ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

• The City of St Petersburg Business Assistance is recruiting small businesses that meet the new Small Business Enterprise (SBE) program criteria and are interested in doing business with the City of St Petersburg to become certified through the city’s certification program. The SBE is a race and gender neutral program intended to enhance contracting and procurement opportunities for small business enterprises domiciled in Pinellas Pasco, Polk, Hillsborough or Manatee County in the areas of construction, services, professional services, and supplies. New criteria for SBEs can be found at http://www.stpete.rg/pdf/newsbeparogram.df. For more information, call the BAC at 893-7146.

• The Third Annual Small Business Success Seminar was held Saturday, September 15, in the College of Business on the USF St. Petersburg campus. This seminar was presented by SCORE (Counselors to America’s Small Business) in collaboration with the City of St. Petersburg Business Assistance and the USF St. Petersburg College of Business. Seminar participants learned about the importance of “Money, Marketing and Management” in the success of their businesses, disaster preparedness, insurance, accounting, legal matters and cash flow management. Additionally, a representative from Washington Mutual shared information about the services they provide small businesses. Contact a SCORE counselor at the City of St. Petersburg Business Assistance Center 893-7146.

• Student volunteers from Eckerd College continue to make a big difference with Midtown business in large and small ways. Whether cleaning floors, bottling BBQ Sauce, helping a business set up at the Saturday Market, re-organizing merchandise, assisting at grand openings and ribbon cuttings, building a web page or recipe mapping for a restaurant the students have not only provided needed services to the small businesses along the major midtown corridors but have gained greater insight into the intricacies of operating a small business.

• New Businesses—Some of the new businesses which opened in the Midtown area include:
  * Savannah’s Café, 1113 Central Avenue
  * Gillie’s Take-out BBQ, 2401 Central Avenue
  * St. Pete Café, 1939 Central Avenue
  * Press 2315 Wine and Sandwich Bar, 2315 Central Avenue
  * Wireless Toyz, (Twin Brooks Commons), 2164 34th Street South
  * Luv Ya Style Clothing, 1566 16th Street South
  * The Kitchen, 409 Central Avenue
  * Tan Central, 2101 Central Avenue
  * Total Beauty Salon and Spa, 2244 1st Avenue North
*My Beauty Supply, (Tangerine Plaza) 1778 22nd Street South
*Suit World (Tangerine Plaza), 1754 22nd Street South
*The Dressing Room, 2430 Central Avenue
*Tedesco’s Grillside, 437 Central Avenue
*Tribu Gallery of Fine Crafts, 3660 22nd Avenue South
*Meme’s Beauty Gallery (Tangerine Plaza), 1782 22nd Street South
*Caribbean Castle, 3441 Central Avenue
*Amazing Soft Ice Cream, 2329 Central Avenue

- Other business news:
  *Kizmet-Old School Cafe* 1101 First Avenue North has new ownerships, a new menu and a variety of entertainment options.
  *Dr. Frogue’s Hairstyling* has relocated to 2535 Dr. M.L. King Street South
  *Commercial Bedding*, 661 40th Street South, has launched a new mattress line.
  *August 24, 2007, Mayor Rick Baker along with several members of City Council and dignitaries participated in a Ribbon Cutting to recognize all the tremendous growth within the **Grand Central Business District**. The District spans from 19th Street North to 31st Street North along Central Avenue. In the past year 40+ new businesses have opened doors in the Grand Central area.

  *Twigs and Leaves*, 1013 M.L. King Street S, a Florida native plant and organic nursery, has been selected by the City Beautiful Commission as recipient of the 2007 City Beautiful Award. The recognition is give to local businesses that have achieved excellence in landscaping and building design.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- **SunTrust Bank** has received site plan approval to construct a 3-story, 12,000 square foot full service bank facility with drive-through and offices at 2240 18th Avenue S in Midtown St. Petersburg.

- With the exception of the interior build-out of the first floor, renovation of the **Manhattan Casino** is complete. The two-story historic landmark located on 22nd Street S was constructed in the early twenties and is listed as a local historical landmark. To date, no end user has been identified for the facility. However, plans are to facilitate use that will preserve the historical structure.

- **TACRA** Commercial Plan includes housing includes information on SunTrust.
• **Midtown Post Office** Renaming Ceremony was held on August 21. The facility was named in honor of Morris W. Milton, a local attorney who committed himself to bettering the St. Petersburg community through his legal, civic and political efforts.

• **Teketa Marshall**, a records technician with the City of Gulfport has joined the Midtown Economic Development Staff as the Weed and Seed Safe haven Coordinator. Teketa will be working closely with Janis Ford, who manages the Weed and Seed initiative.

• **Habitat for Humanity**, an organization noted for building affordable housing in urban areas has added a "green" component, using insulated foam concrete to make its homes even more affordable. The Pinellas County Habitat will be dedicating a “green home” in St. Petersburg, Saturday, December 29, 9 a.m., 2801 2nd Avenue S.

**EDUCATION:**

• During his 2007-08 **Top Apple Award Ceremony**, Mayor Rick Baker recognized 17 schools that, based on State of Florida rating, earned an “A” or improved their rating from the previous year. Award winners included one high school, two middle schools and 14 elementary schools. Top Apple recognition was also given to the school’s principals, assistant principals and corporate partners.

• **James Weldon Johnson Branch Library** has a new librarian, Kathy Dort, who brings 25 years of public library experience. Among Ms. Dort’s objectives as the new librarian are to partner with local businesses and organizations to strengthen the library’s role as the center for community information and to develop literacy and innovative programs teens.

**CULTURAL ARTS**

• **The Carter G. Woodson African American Museum** first exhibit for 2007 was Tuskegee Airman, an exhibit that honored World War II African American aviators. During the tenure of the exhibit, three original airmen shared their stories. Close friends to the airmen Lynn Homan and Thomas
Reilly, authors of a book about the Airmen and the design team for the exhibit, shared their experiences with the airmen and how they created the exhibit. The museum will close the year with, “Legacy of Courage Vision and Hope, an exhibit that celebrates the contributions of African American in the legal Community of Pinellas County. Call 323-1104

- **The Courageous Twelve**, as they have become known, twelve African American St. Petersburg Police Officers who, in 1965, a time of racial discord, filed a lawsuit against the St. Petersburg Police department for discrimination were honored during a special reception followed by public recognition of their sacrifice and courage during the City Council meeting.

- **St. Petersburg hosted the Sixth Biennial Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network Conference** at the Bayfront Hilton Hotel, April 24-27. The conference featured local historian and author Dr. Ray Arsenault, who is the John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History at the University of South Florida and Bob Jeffrey and Rick Smith with the City of St Petersburg Development Services Historic Preservation Division.

- **The St. Petersburg Museum of History hosts “Link to the Next Generation”** The exhibit tells the story of the St. Petersburg Chapter of LINKS Inc, a group of dedicated African American women who serve as role models, mentor, activities and service to the St. Petersburg community. Call 894-1052.

- Studio@620, 62 First Ave. S hosted an Opening Reception hosted **Midtown Through Our Eyes - 2007**, the results of the fourth Midtown Summer Journalism camp, a joint effort by journalism staff at Melrose Elementary and John Hopkins Middle schools. Camp participants explored Midtown’s local business community and captured them and their owners in a series of photos, several of which were used in a 2008 “Midtown Through Our Eyes” calendar.

**JOBS AND LIVEABLE WAGES**

- In July 2005 City Council approved the recommendation that the Department of Labor (DOL) be afforded the opportunity to purchase and development of Dome Industrial Pilot area by constructing a Job Corps training facility on the 16- acre parcel located at the corner of 22nd Street and 5th Avenue S. Communication with the HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) and DOL continue and the project is moving
forward. For more information, contact Mike Psarakis at 727-893-7500 or visit www.stpete.org/dipp.

- The Louise Graham Regeneration Center, located at 2301 13th Avenue S, is a not-for-profit organization that provides life skills and job training and employment for developmentally disabled adults. Employability skills, work experience, and pre-vocational opportunities are provided through the ongoing regeneration (recycling) and sale of paper products and cleaning solutions.

- WorkNet Pinellas, one of the major job matching organizations in Pinellas County operates two One Stop Career Center in St. Petersburg, the St. Petersburg College Midtown Center at 1048 22nd Street S and the Downtown St. Petersburg One Stop Center at 624 First Avenue S. The major function of WorkNet is to help employers with the recruitment of qualified candidates and assist job seekers in gaining meaningful employment.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- The exhibit “A Legacy of Courage Vision and Hope at the Carter G. Woodson African American Museum, 2240 9th Avenues South through July 31, 2008. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 323-1104 for an appointment or more information.

- Kwanzaa 2007 events December 26 through January 1. Call Raynetta at 820-0240 for locations and times

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday activities:
  - Jan 17 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. High School Essay Contest Finals. Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. S. 7 p.m. Oratorical presentations & awards. Free. 727-893-7803
  - Jan. 20 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ecumenical Service Interfaith gathering & worship service. Location and speaker to be announced. 4 p.m.
Jan. 20 - 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Justice National Festival of Bands. Tropicana Field. 6:15 p.m. to midnight. High school and university marching bands from across the nation perform famous half time drills and drumline competition as a special salute and tribute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. $15 VIP seating. $12 at gate. $10 in advance at Ticketmaster; Tropicana Field Box office after Jan 7th; Looking Good Men's Fashion Stores (in Tampa, St. Pete and Bradenton); and at Enoch Davis Center. mlkholidaylegacy@aol.com or 327-0085.

Jan. 21 - Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Awards Breakfast.

Jan. 21 - 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Justice National Parade. 3rd Ave. S. & Dr. MLK St. to Central Ave. to the waterfront. 1:15 to 4 p.m. Festive parade commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. featuring marching bands, community leaders and groups, floats and lots of fun. Free. www.spmlkparade.com; 727-327-0085; or e-mail, mlkholidaylegacy@aol.com.


- Tropicana Field Redevelopment Public Meeting, Wednesday, January 9, 6 p.m. Tropicana Field. Please RSVP by Monday, January 7 to business@stpete.org or call 893-7100. Parking is FREE in the Tropicana Field lots. Enter through the Rotunda (Gate 1) via 3rd Avenue S.

- March 1, Saturday - The National Pan Hellenic Council-St Petersburg presents "Stomp the Bay" Step Show at St Petersburg College Gym, 7 p.m., emceed by the producer of blockbuster movie hit, "Stomp the Yard", William Packer, Jr.

- Small Business Networking Breakfast, a series of free monthly networking opportunities for small businesses within the local community, third Wednesday of each month. Please make reservations at sbdc@stpt.usf.edu.