



NORTHEAST JOURNAL

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St. Petersburg, FL
EST. SEPTEMBER 2004

Good People ∞ Good Places ∞ Good Things Happening

Preserve the 'Burg Turns 40: Preserving History, Making History

Livia Zien

Cities rich in history have a patchwork of buildings, old and new, historic and modern architectures, side by side. How do cities like Rome or Paris become treasures of the world today? Time. Quality. Care.

Organizations like St. Petersburg Preservation – recently rebranded as Preserve the

'Burg – are doing just that: serving as champions for making sure future generations can enjoy the 'Burg's interesting and eclectic heritage.

It was a beautiful evening at Nova 535, an historic event space on 9th Avenue North, as Preserve the 'Burg celebrated its 40th anniversary this past January with a party and

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Dr. Susie Wehr and Guy Keim stand in front of their Welch's Mediterranean Row home with Robin Reed, board member of Preserve the 'Burg

Light Rail? We Had It! Part 1 of 2

Will Michaels

St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay have struggled with the need for light rail for generations. Sometimes we forget that light rail is grounded in what was once known as streetcars or trolleys. The term light rail was coined in 1972 to essentially describe evolved streetcars. These evolutions included use of exclusive rights-of-way rather than public streets; use of multiple-unit trains rather than single streetcars; and use of high platforms for access rather than street-level platforms. Nevertheless, light rail has far more in common with historic trolley systems than differences. Both modes essentially seek to transport people conveniently, quickly and cheaply. While trolleys pre-date most automobiles, over time they also served to avoid heavy traffic, pollution,

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This postcard picture has it all – horse drawn carriages, auto (right), and a trolley. Notice the Detroit Hotel tower and the Electric Light & Power Company smoke stacks. The St. Petersburg & Gulf Electric Railway Company was organized about 1902 and began trolley service in 1904. This card is postmarked 1909, image circa 1905.



Old Northeast residents Cecelia Messina and Doug O'Dowd and Susie Hellman Spatafora of the St. Petersburg Opera Company with opera star Lara Lynn McGill (right)

The Musical Stars In Our Neighborhood

Sara W. Hopkins

If you're walking the dog in the neighborhood and you hear a lilting aria from Puccini's *La Bohème* floating down to the sidewalk, you could surmise one of two things: your neighbors are either incredibly talented or incredibly gracious.

Our very own St. Petersburg Opera Company has relied on our neighbors in the Old Northeast, Snell Isle, Crescent Lake, and Crescent Heights to host visiting opera singers, musicians, and behind-the-scenes talent.

Now in its twelfth season, the SPO requires housing for 18-20 guest artists for each of its four mainstage productions throughout the year. Singers are typically in town for four-to-six weeks or longer, depending on the performance or whether they're part of SPO's Emerging Artist program. Even behind-the-scenes talent – including makeup artists, costumers, stage managers, and the stage director – will often travel in from elsewhere and often require housing for one-to-four weeks.

LOCAL HOST FAMILIES

Susie Hellman Spatafora, associate director of development for SPO – and a talented opera singer herself – coordinates the host families and guest artists.

"We can't thank our host families enough," Susie says. "They've become another branch of our opera family. Some of them started volunteering without knowing much about opera, and now they're devoted fans. We always provide them tickets to the mainstage productions and quarterly donor appreciation events."

Old Northeast residents Cecelia Messina and Douglas O'Dowd have housed three artists: Lara Lynn McGill and Kelli Butler, who are performing in SPO's most recent production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, and Stéphanie Lessard, who was in *Faust* last fall.

Home to a musically gifted family, the Messina/O'Dowd residence is often full of music, even now that their eldest son, Liam, is away at college. Liam's younger brother, Aidan, a pianist and high school student, is getting to know the opera singers who have moved in for a few weeks. Aidan admits that having the artists live in their home was "a little weird at first, but we became friends pretty fast. They're really interesting people."

As Cecelia and Doug explain, all of the singers they've hosted have been very professional and independent, taking care of their own laundry, food, and cleaning up after themselves. They are courteous house guests and always appreciate the warm welcome they receive from families in the area. "It's never been an imposition," says Doug. "The singers have been extremely respectful."

Continued on page 30




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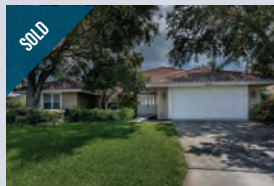
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

I'm a naturally curious person. And, as such, I research, investigate, surf, and wander all over the internet and throughout my communities. I've always been fascinated by people and what makes them and their groupings tick (thus the degree in Anthropology). While I have been featuring "good people, good places and good things happening" in my papers for years, I am now ready to distill and solidify the content into universally human themes.

In this day and age (and in eras and civilizations of yore), we seem to be at a point where differences, anger, hatred, intolerance, polarization, and destruction are the default reactions. I believe that it is our responsibility as humans inhabiting a planet to transcend these defaults now. It honestly does not matter on which side of the aisle you lean, or how silver or tarnished your spoon was at birth; what matters is that you are a human and Earth is our home.

As a publisher of good-news-only content, I want to continue to celebrate all that is good in Northeast St. Pete and beyond. And, what I deem as good happens to be what I believe are the universal core themes that make us all tick.

The goal is to transcend our ego beliefs and find that common ground where all humans can't help but agree!

- Pure love
- Importance of history and a sense of place
- Contribution, sharing, and collaboration
- Respect and reverence for our natural world
- Importance of the arts and expression
- Health – individual, societal, and global
- Community

Here are some sub-categories that I find fascinating:

- Business/commerce as a force for good
- Food as medicine
- Importance of mentors and educating our youth
- Importance of tolerance, understanding, and acceptance
- Respect for and reliance on the wisdom of our elders

Let us know which of these resonate with you and what other ones you would add. We will be using these themes to help guide future content while always focusing on our community and the good people, good places, and good things happening within it!

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 To our greater good,
Jen

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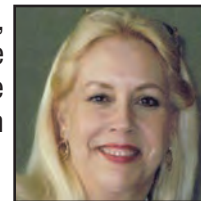
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MEET THE WRITERS

We would like to sincerely thank and introduce our contributors. The time and talent they dedicate to writing about good people, good places, and good things happening is what makes the *Northeast Journal* the quality publication that our readers have come to expect and love.

Jeannie Carlson is a correspondent for Tampa Bay Newspapers, Inc. and an adjunct professor of English at local colleges in the area. A resident of the Old Northeast since 2000, she is the publicity/entertainment chair for the Suncoast Scandinavian Club. [carlburn@tampabay.rr.com]



Rick Carson has lived in St. Pete since 2001, after a career journey that took him from national Republican politics to the innkeeper of a B&B – from the cesspools of Washington to cleaning guestroom toilets (ask him if there is any difference). [nsnaeditor@aol.com]



Linda Dobbs, 12-year ONE resident; lived/worked in 10 states and three continents; a journalist/editor for 40 years; member of City's International Relations Committee and Dali Guild; Tai Chi enthusiast; docent-in-training at Sunken Gardens. Husband Bob, 3 children, 3 grandchildren. [linda_dobbs@yahoo.com]



Sara W. Hopkins has lived in Chicago, New York, London, and Los Angeles prior to St. Petersburg. She is a former literary agent and now is vice president of a local corporate training company. In her spare time, she writes novels and screenplays.



Diana Krause Geegan, a UCF grad, taught school and later excelled in the financial services field. She found her passion in real estate and utilizes her skills and training as a successful realtor. She loves spending time with friends and family, studying God's Word and giving back to the St. Pete community.



Will Michaels is retired as executive director of the History Museum and has served as president of St. Petersburg Preservation and vice president of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum of African American History. He is the author of *The Making of St. Petersburg*. [wmichaels2@tampabay.rr.com]



Janan Talafer A long-time Snell isle resident, Janan is the editor of the *Northeast Journal* and enjoys writing about people and places in St. Petersburg. She loves swing dancing, blues music, and gardening, even when the weeds threaten to overtake the yard. [janantalafer@gmail.com]



Gay Wasik-Zegel moved to St. Petersburg five years ago after retiring as a school media specialist. She is the author of a children's book *Stop Means Stop!* She enjoys gardening, yoga, biking, volunteering, and living in the best city in Florida. [gwzegel@gmail.com]



Livia Zien moved to the area from Washington, DC in 2000. She married, traveled, and changed careers from electrical engineering to culinary arts to teaching math. Livia (who also enjoys running and swimming) and her husband Greg love life in the ONE with their two kitties.



A TREASURE HUNT

More About Our Treasure-Hunt Tree

Linda Dobbs

There is a winner for the ‘mystery’ tree featured in *Finding the Tree – A Treasure Hunt* in last month’s *Northeast Journal*! Marianne Skarupa identified the famous 60-to-70-foot-tall *Tabebuia* tree that stands proudly along Coffee Pot Boulevard NE near the corner of 23rd Avenue NE.

She emailed this response: “Oh, now I wish I had read through your latest issue of the *Northeast Journal* as soon as I received it, because I know exactly which tree you mean. It’s the beautiful *Tabebuia* on Coffee Pot. I’m sure I’m not the first to identify it. Thanks. Marianne.” Well – she *was* the first!

As of this writing, it is in full bloom and hopefully still has some flowers on it when you receive this month’s edition of the *Journal*.

Regrettably, the five clues for this specimen and the other trees in our area were inadvertently not printed last month – so, so, sorry! But, the hunt can continue. Let’s see if the

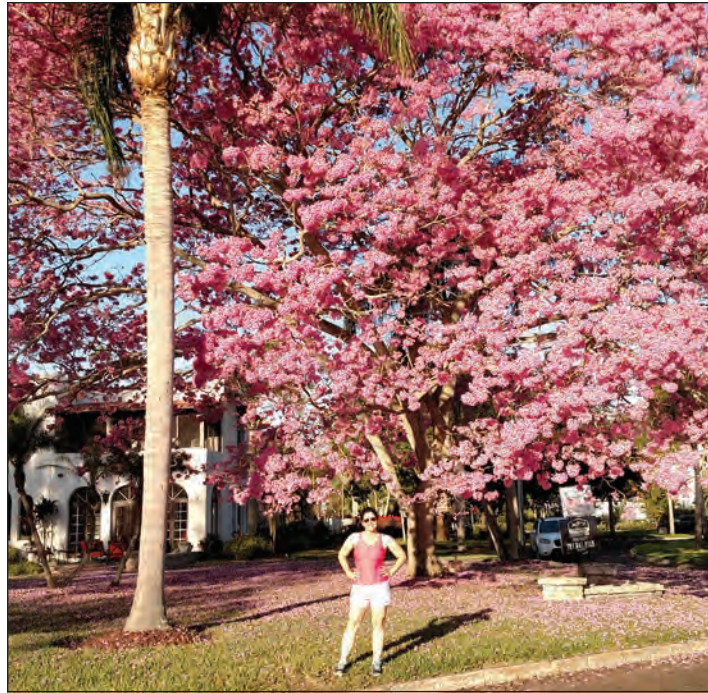
other four trees can be found by someone with a sharp eye and a good memory since only the first two of the five trees have bloomed so far. Go sleuths!

The first clue, of course, referred to the Coffee Pot tree.

The second clue refers to the really large tree located behind an animal ‘business’ on the east side of Fourth Street N, at a teen-numbered street. It is only noticed when in bloom. There is a video-lighted sign in front of the building.

The third clue points to the medium-sized tree on the west corner of Beach Drive and a teen-numbered street. It is planted between the numbered street and the sidewalk.

The fourth clue references the smallish tree (7-8 feet?), grown from a seedling



of the mother tree. It was planted five years ago (hasn’t bloomed yet) in an area near the amphitheater section of a local public garden, which is one of the oldest roadside attractions in Florida – so it’s a perfect place for our wonderful tree!

The fifth clue denotes the really small tree (4-5 feet) that is another seedling from the mother tree. It was planted in a nearby yard three years ago. It is not blooming this year, so it will be tricky to find. While admiring the mother tree on Coffee Pot, walk south, turn right at the next street (a tree name), go half a block (just one house), and then turn right again at the busy avenue. Walk west, staying on the north side of the avenue, crossing the alley. Then, pass one house and keep looking – at eye level, not up – and you will spot the tree standing proudly in the side yard of an historic Mediterranean home. Please don’t trespass – you can see it from the sidewalk.

Unfortunately, a 12-year-old tree in Tampa from the ‘mother’ tree was blown over by Hurricane Irma. The 80- or 90-year-old tree on Coffee Pot was lifted up slightly by the same hurricane, but with the addition of loads of dirt on the uplifted roots, it seems to have recovered and bloomed as usual!

The first person to identify the locations of the other four trees will have their name and photo in the *Journal*’s next edition! You can look up *Tabebuia* online and see pictures of the flowers and the leaves to help with your search.

Hope to hear from a tenacious tree lover who finds all the trees or at least some of them. Email me at linda_dobbs@yahoo.com. ●

Hint: You can find the answers to this quest elsewhere in this issue of the Northeast Journal.

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Crescent Heights Teen Eagle Scout Gives Back

Wendy Giffin

Mitchell Giffin, a member of West Central Florida Boy Scout Troop 236 and Crescent Heights resident, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank a scout can achieve. For his Eagle Scout project, Mitchell, a junior at Calvary Christian High School, replaced all of the signs along the four-mile Weedon Island Canoe and Kayak Trail.

The Weedon Island trail for canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddle boards is a Pinellas County recreational destination, and a beautiful aquatic paddle trail through mangrove ecosystems. The project took Mitchell more than a year to complete and required raising over \$3,300, as well as installing 95 new signs and 46 new poles. Mitchell put in 327 volunteer hours in difficult conditions to complete the project.

Mitchell's project was not just about aesthetics; it was also a safety issue. The County was experiencing numerous distress calls from paddlers who were lost on the trail and in need of emergency rescue. The new signage now safely guides canoe and kayak enthusiasts along this beautiful trail.



Mitchell Giffin in his kayak

Mitchell says his Eagle Scout project was one of the most rewarding things he's done so far in his life. "It's a beautiful trail, but it was in desperate need of maintenance and repair," says the scout. "I am really proud that the long hours and difficulty of this project will be reflected in its service for years to come."

Numerous organizations and distinguished leaders – including United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the US Coast Guard, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, US Army, US Navy, and the American Legion – recognized Mitchell for his effort in completing his project and earning the Eagle Scout rank.

A scout since he was six years old, Mitchell has earned 27 merit badges and received numerous special awards, training, and leadership positions, such as the Arrow of Light, Leave No Trace, Troop Historian, Patrol Leader and Outdoor Ethics Guide.

Thank you to Mitchell for giving back to the community in such a rich and rewarding way. ●

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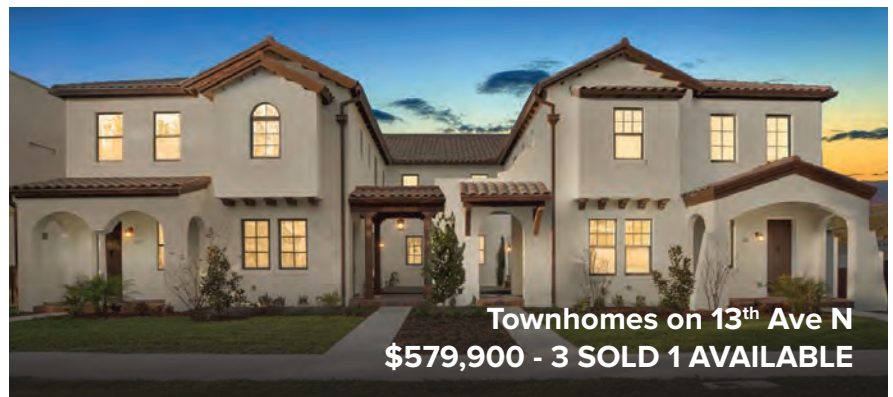


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Preserve the 'Burg continued from page 1



Panelists at Preserve the 'Burg's 40th anniversary celebration



Preserve the 'Burg's party drew a big crowd

panel discussion featuring local experts talking about the organization's accomplishments, as well as the direction for the future.

While initially Preserve the 'Burg counted just a handful of preservation activists, today the organization has over 1,000 members. "We are lucky to have a group that educates people to the city, curates and looks out for the city, and finds those jewels that are all around us," Mayor Rick Kriseman said in his opening remarks at the 40th anniversary celebration.

One of the earliest examples of public support for saving the city's historic buildings took place in 1977, when a few citizens picketed against the demolition of the 1913 American Bank and Trust Company. Unfortunately, only two columns were saved. They're now a part of the Veterans Memorial in Williams Park. But, the event ushered in a new era of interest in preservation.

Two years later, Francis McSwain Pruitt successfully launched a dramatic effort to save the historic 1901 Veillard House. Henry Dupont – of Don Cesar Hotel fame – designed this unique masonry bungalow and Queen Anne style structure. Pruitt purchased the home and moved it two blocks down to its present location at the corner of 3rd Street N and 4th

Avenue N, where it still stands today. The home was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

It's interesting to note that Ralph Veillard – the original owner of the Veillard House, and a member of City Council in 1908 – wrote the resolution of city's intention to purchase the entire downtown waterfront, preventing its development

by private investors, and thereby preserving it for all the public to enjoy. "If we didn't have the waterfront parkland, we wouldn't be what we are today," says Natalie Pruitt Judge, one of the panelists at the 40th anniversary celebration and the daughter of Francis McSwain Pruitt.

Preserving the city's history is vital, said Judge. "It's so important that we know what our identity is," she says. "This sense of place – it's an identity that people can see when they come here. It's comfortable because it's authentic."

HISTORIC OLD NORTHEAST

More recently, Preserve the 'Burg has been instrumental in helping residents in the Old Northeast apply for historic district

designation for select 'enclaves' of homes within the district. According to Emily Elwyn, Preserve the 'Burg's president and an Old Northeast resident, one of the organization's goals for 2018 is to work with property owners interested in having



Dr. Susie Wehr, Guy Keirn and Robin Reed



One of the houses in Welch's Mediterranean Row



Welch's Mediterranean Row homes were designed by C. Sedgwick Moss.

their neighborhood become an historic district. Preserve the 'Burg has a special fund to pay for district applications.

"We are excited that the homeowners in these neighborhoods have come together to seek local historic district designation," says Elwyn. "It provides them with a tool to help maintain the character that makes living in their respective neighborhood special."

Two historic designations have been approved and a third is pending. In November, the city approved 14 properties in the 200 block of 10th Avenue NE between Bay and Oak Streets. These homes were developed between 1915 and 1936 in a range of architectural styles. Last March, 10 properties in the 700 block of 18th Avenue NE between Elm and Walnut Streets were approved. These homes date back to the 1920s boom when the city's wealthier residents – many of whom were recent northern transplants – were prompted to purchase homes in the North Shore section because of its reputation as the premier residential section in one of Florida's up-and-coming communities.

Still pending is a section of 10 homes on the south of 19th Avenue NE between Bay and First Streets. Designated as Welch's Mediterranean Row, the homes were designed by C. Sedgwick Moss and constructed in 1924 and 1925 by contractor M.B. Welch. Guy Keirn and Dr. Susie Wehr feel fortunate to live in one of the distinctive homes in Welch's Mediterranean Row. "Nowhere else in the US are there 10 Mediterranean Row homes in a single block like this. We feel that we are the stewards for these houses," says Keirn.

The couple originally lived in Treasure Island, and then for a short time in a condo on Snell Isle, before buying their Old Northeast gem a year-and-a-half ago. "We looked at these houses for probably 10 years," says Keirn. "Susie told me, 'If one ever comes on the market, we're going to buy it.'" One day they drove by and saw a for-sale sign in the yard. "We hit the brakes," jokes Keirn. "We sold the condo and bought the house."

LOOKING BACK

Over the years, Preserve the 'Burg has counted both success stories and lost opportunities to save historic buildings from demolition. As panelist Dr. Ray Arsenault, a professor at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, pointed out, one of the biggest losses was the 1924 Soreno Hotel, St. Pete's first 'million-dollar' hotel. In the late 1980s, when downtown was struggling, the hotel was demolished as part of a scene in the movie *Lethal Weapon 3*. "That episode changed everything for us. It was a David and Goliath moment," says Dr. Arsenault. The Soreno became a rallying cry for preservation.

Panelist Keisha Bell – an attorney and member of the city's Community Preservation and Planning Commission – talked about Preserve the 'Burg's successful efforts to save Mercy Hospital, the only hospital open to African Americans during St. Petersburg's era of segregation. Keisha recalled a conversation with her grandmother where she learned that her mother had actually been born at the hospital, now a local landmark in the city's Midtown district. "People have emotional ties to buildings," says Bell. "If they're demolished, then history's been lost. Once we lose history, we lose our people."

Tim Clemmons, principal of Mesh Architecture, highlighted Preserve the 'Burg's efforts to create a Downtown St. Petersburg Historic District, which was approved in 2004. "We may be only 110 years old, but the city has a rich collection of historic buildings downtown," says Clemmons. He shared some of the interesting comments the group received during the application process when reviewers noted the eclectic nature of downtown buildings dating from the 1880s through the 1950s; and the city's history as a recreation, leisure, and tourist town, with the Shuffleboard Court, Lawn Bowling, and Chess Clubs as prime examples from that era.

Sharon Winters moved to the Old Northeast from Tacoma, WA, two-and-a-half years ago and was among local residents attending the event. She and her husband love the character of the city, the historic buildings, the waterfront, and walkable neighborhood. "We find there is community wherever you go, but there is a real unique sense of place here," says Winters. Her favorite building is the open-air post office, which she describes as 'quintessential Florida.' Her husband was sold on the city's bike co-op program and overall lifestyle and culture.

A librarian by training, Winters is accustomed to meticulous detail and research, and not a stranger to preservation since she founded the preservation society in Tacoma. She says HONNA – the Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association – does "a great job to support and celebrate the community, working with people who want to preserve their older homes."

As Mayor Kriseman stated during his remarks, "I feel very fortunate to live in a city where people care so much. When I travel around and talk to other mayors from other cities, I get to brag about us and organizations like this. Thank you to Preserve the 'Burg for all your hard work, and for making the sun shine so brightly here in St. Pete." ●



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The Vesper Bell Handbell Ringers Sound Out!

Gay Wasik-Zegel

*"Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme,
To the tintinnabulation
that so musically wells
From the bells, bells, bells..."*
Edgar Allan Poe

It's early evening and the lights are on inside. I exit my car, walk up a few steps, and open the door. I know that I'm in the right place because the music seems to draw me inside. The piano plays as angelic voices chime through the hands of members of the Vesper Bells hand ringers. Here at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Shore Acres, the outside world seems far away as the sanctuary fills with the bells' wordless message. Listen closely and you can hear it with your heart.

Rehearsal ends and the ringers speak enthusiastically about their love for music and for the handbells. "We love ringing!" Sylvia Babus says, speaking for the other members who smile and nod in agreement. "It really helps keep your brain active," says another choir member.

MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

It's easy to feel the group camaraderie. On this evening six of the twelve members of the choir are present. They talk about the relationships they have made within the group and emphasize the importance of teamwork and community in creating beautiful bell music. They are proud of what they do and always strive to improve through regular group practice and annual participation in the Florida State Handbell Festival.

Rebecca Kasang, a Shore Acres resident, is director of Worship and Music at Lutheran Church of the Cross and oversees the Vesper Bells hand ringers. She has a strong commitment to sharing handbell music with the community. "Most people would not hear this beautiful music unless there was a bell choir at their church," she says.

Handbells have a long history at Lutheran Church of the Cross where they



Vesper Bells rehearsal: (from left) Church accompanist Zlatina Asenova with ringers Nancy Hartney, Elaine Mussett, Sylvia Babus, Cathy Pulham, Lynn Cropper, and Janice Kilborn



It has become a tradition for Vesper Bells hand ringers to perform at HONNA's Candlelight Tour of Homes

have been an important part of the worship service since 1992. Rebecca says she became interested in handbells as a young person and played in the bell choir at her church when she was growing up. Rebecca's favorite thing about handbells is that "it's easy to become a member of a group and make music."

Here's some interesting information about handbells... The bells are usually made of bronze and can weigh from seven ounces to almost 19 pounds. They also come in different sizes. With smaller bells, two or three can be held in one hand. The larger ones

are held separately in each hand. The choir at Lutheran Church of the Cross has 61 bells, with a range of five octaves on the musical scale. Each bell corresponds to a musical note.

Players are responsible for at least two bells, each of which sounds a different note. To play a handbell, a ringer grasps the bell by a flexible handle and moves the wrist to make the hinged clapper inside the bell strike.

"The bells are turned in different directions so that you get a different bell to ring depending on which way you snap your wrist," explains Rebecca. "The technique is called 'four-in-hand' or 'six-in-hand' and is used frequently in bell solos where a single person rings all of the bells."

Players follow the musical arrangement and must ring their bell at the correct time. The arrangement also contains specific symbols for how the bells are to be rung. Music is made as all of these individual notes blend together.

Although it might sound complicated, Rebecca encourages, "If you can count and you can ring a bell, you can be a part of a handbell choir in no time." She assures that a short tutorial or two can quickly get just about anyone 'up to speed.'

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

I leave the rehearsal feeling enriched by both the people and their music,

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Rebecca Kasang, Lutheran Church of the Cross' director of worship and music

captured by a vague sense of déjà vu. So many life memories can be associated with bells. I wonder if, over time, the sound of bells has somehow woven itself into our spiritual DNA?

Throughout the world, bells have had an interesting history, dating as far back as the 5th century BC in China. During the Middle Ages, bells were thought to have special powers to drive away evil spirits. Church bells were often baptized to prepare them for this sacred duty. Handbells as we know them today are descendants of tower bells in England where ringers pulled ropes attached to each of five bells to create a melody. Rehearsals could really be annoying to neighbors who were probably glad when smaller handbells were developed. Finally, the ringers could practice inside!

The art of handbell ringing blossomed from there, peaking in the 18th century. By the 1830s to 1840s, handbells had arrived in America. Today, the heavenly sound of handbells can be enjoyed in many churches and public spaces in our city. In addition to performing at the church twice a month, The Lutheran Church of the Cross Vesper Bells hand ringers also perform at community events, including HONNA's annual Candlelight Tour of Homes and Anderson McQueen's Tree of Memory event, both held during the holiday season. The bells continue to ring out. Don't miss a chance to hear their heavenly sounds. ◆



Handbells are an important part of worship at Lutheran Church of the Cross

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

Our Community's Terrifically Talented Teens

Meredith Leonhirth

Does our city attract artistic types? Or does living here inspire our residents to develop their creative side? Especially in the neighborhoods served by the *Northeast Journal*, we seem to have an abundance of writers, painters, sculptors, and other fine artists, as well as photographers, performance artists, musicians, dancers, and singers. Why, there's even a hat maker and a fashion designer. It should come as no surprise, then, that our creative corner of town is producing exceptionally talented kids.

As the parent of a musical-theatre student, I can personally attest to that. Our daughter, Kayelin Leonhirth, has grown up surrounded by creative friends, classmates,



Three of the Shorecrest students performing in *A Chorus Line*: Mitchell Greene, Jordan Tralins (center), and Kayelin Leonhirth.

competitions. In addition to being talented thespians, they are leaders academically and impressive volunteers in community.

Kayelin is a National Honor Society student and has studied dance, voice, and acting for most of her life. She has danced at the Palladium Theater in the *Seasonal Sparkle* with the St. Petersburg Opera, and has appeared in many *Nutcracker* performances and Steinbrenner concerts at The Mahaffey, Ruth Eckerd Hall, and Straz Center. Kayelin plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in fine arts in musical theatre next fall.

Mitchell was recently named a candidate for the Presidential Scholars Program based on his perfect score on the ACT/SAT college entrance exam. A perfect score is rare. On average, less than one-tenth of one percent of



The full cast of the Shorecrest student production of *A Chorus Line*

and neighbors. We've watched countless live dramas, ballets, and musicals in our 1920s Old Northeast home performed by Kayelin, her sister, and their friends.

This spring, Kayelin will be one of 33 students who take to the stage for the Shorecrest Preparatory School production of the Broadway hit musical *A Chorus Line*. The cast and creative team are now in rehearsal six days a week, practicing lines, lyrics, and dance steps for the show which takes place April 19-21 at Shorecrest's Janet Root Theater.

If you're not familiar with *A Chorus Line*, it's set in 1975 at a Broadway theater, where the auditioning actors are taught several jazz, tap, and ballet dance combinations. After the director makes a series of cuts, 20 actors remain. Those actors then share with the audience their journey into show business through a series of song, dance, and monologue.

According to Cheryl Lee – director of performing arts for Shorecrest, and co-director and choreography for the student show – Shorecrest student Mitchell Greene has demonstrated moments of brilliance as he mixes his talents for acting, singing, and tap dancing in the role of Mike. Shorecrest student Jordan Tralins plays Sheila Bryant with wonderful vocal prowess and grace. Kayelin, who plays Cassie, embraces this powerhouse song-and-dance role with what promises to be her most inspired and accomplished performance to date.

All of the students in the show are exceptional and many have won numerous awards for their vocal, acting, and dance performances at state and district thespian

all test-takers earns the top score. Out of 2.1 million students, only 2,235 earned a perfect score! Mitchell is undecided about where he will attend college, but he hopes to continue to participate in theater wherever he ends up.

Jordan is an avid community volunteer. She is co-chairing Relay for Life at Shorecrest and has partnered with PARC to create Inspired Performers Summer Theatre program. The program facilitates a production of a Broadway show each summer for this nonprofit organization which serves children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Research finds that children who are inspired to love theater and the arts at a young age are more likely to develop creative gifts and maintain a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts. In fact, a study conducted by the University of California Los Angeles found that students involved in the arts have better academic performance, are more involved in community service, and are less likely to drop out of school.

The principal players in Shorecrest's *A Chorus Line* are RJ Ayers, Ashley Ballestra, Ceci Garcia, Carlos Gonzalez, Mitchell Greene, Oliver Hess, Will Hess, Dominic Hoefler, Evan Hoefler, Hunter Holland, Eric Jacobson, Kayelin Leonhirth, Meghan Kenneally, Olivia Olson, Reilly O'Neill, Anna Peterson, Senna Prasathong-osoith, Campbell Savage, Jordan Tralins, and Shannon Wright.

For more information about the show, please call 727-626-522-2111 or go to www.shorecrest.org. Tickets are \$20 adults and \$10 for students. ●

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AROUND THE BLOCK

OLD NORTHEAST'S NEW URBAN ART MURAL

Old Northeast residents Cecelia Messina and Douglas O'Dowd are not only fans of the St. Petersburg Opera Company (see cover story), they're also supporters of the arts in other ways as well. Last year, they commissioned two local artists to paint a mural on the side of their

historic home built in 1915, adding to St. Pete's growing and amazing collection of colorful, eclectic urban art murals. Of course, most of the murals are on downtown commercial buildings, so this might be one of the first in a residential neighborhood.

The finished piece blends images of St. Pete's historic banyan trees at

Straub Park with the iconic Snell Isle Bridge. The mural was designed by Tanya Pistillo and completed by Amanda Turner, both local artists.

"We have a small courtyard on the side of the house and wanted to put some artwork there to add some color," says Cecelia. "We thought, 'let's do a mural - something that says St. Pete.'" This month, Cecelia and Doug will hold an official 'unveiling' of the mural when they host the monthly HONNA neighborhood porch party.



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AROUND THE BLOCK

CRESCENT HEIGHTS SHOWS THE LOVE FOR HISTORIC CHURCH

When the National Trust for Historic Preservation suggested that communities nationwide show their love for historic buildings with a ‘heart bomb,’ the Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association knew just the building to honor: the Church of the Beatitudes, a local landmark dating back to 1928.

A heart bomb is like a flash mob, but instead of singing or dancing, participants gather to ‘bomb’ or shower a landmark structure with a tangible expression of affection, such as love letters or paper hearts.

On a Saturday morning in February, Crescent Heights residents of all ages came to the church with messages of love and gratitude written on large paper hearts. “The church has been part of our neighborhood for over 50 years and has really added to the character of the community,” says Jennifer Wright, president of the Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association. “It has been our local community meeting space, a polling location, and overall valued neighborhood partner.”

Unfortunately, with the current fast pace of redevelopment underway throughout St. Pete, the church – located at 2812 8th Street North – was recently sold to a Tampa Bay developer. When the Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association learned about the sale, the group reached out to the Church’s leadership team, the developer and Preserve the ‘Burg to see if



Crescent Heights residents participate in a ‘heart bomb’ for Church of the Beatitudes.

anything could be done to save it, Jennifer said. The Neighborhood Association also filed an application with the city to see if the building could receive historic landmark designation.

“We’ve been working cooperatively with everyone to see whether there is any financially viable way to save the church,” says Jennifer. “The official closing on the property is April 1. We have our fingers crossed because it could go either way.” Regardless of the outcome, though, the church was certainly showered with affection. Afterwards, Jennifer reports, the hearts were shared with the church’s congregation that Sunday.

WOMEN’S CHAMBER ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The St. Petersburg Women’s Chamber of Commerce held its annual fundraiser on Thursday, March 15 at the Club at Treasure Island. According to Barbara Marshall, publicity chair for the Women’s Chamber, proceeds from the event will benefit St. Anthony’s Mammography Voucher Program and the Day Star Life Center. The annual luncheon, titled *Saluting Our City, Recognizing the Women of St. Petersburg* included a panel discussion with Pinellas County leaders who shared their expertise about the area’s business, education, and economic development initiatives. ●

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY... 1911-2011

ST. PETE'S JEWEL ON TAMPA BAY

Rick Carson, editor • nsnaeditor@aol.com



We want to share our neighbors' thoughts about what it means to be neighborly in The Historic Old Northeast. Send your thoughts about The Historic Old Northeast (100 words or less) to nsnaeditor@aol.com. Won't you join us?

Kentucky meets St. Pete on 14th Avenue NE. Rain and smoke made for a memorable 2018 Super Bowl party on the 500 block of 14th Avenue NE. The persistent rain

couldn't hold the Hill family back from their annual traditional pig roast. The Hills had the 100-pound pig brought in from Kentucky, where their roots lie, and where the family has carried on the pig roasting tradition for over 70 years. With the rainy forecast in mind, tarps and pop-up tents were strategically placed early Sunday morning, and by 7am, the pig began to roast on the front-yard wood-burning rotisserie.

Meryl, Matt, and their children, Meara and Miles, have resided in the ONE since 2013 and love the camaraderie that the neighborhood and their block offers, with lots of young kids and the occasional impromptu block parties. After ten hours of careful attention and tending, the pig was



Matt and Meryl Hill and Meryl's father, John Blough

ready for the some 40 neighbors and friends who gathered – just in time for the big game. It seems pigs and pigskin are here to stay on 14th Avenue NE.

But, you don't have to have a suckling pig or fatted calf, or wait for the Super Bowl (or maybe a Rays World Series) for an excuse to throw a block party. Just contact the City (893-4883) for a \$40 permit to block off the street and you're ready to roll.



~ Sharon Kantner



HONNA invites and encourages you to stay connected and on top of programs, events, and other happenings in our neighborhood. Want to learn more about the neighborhood, become involved, share ideas, learn about events and dates of Porch Parties, and provide feedback? Use social media and 'Share' and 'Like'

us at www.facebook.com/honnaorg.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED:

- Visit www.honna.org
- Become a HONNA member. You'll receive periodic informative email announcements. honna.org/get-involved
- Volunteer for a project, program, or event (the Candlelight Tour of

Homes, Trunk or Treat, Porch Parties, Crime Watch). Contact Nikki Taylor at volunteers@honna.org.
 • Follow Historic Old Northeast Forever at www.historicoldnortheast-forever.org. HONF works "to preserve and protect our special neighborhood" (HONF is not affiliated with HONNA).



NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE YARD SALE... AND DOCUMENT SHREDDING

HONNA's annual neighborhood-wide yard (garage/attic/alley) sale takes place on Saturday, March 17, from 8am to 12pm. HONNA will be publicizing the event on social media beyond the 'hood, so if you want your address to be included on the interactive and printed maps that will be circulated, you need to be a HONNA member (\$30 per household) and registered as a participant (both can be done at www.honna.org). And

whatever you don't sell, you can donate (and get a donation receipt) to Goodwill, which will have a trailer to receive your 'leftovers' from 11am to 2pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

What else can you accomplish Saturday morning? HONNA members can take advantage of free, secure paper document shredding services from 9am to 1pm at the church. The Louise Graham Regeneration Service is once again providing this service. They are a local not-for-profit which provides employment for developmentally disabled adults through the recycling and sale of paper products.

So, no more procrastinating! Use this opportunity to accomplish all that spring cleaning you've been putting off for too long!

HAVE A FIELD DAY!

Come one, come all to the first annual Old Northeast Field Day scheduled for April 15 from 3pm to 6pm in the Elva Rouse section of North Shore Park (at 11th Avenue). Participants will be encouraged to engage in a series of fun and competitive events suitable for all ages. Awards will be given for team spirit, sportsmanship, and feats of athletic excellence. So celebrate finishing your tax returns, pack a picnic basket, grab a blanket,

and enjoy this Sunday funday. Please sign up in advance at www.HONNA.org and check the website and watch social media for updates on details.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

HONNA's Public Safety Committee held a meeting with our neighborhood police officer on Thursday, February 8, to discuss crime and public safety in the Old Northeast. The attempted kidnapping at gunpoint of a female jogger at 5:50am on February 7 in the 2100 block of Coffee Pot Blvd. was discussed. As reported in the *Tampa Bay Times*, officers are being stationed in the Old Northeast, and patrols are being conducted to make sure people are safe during their morning walks and workouts, and that children can play safely in their front yards. The committee also discussed ways HONNA could help to distribute information that would help residents remain vigilant about reducing the chances of being victims of crime.

While the attempted kidnapping situation could have been a lot worse, we are urging neighbors to use caution when out and about at all hours. We



also want to remind everyone to call 911 in the event of an emergency, or to call SPPD on their non-emergency line at 727-893-7780 to report any suspicious activity.

Also, we encourage neighbors with cameras (as part of your security systems, doorbells, etc.) to register your camera with the SPPD's Eagle Eye program (<http://police.stpete.org/cache/Eagle-eye2.html>) as this may help catch criminals or even obtain valuable information leading to their arrest.

Stay safe and proactive on crime in our neighborhood! For more information on our website, please visit www.honna.org. For more information about the Public Safety Committee, contact Kent Ulrich at kentu6@gmail.com.



**YOUR HISTORIC ONE:
CHARMING AND UNIQUE**

Watch a snapshot of the Historic Old Northeast in a short *Living Local* video created by St. Pete TV Production and posted on YouTube on January 5. www.youtube.com/watch?v=NY6kEUoDDp4.

PRESERVE AND PROTECT OUR HEXBLOCKS

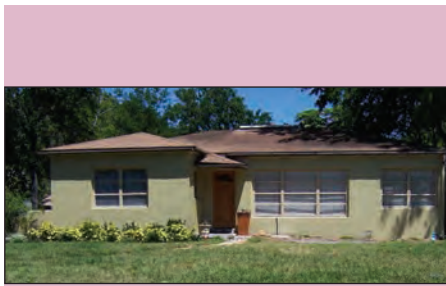
The City is required to repair damaged hexblock sidewalks without charge to homeowners. This can easily be reported using SeeClickFix.

As you are walking the dog or strolling through the neighborhood and you notice where these sidewalks need fixing, please take a moment to note the location and report it to the City.

This includes sidewalks and historic granite curbs that vehicles and construction equipment may have damaged. By city ordinance, a hexblock sidewalk in the Old Northeast cannot be replaced by ribbon concrete or stamped hexblock concrete.



"BEFORE" AND "AFTER" PHOTOS



201 17th Avenue North "Before" photo



201 17th Avenue North "After" photo



226 17th Avenue NE "Before" photo



226 17th Avenue NE "After" photo



230 24th Avenue N "Before" photo



230 24th Avenue N "After" photo

On the Calendar

Check www.honna.org for details on these and other upcoming events.

- **Saturday, March 17:**
Annual Neighborhood-wide Yard Sale; Goodwill donation and document shredding site (Westminster Church parking lot, 11th Avenue NE at 1st Street)
- **Monday, March 19:**
Quarterly Neighborhood Association meeting, Westminster Church
- **Saturday, March 31:**
Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Coffee Pot Park
- **Sunday, April 15:**
First Annual HONNA Field Day, Elva Rouse Park

FIND THE STARS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

In an effort to honor ONE homeowners for preserving or updating their home or property and investing the extra dollar to keep the character and history of their homes intact, HONNA recognizes them with the Neighborhood Star Award.

Every month, yard signs will be placed on properties to indicate an award. Watch for new stars in the neighborhood monthly, and you'll be able to find them posted on www.honna.org, in addition to HONNA's Facebook page. We invite you to be a part of this effort, so please feel free to nominate a neighbor or a refurbished property you admire in the Old Northeast. Have a home to honor? Send the information to Charleen McGrath at treasurer@honna.org.



HONNA'S SHINING STARS

American Spirits
280 3rd St S

Crislip Arcade
645 Central Ave

Hollander Hotel
421 4th Ave N

Northstar Realty
216 Beach Dr NE

Old NE Tavern
718 2nd St N

Kahwa South
204 2nd Ave S

Rollin' Oats
2842 9th St N

Sheps Market
2001 4th St N

Sotheby's
102 2nd Ave NE

St. Pete Bakery
1961 4th St N

Racquet Club
170 47th Ave N

UPS Store
200 2nd Ave S

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HONNA's 2017 Activities and Accomplishments



Beginning New Traditions and Continuing Old Favorites

With thanks to the hundreds of members of the Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association and all our residents who volunteer, support, and enjoy HONNA's offerings and efforts.

MEETINGS, SOCIALS, AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Held 12 Board meetings (plus an additional planning/visioning session), and four quarterly neighborhood meetings at which residents heard from and about: Police Chief Anthony Holloway and criminal activity; the City's SeeClickFix program; the City-wide referendum on improvements for Al Lange Stadium; changes in the City's Land Development Regulations; the under-construction Museum of the American Arts & Crafts Movement



- Arranged for nine Porch Parties including at Harbour Hill (with a disc jockey), Sunken Gardens (with a neighborhood band) and the always-popular costume party for Halloween



- Recognized American Heart Month in February and honored our late neighbor Susan Alderson with National Wear Red Day, Turn Your Home Red, a neighborhood walk, Red Dress Porch Party, and CPR training
- Contributed from proceeds of 2016 Candlelight Tour of Homes to each of three local non-profits: Friends of North Shore Elementary, American Heart Association/Pinellas Chapter, and Ronald McDonald House at Johns Hopkins/All Children's Hospital
- Represented at monthly meetings of the City's Council of Neighborhood Associations



- Hosted annual December holiday party for neighborhood residents at the Old Northeast Tavern and collected Christmas gifts for the Christmas Toy Shop charity

COMMUNICATIONS

- Provided a HONNA page in the *Northeast Journal* in its six issues during the year
- Posted HONNA messages on refurbished Westminster Church sign
- Maintained a presence on Facebook and monitored postings on NextDoor Old Northeast for matters relating to neighborhood concerns

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- Reviewed proposed projects for redevelopment which were forwarded by the City to HONNA for analysis of compatibility with the neighborhood (e.g., setbacks, design elements, and conforming characteristics)
- Assisted the City zoning department in its review of the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) by attending public meetings and offering input; joined with other neighborhoods to influence a better outcome



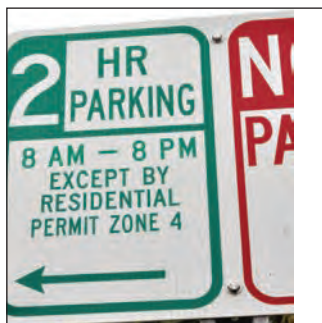
- Initiated STAR recognition program to spotlight homeowners who preserve or update their house exteriors and yards
- Assisted residents on two blocks of Old NE to become mini-historic districts
- Conducted the neighborhood's tree canopy project (and planted 12 new trees)



- Sold 'Preserve Old Northeast' banners for residents to display including a new red, white, and blue version; created and sold Old NE t-shirts
- Conducted a 'windshield' survey of downed trees to update tree survey after Hurricane Irma
- Continued distribution, promotion, and sale of award-winning HONNA publication, *Souvenir of St. Petersburg: Views from the Vinoy*

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

- Worked with the City's transportation department and affected residents to facilitate the implementation and the subsequent expansion of a Residential Parking Permit (RPP) zone in the southern end of the ONE



- Maintained contact with the City's transportation department for review of traffic and parking complaints



- Worked with residents and City to reduce speeding on 30th Avenue N at 1st Street

CRIME AND SAFETY

- Received crime updates at HONNA neighborhood meetings from neighborhood police officers, who took questions from residents and responded to expressed concerns
- Monitored crime reports from the police department for number of crimes reported within the neighborhood boundaries
- Supported 17th Avenue NE and nearby neighbors by sharing with them cost of police cruisers and patrols for security and safety on Halloween night
- Issued public safety notices via social media alerting residents to high number of thefts from vehicles belonging to contractors and their workers
- Negotiated a \$50 discount for Old Northeast residents on Ring devices during a special 48-hour window

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Held annual Easter Egg Hunt in Coffee Pot Bayou Park



- Arranged for annual spring neighborhood-wide yard sale on March 25 involving more than 50 households, and adding new app features to better assist sellers and buyers; arranged for Goodwill truck to be available to receive items residents did not sell



- Organized the annual Children's 4th of July Parade



- Organized 20th annual Candlelight Tour of Homes on December 10th, selling 1,300 tickets – the most tickets of any Candlelight Tour – and raising operational funds for HONNA and providing contributions to local non-profits

HONNA NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION

- Cleaned, repaired, and painted 10 entryways ('wishing wells' and cornerstones) in the neighborhood



- Maintained the median landscaping (with plantings and mulch) of the entryway monuments into the neighborhood
- Provided monthly lawn service/maintenance for closed Westminster Presbyterian Church property



- Planted 12 new trees in parkways

ONE Inspires

Jeannie Carlson

INTERMITTENT

Bridges are impermanent connections
 Reaching beyond ordained potential
 Brighter overhead than at either destination
 Longer and shorter spans depending on the trip
 To the past or the present
 With just a tinge of the future
 To the familiarity of the unknown
 And the exhilaration of erratic exploits
 Crossing over concrete
 Leaping over liquid barriers
 To touch the sporadic sea fog
 Blowing into twin clusters of clouds both ways
 Conjoining the living in a natural state
 Of momentum and acceptance
 With the hesitation of afterlife



CAGED

Soullessly a sleek and sinewy
 Striped cat stalks
 Too small a cage.
 She paces proud protuberant paws
 The space of her confinement.
 Unresigned to a fettered fate,
 Felinity is ever ready
 To pounce ferociously to freedom.
 Clawing a crevice,
 Only her whisker
 Can claim bristly visit
 The incalculable void.
 Undaunted, the direct
 But stoic semiprecious eyes
 Seductively suggest
 One dare approach...
 Either to set her free
 Or be devoured.

The summer heat is coming! Relax in the Green Mountains of Vermont!

Watch the balloons rise from the comfort of the deck during Quechee's annual Hot Air Balloon Festival every June!



Lots of fun family time from this special home



2500sf cape-style home

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- Large bay window: tranquil local/distant views of the valley
- Lower level: fully finished rec room, half bath, laundry room, cedar closet, workshop/utility room
- Attached two-car garage/breezeway
- Two decks with beautiful views/easy-care landscaping

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 Or call *Northeast Journal* publisher, Jen MacMillen (homeowner's daughter), at 802-356-5228.

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 Saturday, March 17 from 9 - 11 a.m. at
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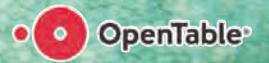
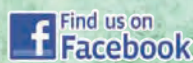


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WE DELIVER:



AROUND THE BLOCK

2ND ANNUAL SNELL ISLE ALLEY CHILI COOK-OFF CHALLENGE

Snell Isle residents Carol Marks and Karen Goforth coordinated the second annual successful Snell Isle Alley Chili Cook-Off in February, the day before Super Bowl LII. About two dozen residents congregated in Snell Isle's only alley – between Snell Isle Blvd. NE and Mateo Way NE, to sample the 10 or so crockpots full of chili, ranging from mildly spicy to mouthwatering.

Congratulations to Rebecca Smith for the winning chili and to runners-up Esther Happle, 2nd place, and Dana Cocco, 3rd place. Kathy Cadwallader won 1st place for her skillet cornbread. The event not only brought together neighbors for an annual alley party, but was a fundraiser for CASA's 3rd annual "Soup-er Bowl Food Drive for a Safe Home Event." Two large barrels of nonperishable food items were donated to CASA.



Kathy Cadwallader and her grandson, Charlie Schatzel



Dana Cocco, Esther Happle and Casey Smith (whose wife Rebecca made the chili) pose with their trophies.

GIVE UP? HERE'S WHERE TO FIND THE TREASURE HUNT TREES...

Tree #1: Located at 2296 Coffee Pot Blvd. NE; Tree #2: 1401 4th Street North – Northeast Animal Hospital; Tree #3: Southwest corner of Beach Drive NE and 17th Avenue NE; Tree #4: Sunken Gardens on 4th Street North; Tree #5: Northeast corner of Brevard and 22nd Avenue NE

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

To be considered for the Meet Your Neighbor page, contact editor@northeastjournal.org.



Tom Burket
26th Avenue N
with daughter Lila

If a teleporter existed, where would you go first?
Platform 9 ¾. (If you're a Harry Potter fan, you know that Platform 9 ¾ at King's Cross Station is where you depart for Hogwarts.)

A gadget you can't live without:
Air Conditioning

Favorite childhood book:
Amelia Bedelia

What is something funny that has happened to you?
We recently bought some baby chickens for our backyard. They were all supposed to be hens, but we quickly realized that one of the 'hens' was actually a rooster when it started crowing every morning. We were a big hit with our neighbors for a few days until we were able to find a farm that would take him.

What is your idea of exercise?
Morning runs with friends, spin class with my sister, and family walks on Saturday morning.

Best hidden gem in St. Pete:
Alesia Restaurant (7204 Central Ave.)

What or who inspires you?
The story of Jesus is an inspiration of how I would like to live my life.

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete:
Alesia

Your favorite quote:
"When a great question is first started, there are very few, even of the greatest minds, which suddenly and instinctively comprehend it in all its consequences." John Adams

What is your favorite movie?
The Great Outdoors (Dan Aykroyd and John Candy comedy)

What is your first thought in the morning?
Don't wake up the baby!

What is the most encouraging word/statement you can receive?
"Honey, you were right..." (Purely theoretical because I have never heard this statement.)

What decade, place would you like to visit for a day?
1850's California during the Gold Rush

If you were a dog, what breed would you be?
Saint Bernard

Tell us about a significant mentor in your life
Anyone that has known me for a length of time would agree that my wife performed a miracle by transforming me into a somewhat presentable member of society.



Trent Burket
26th Avenue N

If a teleporter existed, where would you go first?
Platform 9 ¾

A gadget you can't live without:
Magic Band

Favorite childhood book:
Harry Potter & The Goblet of Fire

What is something funny that has happened to you?
We recently went on a ski trip with friends and between the night ice tubing, the Google Arts & Culture App, and the Akinator App, we laughed almost the whole time.

What is your idea of exercise?
Swimming in our pool, soccer, and family walks

Best hidden gem in St. Pete:
Black Crow (Vegan Donuts!)

What or who inspires you?
Reading books, writing, and drawing.

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete
Alesia

Your favorite quote:
"Nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

What is your favorite movie?
Harry Potter & The Sorcerer's Stone

What is your first thought in the morning?
Please turn off the light!

What is the most encouraging word/statement you can receive?
Let's play hooky!

What decade, place would you like to visit for a day?
The '80s, so I could watch my mom and dad be kids.

If you were a dog, what breed would you be?
Goldendoodle

Tell us about a significant mentor in your life.
Jesus



Jay Mabrey, MD
Brightwaters Blvd.

If a teleporter existed, where would you go first?
St. Petersburg, Russia.

A gadget you can't live without
My iPhone X, of course!

Favorite childhood book:
The Foundation Trilogy by Isaac Asimov. Much later while in college at Cornell, I designed a special hexagonal poster to promote an invited lecture he gave on campus.

What is something funny that has happened to you?
While training orthopaedic residents in surgery, one of them tossed a plastic model of a large beetle onto my sterile operative field. Luckily they had sterilized it ahead of time.

What is your idea of exercise?
Spin class at the Vinoy

Best hidden gem in St. Pete:
Sunken Gardens – you would never guess how big it really is just by driving by.

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete:
Fresco's – especially when there is an open berth for our boat.

Your favorite quote:
Benjamin Franklin at the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776:
"We must all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

What is your favorite movie?
Groundhog Day with Bill Murray.
I could watch that film over and over. Really.

What is your first thought in the morning?
Coffee and *The New York Times* crossword puzzle, especially on Saturday when they're the most challenging.

What is the most encouraging word/statement you can receive?
From a patient after their new joint replacement:
"You changed my life."

What decade, place would you like to visit for a day?
Milan in the 1480s and hang out with Leonardo da Vinci.

If you were a dog, what breed would you be?
Golden retriever – the two I had always seemed to be happy and content.

What or who inspires you?
My wife

Tell us about a significant mentor in your life.
Professor Burstein at The Hospital for Special Surgery. He had a fatherly way of explaining orthopaedic biomechanics. I worked in his lab as a med student and as a fellow, and later he invited me to work with him on designing a new total knee for his company.





2410 Coffee Pot Blvd NE, Granada Terrace
Last offered at \$1,475,000



1600 Beach Dr NE, Historic Old Northeast
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\$950,000

"From the first conversation to discuss the listing, to the final signature on closing, Caryn and Judy were outstanding to work with. We had somewhat of a complicated situation, and they made it a seamless experience for us. They managed every aspect of getting our house "market-ready" and the team was an enormous help in ensuring the house was secure, cared for, and well-maintained in our absence. They treated our sale as they would have treated the sale of their own homes. Regular, detailed updates, thoughtful discussions, and their reliability in tracking down needed cleaners and repair-staff are only a few examples of the support they provided. We cannot say enough to highly recommend this team, and we wouldn't list with anyone else."

—D. MacLaren

Sold! LISTING IN OLD NORTHEAST: \$1,050,000
AND PURCHASED NEW HOME ON SNELL ISLE: \$1,700,000

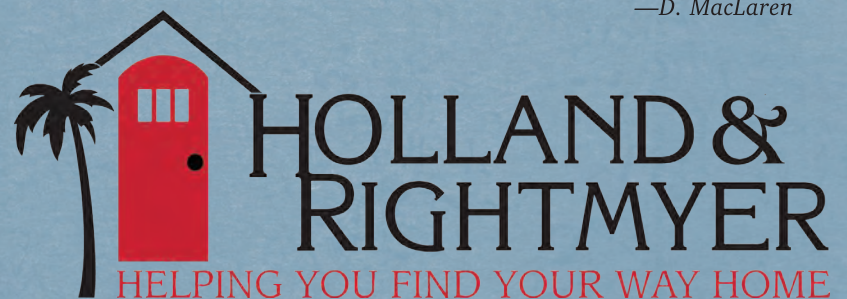
"Judy and Caryn are fantastic. They helped us buy our new home and sell our old house. They worked incredibly hard to help us clean, repair and stage the old house and to recommend quality people to inspect the new house (many are contractors we still use today for service) and get us through closing. Buying and selling one's home involves many difficult issues and decisions, and having knowledgeable, tasteful and professional people like Caryn and Judy to direct and guide you along the way is invaluable."

— J. Thompson

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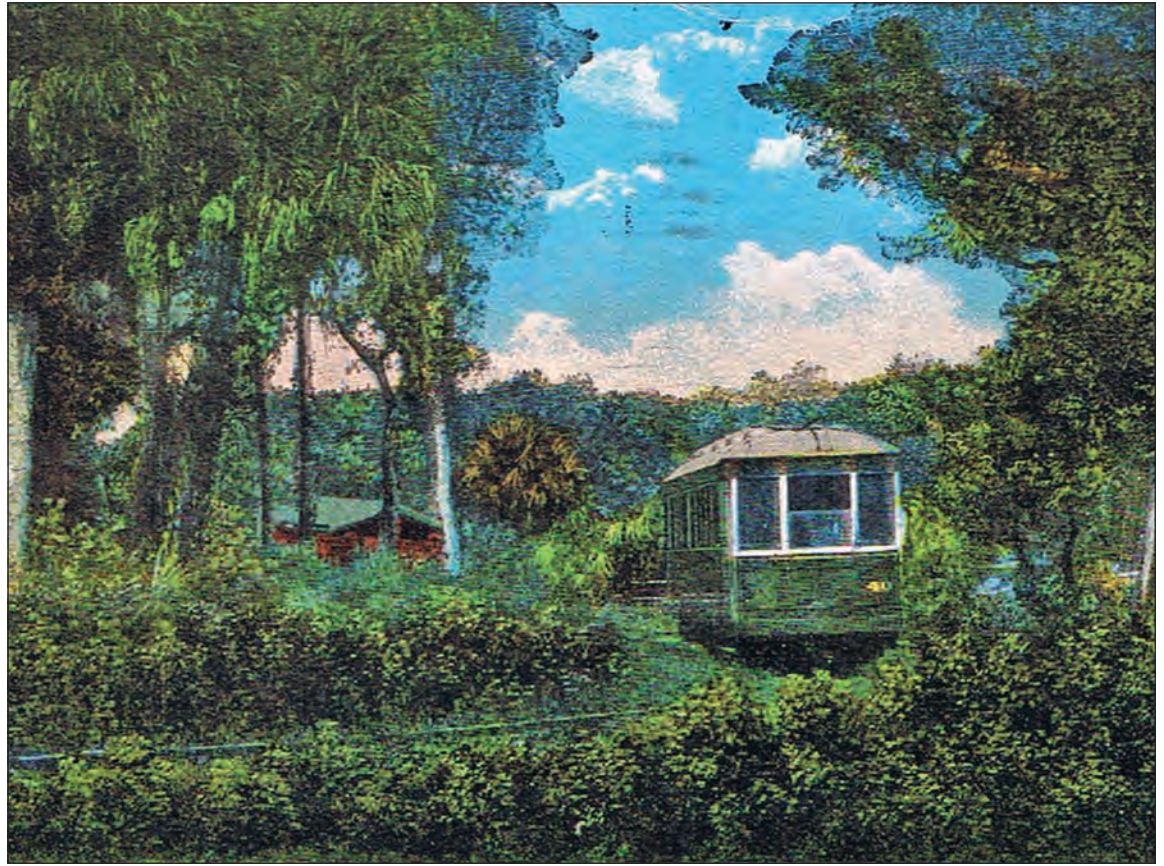
HISTORY continued from page 1

reduce the need for massive thruways and parking areas, and other negative aspects of auto travel.

What we now call light rail or mass transit, operated in St. Pete from 1904 to 1949 as the Trolley System. The first steps in securing light rail may be traced back to St. Petersburg pioneer "F. A." (Frank Allston) Davis who established the St. Petersburg and Gulf Railway Company (StP&G) in 1901. As historian Karl Grismer observed of Davis, "only a dreamer would ever have sought to put a trolley line in a town which then had less than 2,000 people."

After approval by city referendum, a railway – also known as a trolley line – was granted providing for 2.5 miles of track. The line began service in 1904. At its peak rail lines were laid from Tampa Bay to Boca Ciega Bay (called the "Jungle Line"); 18th Avenue South (Tangerine Avenue) to 34th Street North near the site of today's Masonic Home; with spurs reaching to Gulfport (Gulfport Line) and down 3rd Street via Bayboro Harbor then jogging over to 5th Street South ending at 38th Avenue South in the vicinity of Big Bayou. Trolley lines extended right out the Million Dollar Pier and did the same with one of its predecessors, the Electric Light Pier.

Popular names evolved for some of the stops and points along the lines. The stop at Tangerine Avenue



Postcard dated 1924 showing trolley rolling along the 'Jungle Line' through what was then St. Petersburg's western undeveloped area on its way to Davista. Davista, now the Pasadena neighborhood on Boca Ciega Bay, was named in honor of F.A. Davis. The area just north of Davista was dubbed 'the Jungle,' by later trolley operator and developer H. Walter Fuller. Image circa 1918.



Postcard view of trolley in the vicinity of 5th Street and Central Avenue taken from top of the long-demolished Plaza Theater. Image circa 1915.

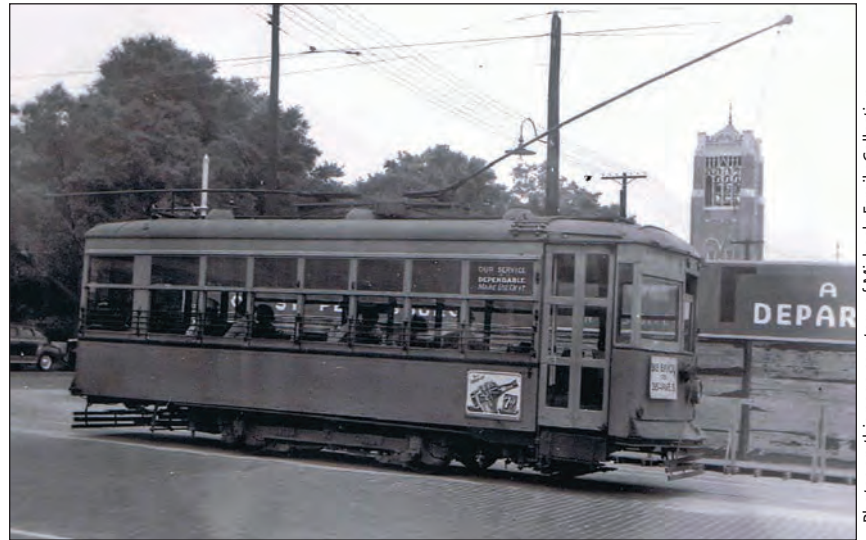


Photo of the trolley on the Big Bayou Line which ran down to 5th Street S, jogged to 3rd Street, then to Bay Street, and back again to 5th, terminating at 38th Avenue where Grandview Park is located. Note First Methodist Church tower and Williams Park in background.

Photos on this page courtesy of Michaels Family Collection

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Courtesy of St. Petersburg Museum of History

Frank Allston Davis was the highly successful publisher of a medical journal in Philadelphia. He settled in Tarpon Springs about 1895 and then to St. Pete in 1897 where he formed the Electric Light & Power Company. In 1902, he began work on the electric trolley service. He acquired the Brantley Pier and replaced it with what came to be known as the Electric Light Pier, and championed ocean-going freight and passenger service. William Straub hailed Davis as The Father of St. Petersburg for his many city accomplishments.

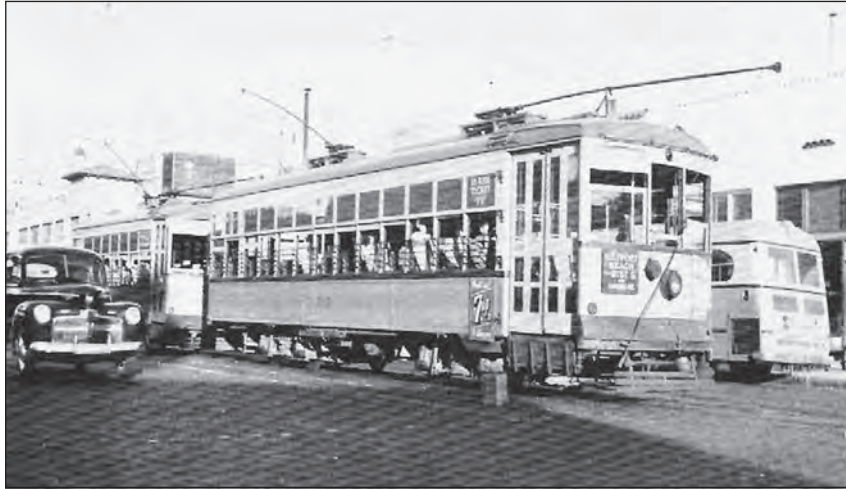
(18th Avenue South) and Auburn Street was called Ice Cream Alley because of a church there that held regular ice cream socials. Longtime resident, sailor, and boat builder Louie Hickman recalled nicknames given to

stops along the Big Bayou line. These included The Hump, the bridge over Salt Creek on 3rd Street South, more commonly known as Thrill Hill; Rattlesnake Bend, in the vicinity 22nd of Avenue South and the Driftwood

neighborhood; Cow Corner, where someone kept a cow tied up; Community Corner, at 5th Street and 26th Avenue South; Bayou View, near 34th Avenue South; and the End of the Line, at Grandview Park.

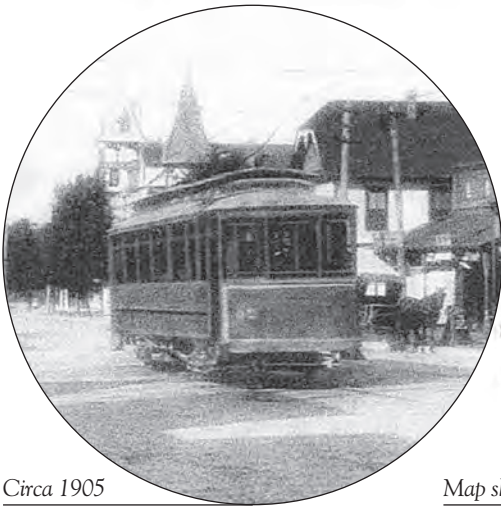
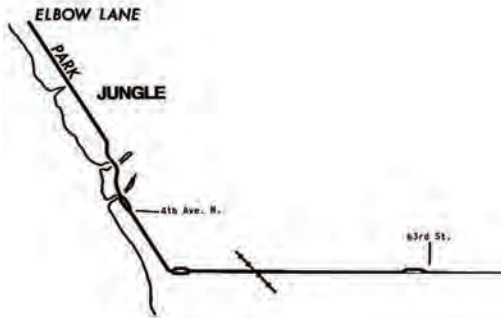
The opening of the Gulfport Line did much to revive Gulfport, originally known as Disston City and later Veteran's City. Jacob Disston, who had extensive real estate holdings in Gulfport, made substantial loans to the trolley company, which explained the construction of the Gulfport Line. Much of the line between St. Pete and

Continued on page 28

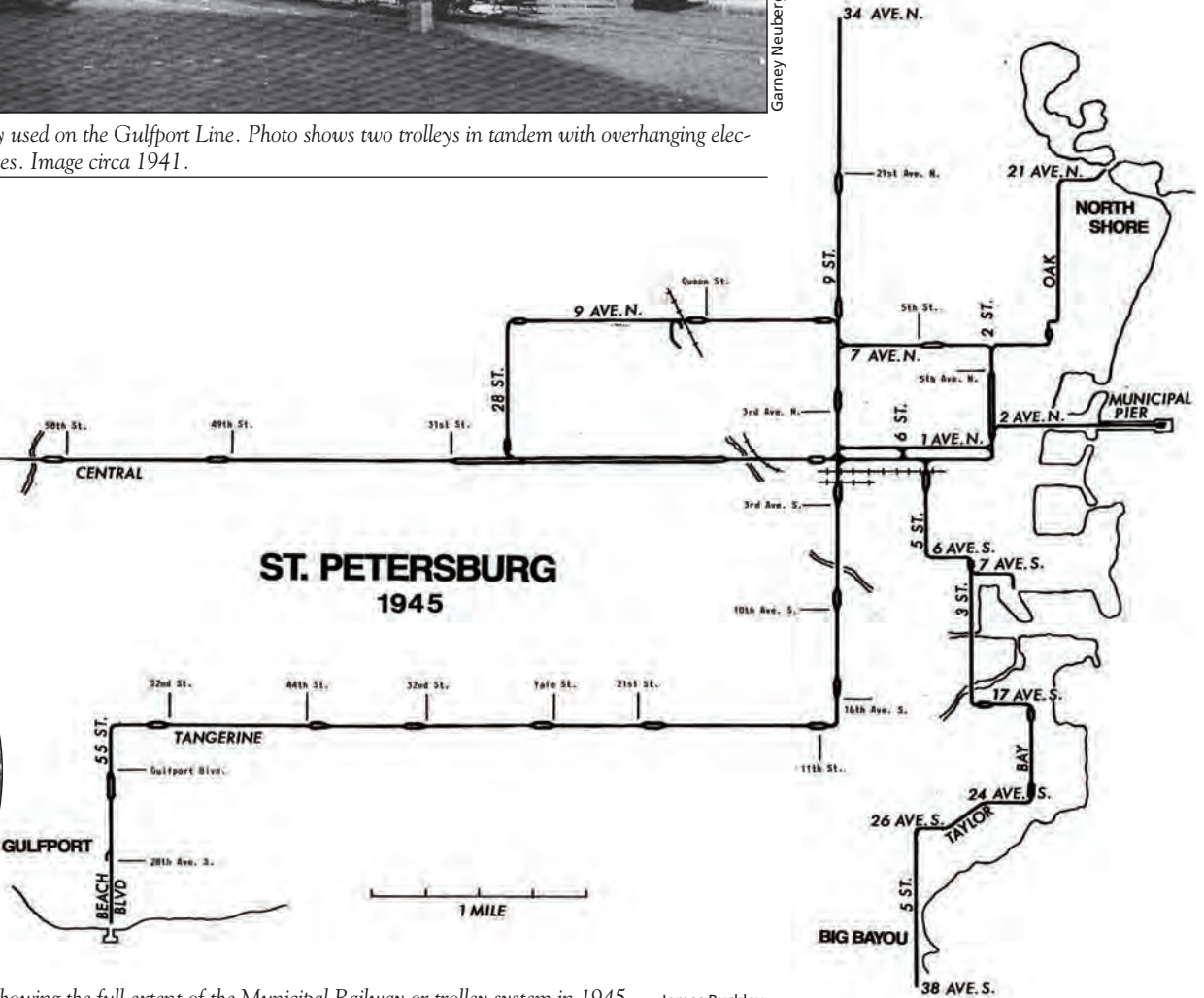


Garney Neuberger/James Buckley

Trolley used on the Gulfport Line. Photo shows two trolleys in tandem with overhanging electric lines. Image circa 1941.



Circa 1905



Map showing the full extent of the Municipal Railway or trolley system in 1945 James Buckley

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HISTORY continued from page 27

Gulfport was rural or as it was called at the time, 'jungle.' As trolley historian James Buckley wrote, "Passengers could stick their hands out of the [trolley] car windows and pick oranges from the trees as they passed."

The success of the trolley was erratic. It took a while for the trolley company to stabilize both operationally and financially. The first real success may be attributed to electrical engineer Bird Latham who was brought from Philadelphia in 1907 to run the trolley company as well as the electric power company. After refusing to take his pay for six months, among other economy measures, he finally got the trolley company to break even in 1910. (Latham was also Tony Jannus' and the First Airline's first flight student.)

By 1913, some 1,380,698 passenger trips were reported. Standing-room only was common on several runs in peak hours. By 1927-28, the trolley had expanded to 4.2 million trips. As early as 1915, the St. Petersburg trolley was the third-largest in the state with 25 miles of track. The *St. Petersburg Times* noted that "St. Petersburg probably has more trolley line per thousand population than any other city in the country."

F. A. Davis experienced serious financial difficulties due to a slowdown in real estate sales brought on by World War I. The trolley line was sold at a foreclosure sale to several investors. In 1919, the city acquired the trolley system and began operation of what then became known as the Municipal Railway. City purchase of the trolley also brought with it acquisition of a key waterfront property finally securing completion of the original Downtown Waterfront Parks. Voters overwhelmingly approved bond issues to support the transit system that same year. Trolley workers – called carmen – were paid .34¢ an hour their first year of employment (\$5.11 in today's dollars) and gradually worked their way up to .39¢ an hour after six years.

Beginning in 1921, the trolley operated at a profit, although a modest one, until the onset of the Depression in Florida in 1927. Gross earnings had reached \$373,219 in 1926. The trolley operated at a loss during the Depression until 1939. Nevertheless, city officials and business interests saw the trolley as essential to sustaining tourism, the city's primary economy. The indirect economic contribution of the trolley far surpassed any trolley's yearly net operating income. With the conversion of St. Pete's economy from tourism to a military training site largely causing the city's population to swell by as much as 40,000 persons during World War II, the trolley itself again turned a profit. By 1944, gross earnings had

reached \$749,102 with net operating income of \$292,000. Over much of the trolley's history, the basic fare was a nickel. In 1941, weekly passes could be purchased for \$1 (about \$17.50 in today's currency).

The last trolley car line ended in 1949. Car 100 made the last run. Aboard the car was St. Petersburg Mayor Bruce Blackburn, transit officials, and veteran trolley operators. Also riding were All Lang, who was mayor when the city assumed operation of the trolley in 1919; Walter Pliny ('Walter P.') Fuller, son of Davis business associate Henry Walter ('H. Walter') Fuller, and a former general manager of the StP&G; William B. Carpenter, who was a passenger on the first run to Gulfport in 1905; and Warren Scott, one of the first two motormen. Thereafter, buses replaced the trolleys. These were thought to be more efficient, practical, and "up with the times." The bus system did not get off to a good start. In 1949, the trolley line carried more passengers and earned four times the profit than the bus system did in 1955.

In 1915, the *St. Petersburg Times* observed, "The founders of the [trolley] system had in mind a greater development for the future and not immediate dividends. It has been the case since the first rail was laid that development has followed the trolley rather than the trolley following development... It has been to this daring and liberal spirit that the most attractive and thickly settled residence sections of St. Petersburg owe their very existence today."

As historian Ray Arsenault later concluded, the trolley system "played an important role in the expansion of the city." And it was in many ways what bound the city together, and in fact, made it a city rather than a collection of neighborhoods.

This is the first of a two part series on light rail in our early history. Part 2 will chronicle little known, and partially successful, early efforts to achieve light rail on a regional basis. ●

Sources: Raymond Arsenault, *St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream: 1888-1950* (1988); James Buckley, "Street Railways of St. Petersburg, Florida" (1983); Karl H. Grismer, *History of St. Petersburg* (1924) & *The Story of St. Petersburg* (1948); Scott Taylor Hartzell, *Remembering St. Petersburg, Florida* (2006); *St. Petersburg: An Oral History* (2002); *St. Petersburg Times*, 2/21/15, 9/19/17, 2/21/19, 9/12/25, 2/7/26, 2/26/26, 5/9/26, 9/16/26, and 2/6/73; *Tampa Daily Times* 5/26/17; and *Tampa Tribune* 12/16/25.

Will Michaels is the author of *The Making of St. Petersburg* and *The Hidden History of St. Petersburg*. He can be reached at wmichaels2222@gmail.com.



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AROUND THE BLOCK

FLORIDA CRAFTART SHOWCASES INTERNATIONAL 'LIGHT' ARTISTS
 St. Petersburg artist and Placido Bayou resident Donald Gialanella's *Enlightened Man* (pictured below) makes quite a statement. The full-size sculpture has a body welded with metal gears and wheels. The chest is open to reveal three incandescent bulbs illuminating the heart. A hidden dimmer switch adjusts the luminosity of the light.

The sculpture is one of 60 unique pieces of 'light art' now on display at Florida CraftArt through March 24 in a show, titled *LightHeaded: New Directions in Fine Craft Lighting*. Free docent-guided tours are held on Wednesdays at 1:15pm.

"Enlightened Man symbolizes finding the inner light to go on despite life's struggles," says Gialanella, referring to challenges in his own life that brought him to St. Petersburg from Southern California three years ago. As an artist, he enjoys working with metal and assembling it into something artistic. "I like incorporating salvaged and reclaimed objects like auto transmission parts, pots and pans, even children's toys," says Gialanella. "I want people to reflect on the idea of recycling and sustainability."

Gialanella is also the sculptor who was commissioned in 2016 to design the famous Dali mustache in the outdoor courtyard and garden at the Dali Museum in downtown St. Pete.

A nonprofit organization, Florida CraftArt has been advancing Florida fine craft artists since 1951. According to executive director Katie Deits, it's the only such organization in the state offering artists a venue to both show and sell their work. ●



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THE MUSICAL STARS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD *continued from page 1*

The couple have enjoyed serving as hosts so much that they even invited the entire cast to come to their home for a big Super Bowl party in February. "It must be hard," Cecelia explains, "with all of their international travel, staying in all these different places and homes. They're so appreciative of a comfortable place to stay."

Doug and Cecelia stumbled upon the SPO during the Second Saturday ArtWalk, when they stopped at Opera Central (SPO's building) and met Susie. "Susie persuaded us to come to the next opera, which was *The Elixir of Love*," says Doug. "She said it's a fun one, you'll love it. And you know what, we did."

Doug and Cecelia attended the opening-night performance and the after-party at the Hollander Hotel. They had a blast. They overheard Susie talking about the need for host homes for the artists, and they immediately volunteered.

Soon they were paired with soprano Stéphanie Lessard from Montréal. She was the lead soprano in *Faust*. They got to know her, bonded with her, and were so proud of her accomplishments. "There's a great sense of pride in it. You feel like they're part of your family, seeing them

up on stage performing... our stars," says Cecelia. "Stéphanie has become a close family friend. In December 2018 we'll be going to visit her in Montréal and staying in her house."

Housing can be provided in an off-season cottage, a condo, apartment, garage apartment, or spare bedroom. According to Susie, it doesn't have to be fancy, just functional.

There is no requirement to provide guests with food, transportation, or cleaning, nor to socialize or entertain them. Likewise, as Susie points out, they are mostly at home to rest and should not be expected to perform for the host family. That being said, however, if the host family is amenable, the singers do enjoy rehearsing at home on occasion.

"We love to hear them sing," says Cecelia. "You have access to this tremendous music pouring out of your living room. It's heavenly."

ARTSY CITY

As Doug points out, "These artists go out to other opera companies around the country and around the world, and they become ambassadors of St. Pete. They love their time here and think it's a great place with great people. St. Pete has a thriving arts community. It's very rewarding to contribute to the



Laurel Semerdjian, Kelly Curtin, Kelli Butler, and Robyn Rocklein in SPOs *The Magic Flute*




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Old Northeast residents Emily and Tash Elwyn

enjoyed the opera in Chattanooga, where they lived prior to St. Pete.

Upon moving here, they quickly became involved with SPO and housed guest artists in their garage apartment. Now Tash serves on the board of SPO.

Emily says, "We believe in how important opera is in our city, this exposure to arts and culture. We've met some incredible people through hosting artists. Some of them keep to themselves, and sometimes you really click with a few. It's so much fun watching where their careers take them."

Housing guest artists with local families provides a huge cost savings to SPO. Instead of having to pay for hotel rooms, it allows the SPO to keep their artists' pay competitive and to keep the budgets for their operas (one of the most expensive art forms) under control.

Many hosts are retired or empty nesters who enjoy having a vibrant, youthful presence in the house. Several singers are younger and up-and-coming in their opera careers, especially if they're part of SPO's award-winning Emerging Artists program.

SPO will be in need of additional host families in June. If housing is not for you, you can volunteer or contribute in other ways: providing transportation, volunteering for shows, or other opportunities. The only members of the Opera Company who typically don't need housing are the chorus members and the orchestra. The orchestra is primarily made up of members of the Florida Orchestra and Sarasota Orchestra, although there are some independent musicians locally and from out of town.

While they're here, singers are kept busy, not just with rehearsals. They travel to area schools and introduce opera to a variety of students in middle schools and high schools. They also perform in special events for children, such as the *Pinocchio* performance for third graders last year.



Lara Lynn McGill and Todd Wilander in *The Magic Flute*

success of this great organization that brings another cultural element to St. Pete."

Emily and Tash Elwyn of the Old Northeast moved to St. Petersburg in 2006. The couple enjoyed attending the opera when they lived in Atlanta, where they went to school at Emory University. One of Tash's friends from school is now a professional opera singer. Emily volunteered with the Atlanta Opera's wig and makeup department. They also

Additionally, they are ambassadors in the community for opera and for SPO. Special performances in the community introduce new and diverse audiences to opera, such as the *Cocktails with the Maestro* series at the Iberian Rooster, which offers a 'highlights' version of upcoming operas along with a summary of the opera's story. Verdi's *La Traviata* will be performed in June. Come enjoy! ♦

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PEOPLE AND PETS

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Rita Knorr with Padma
14th Avenue NE



Jody Spencer with Zeus and Petey
14th Avenue NE



Kiara with Beenie
Coronada Way



Kim Mniece with Captain
16th Avenue NE



Elena with Portokali
Beach Drive NE
submitted by owner



Geoff Cowan with Biscuit
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Jill Devereaux with Gypsy
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THE HEART GALLERY

The Heart Gallery provides an emotionally safe way to connect children with families through a traveling exhibit featuring the faces and stories of local foster children ready for adoption. www.heartgallerykids.org.

KAYLA, AGE 17

Witty and free-spirited, Kayla loves school, especially her science and English classes. But, her favorite subjects overall are animals... particularly snakes. She even aspires to study reptiles and amphibians as a herpetologist, when she grows up. For fun, Kayla enjoys watching sports or her favorite TV show *American Horror Story*, going to Busch Gardens, and playing board games. Perogies are her favorite food, but please hold the pickles. Kayla's other favorites include the color blue and the Cheetah. If Kayla could change the world, she would make foster care different. Kayla's ideal forever family will be there for her as she makes the transition into adulthood.



YFA-103560193 Photos courtesy of Brandi Image Photography

TRINITY, AGE 14

Humorous and honest, Trinity hopes to be the ultimate gamer, bringing her talents to YouTube, like her idol, Bereghost. Her favorite games are Minecraft & Roblox. But she also likes to unplug from technology and dedicate an afternoon to completing a new set in her LEGO collection. A fan of science, Trinity wants to change the world by bringing *Star Wars* to life. And she would love to have the mystical powers to shape-shift and fly. But, Trinity is content with settling for the real world, where she can watch her favorite show, *Treehouse Masters*, admire the classic works of Vincent Van Gogh, jam out to Imagine Dragons, and munch on salt 'n' vinegar potato chips or carrots. Trinity's ideal forever family would encourage her creativity and have a sense of humor. Liking video games is a bonus! DFL-11264193 Photo courtesy of Skip Milos Productions Inc.



ADOPTION FAQ

Q: How many children are available for adoption? A: The status of children in foster care changes frequently, however at any given time, approximately 100 children are available for adoption. **Q: How many children are on the Heart Gallery?** A: The Heart Gallery features about 100 children in various stages of the adoption process – from currently available to matched – on our site throughout the year. **Q: Where is the Gallery located?** A: The physical gallery travels throughout Pinellas and Pasco counties. To see current gallery locations, please visit www.heartgallerykids.org/gallery.php. **Q: How many Heart Gallery children have been adopted?** A: We are pleased and proud to have helped more than 325 local children find their forever family and get adopted since 2006. **Q: I think I'm interested, but still have questions. How do I get started?** A: To learn more, consider attending an adoption orientation. To get more information about the orientation, call Diane Johnson at 727-456-0600 Ext. 2085 or email djohnson@eckerd.org. **Q: I can't adopt, but want to help. What are your needs?** A: We are forming a new Volunteer Program. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Megan Slaughter, megan@heartgallerykids.org or 727-258-4806. The Heart Gallery is an independent, 501(c)3 organization that survives solely on the generous contributions of individuals and businesses. Please consider a donation, which can be made on the Heart Gallery website or by mailed to: Heart Gallery of Pinellas & Pasco; 500 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N, Suite 300; St. Petersburg, FL 33705

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LARIANA FORSYTHE: CASA'S NEW CEO

While many neighbors in our community are aware of the tremendous work done by CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse), a new CEO at the helm hopes to take the organization to the next level through good management and smart decisions.

Lariana Forsythe, CASA's new CEO, is young, vibrant, and full of ideas to improve the nonprofit organization which has been providing support to victims of domestic violence since 1977. She comes to CASA from Phoenix, where she was the chief development officer and vice president for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix.

Lariana grew up in Arizona but summered on Long Boat Key and Sarasota as a child. She's always loved the Gulf Coast. Her two sons, aged 9 and 13, have become completely addicted to fishing since arriving here and love spending time outside. Forsythe is excited about the change of scenery and energized by her new professional challenge.

While the news we've been hearing about CASA is that of success - including opening a new, 133-bed shelter three years ago - Forsythe believes there's never time to rest on one's laurels. She views CASA's opportunities through the lens of business acumen.

"A non-profit is really a misnomer," says Lariana. "In order to serve the mission well, we need to think of our organization as a business. We need to make good business decisions, manage our expenses carefully, and be mindful of our bottom line." There's a familiar saying in the non-profit world: "No margin, no mission."

CASA has many expenses to manage carefully, and creating a recurring revenue stream is Lariana's key focus. As she says, in order for CASA to serve our community effectively, recurring revenue and managing expenses are business imperatives. The organization has to be sustainable and budget appropriately for increased overhead, supplies, food, and specialized staffing for the shelter, which operates 24/7.

Lariana is a domestic-violence survivor herself. During a difficult time, she had to deal with the challenge of removing herself and her children from an abusive situation. "I didn't realize at first it was happening," she reflects, much like Nicole Kidman's character in the HBO miniseries Big Little Lies. "Once I addressed it and began my own transition to a new life, so many people came to me sharing their stories. I realized they didn't really have a place to share their story otherwise, as it was such a taboo topic."

With every additional award the HBO miniseries Big Little Lies wins, not only are women's issues highlighted, but so are the issues of domestic



CASA CEO Lariana Forsythe

violence. The #MeToo campaign is having an impact, too.

"As CASA grows, we intend to be a big voice in this space," Lariana says. "We need to change the conversation so this isn't a taboo topic anymore. There are still too many people in our community who don't know we're here or the many ways we can help."

The majority of people CASA serves are women, but men and children are aided by the organization as well. Domestic violence affects one-in-three women and one-in-four men. Half of the current residents of the shelter are children.

Children who have lived in households where domestic violence is prevalent face many obstacles. "The impact of a child growing up in that environment is lasting," says Lariana. "The challenge with transitioning children after experiences like this is there is increased risk for them to become victims themselves or abusers down the road. Our job is to circumvent that in order to improve their chances of having a healthy life as an adult."

Surprisingly, it's not only the children or victims that need CASA's services - perpetrators also do. Whenever possible, CASA connects abusers to the

proper resources and does everything necessary to break the cycle of violence.

One of the challenges with CASA as an organization is how to make it scalable, like any growing business. "Every situation is different," Lariana explains. "The toll can be both physical and mental. It can involve children or not. Some of the survivors have never had a job, so transitioning can be a steeper learning curve. The needs in every situation are completely individualized."

Recently, Lariana partnered with local training company, Paradigm Learning, Inc., to develop her leadership team's understanding of business acumen. Leaders throughout the CASA organization convened to learn how to run a fictional business, then connected those concepts to their challenges and opportunities at CASA. Lariana's team emerged from the session energized and ready to optimize their various areas of the business.

Currently, CASA receives funds from government grants and proceeds from their thrift store, but it's never quite enough. Last year, the shelter accommodated nearly 700 people - and had to turn away over 2,000. While the shelter is the most prominent part of CASA's business, it's only one aspect. CASA also provides outreach through support groups, assistance in the judicial system, as well as educational programs. CASA also operates a popular thrift shop.

To learn how you can contribute to CASA's mission in our community, visit their website at www.casa-stpete.org.



A group from Tech Data and STANO (Supporting Troops Area Wide Nationally and Overseas) pose with their donations to CASA.



Lariana Forsythe, (right) with a representative from the Zonta Club of Pinellas



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