District 2 Town Hall

Hello Everyone! I hope you are having a wonderful September so far. The year has flown by and I am looking forward to the last quarter of my first year on council. In an effort to fulfill my commitment of accessibility and transparency in city government to the residents of District 2 and St Petersburg, I am excited to announce that this October I will be hosting the first annual District 2 Town Hall!

The event will focus on issues important to District 2 such as public safety, transportation, community involvement, housing programs, water and sewage issues, and flood insurance. During the first part of the event, residents can visit informational booths to connect to resources and ask specific questions. The during the second part of the event I will host a question and answer session. The Town Hall is on Tuesday, October 9th at Fossil Park Recreation Center from 6 - 7:30 p.m.


Looking forward to seeing you there!

Brandi

Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Revitalization Program

The Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative is a new program offering home repairs to homeowners throughout Pinellas County. Habitat can help with aging in place modifications, such as ramps, critical home repairs like roof replacements, exterior enhancements such as paint and landscaping, and energy efficient upgrades. Homeowners must fit in a specific income range to qualify for the 0% interest 10 year loan. This is an excellent opportunity for residents of District 2 to partner with a local non-profit to make some much needed upgrades to their homes and increase their home's value. I have met with the leaders from Habitat regarding this program and give it my full endorsement.

For more information, click here or call 727-536-4755 ext. 401
Last month, City Council voted to increase water rates. The new rates will take effect October 1st. Councilwoman Gabbard is aware and very sympathetic to the burden this will add to many households. However, the increase is necessary in order to repair the City’s aging infrastructure, prevent future system failures, and ensure fiscal responsibility. A typical customer utility bill will increase by $6.91 or $10.78 for reclaimed water customers. For more information, click here.

The 2019 Fiscal Year Budget will soon be approved by City Council. Your last chance to give public comment will be at the Thursday, September 20th Council meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. For details on the FY 2019 budget, click here.

Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF)

The Solar and Energy Loan Fund, or SELF, is a new non-profit St Pete. This nonprofit organization offers affordable loans for home improvements that improve energy efficiency, wind resilience, disability access, and more. SELF is unique from traditional banks because they are mission driven. As a certified Community Development Financial Institution, they are required to provide at least 60% of their loans to working class households. SELF also helps homeowners by taking steps beyond just providing loans. They vet all contractors they work with and help with project management all along the way. Homeowners now have another place to turn when you need help replacing a broken AC, putting on a new roof, updating your plumbing, etc. SELF often helps homeowners with credit issues, fixed incomes, or those who’ve been turned down for financing in the past. Local contractors benefit from the program by offering an additional financing option to clients and keeping more of their hard-earned business.

The SELF program has been operating in St Lucie County since 2011. The City of St Petersburg provided a grant to SELF in 2017 in order to bring a local office here to serve our residents. A simultaneous grant was given to the St Pete Solar Co-op program to leverage the two programs and make residential solar more affordable for a broader financial spectrum of homeowners. By working with innovative programs like SELF, our City is making St Pete a better place to live. SELF is here to help homeowners lower electric bills and improve quality of life at home, and help the City meet our forward-thinking sustainability goals. Interested homeowners and contractors can reach the local program manager, Jessica Lewis, by calling 727-315-3223.

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