



# NORTHEAST JOURNAL

MAY/JUN 2018  
St. Petersburg, FL  
EST. SEPTEMBER 2004

Good People ∞ Good Places ∞ Good Things Happening

## A Ladybug Adventure at Canterbury's STEAM Garden

Janan Talafer

The day started with an early morning assembly in the central patio courtyard of Canterbury's Lower School on Snell Isle. Moms and dads stood patiently with grade-schoolers in uniforms. First came the Pledge of Allegiance and achievement awards, then the highlight of the morning – a student-run farmer's market with bright red

radishes, kale, lettuces, herbs, and cherry tomatoes for sale. It was a bounty from the school's new STEAM garden.

The inspiration of Breck Moorefield, Canterbury's art teacher, the garden is a several-year project that came together late last year, thanks to a big helping hand from Nic Weathersbee of Urban Micro Farms who provided professional advice on just about everything: organic garden

Continued on page 8



Canterbury students eagerly sell produce from their STEAM garden



Anna Ayres helps find the artist in everyone at Creative Clay

## Celebrating the Artist in Everyone

Stacie Steinke

Invest in your happiness, declares Old Northeast artist, Anna Ayres. For Anna – a watercolor, oil and acrylic painter – creating art answers the call to be happy. Her work, “reflects what she sees in nature and doesn't try to make it one thing or another, but just lets it be.”

“I have always been an artist,” says Anna. “From the moment I could hold a crayon, I have thoroughly enjoyed putting color to surface, although it hasn't always been something that was encouraged or supported. It's taken many years of yoga, meditation, and self-discovery to understand what it means to be an artist and to take action toward becoming one.” Anna's artwork can be found at [www.artbyannaayres.com](http://www.artbyannaayres.com), as well as St. Pete ArtWorks, and other area venues.

### CREATIVE CLAY'S FOCUS ON THE ARTS

Anna is equally adept in front of her own canvas as she is when teaching others to find their creative voice in front of theirs. For the past four years, she's been teaching art at Creative Clay, a nonprofit arts center in downtown St. Pete which provides educational and vocational opportunities in the arts to people with physical, emotional, or developmental disabilities.

Anna wandered into Creative Clay during the downtown St. Pete Second Saturday ArtWalk and was instantly taken by the quality of their member-artists' work and their passionate expression. “I saw more freedom and less inhibition in the artists' work and that appealed to me,” says Anna. When she learned that Creative Clay hired only professional artists as teachers, it planted a seed for her to explore teaching in a new way.

“Over the years, I have often considered getting my teaching certificate so I can teach in schools at the elementary or high school level. It made a lot of sense on paper, but never felt like quite the right fit for me,” says Anna. “When I learned about Creative Clay, it was something I got excited about. Through my experiences creating, I know how therapeutic art can be. Art can offer us a break from the day-to-day stressors we all face. We get in the zone, we flow, we jam, we have fun. We get to feel a sense of peaceful calm and that's where true joy lives.”

Anna worked as a substitute teacher for the organization's Community Arts Multi-Disciplinary Studio Program for two years, and in 2017 she joined the staff of 15 contracted artist-teachers who provide all-day instruction two days per week. This an ideal time commitment for an artist who wants to work on her own projects and share artistry with others. Anna likes the wholesome energy of Creative Clay. “It's like a breath of fresh air,” she says. “Creative Clay offers their member artists a supportive community and as well as a gallery where artists can sell their work.”

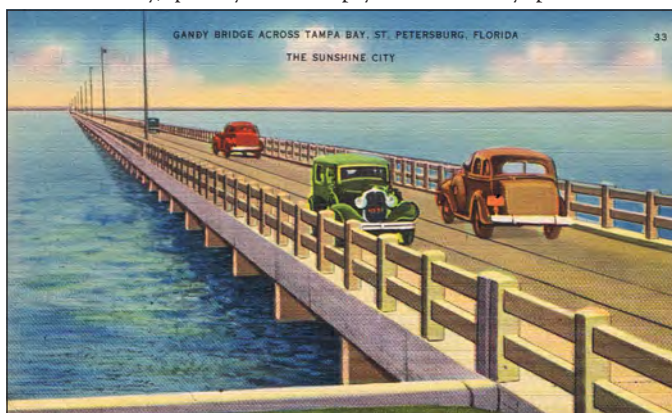
Continued on page 28

## Light Rail? We Had It! Part 2 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 the 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 seek essentially to transport people conveniently, quickly and cheaply. While trolleys pre-date most automobiles, they also served over time to avoid heavy traffic, pollution, reduce the need for massive thruways and parking areas, and other negative aspects of auto travel.

Part 1 of this article was published in the March-April edition and recounted the history of St. Petersburg's trolley system, known as the Municipal Railway, which operated from 1904 to 1949. Part 2 examines early and



Early postcard showing the Gandy Bridge between St. Petersburg and Tampa. The bridge was originally intended for light rail. Note the light rail tracks in the middle of the bridge.

Courtesy of Michaels Family Collection

Continued on page 24

# Sharon Kantner & Brian Waechter

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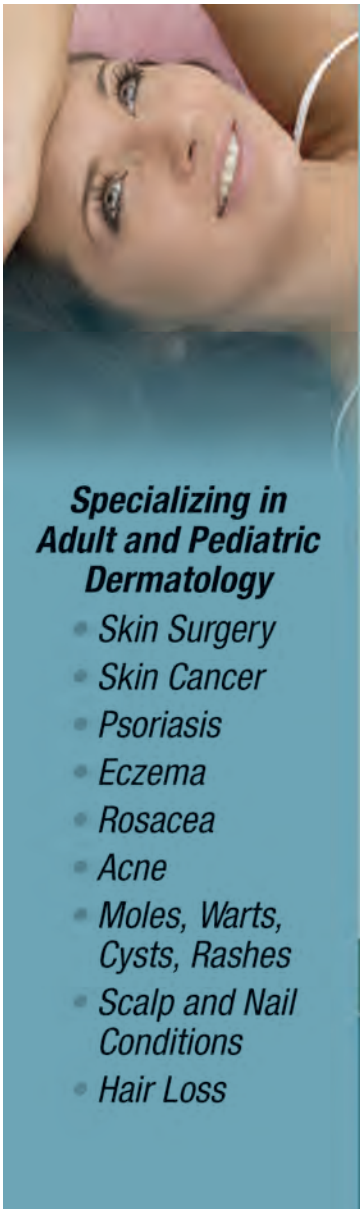
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**PUBLISHER'S NOTE**

**Communicating Positivity**

You know how some people exude a positive energy that just makes you feel good? It's the kind of person who is authentic and unapologetic and uplifts everyone in his/her wake? You feel like the only person that matters in that moment.

According to author, happiness researcher, and former CBS news anchor, Michele Gielan in her book *Broadcasting Happiness*, we can all make a positive impact on each other and on the world by being 'that' person.

"By changing the way we all communicate, we can make the people around us at work, at home, and in our communities believe that their behavior matters..." Gielan writes.

There are thousands of people in St. Pete who exhibit selfless positivity in their daily interactions with others. We, at the *Northeast Journal*, want to know who those people are who put you in a good mood just by being in his/her company. We recognize that we have the privilege of being allowed into your homes every other month to share positive stories about your neighbors. We would like to do more of that online as well!

So, we are asking you to take a moment to contact us through our website [www.northeastjournal.org/contact](http://www.northeastjournal.org/contact) and share with us the name of the person (or business/organization) who just puts a skip in your step and why. We will post a selection of these nominations on our website and Facebook page as a shout-out to the party and to help inspire others.

Sharing positive and inspiring stories is what we do as a business. When I witness local individuals, organizations, and businesses engaging in positive and inspiring ways of interacting with those around them, I feel compelled to broadcast that happiness, so to speak.

When we hear uplifting stories, we are more likely to feel good, become inspired, and take positive action – something researchers call the elevation effect. This same dynamic is true in everyday encounters... We need to pay attention to how our communications shape the views and motivations of other people, especially if we want to help foster more creativity, connection, and caring in others. ([https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/turning\\_bad\\_news\\_into\\_good](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/turning_bad_news_into_good))

Please contact us if you would like to share your stories of 'broadcasting happiness.'

Take care,  
*Jen*

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\*Formerly Village Green Publishing

**NORTHEAST JOURNAL**  
is published bimonthly by  
Village Green Publishing, Inc.  
[www.villagegreenpublishing.com](http://www.villagegreenpublishing.com)

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[publisher@villagegreenpublishing.com](mailto:publisher@villagegreenpublishing.com)

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**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Susan Alderson archives, and the community at large

**SPECIAL THANKS**  
Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association; Rick Carson, editor  
Snell Isle Property Owners Association  
*Northeast Journal* distribution crew

**PRINTED BY**  
C&D Printing, St. Petersburg FL  
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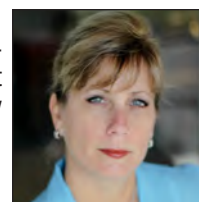


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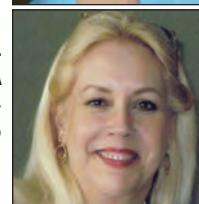


**MEET THE WRITERS**

**Samantha Bond Richman** relocated to the Old Northeast in 2014 after living in Tampa for 28 years. She owns Sam Bond Benefit Group, a downtown insurance agency. She and husband Tim enjoy fishing, golf, and supporting family-oriented charitable causes.



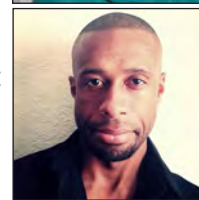
**Jeannie Carlson** is a correspondent for Tampa Bay Newspapers, Inc. and an adjunct professor of English at local colleges in the area. A resident of the Old Northeast since 2000, she is the publicity/entertainment chair for the Suncoast Scandinavian Club. [carlburn@tampabay.rr.com]



**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]



**Brian Fernandes** is originally from New York City and was raised in North Port (Sarasota County), Florida. Brian loves learning about people and staying up-to-date with politics and foreign affairs. He lives in Tampa, loves jogging, and is an avid reader. [brianfernandes941@gmail.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.



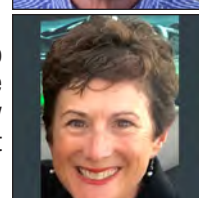
**Will Michaels** is retired as executive director of the History Museum and has served as president of St. Petersburg Preservation and vice president of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum of African American History. He is the author of *The Making of St. Petersburg*. [wmichaels2@tampabay.rr.com]



**Marty Normile** and his family moved to St. Petersburg and the Old Northeast in 1984 when he was hired to head St. Petersburg Progress (now the Downtown Partnership). At the time, the Vinoy Hotel was boarded up, and there was only one restaurant on Beach Drive. Retired since 2001, he is continually amazed by St. Petersburg's transformation.



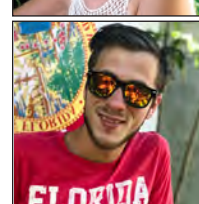
**Stacie Steinke** recently relocated from McLean, VA, and is happy to call The 'Burg her home. Attracted by the vibrant arts scene, Stacie is a singer and voice teacher, and equally happy to apply her curiosity to writing and gardening. She enjoys paddleboarding on Coffee Pot Bayou and meandering the St. Pete waterfront with her dog, Kent.



**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]



**Joey Vars** is a lifelong Floridian and has lived in the Sunshine City since 2012. In addition to exploring every corner of the state, he reports on the nation's space program at Cape Canaveral. Find him on the bike trails or walking the streets of downtown with his camera. [joseph.vars@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]



# Whispering Waters: A Testament to Vintage Mid-Century St. Pete

Janan Talafer

When Burt and Carol Kline invited me to visit them at their fifth floor penthouse in Whispering Waters, I jumped at the chance. I had always wanted to have a peek inside the vintage complex on North Shore Drive across from the park.

Built in the late-'50s, early-'60s, Whispering Waters has a classic, mid-century modern look. There are decorative wrought-iron railings that wrap around big screened-in porches on all sides of each unit. Gardens, courtyards, and fountains are everywhere. The complex is now designated an over-55 condo community. Tony has lived there since the beginning. He's 82 now and still likes to work in the yard every day touching things up. The place has a cozy, intimate feel.

Built by California developer Lionel Mayell, Whispering Waters was one of St. Petersburg's first co-operatively owned apartment home communities, the early forerunner to today's condos. Mayell was a pioneer in developing apartment homes that were individually owned, a new concept for the times. He left a legacy of mid-century modern places primarily in Florida and California. He also seems to have liked the name Whispering Waters as a 1961 letter lists four complexes with the same name in St. Pete; Winter Park; Palm Beach; and Pasadena, California.

Looking out from the floor-to-ceiling living room window, I can see over the tree tops in North Shore Park and a catch glimpse of the water. The Klines live in the one of the few six-stories buildings; most of the buildings in the complex are only three stories – a rarity these days in St. Pete. Burt and Carol showed me an oversize, magazine-style artist rendering for the complex back when it was brand new. It looks glamorous. The cars parked on North Shore Drive are reflective of the era. Eisenhower was still president.



The Twist was the latest dance craze. Webb's City was still hopping.

Originally from Boston, Burt and Carol discovered St. Petersburg while in the area some years back when they were here for a business conference. After lunch at the Don Cesar Hotel on St. Pete Beach, they took a wrong turn off the highway and ended up in the Crescent Lake area. They were amazed at the houses and the prices. Not too many years later, they purchased a bungalow in the Old Northeast and took up permanent residence, returning to New England for four or five months of the year.

In 2014, after all renovations to their Old Northeast home were complete, the couple was ready to tackle a new project. Friends living at Whispering Waters told them about an available unit. They bought it. At first, their two-bedroom penthouse was a throwback to the distinctive late 1950s, with a tiny enclosed kitchen, mirrored living room wall, and big thick tiles in the bathroom. After a two-year remodel, the unit has been transformed with a sleek, contemporary feel. Much of the demolition was done or overseen by Burt, who in his spare time teaches an online course for the brewery arts program at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

But now the Klines are on another mission. While they are pleased at the result of their remodel inside, they love the idea of living in a complex that retains the style of a different era on the exterior. They would like to see Whispering Waters added to the list of local landmarks receiving historic designation. Much of the rallying cry for preserving the city has focused on its early heritage, especially from the 1920s during the height of the Mediterranean Revival architecture. The Klines are focused on a piece of the city's heritage from the '60s. Their goal is to preserve Whispering Waters now and save it from possible demolition in the future. ●



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CANTERBURY'S STEAM GARDEN *continued from page 1*



A magical garden



Ladybugs are released into the garden

design, tools, hauling tree stumps and branches, digging out the beds and filling them with soil, ordering seeds and picking out plants and seeds, planting them, and teaching the students all necessary garden know-how.

"We blended my vision and Nic's knowledge," says Breck, whose enthusiasm for teaching, gardens, art, and children is infectious.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

From a neglected patch of sandy soil in the back corner near the playground, there is now a peaceful outdoor space for kids to read, play, sit quietly, and learn about nature and science. A tepee made from palm fronds shades a meandering sidewalk. A small chicken coop off to one side waits for new residents. Squash blossoms are flowering. Carrots, basil, lettuce, kale, onions, aloe, strawberries, cherry tomatoes, and cranberry hibiscus are growing. Big tree stumps sit in a circle, providing a rustic place to hang out. A chalk wall overlooks an old-fashioned hopscotch game. It's definitely a magical place.

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math, and the STEAM garden is an opportunity to study those topics in an outdoor classroom, says Breck.

In a description of the garden she writes: "It's a practical place to explore colors, textures, sounds, shapes and smells, and to create art, music, and build projects."

This school year, activities have included cultivating soil using organic materials and earthworms, learning about pollination, and watching the lifecycle of butterflies, starting with cocoons that hung from the squash and tomato vines.

This summer, the science lessons will be taken one step further with the installation of an aquaponics feature, paid for through the school's marine science program. The idea is to cultivate fish, which will produce waste that microbes and



Art teacher Breck Moorefield demonstrates how to release the ladybugs.

worms can convert to fertilizer for the plants; then the plants filter water that returns to the fish.

CUTE LITTLE BUGS

The exciting lesson of the day during my visit was the release of dozens of ladybugs into the garden. Ladybugs are toxic to would-be predators. It's an eco-friendly, non-chemical way to keep the pest population under control, says Breck. Students crowd around as she shows them how to lift the containers and encourage the tiny ladybugs, still a little dazed from being in the refrigerator, to crawl onto the plants and start doing their job.

Outdoor nature lesson ended, the students filed back into the classroom, where they used

markers to draw big red ladybugs on folded pieces of paper. It was the perfect way to make the connection between art, nature, and science – and the perfect way to end my visit. ●

A GARDEN VISIT A little story by Canterbury student Emma Moya, age 9

"It is a peaceful Thursday afternoon. We are writing in our Canterbury garden. The sun is beating down on me. I hear the wind. It is like it is trying to cool me down, but failing. As I look around, I see all my classmates peacefully writing. I feel the tomato leaves brushing against my skin. I smell fresh vegetables and see tomatoes getting ripe and ready to eat for the first time. I feel at peace and like I am in touch with nature. I touch the tree bark I am sitting on. It feels rough and sturdy. I see the bees pollinating the sunflowers, the monarch butterflies soaring through the air and hear the rustling of the palm tree leaves. I see the chicken coop empty waiting for new chickens to arrive. I see caterpillars munching away on milkweed leaves and wonder if this is their lunch time. I really feel in touch with our Canterbury garden!"

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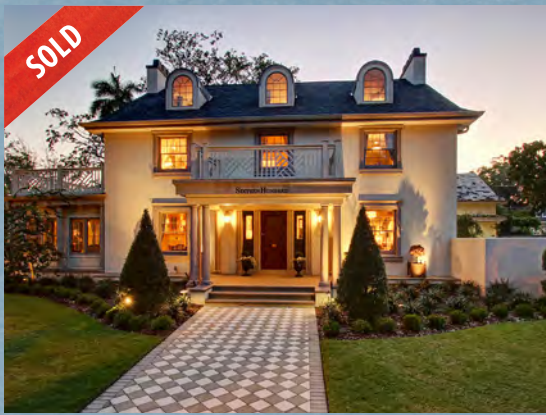
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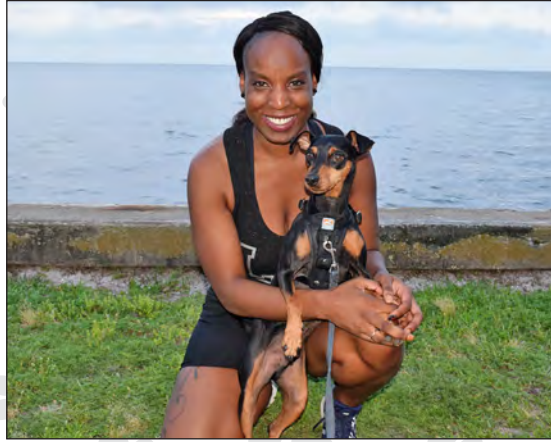
# PEOPLE AND PETS

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Email your HIGH-RES digital photo to Diana Krause Geegan at [dkghomes@gmail.com](mailto:dkghomes@gmail.com). Please include your name, address, phone number, and pet's name.



Ted VanCleave with Zippy  
Locust Avenue NE



Lisa Davis with Khai  
St. Pete



Sonia Woods with Autumn Summer and Winter  
10th Avenue NE



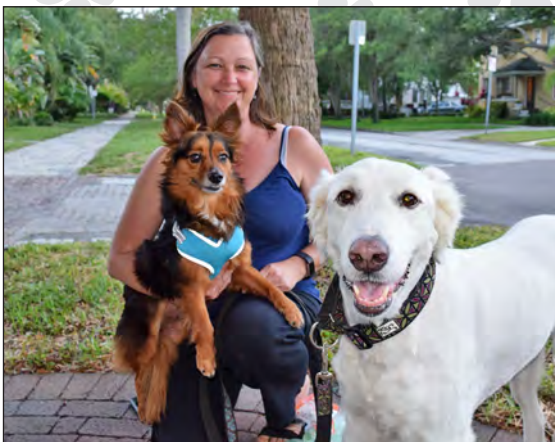
Jake Oakes with Chewy  
14th Street North



People and Pets photographer Diana Geegan  
Picture-proof she really loves animals!



Mike Mills with PJ  
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Zoe Wilkinson with Thor and Ripley  
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Laura Bemis with Kona  
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Mary McCarthy and Izzy  
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**GOODNESS InDEED**

# Guardians Are Champions for Children

*Samantha Bond Richman*

Like a light in the darkness, volunteers with Guardian ad Litem offer hope to a child who has suffered. They watch, look, and listen. They feel empathy. They feel pain. They feel anger, frustration, and passion. They care. They come from all walks of life, and they have the common goal of helping a child attain permanency in a home.



*Deb Fusek*

Snell Isle resident Deb Fusek began volunteering with Florida Guardian ad Litem to fulfill her deep desire to, “Be hands on with the kids. To make a difference in the time it takes to achieve permanency (in a home).”

Deb and her husband Mike moved to Snell Isle last summer from Springfield, Missouri. She has a history of supporting children and families which reflects her deep passion for motherhood and thus, children. Both of her parents were teachers, and she clearly learned to love children from two adults committed to educating them. In fact, Deb’s

mom was a classical home economics teacher. Deb earned a B.S. degree in human services from Evangel University of Springfield. She then worked in foster care and adoptive services in association with Nightlight Christian Adoptions, a group now established in Florida.

Eckerd Connects is the organization that initially places children entering the foster care system in Florida. When a child is removed from the troubled home and placed with a foster family, Guardian ad Litem is contacted. Certain criteria are considered for the Guardian ad Litem organization to offer assistance. Each child’s set of circumstances is different, yet the end goal of the support agencies is always the same – a permanent home. The road to family reunion or adoption can be a long and difficult journey. Deb explains, “There are the foster families, the biological families, the social workers, the lawyers, the judges, and sometimes law enforcement professionals. “ At the center of this is the child; and for the child, fortunately there is Guardian ad Litem.

Unfortunately, due to the number of children entering foster care, the case load on social workers and others can result in professional “burnout.” Turnover of case managers at Eckerd Connects is at a high level. Volunteers like Deb Fusek make sure there is continuity and care in the child’s life during their stay in foster care.

The very thing that makes a home a home – the care and positive attention of an adult – should be the child’s right in any ethical society. It sounds so simple, and yet according to Eckerd Connects, every two minutes a child is removed from the place they call home. Every child is born innocent. But not every child is born wanted. The true, harsh realities of life are sometimes taught to children at a very young age due to abandonment, neglect, or abuse.


Guardian ad Litem volunteers must complete 30 hours of certification and spend an average of 10 hours per month working with the child. According to the organization’s most recent annual report, there are more than 11,000 Floridians who serve as volunteers for this vital organization. In 2018, over 38,000 children were represented in the Guardian ad Litem program.

“Volunteers are typically paired one at a time with a child in foster care,” explains Deb. “Visits to the foster home are conducted regularly, at a minimum of once a month.” It is key that children are spoken to alone, so that there is no interference with their honest replies. The foster parent(s) are also spoken to on a one-on-one basis with the Guardian ad Litem volunteer. This is where looking and listening skills are of prime importance.

“The volunteers’ duties center around making sure the child’s care and well being are sustained. That includes support at school, especially since most children in foster care are enrolled in a new school (due to logistics and other factors),” Deb explained. “Special attention may be required due to the emotional trauma some children have suffered before being removed from the home. The child may have special education needs, medical needs, and familiarization concerns as the child is in an entirely new environment. The desire is for the child to continue to learn and thrive during what is likely a traumatic time.”


Guardian ad Litem believes that children are not packages, they are people, and surrounding them with caring adults will result in a more well-adjusted future member of society. Achieving permanency through reunion or adoption are the ultimate goals of those who serve foster children. More Guardian ad Litem volunteers are always needed, says Deb. Visit [www.guardianadlitem.org](http://www.guardianadlitem.org) for more information. ●

*Deb is immensely proud of her three children. Jacob, 22, serves in the Peace Corps in far away Timor-Leste in Southeast Asia. Sabrina, 19, attends Southeastern University, and Jadon, 13, attends Northside Christian Academy. (Then there is four-legged family member Teddy the Toodle – a Tibetan Terrier and Poodle mix – who is currently taking a break from his studies!*




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# SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

## Florida's Wild West

Sara W. Hopkins

In the shadow of ONE St. Petersburg, a geometric sandstone edifice looms over Central Avenue. The façade of smooth, tan rock seems to break free of the walls around it. This is the striking entrance of the new James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art.

The teak sandstone from Jaipur, India guides visitors inside, flanking them in a striated canyon of rock. The effect transports... one can almost feel warm sun radiating from the stone, a rushing waterfall in the distance completing the ambiance. It's no surprise that each perfectly matched piece of sandstone was hand-selected by architect Yann Weymouth, who also designed the Dali Museum downtown.

In just a few short years, a tightly knit team transformed the building – originally a 1989 department store – into an impressive homage to the West, bringing to life the vision of Tom and Mary James.

Tom James, who led Raymond James for over 40 years, grew up in St. Petersburg. He attended Lakewood Elementary and St. Pete High before earning his bachelors and MBA at Harvard. While in Boston, he met his wife, Mary, then a student at Wellesley. A native Michigander, Mary missed skiing (snow skiing, that is, not Tom's Floridian waterskiing) when Tom and Mary moved to St. Pete. This prompted a series of ski trips during which Tom discovered his love of western art.

After exchanging his silk necktie for a bolo at the beginning of a press conference a few weeks ago, Tom James launched into his version of the story, one full of wisecracks, sweet reminiscing, and an ever-present twinkle of mischief in his eyes. "There were lots of great western art galleries in these ski resorts. I loved it, I didn't buy it. I was scared to death if I started buying it, it would become a disease. Then one day, I went downtown (and didn't have my budget control hat on) and bought seven pieces."

That was only the beginning of a passion that would eventually fill over a million square feet with art. According to curator Emily Kapes, who had always had an interest in western art, "The opportunity to



learn about the west, its stories, adventures, resilience—it will resonate with this community."

Previously, the Jameses housed most of their collection in the Carillon headquarters of Raymond James Financial, where Kapes was curator for eleven years. "This new museum on Central contains about 400 pieces that will have some rotation," she says. The remainder of the art is still at the Raymond James HQ.

As Tom explains, "Our employees didn't want the art to go. A lot of them have become collectors themselves. They've been living [at work] with many of these pieces." In the end, the museum collection only represents about 13 percent of the James's collection.

Many of Tom's featured artists would visit the Raymond James offices and tour the space, their art on display. According to him, "They felt like it was their own museum."

But now that the art is more appropriately displayed with befitting lighting and space (unlike office fluorescents, adds Mary), Raymond James employees who have toured the museum have commented about how new – and beautiful – the art they've known for so long looks in its proper setting.

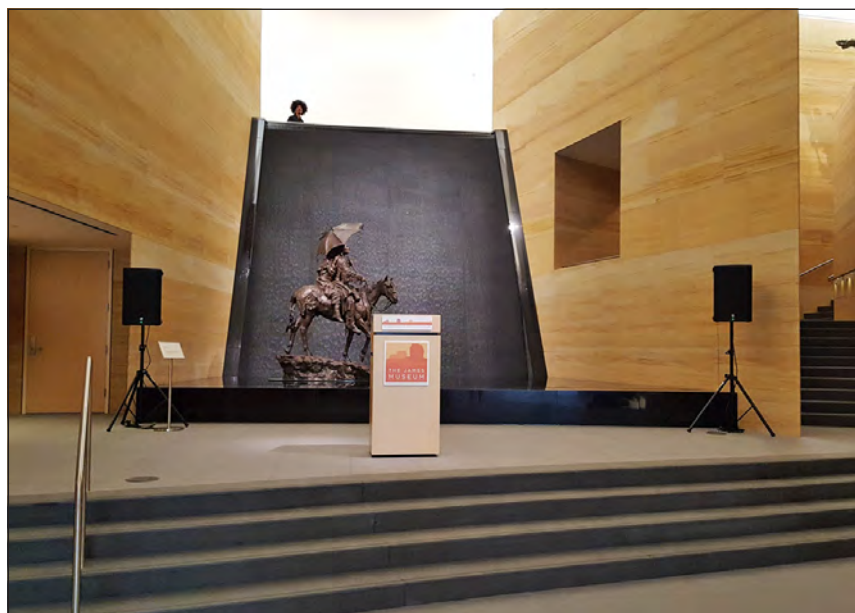
The museum includes paintings, portraits, life-sized sculpture, exquisite jewelry, and modern art infused with western or wildlife themes. Tom James is proud of the relationships

he's fostered with many of the artists featured in the museum. Having a museum full of the art of living artists is a feat of its own these days. Featured artists include Irving Couse, John Sharp, Allan Houser, Bob Kuhn, Martin Grelle, John Coleman, and Bonnie Marris.

"We're trying to help young, talented artists make a living in fine art," Tom says.

A natural businessman, Tom enjoyed chatting with the gallery owners in the ski towns he and Mary visited. He was curious to learn about their business models, their clients, their industry.

Tom met his favorite local artist, James Michaels, this way. Michaels didn't feel comfortable about even selling his art until Tom got to know him and, of course, convinced Michaels to sell some to him.



www.thejamesmuseum.org

As he tells it, with a wry grin, Tom James also got to know all the jewelers featured in the museum's special Jewel Box gallery by negotiating with them for his wife's jewelry.

He says, "Jewelry seems to have a separate demographic from the rest of the art in this museum. We added another market to our audience by adding jewelry to our collection. And I believe that these Native American jewelers are fine artists."

The museum's knowledgeable team is helmed by interim director, Bernice Chu, who comes with an impressive resume in architecture, planning, operations, and design at the New York Botanical Garden, the Art Institute of Chicago, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

Chu arrived in August and since then has worked closely with Kapes and the Jameses to prepare for the museum's opening – and beyond. She looks forward to sharing lessons of the tenacity and fortitude of Native Americans and early western pioneers through the art and public programming that will take place at the museum.

"Education is a big thing for us. We're going to use the museum as a way to educate our community," says Tom.

In addition to its eight galleries depicting scenes of the Early West (Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, Taos Society of Artists), Native Life (scenes of family,

traditions, culture), the Frontier (pioneers, outlaws, mountain men), Wildlife (Florida birds, grizzlies, bison, and wildlife from Asian, African, and South American), the museum also has a Special Exhibition Gallery for rotating art, a large event hall that can accommodate 400 people in banquet seating, and an auditorium with 129 seats that's acoustically designed for lectures, music, and more.

"People love to hear stories," Tom says of the spirit of the museum, "the history of Native American culture; the history of our country." Sharing these stories through this museum is one way he's giving back to his hometown. "I've been blessed to be in St. Pete."

Tom James has come a long way from his days of playing cowboys and indians in the tangled mangrove roots and sandy grasses of his St. Pete childhood. But from the smile on his face as he takes it all in – a wall-size Grand Canyon, life-like bronze shamans and hunters, rowdy cowboy scenes, and stagecoach chases frozen on canvas – it's clear that his dream has been realized.

The museum is located at 150 Central Ave and open daily 10am–5pm. Take advantage of later hours on Tuesday 10am–8pm. Memberships, private tours, and group rates are all available. ●

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# The Artistic Orthopedic

Brian Fernandes

Imagine the exhilaration of taking the passions of your youth and allowing them to become your life's work, contributing to the needs of society. Snell Isle resident Dr. Jay Mabrey has had the fortune of making this so. Not many people could also be called an 'artistic orthopedic surgeon,' but that's an apt description of Dr. Mabrey, who has a strong creative side, as well as a love of medicine and technology.

After a long career in medicine – most recently as chief of orthopedics at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas from 2004 to 2016 – Jay and his wife Debbie now live full-time in St. Pete. They enjoy cruising Tampa Bay in their 29-foot Sea Ray that's parked behind their waterfront home. They christened the boat with the name, Phones and Bones – a reference to Debbie's 34 years at AT&T, and Jay's career as an orthopedic surgeon. One of their favorite outings is to dock at Fresco Waterfront Bistro in downtown St. Pete.

In retirement, Jay is allowing his creative side to flourish. He enjoys constructing 3D models on the computer and then taking his designs and building modern, abstract sculptures using fiber board and wood. It wasn't until he went into retirement last year that he began working on his various projects. The physical process, which takes place in his home garage, includes gluing, sanding and painting the sculptures. "I've always been interested in art. My experience in orthopedics taught me a lot about shaping materials in a precise way as well as 3D visualization. The tools are basically the same: saws, drills, hammers, and screwdrivers," he explained. The famous Greek statue, Venus De Milo, inspired one of his sculptures. Jay hopes to eventually put his artwork on display for the public to view.

While he no longer treats patients – his specialty was total knee and total hip replacement – he continues to stay busy consulting on intellectual properties involving total knees, and in medical malpractice cases as an expert. He has two patents involving knee replacement.



Dr. Jay Mabrey

## MIDWEST CHILDHOOD

Dr. Mabrey started life in humble beginnings in Oklahoma, where his father was stationed in the army. Recalling his childhood there, Dr. Mabrey jokes: "Oklahoma is very flat. The biggest effect it had on me was my accent. It's a nasal twang, not a southern twang."

According to Dr. Mabrey, the iconic Oklahoma twang actually has its origin in the infamous Dust Bowl, the windy dust storm that took place in the US in the 1930s and was immortalized in John Steinbeck's book *The Grapes of Wrath*. Among the hardest hit areas were midwestern and southern states, including Oklahoma. "There was so much dust in the air, that it gave people this nasal sound and it just locked on," says Dr. Mabrey.

Later, after he and his family moved to Warren, Ohio, Dr. Mabrey says he made a conscious effort to rid himself of the accent since he was often teased. He joined his school's speech and debate team to work on his pronunciation. He also watched the news, especially to study the speech patterns of veteran journalist Walter Cronkite. As Jay put it, Cronkite was seen as the "epitome of the all-American diction."

Jay had an interesting childhood. His mother Jean, was a nurse anesthetist, and his father Joe was a jack of all trades. After his discharge from the service, his dad was also a high school science teacher and later served in the Peace Corps. His dad had taken a taxidermy course during graduate school, and he and the boys trapped bats, skunks, possums, and other wild animals in the backyard. Jay and his brother had to collect the animals from the traps and help dissect them to get them ready for presentation. Jay loved the science and the biology of it all.

Growing up, Jay was an A-student. In fact, driver's education was the only course in which he received a B grade. "The instructor said I drove too aggressively. I would take turns maybe a little fast," Jay says with a big smile. Besides academics, he also had an interest in graphic design and art, which led him to work on projects such as the school's yearbook and flyers for football programs.



Examples of Dr. Mabrey's many abstract sculptures



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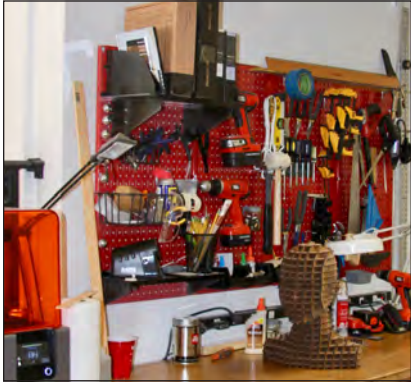
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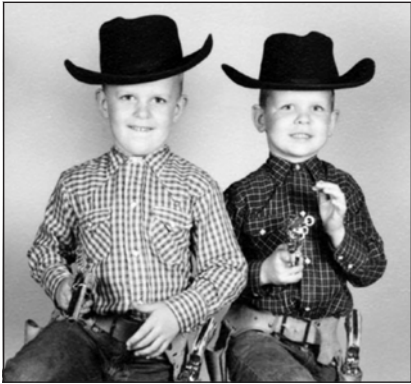
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Tools of the trade for Dr. Mabrey's art



Oklahoma roots



As a second lieutenant in the medical corps



Debbie and Jay Mabrey

Orthopedics was nowhere on his radar as he was wrapping up high school and looking toward college. He accepted a scholarship to Cornell and studied biochemistry, while enjoying arts-related activities outside the classroom. He joined the Cornell Concert Commission and helped set up music shows and plays. He also took a job as a graphic designer at the school and worked on promotional posters for concerts, including one promoting The Grateful Dead. "That was my big Cornell moment," says Jay, reminiscing about the event.

In his senior year, he decided to pursue medicine and enrolled at Cornell University Medical College. He also signed up for the US Army, qualifying for the Health Professions Scholarship Program, which paid for his tuition, books, plus room and board. It was during a rotation at the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) in New York that he realized orthopedics was the right path. Watching the process of molding a cast onto a patient was so intriguing and he was hooked. "That is so cool. I have to do that," he recalls saying to himself that day.

**MEDICAL CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

After medical school, Jay completed a six-year residency in orthopedics at Duke University. The next step was Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he helped care for patients with injuries ranging from vehicular accidents to parachute jumps gone wrong. Later, he returned to the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York, for a fellowship in biomechanics and total joints.

Once in private practice, Texas was his home for the next two decades or so – first San Antonio, and then Dallas, where he was chief of orthopedics at Baylor. During this time, Dr. Mabrey says he "led the charge to make knee and hip replacements safe and efficient which led to us developing the 'same-day total joint' where we would operate in the morning and then send patients home that afternoon." He also pioneered several landmark innovations in knee and shoulder surgery, including helping

develop the first virtual-reality surgical simulator for knee arthroscopy. As a consultant for a medical device manufacturer, he played a major role in a new computer navigational system for total knee replacement and designing the next generation of total knee replacements.

Introducing virtual reality simulation for knee and shoulder operations represented a major breakthrough in medical training, says Dr. Mabrey. "We thought it would be a great idea if for the first time doctors got to hold the surgical instruments, they would be practicing their techniques on a simulated human instead of a real human," jokes Jay.

He believes that his imaginative side has also influenced his two sons, Hunter and Travis who both live in Texas. Hunter, the eldest, works as a computer animator while Travis is a cinematographer.

Jay didn't try to steer them down the medical path though. He wanted them to go in a line of work where he felt they could have a creative outlet without confining themselves. "I kind of encouraged them to go into the arts," he admitted.

Jay hasn't completely let go of his long career in medicine. He jokes that retirement doesn't necessarily relieve him from giving medical advice from time to time. "Of course, as soon as people find out you're an orthopedic surgeon at the cocktail party, it's like, 'What can you tell me about total shoulders?'" However, he's always willing to offer the expertise he has acquired through the years. Once a doctor, always a doctor. ♦

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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.

### NEVER TOO YOUNG TO SERVE

With the warmer weather already here and summer rapidly approaching, many

children will embrace an age-old, all-American childhood tradition: the sidewalk lemonade stand. For Kennedy Waechter, a 10-year-old girl in the Old Northeast, it's not just a lemonade stand to help fund the latest toy – it's about giving back.

Last summer Kennedy started SFK (Service for Kids) after volunteering at the Salvation Army with her Vacation Bible School group with her church. Through that experience, she developed a heartfelt desire to help kids in the community who were in need and less fortunate than she. To date, her neighborhood lemonade stands and bake sales have raised close to \$300; 100 percent of the money raised has gone toward books, clothes, toys, and gift cards to the families and children receiving services from our local Salvation Army. Kennedy is already planning her next event for this summer: the SFK Second Annual Lemonade and Bake Sale to help fund toys, games, and clothes to be donated.

Stay tuned on the NextDoor website and app as well as Facebook to see when she will be hosting her next fundraiser



Kennedy is on the right with neighbor friend Kate Kantner on the left.

event at the corner of 14th and Cherry NE. Kudos to Kennedy for wanting to serve and better her community. Please help support Service for Kids by enjoying one of her cold lemonades on a hot day. ~ Sharon Kantner



### NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY RESULTS

The major focus of the quarterly neighborhood meeting on Monday, March 19, was a discussion of the results of the neighborhood-wide survey in which residents were encouraged to participate (via notices left at all front doors in late February and postings on social media and the HONNA website). The main objectives of this year's survey were to: 1) understand tenure of residents in the neighborhood; 2) listen to general concerns/desires; 3) measure residents' knowledge and interest in HONNA; 4) start and continue conversations with residents. The last similar survey of residents was conducted in 2007.

Close to 260 neighbors completed the brief questionnaire and the highlights are as follows:

✧ The top three reasons given for living in the ONE were: proximity to downtown and the waterfront parks (90 percent chose this); the historic nature of the neighborhood and variety of architecture (64 percent); and sense of community, amenities and activities (50 percent).

✧ The three highest-priority issues in the community were: residential redevelopment which doesn't blend with existing homes (70 percent); crime (62 percent), a female jogger was assaulted along Coffee Pot Blvd.; and tear-downs of older 'fixer-uppers' (52 percent).

✧ The top three areas on which HONNA should focus: community safety (59 percent); historic preservation (55 percent); and neighborhood beautification (48 percent).

More than 80 residents provided general feedback and opinions through written responses. As might be expected, these comments were as diverse as our neighborhood.

After a summary of the survey results was presented at the meeting, the floor was open to comments and questions. [Details of the survey may be found on the HONNA website (www.honna.org) at the tab "Get Involved/Neighborhood Info."]

An oral report on recent crime in the Old Northeast was provided by Police Department representatives, who reported a low level of criminal activity largely limited to thefts of bikes and items from unlocked cars. Several residents expressed concern over speeding on 1st Street between 22nd and 30th Avenues.



HONNA presented checks to three local charitable organizations from proceeds of the December Candlelight Tour of Homes: (left to right) Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay, Boys and Girls Club of the Suncoast, and the St. Petersburg Free Clinic.

The next quarterly neighborhood meeting will be on Monday, June 18, at Westminster Church, with some social time beginning at 6:45pm before the meeting starts at 7pm.



### ONE FIELD DAY RE-SCHEDULED

HONNA has re-scheduled the inaugural Old Northeast Field Day event for Sunday, May 20, from 3-6pm at Elva Rouse Park (11th Avenue NE and North Shore Drive). Stay away rain!

Bring a picnic and plan to wow your neighbors with feats of athleticism as you compete in the three-legged race, the water-balloon toss, eating contests, and more! Prizes will be awarded for placement, team spirit, relay winner, and sportsmanship. This event is appropriate for all ages. Register your team of four or more in advance.

Registration is open at www.honna.org/events.

### A FUN, BUSY MONTH OF MARCH!

John Johnson, Chair, Events Committee HONNA's annual neighborhood-wide yard sale was held on St. Patrick's Day this year with over 50 residents signed up to participate by having their locations publicized on an online map, and many more neighbors taking advantage of all the buyer traffic to piggyback onto the event. It was a

beautiful day to be out and about, and great to see so many people participating. The Louise Graham Regeneration Center was stationed at Westminster Church to securely shred documents for HONNA members for free. This not-for-profit provides employment for developmentally disabled adults through the recycling and sale of paper products. Goodwill Industries also was present at the church to pick up donations of yard sale items left unsold, and Old Northeast resident and Goodwill staffer Bill O'Connor reported their 48-foot trailer was filled to overflowing. All in all it was a win-win day for many in the ONE, the City, and beyond.



The annual HONNA Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday morning, March 31, at Coffee Pot Park. Eager children of various ages showed up, baskets in hand, accompanied by parents, grandparents, and favorite aunts and uncles to participate in the event. All the eggs were found within minutes, and three lucky kids found the golden eggs for special prizes. The Easter Bunny stopped by to say hello and meet everyone, and to invite the children to have their pictures taken with him (which can be viewed on Facebook or at www.honna.org). There



were snacks to be munched and new and old friends to meet. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make it a fun day for all involved.



**CHEERING OLD GLORY**

You won't want to miss the always-popular HONNA 4th of July Children's Parade, which is as much fun for the adults as it is for the kids. We'll have our patriotism stirred by the American Spirit Fife and Drum Corps as they lead us down Coffee Pot Blvd., and our own St. Pete Fire Department Station #4 will have a hook-and-ladder on site for the children to explore and learn about. The festivities will kick off at 10am on Wednesday, July 4, at Coffee Pot Park (30th Avenue NE at 1st Street). Don your red, white, and blue attire, decorate your bikes, tricycles, wagons, scooters, strollers, and baby buggies and join your neighbors for a patriotic salute to the USA.



**EXPANDING RPP ZONE & SPEEDING ON 1ST STREET**

Kent Ulrich, Chair, Traffic and Parking Committee

HONNA facilitated two meetings between the City's Transportation Department staff and Old Northeast residents on Monday, April 16. During the first meeting – attended by about 10 residents – Michael Frederick (manager of neighborhood transportation) and Keith Glasgow (manager of parking enforcement) answered questions about the expansion of the RPP (Residential Parking Permit) zone up to 10th Avenue N/NE from 6th-8th Avenues N/NE.



Approximately 30 residents were in attendance at the second meeting, concerning speeding on 1st Street N/NE, and they provided feedback and asked questions regarding existing

conditions and alternatives. Based on a presentation by Mr. Frederick, it was agreed that it would be desirable to add three speed humps on 1st Street N/NE between 22nd Avenue N/NE and 30th Avenue N/NE. Several residents agreed to circulate petitions, which must be signed by at least 2/3 of the residents with properties fronting on 1st between these eight blocks.



**NEW MINI-HISTORIC DISTRICT ON 19TH AVENUE NE**

Robin Reed, chair, Historic Preservation and Planning Committee

In April, the City Council unanimously approved the historic designation of Mediterranean Row, the ten houses on the south side of the 100 block of 19th Avenue NE. Known to almost every Old Northeast resident, the block was developed by the same contractor, M.D. Welch, who hired the architect, C. Sedgwick Moss, to design all the houses. Each is unique, but all display characteristics of the Mediterranean/Spanish Revival style of architecture. Guy Keirn and his wife, Dr. Susie Wehr, are to be congratulated for spearheading the designation campaign to preserve their special block. Anyone wanting additional information about designating their block or area may contact rreed@tampabay.rr.com.



✧ If you are planning to discard old doors, windows, or other architectural items, consider posting their availability on NextDoor or contacting the Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association's store (smith60.alec@gmail.com) where such items can be recycled for renovation and restoration projects.

✧ In response to the uptick in bicycle thefts, Officer Donald Herring of the St. Petersburg Police Department suggested on NextDoor that residents lock yard gates at all times and/or secure bikes inside garages or houses. Thieves have become bolder of late, entering unlocked yards and cutting bike locks. To enable police to match a stolen bike with its owner, register your bike with the police department online at <http://police.stpete.org/solve-crime/bicycle-registration.html>



✧ A recent posting on NextDoor shared the sad news that the osprey nest on the telephone pole at 21st Avenue and Locust NE caught fire during the rain storm on April 10. The chicks in the nest did not survive, though their parents did. Several people suggested a nesting platform should be provided as the ospreys have been persistent in building nests in this location.

**On the Calendar**

Check [www.honna.org](http://www.honna.org) for details on these and other upcoming events.

- **Friday, May 18:** Porch Party; 7:30pm
- **Sunday, May 20:** HONNA Field Day, Elva Rouse Park; 3-6pm
- **Friday, June 15:** Porch Party; 7:30pm
- **Monday, June 18:** Quarterly Neighborhood Association meeting, Westminster Church; 6:45pm social, 7pm meeting
- **Wednesday, July 4:** Annual 4th of July Children's Parade, Coffee Pot Park; 10am

**HONNA'S SHINING STARS – "BEFORE" AND "AFTER"**

**SHINING STARS**

In an effort to honor Old NE 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 has been recognizing them with the Neighborhood Star Award. Every month yard signs will be placed on properties to indicate an award. Here are the Stars for March and April.

Watch for new Stars in the neighborhood monthly, and you'll be able to find them posted on [www.honna.org](http://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](mailto:treasurer@honna.org).



MARCH: 548 1st Street North "Before" photo



MARCH: 548 1st Street North "After" photo



MARCH: 2620-30 1st Street North "Before"



MARCH: 2620-30 1st Street North "After"



APRIL: 300 15th Street North "Before" photo



APRIL: 300 15th Street North "After" photo



APRIL: 724 Bay Street NE "Before" photo



APRIL: 724 Bay Street NE "After" photo

ARTIST PROFILE

# An Art for Living

Gay Wasik-Zegel

*A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of his life, in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the human soul.*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

She's a nurse, a writer, an editor, a teacher, and an artist with an art for living. She is Susan Wiley, an Old Northeast resident whose dreams really have come true.

Susan grew up in western Massachusetts and began her career as a nurse after earning her certification through a hands-on program at Massachusetts General Hospital. Working closely with people – especially those with serious illnesses – opened her eyes to the brevity of life and the importance of living each moment to its fullest.

With her heart wide open to life's adventures, Susan met George Wiley, a Long Island executive who was visiting friends in Boston where she worked. Thus, began their long-distance relationship; one which continued into marriage. "We lived apart for four months before I was able to move to Long Island," says Susan.

Settled and in a new place, Susan took time to reflect on her life dreams. She had always loved writing, so – true to herself – she enrolled in Queens College to pursue a degree in English. She chased this dream despite the daily traffic. "It was a 17-mile drive that took me about an hour-and-a-half each way," Susan remembers. It turned out to be worth every mile, as this degree would serve her well in the years to come.

**A NEW DIRECTION**

After six years of marriage, George surprised Susan with a dream of his own. He wanted to train horses again, something that he had done in his younger years. He told her of plans to resign his job and move to Saratoga Springs, home of the 4th oldest race track in the US. Once again, they followed a dream, leaving big city life and a nice salary behind.

George began to groom horses while Susan groomed her talents. Before long, the perfect job had fallen into her lap. She was hired as an editor for Nursing



and Allied Textbooks, allowing her to use both her nursing and writing skills. That evening she told George the good news. "How much are you going to make?" he asked. "\$8,000!" she told him excitedly. They joined hands and jumped for joy around their small apartment. Suddenly, Susan stopped. "I lied," she admitted. "It's really \$10,000!" A huge smile broke over George's face as he embraced his wife. Their dreams were becoming reality.

**KITCHEN TABLE PAINTER**

Life in Saratoga was wonderful. George was eventually promoted to controller at the Saratoga Raceway. Susan loved her work. Their first son, Emerson, was born. With the days so full, Susan searched for a way to unwind in the evening. During her Catholic school days, painting had always given her a sense of calm. Drawing on this experience, she began to paint at the kitchen table during the quiet of the evenings. "I would carry my toolbox filled with paints downstairs and get to work," she says. The peace this gave her was remarkable.

The Wiley family continued to grow with the birth of a second son, Elliott. Susan's desire to paint grew as well. She learned new techniques from books and a series of art classes. Susan credits her art for getting her through a particularly difficult time in life. It helped her to center and find a sense of inner peace. It was then that she realized her obligation to share this gift with others.

**SHARING THE GIFT**

Susan began to share her approach to art and life through teaching. With no shortage of eager learners in Saratoga, from the youngest to the aged, Susan became involved throughout the community. She developed a six-week long Master Artist Program for children, which she taught during the icy winter months. She created intergenerational programs, teaching 18-month-old children basic concepts such as line and shape as their parents joined in. She has fond memories of teaching watercolor painting to residents of assisted living facilities. "I met 90-year-olds who were so beautiful," Susan smiles.

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by Andrea Lepcio

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Susan hopes others will find the same joy she feels as she creates her paintings. One of the first things that Susan did when moving to St. Petersburg was to inquire about teaching opportunities. She has been teaching at the Dunedin Fine Arts Center ever since.

**HEADING SOUTH**

The Florida Keys are the theme of many of Susan's paintings. Key West had been one of George and Susan's favorite vacation spots for many years. There, Susan found inspiration for her vibrant watercolors around every corner. Nevertheless, it came as a surprise when George mentioned moving to Florida after retirement. After spending 30 wonderful years raising a family and connecting with the community in Saratoga, Susan wasn't so sure about leaving. She agreed to 'look' on the condition that the place they relocated to would have 'more' than Saratoga. They spent time traveling Florida but kept ending up back in St. Pete. It took eight years, but Susan eventually realized that St. Petersburg had the 'more' factor she was looking for. She and George were especially attracted to the Old Northeast area. They scoured the area with a realtor, without luck. As they got ready to head to the airport in their rental car, George's new smart phone rang. "You've got to see this house before you leave!" exclaimed the realtor. As they walked into the house with 'great bones,' they knew they had found a new home. They didn't waste a minute, using their phones to work on real estate documents from the airport before take-off. Again, everything was falling into place.

**A FLORIDA ARTIST**

Today, Susan stays busy with teaching, volunteering, and working in her backyard studio. Since relocating to St. Petersburg about two years ago, she has already become a signature member of the Suncoast Florida Watercolor Society. To receive this honor, an artist must have exhibited in three major juried Suncoast Florida Watercolor Society sponsored shows. This process usually takes three years.


Susan's next dream is acceptance into the Florida Watercolor Society. In 2017, there were 700 entries for the Florida Watercolor Society's exhibit, with only 80 chosen for the show. Susan's work was selected and appeared at the Coral Springs Museum's 25th Anniversary gala last October. She will soon apply for entry in the 2018 exhibit, which will take place in Sarasota this fall.

Her work is also on permanent exhibit at the ArtExpo Gallery and Framing Shop on Corey Avenue at St. Pete Beach.

"My art is my lifeline," says Susan. The creative process has helped her to center and find the joy in life. To her students she says, "Paint what excites you. Paint what gives you that spark of joy; even if it's only for a second." Surely, this is the stuff that dreams are made of! ●



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**Arin Greenwood**  
22nd Avenue North  
Crescent Heights

**Favorite recent book you've read?**

I just started reading *Stray City* that I am really, really enjoying.

**How long have you lived in St. Pete?**

**Where are you from originally?**

About three years ago, my husband Ray and I had enough of winter and moved to Gulfport from Washington, DC. We bought a house in Crescent Heights a little under two years ago.

**What items would you put in a time capsule to be opened in the future?**

My most treasured possessions are my pets, but obviously you can't put them in a time capsule.

**What is your favorite quote?**

As someone who likes to walk and imagine that walking is good for my work (and not just a slightly obsessive hobby): "Only thoughts reached by walking have value." It's from Nietzsche's *Twilight of the Idols*.

**If you had your own talk show, which 3 people would be your guests?**

I'm really bad at making these kinds of lists. Can I just have on a bunch of dogs?

**What is your first thought in the morning?**

Where is my coffee?

**What do you love most about St. Pete?**

There is this one spot along Coffeepot Bayou where I walk my dog in the morning and where we regularly see some manatees.

**What advice would you give your younger self?**

Take your writing seriously, younger self. You can do this. Also, break up with that terrible guy you went out with for so many years during and after law school.

**What are the top 3 places/experiences on your bucket list?**

If I had to narrow it down: scuba diving with whale sharks, seeing pandas in China, and volunteering at the Best Friends Animal Society sanctuary in Utah for a couple of weeks.

**Name a favorite movie.**

I usually hate horror movies, but *Get Out* is brilliant. I managed to get through it mostly without my fingers over my eyes. It should have won the Oscar for best picture.

**Favorite sport or recreational activity?**

Walking. So much walking.

**What famous person, current or past, would you like to meet and why?**

I'd like to meet the people who lived with the first domesticated dogs. And, of course, the dogs themselves.

**If a teleporter existed, where would you go first?**

I'd go see my mom probably. She would like that. (Hi Mom!) Then Antarctica to see it before it melts. Then China to see pandas.

**Favorite childhood book?**

*Old Yeller*. But that's one of many. I was a very bookish kid.



**Joyce Nelson**  
15th Avenue NE

**Favorite recent book you've read?**

*Leaders Eat Last* by Simon Sinek

**How long have you lived in St. Pete?**

**Where are you from originally?**

I moved here from Green Bay, Wisconsin in November 2017

**What items would you put in a time capsule to be opened in the future?**

Magic dust so that every person that opens the capsule becomes more than my finite mind can imagine.

**What is your favorite quote?**

"I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being an optimist is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward." Nelson Mandela

**If you had your own talk show, which 3 people would be your guests?**

My dad, to ask him everything I did not ask before he passed. My children to tell me about their days. Jerry Seinfeld. to have us all laugh about the moments of our lives.

**What is your first thought in the morning?**

What am I grateful for...

**What do you love most about St. Pete?**

The the accessibility to arts and culture, and healthy living with food, exercise, and nature. And the number of sunny days:)

**What advice would you give your younger self?**

Your greatest education is how to be authentically happy and of service to others.

**What are the top 3 places/experiences on your bucket list?**

1.) Travel to four of the many fountains built by Mark Fuller and his company, WET. They created the fountain in front of the Bellagio Resort in Las Vegas. 2.) Participate on a sailing adventure with a group of people who will be serving the people of the country we visit. 3.) Spend two months next year living in a Spanish-speaking country.

**Name a favorite movie.**

*My Fair Lady*

**Favorite sport or recreational activity?**

Golf, sailing, yoga, swimming, snorkeling, biking, walking.

**What famous person, current or past, would you like to meet and why?**

Richard Branson or Kathy Ireland. They both have an outstanding practice of valuing the people they work with.

**If a teleporter existed, where would you go first?**

Heaven

**Favorite childhood book?**

I did not read as a child, but I did read to my children. We enjoyed *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, and *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

**What or who inspires you?**

People who give back to make the world a better place.



**Kathy Callahan**  
28th Avenue North  
Crescent Heights

**Favorite recent book you've read?**

*Bobby Kennedy, a Raging Spirit* by Chris Mathews

**How long have you lived in St. Pete?**

**Where are you from originally?**

I've been here for 44 years. I was born in Warren, PA.

**What items would you put in a time capsule to be opened in the future?**

My family photos and my mother's very precious recipes.

**What is your favorite quote?**

"Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

**If you had your own talk show, which 3 people would be your guests?**

Arnold Palmer, Lucille Ball, and Paul McCartney

**What is your first thought in the morning?**

How blessed I am.

**What do you love most about St. Pete?**

The beautiful weather allows me to golf year-round.

**What advice would you give your younger self?**

Pursue your dreams.

**What are the top 3 places/experiences on your bucket list?**

Cooking classes in Tuscany, vacationing in Ireland with my husband, Kevin, and playing a round of golf at Augusta National.

**Name a favorite movie.**

*The Sound of Music*

**Favorite sport or recreational activity?**

Golf

**What famous person, current or past, would you like to meet and why?**

Ina Garten, the Barefoot Contessa. Her show was very instrumental in me becoming the cook I am today.

**If a teleporter existed, where would you go first?**

St. Andrews, in Ireland, the oldest and most iconic golf course in the world.

**Favorite childhood book?**

The Nancy Drew series. My sister, Barb, and I read the entire collection.

**What or who inspires you?**

Nurses. I volunteer at St. Anthony's Hospital and am amazed every day.

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

Labrador retriever

**What is the most encouraging word/statement you can receive?**

Thank you.

**What decade/place would you like to visit for a day?**

The 1950s in New York City

**Tell us about a significant mentor in your life.**

My mother. I aspire to be as good a person as she was. I think about her every day.

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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](http://www.heartgallerykids.org).

## BREONNA, AGE 11

Insightful and creative, Breonna enjoys going to church, drawing, and playing board games. If she had a super power, she'd want to read minds, control the wind, and fly! Breonna likes dogs and giraffes and hopes to have a dog someday as a pet, and just maybe become a veterinarian. She likes eating steak and tacos, but will pass on peas and lima beans please! She enjoys watching *Adventure Time* on the Cartoon Network when she's not busy doing her math homework. When asked to describe herself, Breonna said she was happy, silly, and likes adventures. If she could change the world, she'd make sure everyone had money. Breonna's ideal forever family will allow her to explore her creativity.



Photo courtesy of The Fine Art Photography Company & Sigma Lens

## JACK, AGE 16

Jack loves to laugh. It's one of the traits he admires most about himself, outside of his vibrant personality. Known for being caring, Jack believes in being kind to everyone because being mean simply makes him feel bad. Matter of fact, if Jack could change the world, he would make people less cruel toward each other and instead, more selfless and considerate. Animals, especially cats and horses, make Jack happy. Jack hopes to follow his passion for animals and become a veterinarian someday. For fun, Jack enjoys drawing, painting, listening to his favorite singer Miley Cyrus and having conversations. Jack's favorite foods are seafood, sushi, and salad, but no dairy please. Jack's other favorites include colors blue and red, the show *Orange Is the New Black*, basketball, and his science class at school. Jack is a transgender teen, who chooses to identify using the pronouns he, him, and his. Jack's ideal forever family would be accepting transgender and/or gay parents who are willing to support Jack's transition from female to male. Photos and video courtesy of PicsAndFlixs



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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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**HISTORY** continued from page 1

partially successful efforts to establish regional light rail.

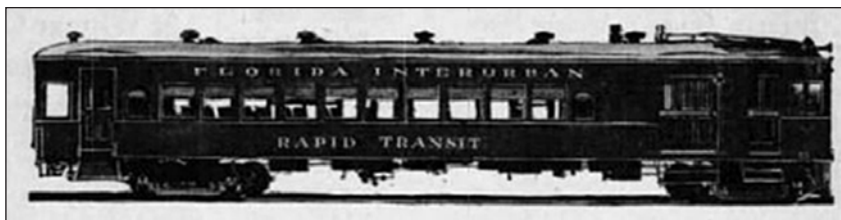
**THE TAMPA & ST. PETERSBURG RAILWAY CO.**

Achieving successful light rail in St. Petersburg was only a part of the vision of early city leaders. Their full vision extended to the entire Tampa Bay area.

In those early years, travel between the cities was not easy. Early St. Petersburg Mayor Noel ("Mitch") Mitchell in 1907 was one of the first to drive a car from St. Pete to Tampa – the ordeal took him three-and-a-half days. As late as 1914, train travel took 5 to 12 hours depending on the schedule. Travel by boat took about two hours, with a stop in Safety Harbor. Tony Jannus did make the trip in 1914 by airboat in about twenty minutes – still a record. But he only shuttled one or two passengers at a time, and the trip was expensive (the equivalent of \$123 one way). The concept of a streetcar line from St. Petersburg to Tampa was seriously discussed as early as 1901. But, it was not until 1916 that something was actually done about it. In that year, H. Walter Fuller and George S. Gandy, Sr. formed the Tampa and St. Petersburg Railway Company. While this company eventually led to the building of the famed Gandy Toll Bridge for autos, the original intention was to build the bridge for a light rail system.

Prior to commencement of the project, Fuller's son, Walter P., happened to commission an updated map of the whole of the Tampa Bay area. When his father saw the map, he had the engineers draw a line across the map and labeled it "Proposed St. Petersburg-Tampa Street Car Line." Over 100,000 copies of the map were distributed free. The proposed route was up 9th Street North, then across a private right-of-way, leading to a bridge as yet to be built, to its terminus at the Hillsborough County Court House. Later, the route was changed to go up 4th Street North, and a dirt road five miles long was actually cleared and graded. A deal also was made with the Tampa Electric Company for trackage rights. Stock was sold to finance the project with over 3,000 people subscribing.

Unfortunately, the project was disrupted by World War I. Due to wartime restrictions, the necessary construction materials could not be obtained. After the war, the project resumed and cross-bay bridge construction began in 1922. However, the bridge was now designed to accommodate autos as well as trolleys. At some point, it was determined that the interurban railway would not be financially feasible. Nevertheless, tracks were laid across the bridge to conform to the requirements of the franchise.



Light Rail car, called "electromotive power coaches," contemplated for the 1925 Florida Interurban Rapid Transit Railway.



Artist's rendering of the type of rapid buses the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority plans to run along First Avenues North and South between the Bay and the Gulf. Similar buses would likely be used for the proposed BRT route between St. Petersburg and Tampa.

Courtesy of Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

What became known as the Gandy Bridge opened with a huge celebration on November 20, 1924. Previous to the bridge's construction, travel by auto from St. Petersburg to Tampa was a distance of 43 miles. The bridge cut the distance to 19 miles. In 1926, the name of the company was changed to the Tampa and St. Petersburg Bridge Company. Tolls were charged to cross the bridge creating significant income for Gandy and his investors. The bridge was two-and-a-half miles long, making it the longest automobile toll bridge at the time. The indirect benefits were even greater leading to considerable development along 4th Street and other nearby areas. During World War II, the US Government bought the bridge and the tolls were discontinued. While the vision of a cross-bay light rail line was not achieved, still that vision resulted in an auto bridge across the bay

resulting in great travel convenience as well as new development.

**FLORIDA INTERURBAN RAPID TRANSIT RAILWAY**

As if the St. Petersburg-Tampa light rail vision were not enough, a second 1920s proposal called for a light rail network throughout Pinellas County and connected to Tampa. In 1925, the Florida Interurban Rapid Transit Railway was formed by Walter P. Fuller in association with Calvin A. Owens.

This company proposed 52 miles of light rail. The company's public stock announcement noted, "The line will traverse the richest fifty miles in all Florida and unquestionably the most populous." There was to be a dedicated right-of-way stretching diagonally from St. Petersburg to the Gulf Coast and up to Clearwater. From Clearwater, the route was to cut back to Safety Harbor, skirt the bay to Oldsmar, then run southeast to Tampa. The coaches would travel as fast as 70mph. It was calculated that travel from St. Petersburg to Tampa would take just 58 minutes. Trackage rights were secured from the Tampa Electric Company and the St. Petersburg Municipal Railway, and franchises were obtained from seven municipalities along the route. Total cost of the project was estimated at \$10 million.

The line was to be operated with "electromotive power coaches" that could operate with either gas or electricity. Local trains were to be operated hourly with intervening express service. Express stations were to be located in the principal cities along the route. There were to be local stations every three miles or so, and flag stops about a mile apart. Where appropriate the route would be electrified. On each side of the track, there would be dedicated two one-way roads to help facilitate adjacent development.

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Courtesy of St. Petersburg Museum of History

George S. Gandy, Sr., shown above, formed a partnership with H. Walter Fuller in 1916 to build a light rail line from St. Petersburg to Tampa. This enterprise resulted in today's Gandy Bridge.



1925 proposed Interurban Rapid Transit route tying together Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. Most of the needed right-of-way was acquired, some grading undertaken, and a new bridge over the Hillsborough River partially built.



Proposed route for new Bus Rapid Transit

The public was ecstatic about the project. A student debate was even organized at St. Petersburg Jr. High School. Those students arguing in favor of the interurban light rail project won hands down. The winning student, Mildred L. Dearnig, noted as positives, "Welfare and conveniences of people of moderate means; similar difficulties encountered by builders of Gandy Bridge with present success; Michigan Avenue Bridge in Tampa nearly completed; permanency of steel rails and coaches as against heavy depreciation and expensive repairs for buses; saving of time; fewer stops and less chances of traffic tie-ups..."

At the 1926 annual meeting of the corporation, it was reported 96 percent of the right-of-way had been acquired, and that a bridge over the Hillsborough River at Michigan Avenue (now Columbus Drive) in Tampa was 76 percent complete. In St. Petersburg, ground was broken at 16th Street North and Clearwater Avenue. Much of the grading had been accomplished. Then the land boom collapsed and funds could not be raised to finish the project, or even the Tampa bridge. Fuller claimed a loss of \$600,000.

Looking back on these ventures in light of today's efforts to obtain light rail is simply amazing. The visionaries of the early 1920s not only appreciated the importance of light rail in their time, but formed corporations and actually acquired property and began work. In the case of the 1916 Tampa and St. Petersburg Railway Company, the work was accomplished resulting in the first bridge uniting St. Petersburg to Tampa – although by the time the project was completed, the envisioned streetcar system gave way to a toll bridge for growing auto traffic. The 1925 Florida Interurban Rapid Transit Railway Corporation project was even more ambitious, seeking to link St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Tampa, and a range of intermediate stops. Again, the project was not merely planned but substantially

implemented, although not completed due to the 1927 collapse in the economy.

**THE QUEST FOR MASS RAPID TRANSIT CONTINUES**

Latest efforts have for the moment put light rail on the backburner and instead focus on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The BRT plan proposes to link St. Petersburg and Tampa with 31 miles of dedicated bus lanes at a cost in excess of \$1.6 billion. The route will use the Gandy Bridge to traverse Tampa Bay just as first contemplated by transportation visionaries in 1925. The line is envisioned as "the initial spine of a broader, regional mass transit system" and as a "cheaper, quicker alternative to continuing to pursue light rail." Nevertheless, transportation planners have not yet given up entirely on light rail. Coupled with the BRT plan is a \$25 million project to harden an underwater portion of a new span of the Howard Franklin Bridge to support future light rail. Meanwhile St. Petersburg is planning its own BRT system to operate on First Avenues North and South linking the Bay with the Gulf.

Early regional efforts to establish mass rapid transit serve as an inspiration to contemporary transportation planners and the public. Transportation pioneers such as F. A. Davis, H. Walter Fuller and his son Walter P. Fuller, George Gandy, and Calvin A. Owens were visionaries who not only planned for the future, but actually acted upon those plans. Had the Interurban Rapid Transit Railway succeeded, it is likely development in Tampa Bay may have unfolded quite differently, possibly weaving together a more cohesive region economically and culturally. The current and future need for mass transit and light rail is far greater than in the 1920s, and the potential benefit is no less. ●

Sources were published in the last edition. 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](mailto:wmichaels2222@gmail.com).



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### WHY WE LOVE THE 'BURG

# Napa Valley to St. Pete: Chad Nuss



What is it about St. Pete that attracts new residents of all ages and from all corners of the country? Starting with this issue, we kick-off a new series that takes a look at what brings people to the Sunshine City.

Marty Normile

Within five minutes of their first meeting, Chris Steinocher, president of the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, knew immediately that Chad Nuss and his new tech company, InsideOut, would be huge wins for St. Petersburg. Chad and his team are exactly the kind of young, creative entrepreneurs the city is focused on attracting. For Chad, coming to St. Pete felt like the perfect fit, too.

I met Chad recently for coffee at the Black Crow coffee shop in the Old Northeast where we both live. I wanted to learn more about what attracted his family and his business to St. Petersburg, and how they are settling in.

A California native, Chad has lived in some attractive and vibrant places like Santa Barbara, San Francisco, and most recently Napa Valley. But like so many of us, he and his family love St. Petersburg, and they already feel at home here.

Initially, Chad and his business partner, Christina Cherry, had selected Sarasota to launch their new tech business in 2015. Then, when they made the decision to expand the business, they looked at several Florida locations including Naples and Tampa. But luckily they 'stumbled' onto St. Petersburg at the suggestion of a friend.

Chad recalls that even though he had driven through St. Petersburg dozens of times on his way from Sarasota to the Tampa airport, he had never veered off I-275 and explored the city. So, in 2016 he and his wife, Holly, decided to take a look. As they drove down Beach Drive past the Vinoy and into the Old Northeast, they were hooked. It felt a lot like their Napa neighborhood and it seemed like a good fit for their two daughters, Cecilia (14) and Chloe (10). The couple rented a house, virtually sight-unseen after a friend sent them a phone video tour of it. They packed up the family, including Chad's mother, Jeanette, plus the family's two dogs, and made the move in July 2016.

Holly Nuss, an entrepreneur herself, is the owner of TeplinNuss Public Relations. She works from St. Pete and Napa where she has offices in both. The children are enrolled and active in their schools, Chloe at St. Paul's Catholic



School, and Cecilia at Canterbury School of Florida. Jeanette, Chad's mother, enjoys an active lifestyle in her new home, and Bubba and Gunner, the yellow Labs, are regulars in North Shore Park.

"Falling in love with a city that I had not visited before was the biggest surprise," says Chad. "We like the brick streets and older homes in the Old Northeast – it reminds us of living in downtown Napa, where we pulled up our roots. Living here, my kids can get on their bikes and ride along the waterfront, stop at the pool, enjoy a movie, and come home safe and sound. There are not many communities where you can balance the safety of a downtown environment with the quality of life we have here."

The short commute to his downtown office in the BB&T First Central Tower is a big plus, too. "After living in San Francisco for 10 years, I really appreciate having zero traffic and zero commute," says Chad.

"It gives me the chance to pop over to the kids' school events and sports games, and be back at the office within minutes. I think it's brought us all closer together."

An outdoor guy, Chad enjoys time on the water in his kayak, a fishing boat, or paddleboard, plus playing tennis, swimming, bicycling, or running along the waterfront parks. "Being a transplant from California, this makes me feel right at home," he told me.

You might describe Chad as a 'serial entrepreneur' – InsideOut is his fourth start-up tech company. Chad calls InsideOut a sales innovation lab. As he explained on a recent podcast, "we created InsideOut to essentially help empower sales people to be creative, find innovative ways to increase their customer base, and let new customers test and measure their approach to how they sell." One bonus of the business being in St. Petersburg is that it gives Chad the opportunity to show off his new city to visiting clients, and – who knows – maybe convince some to relocate here. He has also formed a working group of fellow CEOs from six small and mid-sized downtown tech companies to assist the city in promoting this emerging sector of St. Petersburg's business base.

So, how are Chad and his family settling in? "St. Petersburg and the Old Northeast have everything we were looking for," he says. ◆

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**MONUMENTS AND LANDMARKS**

# A Tour of St. Pete's Historical Legacy

*This column, a new feature of the Northeast Journal, is devoted to the monuments and landmarks that permeate every corner of our beloved city.*

Joey Vars

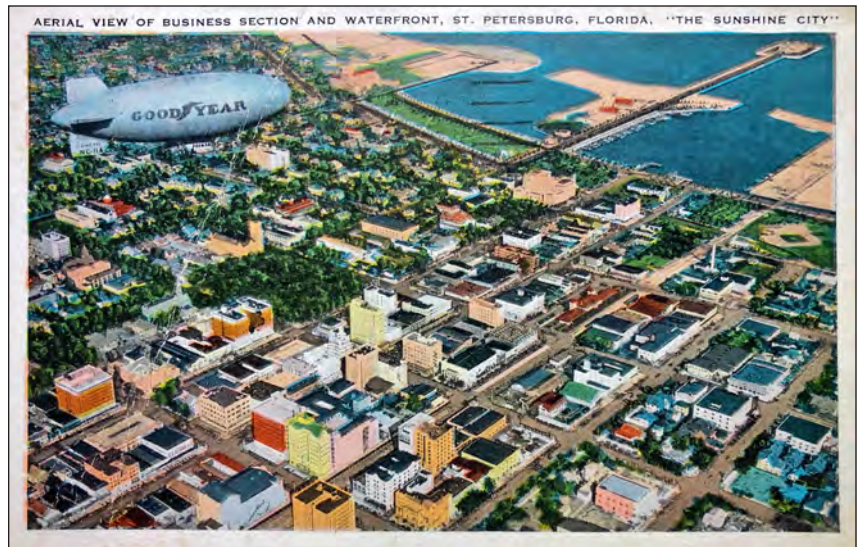
Each person who calls St. Petersburg home does so for their own reasons. For me, it has always been an unquenchable fascination with the history of our city, especially its beautiful buildings and historical landmarks.

In fact, my passion for Florida history largely stemmed from living in the Sunshine City. I found an endless supply of historical oddities, landmarks, and monuments that helped define the city I now called home.

Monuments themselves don't necessarily have to be stone obelisks, plaques, or statues; buildings themselves are monuments to the people who built them, their ideals, and society as it was during the time they were built.

The Snell building, for example, was regarded as the most beautiful structure in all of Florida when it was completed in 1926, and was thus heavily touted in publications until the end of the 1920s tourist boom.

Subsequently, landmarks themselves aren't necessarily a single object or point in space; by definition, a landmark is "a feature that is easily recognized and helps someone establish their location." This column will also challenge that perception as we explore why places such as Fourth Street, Central Avenue, and the interstates are landmarks in their own right, not just in being easily recognizable, but also for the social and cultural boundaries they propagate.



Finally, we will also explore how these structures have helped shape our Sunshine City and its legacy through the use of postcards. A building or landmark's importance can be determined by how they are perceived in materials intended to be distributed to a broader audience than what could be found locally. Their appearance in published materials such as postcards, brochures, and even films lend credibility and significance which helps us in the present understand the society of the past.

I invite you to follow along in each issue of the *Northeast Journal* as we explore the monuments landmarks, and historical points of interest that make up the foundation of the Sunshine City. My goal is to bring you as much enjoyment of knowledge about our slice of paradise as I have throughout the years. ●

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**THE ARTIST IN EVERYONE** *continued from page 1*

A native Vermonter, Anna took as many art classes in high school as they'd allow and in college at the University of Vermont. "In my junior year, I studied abroad in London where I took a Museums and Galleries class and fell in love with the artists of European history," says Anna. "I saw for the first time, in living color, paintings I'd only seen in books. There in Europe, I stood before towering canvases of Monet's cathedrals, Van Gogh's roosters, Turner's ships. I was in my candy shop! It was a hugely influential and inspiring four-month experience."

Europe inspired her with a case of wanderlust. After finishing her last year of college back in Vermont, she traveled back to France, then to the Western United States; Costa Rica; Barbados; Nantucket; and Baja, Mexico. "I would go anywhere that seemed interesting and beautiful," says Anna. "With each return to Vermont, I felt called to paint what I'd discovered. Each new destination offered an entirely new rhythm and essence in its people, its food, its landscape, its animals, its smells, its feels. It took me a long while to discover why it is that I paint, and to attribute importance to it. Over the years, my discovery is this: I paint because it brings me joy. It is as simple as that."

**LOVE THE 'BURG**

An Old Northeast resident since August 2014, Anna felt called to the area after a brief visit. "Eight months prior to my move, I stumbled on St. Pete because a friend and I came for vacation to visit his parents," she says. "I fell in love with not only the warm, sunny climate, but the creative energy here as well. I just had this feeling that I needed to be here. So I sold off much of what I owned, including all my art work, and moved to St Pete eight months later. It was in August, the hottest month of the year. Friends and family in Vermont thought I was crazy. It was simply



Anna Ayres with Creative Clay member-artist Robin

an intuition I had about the area at that time, and the past four years of living here have proven my intuition accurate."

Anna enjoys the artistic community and camaraderie in the Old Northeast because it is easy to go to events, talk to people, and network with other artists. She especially likes to participate in live art-making where the artist is creating the piece in front of the viewer. "This is becoming more popular and I would like to do more of it. This is a direction that art is going in." She envisions places like hotels, St. Pete Saturday market, and HONNA porch parties as locations where the community can interact with the artist as they create their work, in much the same way as listening to musicians perform in public spaces.

Now in its 23rd year, Creative Clay began as the brainchild of two social workers who coordinated government-funded services for people with developmental disabilities. They saw a need for an art-specific activity that

would give their clients an identity, a connection to the community, and the ability to share their work as outreach to other communities to further create and enhance inclusion.

Kim Dohrman, now executive director of Creative Clay, first started as a teacher 11 years ago. Her passion for Creative Clay's mission propelled her into many roles. She slowly assumed more administrative duties, which was not at all what she planned to do, but "I just love being in this arts community. My favorite part of my work now is sharing what makes this a great community and encouraging people to participate in whatever way they can."

Kim explains that the role of Creative Clay is as much about career development as artistic expression. The artists' work is for sale in the Museum of Fine Arts gift shop through a partnership between Creative Clay, and in the Creative Clay

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The Creative Clay team: Joan Buckley, receptionist; Marcy Davidson, director of HR; Sean Kennedy, board chair; Kim Dohrman, CEO; and Emily Turnage, director of Community Arts

gallery, which is open daily and during the Second Saturday ArtWalk. Member-artists' work is also available for sale or lease through a unique program called Arts in Office.

Currently, Creative Clay artwork can be found in 10 different office venues in St. Pete. Member artists and Creative Clay share proceeds from the sale or lease. But the reward is more than financial. Equally rewarding for member artists is the confidence they gain both through developing their identify as an artist and the feeling of belonging to a community of artists.

At the present time, there are 45 member artists enrolled in the onsite arts program each week. Some have been coming for 20 years. In addition to painting, member artists can participate in ceramics, fiber, and even a sewing circle creating needlepoint, a group founded by Creative Clay member artist Chris C. "The curriculum is diverse and guided by student desire,"

for students ages 6-12, as well as a summer studio for young artists ages 13-22. Creative Clay also reaches out into the community. Creative Care (Arts in Wellness) targets people in shelters, assisted living facilities, and healthcare settings. Member artists work alongside professional contracted artists to facilitate arts experiences for clients of organizations such as CASA and Goodwill Industries.

Creative Clay is funded in part by a Medicaid waiver, as well as donations and grants. Fundraising is a constant practice of any nonprofit. Creative Clay responds to this challenge with a variety of programs and events, such as Creative Clay Art and Music Fest, a festival held in November which brings folk artists from around the region to create an inclusive arts event. Creative Thrift, a new program operated by Member Artists, allows anyone in the community to purchase art supplies donated to the organization. It's a "pay what you can" store on the premises. ●

says Kim. "We want the member artists' true and authentic voice to come out in their work."

Creative Clay moved from Central Avenue, where they had been since 2004, to the Edge District in June 2017. The new location – 1846 1st Avenue South – has 1,000 square feet of additional space to offer a rich variety of visual-arts related programs. In the summer, Creative Clay offers a summer camp program



Creative Clay member-artist Brandy enjoys painting



Anna's artwork

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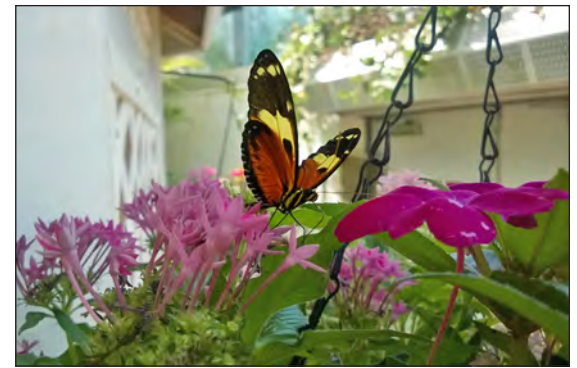
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 Their tone is succulent,  
 Sublime, vibrant.  
 Wistful wings flutter,  
 Tantalizingly,  
 Overwhelming me with  
 A silent serenade  
 Glistening on my essence.  
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 Eloquent memento of you.



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 To a pitch of frequency  
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 The plucky lady draws admirers  
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