Hi Neighbors, I hope your October is off to a great start! In my recent talks with community members, I heard some concerns about private laterals. This is the name of the pipe that carries all the wastewater from your home to the city's infrastructure. Council is required to pass an ordinance that sets up a plan to repair or replace these pipes when they fall into disrepair. Since the pipe is located on private property, properly maintaining the pipe will be the property owner's responsibility. The city will not be proactively looking for damaged pipes, rather, we'll take a passive approach and work with homeowners when action is necessary. I want to make sure all District 8 residents understand this new ordinance and am always available to answer any questions you may have. I'd also be happy to speak about this at one of your upcoming neighborhood meetings. Just reach out me or my Legislative Aide Kayleigh Sagonowsky to get something on the calendar and let me know if you have any questions or concerns. - Amy

Protecting St. Petersburg Renters

On November 7th, City Council will vote on the creation of a Tenants' Bill of Rights. Currently, state law heavily favors landlords, which is why it's so important that municipalities establish systems to protect renters from unjust landlords and policies. The ordinance that will be considered on the 7th would establish the framework for the Bill of Rights. Although the federal Fair Housing Act already protects against discrimination based on race, gender, and disability, this ordinance would expand the list of protected classes to include sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, age, veteran or service member status, and political affiliation. It would also require landlords to inform their tenants of any late fees they incur. Most good landlords describe their late fee policy in their leases and already notify tenants of additional charges. However, the Homeless Leadership Board recently created an Eviction Reduction Committee which studied the issue and found landlords in St. Pete are not using state approved leases, and are charging renters compounding late fees unbeknownst to them. This ultimately leads to
an increase in legal issues and evictions for some of our most vulnerable residents. Renters make up a large part of our community and I'm proud to advocate for policies that make it easier for them to find available housing and stay in their homes. To learn more about all the tenants' rights initiatives I'm working on, click here.

21st Annual Bungalowfest!

HKNA's signature event will take place on November 2 from 10AM - 4PM. During Bungalowfest, homeowners volunteer to welcome guests and show off the character of their homes. This year's homes are located in the upper west side of Kenwood, between 5th and 9th Avenue N, and 28th and 32nd Streets. Members of the Artist Enclave will also be displaying their work along 7th Avenue. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 the day of the event. To buy tickets, click here. Please bring your receipt confirmation to the check-in booth on 7th Ave N between 29th St and 30th St.

34th Street Master Plan

The final public input meeting for the 34th Street Master Plan will be held on October 22nd at 6:30 PM at the Main Library. This meeting will preview the plan's recommendations and ask for feedback from attendees. In last month's survey, the project's consultants found 86% of respondents see crime and safety as the areas most needing improvement. About 67% of respondents said they hope to see the plan create mixed-use mid-rise buildings that include affordable housing, local restaurants and bars, and non-chain retail. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey - we hope to see you later this month!

Face of District 8: Meet Kelly Rodriguez-Laureano

Kelly Rodriguez-Laureano and her husband, Chef Alex Rodriguez, recently opened their second restaurant in the Grand Central District. Both restaurants, Sophia's Cucina + Enoteca and Lolita's Wine Market are named after the couple's dogs. Kelly and Alex first ventured into the restaurant business in Columbus, OH. Since then, Alex has become well-
known for his traditional Italian cooking style with a modern twist. At Sophia's, he's still serving some of his original recipes. Kelly has a background in corporate merchandising and currently owns KRL Consulting, LLC in addition to her two restaurants. Kelly is able to combine her passions for food, wine, design, and fashion through each of these ventures. Kelly and Alex live in Historic Kenwood and love being a part of St.Petersburg and the growing fabric of District 8. For Halloween, Kelly and Alex are hosting an 80's Cult Halloween Party including throwback cocktails and wine specials. To view Sophia's entire menu or make a reservation, click here.

Local Elections

In addition to elections for City Council Districts 1,3,5 and 7, voters will also be asked to consider two charter amendments and one referendum. The first charter amendment would add conservation and preservation to an existing list of exceptions to the referendum requirement for dispositions of park property. The second seeks to change the date local officials take office from the first Tuesday in January to the second Thursday of January. Finally, the referendum will ask voters if City Council may approve an agreement for operation with the St. Petersburg Sailing Center. For more information about the election, click here.

Shine Mural Festival

The 5th Annual Shine Mural Festival will take place from October 18 - 26th. Muralists from all over the world will bring their talents to St. Petersburg to create outdoor works of art. So far, the festival has created 72 murals throughout the city. One of the best ways to see all the new murals is by participating in a biking tour which will be offered on October 19th and 26th at 9 AM and 2 PM. To see murals from previous years, download a printable map of mural locations, or learn more about what's planned for this year's festival, click here.

Neighborhood Associations

Central Oak Park
Last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM
St. Luke’s Church

North Kenwood
3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM
Flying Boat Brewery

One Time Events

Fire Rescue Block Party
Saturday, October 12 from 10 AM- 2 PM
Fossil Park

DHCA Saturday Breakfast
Saturday, October 19 at 9 AM
The Burg Diner
Historic Kenwood
1st Wednesday of the month at 7 PM
Metro Wellness

Disston Heights Civic Association
2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM
St. Pete Community Church

Garden Manor Lake Estates
2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM
J.W. Cate Recreation Center

Ponce de Leon
3rd Thursday of the month at 7 PM
Gladden Park Recreation Center

Station View
November 19th at 6:30 PM
30th Ave. Baptist Church

St. Pete Heights
November 26 at 7 PM
Gladden Park Recreation Center

COPNAtoberfest
Saturday, October 19 at 6 PM
Three Daughters Brewing

St. Petersburg Science Festival
Saturday, October 19th from 10 AM - 4 PM
USF St. Pete Waterfront

Out of Darkness: Community Walk to Prevent Suicide
Saturday, October 19th at 6 AM - 1 PM
South Straub Park

Howl-O-Fest
Saturday, October 19th from 2-9 PM
JW Cate Recreation Center

HKNA BungalowFest
Saturday, November 2 from 10AM - 4PM
Historic Kenwood

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