Hello, Neighbors!

I hope you have been enjoying the balmy fall weather we have been having! Please enjoy this edition of the District 8 Newsletter and, as always, let me know if you have any questions or concerns I can help with at amy.foster@stpete.org or by calling 727-893-7148. - Amy

Dining for Art and The Grand Mingling

Last year, Historic Kenwood hosted the first annual Dining for Art Fundraiser and was able to commission artists to transform the benches in Seminole Park into works of art with the proceeds. Dining for Art is a series of events hosted by residents in Historic Kenwood. This year, the number of hosts has more than doubled with a wide range of events. From Backyard Burgers, Brats and Beer to a 1920's speakeasy themed– a five course meal, there is something for everyone! Volunteer hosts of each event donate all the meals so every dollar you spend on Dining for Art will go toward the Historic Kenwood Public Art Fund. This year, a new "grand finale" event called the Grand Mingling has also been added. The Grand Mingling will feature champagne and desserts at the recently renovated Kenwood Gables B&B as well as all of the featured artists from the Artist Enclave of Historic Kenwood. One or two works of visual art will be at many parties, but at the Grand Mingling, you’ll be able to visit with the artist and see a showcase all of the art. Events are intentionally small and they do sell out. For more information on each event and to purchase tickets, click here.

Data Breach

The City of St. Petersburg utilizes a software product called Click2Gov to provide our customers with the ability to pay for utility bills, parking tickets, business licenses, building permits, and civil citations online. On Thursday, September 27, the city was informed by Click2Gov that it found malicious software on the server. The city’s payment site was immediately shut down to prevent any further unauthorized access. This security breach only affects those who made credit card payments for utility bills, parking tickets, business licenses, building permits, or civil citations online between August 11 -September 25, 2018. If you have questions or concerns, please call 727-893-7111, or check out our website for updated information.

Come Out St. Pete

The Second Annual Come Out St. Pete series of events will take place October 4 - 11 in the Grand Central District and surrounding areas. The events aim to celebrate “coming out of the closet and into the world” for the LGBTQ community. The Come Out St Pete events coincide with National Coming Out Day on October 11. For more information and details on the extensive list of events, visit their website at https://www.comeoutstpete.org/
Face of District 8: Meet David!

Meet David Foote, the new Executive Director of the Grand Central District! A current resident of North Kenwood, David moved to St. Petersburg 8 years ago after falling in love with its small town feel and creative vibe. David is excited to use his skills as an artist, graphic designer, and educator to work with local non-profit organizations and small businesses. He plans to help organizations with consulting for event planning, project management, and website design. His work can already been seen all around District 8 as he created the branding for Historic Kenwood’s Bungalow Fest, Pinot in the Park, Dining for Art and The Artist Enclave as well as Central Avenue Solstice. He believes every local business owner has a reason for why they started their company and why they selected Grand Central as a location. Understanding each business, helping them succeed, and growing the District are David’s passions. Look out for David and his designs at a local business or event near you!

SHINE Mural Festival

Every year, October brings the return of the SHINE Mural Festival in St. Petersburg. This year the festival will run from October 6th through 14th with at least 19 artists participating. This event put on yearly by the St. Pete Arts Alliance, draws visitors from near and far to see murals created in action. For information on volunteer opportunities, mural locations, and artist biographies, visit: http://shineonstpete.com/.

Are You Registered?

October 9th is the last day to register to vote for the general election in November. To register or find out if you’re registered, click here. This year there are many important issues to vote on in addition to political candidates. The Florida League of Cities has a summary of these proposed amendments you can read here. If you still have questions regarding voting, contact the St. Petersburg Chapter of the League of Women Voters by clicking here.

LGBT Welcome Center Grand Reopening

The LBGTQ Welcome Center, a project of Metro Wellness & Community Centers has recently reopened and will be hosting an open house on Saturday, October 6th at 1 pm during the Come Out St. Pete event. The Welcome Center features local tourism information and sells Kahwa Coffee, Working Cow Ice Cream, and various items from their LGBTQ+ artist/maker
boutique. The Welcome Center aims to also act as a gathering place where people can host private meetings and attend a wide range of educational and social programming and events. The LGBTQ Welcome Center will be open Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday: 12 noon – 5 p.m. The LGBTQ Welcome Center offers an important community service to all that live, work, and visit St. Petersburg and the surrounding area. For more information about the Welcome Center, visit their website at http://lgbtwelcomecenter.com/ and for additional information about Come Out St. Pete visit https://www.comeoutstpete.org/.

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Have a business, person, or event to be featured in the newsletter? Email: kayleigh.sagonowsky@stpete.org