Flood Insurance Update!

As many people know, fighting for affordable and accessible flood insurance for the residents of St Petersburg is one of my greatest passions.

95% of District 2 sits in a special flood hazard zone which means that if you have a mortgage on your property you are required to carry flood insurance. Even if you don’t have a mortgage it is encouraged that you still carry a policy to protect yourself no matter what zone you live in. If you don’t and your home floods in a storm or from rising waters, you may only be eligible for the average FEMA grant which is approximately $3,000-$8,000.

Many property owners find themselves in a position for various reasons where the National Flood Insurance Program is the only policy they are able to acquire. Come July 31st, this program is set to expire if Congress does not vote to extend it.

One Community Plan

On June 7th, City Council approved the allocation of $100,000 to the One Community Plan. One Community aims to create economic growth in South St. Petersburg, a 25 sq. mile area south of Central Ave. The South St. Petersburg Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) makes up about 29% of this area. The One Community Plan is a joint effort from members of The 2020 Plan team, The New Deal team, Collective Empowerment Group of Tampa Bay, and Pinellas County Urban League. Pinellas County Urban League will serve as the primary meeting place and will also manage the allocated funds. The plan specifically addresses all of the redevelopment and economic growth plans that have come before it, saying that they have not made enough impact on South St. Pete. Their goal is not to replace any of these former plans, rather to act as the glue. By gathering input from members of each team, they will be able to see the bigger picture, connecting resources that already exist and filling the remaining gaps. With planning now officially underway, organizers anticipate unveiling the 10 year comprehensive plan next Spring.

How to Reach your Congressman and Senators

Congressman Charlie Crist, FL 13
St Petersburg Office Location
696 1st Avenue North, Suite 203
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: (727) 318-6770
re-authorize the program. This can cause affordability issues, lack of home sales, and overall instability in the market. Not to mention the fact that we are currently in hurricane season!

In order to get Congress to act, we need your help! Please contact your Congressman and Senators today and ask them to issue a long term re-authorization to the National Flood Insurance Program. Included in this issue is your representatives contact information if you live in St Petersburg. I also have included the link to look up your representatives if you live elsewhere! We are stronger together! ACT NOW! -Brandi

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**San Martin Bridge Update**

The San Martin Bridge will soon be replaced because of its deteriorating condition and non-compliance with high level clearance elevations. Pinellas County has been studying three replacement alternatives for the bridge as well as enhancements to the nearby North Bay Trail between Macoma Drive to Gandy Boulevard. Alternative number one shifts the bridge and trail to the west and would cost $12.290 million. Alternative two replaces the bridge and trail in its current footprint for $11.373 million. And alternative three shifts the bridge and trail to the east and would cost about $13.753 million. All three alternatives would create a new bridge with an estimated 75 years of useful life.

Stakeholder input was assessed and found the majority people prefer the third, east alternative. Funding for the construction of the bridge was proposed in the Penny for Pinellas IV budget. On June 12, 2018 the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners recommended consultants complete their analysis of necessary work and costs with the stakeholder preferred alternative. [Click here for the latest updates!](#)
Community Input

City staff will be hosting a number of community input meetings in the coming months related to affordable housing. Please join us to share your thoughts!

Building Typologies
July 10 from 6-8 p.m.
St. Pete Main Library

Building Typologies
July 17 from 6-8 p.m.
Enoch Davis Center

Housing Affordability
August 7 from 6-8 p.m.
St. Pete Main Library

Parking and Transportation
August 21 from 6-8 p.m.
St. Pete Main Library

TBRPC Resiliency Coalition

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TRBPC) recently formed a Resiliency Coalition to address sea level rise and climate change issues across county lines. TRBPC members from Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee Counties plan on coordinating mitigation activities to prevent economic, environmental, and social health damage to our highly vulnerable area. I am proud to say I have been appointed to this coalition as an elected official representing the City of St Petersburg. Members of the Coalition will be experts in a variety of fields, working together to develop a Regional Resiliency Action Plan. The Action Plan will use data to provide technical assistance to communities, recommend legislative strategies, and coordinate community involvement. The Coalition’s first step is asking each municipality in the region to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would formally create the Resiliency Coalition. I am pleased to invite a member of the TBRPC staff to the July 12, 2018 St. Petersburg City Council meeting to present the MOU to Council for their review, consideration, and vote to endorse.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Council Member Brandi Gabbard

Email Brandi

727-893-7232