everything she has done to serve the residents of District 2 over the last year and a half. I loved every moment of working with her, our numerous community tours and her willingness to be open to new ideas. My first year on council would not have been nearly as successful without her by my side!

At this time, I want to introduce Linnie Randolph. Linnie comes to the city with a wealth of government experience. She will be an incredible asset. You'll be seeing Linnie at your neighborhood meetings and other city events soon so please help me welcome her! If you have a question or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to her at Linnie.Randolph@stpete.org or 727-893-7148.

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Transportation Survey

We need your help to improve transportation in the Tampa Bay Area! Please take a few minutes to answer a few questions about your household's daily trips and transportation methods and you will be entered into a raffle for a $250 Amazon gift card! You can complete the survey by going to tampabaysurveys.com and entering the password TAMBRTRAV. You can also call 813-200-5650, or download the rMove app from the Apple or Android store.

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