



NORTHEAST JOURNAL

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EST. SEPTEMBER 2004

Good People ∞ Good Places ∞ Good Things Happening

St. Pete Bees Create Quite a Buzz

Gary Smith

On a steamy Friday morning downtown, we were standing on the rooftop of the most unlikely of venues: the Museum of Fine Arts. The air was thick with tropical moisture and the sun was pounding us. Just a typical August day in Florida.

We had just climbed the 20-foot ladder to the top, and we were collectively awestruck, taking in a magnificent, million-dollar view of Tampa Bay, the boats at the St. Pete Yacht Club Marina, and the high-rise condos all around us.

While we were busy enjoying the view, Matt and Allison Davis of Noble Nectar brought our attention to why we were there in the first place. Just across from us, on the rooftop of one of St. Pete's most landmark museums, were eight small white boxes stacked on top of each other. Inside, were over 200,000 buzzing European honeybees.

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Matt Davis removes a frame from the MFA beehives.

Allison Lynn Photography

My Weedon Island Adventure

Sylvia Raymond

I began my Weedon Island adventure when I was a child growing up in St. Petersburg. Back then, my cohorts and I could wander around Weedon Island without encountering a fence, a gate, or anything that barred us from exploring every nook and cranny of this remote area of North St. Pete. Other than alligators, and an abundance of weird and wonderful wildlife, we were pretty much alone out there in the wild. My dad used to take my brother to Weedon Island to fish



George Heinrich shows off one of the Florida snakes at Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center

when he was about 7 or 8. Weedon Island and the area around Gandy Bridge was known as the best place to fish on the Bay. When I was a teenager, we used to go to Weedon Island to 'park,' and to tell ghost stories about 'the hook' and other scary stories of dastardly creatures who haunted the grounds. We, like all teenagers, loved to terrorize the bejesus out of each other. Weedon Island was the perfect environment for such shenanigans.

Even though I've spent many hours of my life traipsing around Weedon Island, I knew little about its history. So, I decided to read up and found a book on the internet, *The Weedon Island Story*, created by the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management Environmental Lands Division. According to what I read, Weedon Island was once home to prehistoric native Americans, evidenced by many discovered artifacts, indicating that humans occupied the area perhaps as early as 1,800 years ago.

I also learned that the property to be known as Weedon Island was purchased in 1886 by a former Confederate cavalry officer, Captain W. B. Henderson, using his war bonds. Later, as a wedding gift, he gave the island to his daughter, Blanche, and new husband, Leslie Weedon, a doctor from Tampa. She didn't think much of the island, but he hoped he could make some money from it someday.

Eugene M. Elliott, a land speculator and developer, later purchased the island from Dr. Weedon. He intended to build

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Reinvention at the Museum of History

Will Michaels

The St. Petersburg Museum of History is about ready to again reinvent itself. I had the honor of once serving as the museum's executive director and as a trustee on its board. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. The museum gave me to an opportunity to apply my education in anthropology, and it was while there that I began writing the history column for the *Northeast Journal* back in 2004.

At the time I was with the museum it was also undergoing a major renovation. A new entrance and gift shop were fashioned off 2nd Avenue NE. The Strum Family Gallery was created, now

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Good News About People, Places & Organizations in NE St. Pete

I hope you enjoy our fall issue of the *Northeast Journal* and the diversity of stories from our amazing team of writers. We are blessed to live in a community where there is so much happening and such creative energy. Kudos to Snell Isle resident Ron Diner for taking such a strong stand for children in our story about Lunch Pals; to Northeast resident Nicole Sondermann for raising our awareness about narcolepsy, a much-misunderstood medical condition; and to Kristen Shepherd, the new executive director of the Museum of Fine Arts, for kicking it up a notch at the MFA and allowing bees to move in on the rooftop.

I also want to draw your attention to the article on Weedon Island, a very hidden gem in our community. We love our many beautiful family-friendly city parks, but Weedon Island is different. In a fast-developing city, this 3,190-acre nature preserve is one of our few remaining 'wild' places.

Yes, Weedon Island has paved paths, boardwalks, guided hikes, a natural history center, and an observation tower. But the vast majority of land is left untouched. A forest of mangroves surround the island. Saltwater ponds are home to mullet and wading birds. The area is refuge for native plants and animals. When my two-year-old granddaughter stepped off the path into the scrub, an employee quickly hurried out to remind us about snakes.

The Weedon Island landscape reminds us what this part of Florida must have looked before neighborhoods, shopping centers, and highways. In 2011, archeologists excavated an ancient 39-foot dugout canoe from the shoreline, a lifeline to the flourishing Native American Indian culture that once inhabited this area. Radiocarbon testing revealed the canoe to be more than 1,000 years old.

This connection with ancient history and wilderness is vastly important. In today's busy and often stressful world, we need a place to escape from civilization once in a while – a place that's set aside to be wild, free, and unhurried.

Janan Talafer
Editor, *Northeast Journal*



Ellie on a recent Weedon Island adventure



Janan kayaking through the mangrove forest a few years ago, before the trails were closed while trail markers are updated and brought to state code.



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PUBLISHER

Jennifer MacMillen
(802) 698-8184, (888) 868-7192
publisher@greatergoodmedia.net

ADVERTISING

Susan Seta-Williams
(727) 259-3149
northeastjournal@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Janan Talafer, *Managing Editor*
editor@northeastjournal.org
Julie L. Johnston, *Copy Editing*

ART DIRECTION/PRODUCTION

Julie L. Johnston, *Ad Design/Layout*
JohnstonGraphicDesigner@gmail.com

DISTRIBUTION

Jamie Mayo, *Distribution/Subscriptions*
distribution@northeastjournal.org

WRITERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Scott Brown	Gary Smith
Jeanne Carlson	Janan Talafer
Rick Carson	Gay Wasik-Ziegel
Will Michaels	North Shore parents
Sylvia Raymond	

NEJ FACEBOOK REPORTER

Lynn Lotkowitz

PHOTOGRAPHY

Diana Krause Geegan
NEJ contributors
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Derreck Dwyer
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Bill Thomas
+1 813-335-2304



Carla Arthur
+1 702-210-0109



Carlina Sarabia
+1 813-361-4387



Leisa Erickson
+1 727-877-5478



Matthew Erickson
+1 239-269-7443



Gina Timmins
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MEET THE WRITERS

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

Scott Brown worked in the U.S. Senate and for FNMA, Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers. He dodged the crash to start his own firm which he sold at the end of 2018 so he and his wife Ellen, of 37 years, could retire to Old Northeast. Scott and Ellen have three amazing children.



Jeannie Carlson is a correspondent for Tampa Bay Newspapers, Inc. as seen in *Tampa Bay Times*, TBNWeekly.com and *Beach Beacon*; an adjunct English professor; and a writer at Examiner.com ("Swedish Cooking with a Southern Accent"). She has been a resident of and inspired by the ONE since 2000. (www.JeannieCarlson.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]



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.



Lynn Lotkowitz spent years in radio in NY, and in business dev/mgmt at *Florida Trend Magazine*. She volunteers at Tomlinson Adult Learning Center ESOL Program, and travels internationally. Lynn is the new *NEJ* Facebook roving reporter sharing photos and video about exciting events, people and places around town. facebook.com/NortheastJournalFL



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]



Sylvia Raymond, a longtime St. Pete resident (now in Crescent Heights), has been a teacher, college administrator, editor, and an administrator at an international organization accrediting business schools. She enjoys biking, volunteering for Crescent Heights Neighborhood Assoc. & others, painting/hiding rocks, and hanging out with family, friends & her two cats.



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]



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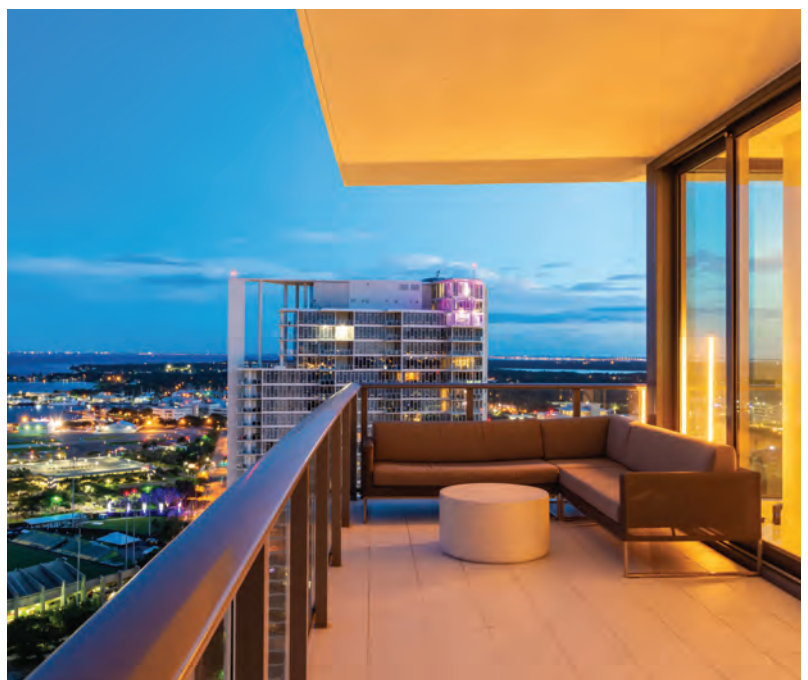
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Dining with Ron Diner and School 'Lunch Pals'



Ron Diner with Marsha and J.B. Starkey after the Lunch Pals talk at First Presbyterian Church
Gay Wasik-Zegel

When we say someone is 'out to lunch,' we infer that he or she is distracted or not paying attention. This is definitely not the case with Snell Isle resident Ron Diner, who is both focused and attentive when he spends quality time with the two 5th grade students he mentors through Lunch Pals, a program he's passionate about.

The director of Strategic Community Partnerships at Raymond James Financial, Ron is founder of the Lunch Pals program. This unique partnership between Pinellas County Schools and Raymond James offers adults the opportunity to spend a 30-minute lunch period once a week with an elementary or middle school student chosen by the school staff. Today, well over 1,500 Pinellas County students have been matched with a Lunch Pals mentor.

As a father, grandfather, and mentor, it was fitting for Ron to speak to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church this past Father's Day about the Lunch Pals program. First Presbyterian and Lakewood Elementary School – a Title 1 public school in South St. Pete – formed a partnership in the fall of 2018 as the congregation offered to provide financial assistance and other resources for both students and teachers. In 2019, the church decided to step up support with more direct hands-on involvement through participation in programs like Lunch Pals.

"Approximately 100,000 students are enrolled in Pinellas County Schools," Ron told us during the discussion. "Out of those, about 50,000 qualify for free or reduced lunch. Most of us in this room have plenty to eat, while just a few miles south, there are children who would go hungry over the weekend if the schools didn't distribute food packages." Because economic hardship is often followed by other challenges, the presence of another consistent adult in a child's life can make all the difference. Obviously, Ron leads by example. His enthusiasm for the program is clear.

Recently, Ron was selected by The National Mentoring Partnership as a finalist for the national 2018 Corporate Excellence in Youth Mentoring Award. He also received the 2018 Humanitarian Award from St. Petersburg's Gathering of Women. Lunch Pals and Ron are included in AARP's 2017 edition of *Where We Live: Communities for All Ages – 100+ Inspiring Ideas from America's Community Leaders*.



Ron Diner with one of his student lunch pals

I had become a Lunch Pals' mentor to a first-grade student at Lakewood Elementary just a few months before Ron's talk. Though it was already close to the end of the year, my student and I bonded quickly, talking about things we like and daily events. On the third week, she was already waiting in the front office for me. She bobbed up and down with enthusiasm when she saw me enter the front door. Another day, she sadly told me that she was going to "repeat" first grade. She needs a lot more help with reading. I hope that she will be my mentee again this year. Knowing her has been a joy.

As I listened to Ron speak, I hoped that many others would take this opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child.

Ron hopes to expand Lunch Pals to include 2,000 mentors during the coming school year with the campaign *Change Your Lunch Plans... Change a Life*. First Presbyterian Church will hold a Lunch Pals training workshop on September 18 from 12-1pm. The public is welcome to attend. For more information on Lunch Pals and how you can become involved, go to www.lunchpals.org.



Tanisha Clayton, the volunteer coordinator who oversees the Lunch Pals program at Lakewood Elementary School

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Students at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg have come up with an innovative solution they've named the ORCA system. It's a 'biodigester that uses oxygen, water, and micro-organisms that flourish in cold water to break down food waste until it is eventually transformed into a liquid effluent. Then the effluent – a mixture of fats, proteins and minerals – can be safely filtered before being discharged into a sanitary sewer system.



USFSP students with the ORCA: Emma Jacobs (left) and Andrea Rodriguez Campos

According to USFSP, the ORCA can break down as much as 15 pounds of food an hour and could divert more than 2,000 pounds of the university's food waste per year from landfills. Emma Jacobs, vice president of the school's Student Green Energy Fund, reports, "The ORCA will decrease the amount of food waste at the university while also reducing our carbon footprint." Kudos to USFSP students for being so environmentally conscious and sustainable. ●

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BEES CREATE QUITE A BUZZ *Continued from page 1*

A honeybee landed on Matt's t-shirt. Most of us would panic, maybe swat it away, but Matt gently pulled on his shirt to give the bee a chance to fly away. Only a professional beekeeper could love bees this much.

Matt and Allison manage about 100 bee colonies in 12 different locations in the greater St. Petersburg area, including the colonies on the MFA rooftop. One of the reasons they love their job is knowing how important urban beekeeping is for the environment. Honeybee populations worldwide are dwindling, challenged by disease, mites, and many other factors. "It gives me a sense of satisfaction because I know we're making a difference," says Matt.

The couple's primary focus is bee extraction —the process of collecting a feral colony of bees from trees

communications, gives credit to MFA executive director Kristen Shepherd for paving the way for the bees to move in.

The museum's youngest executive director in its history, and the first woman, Kristen relocated from Los Angeles, where urban beekeeping is a popular hobby. And she thought the MFA's large, flat rooftop would be perfect for an apiary. "It's been a great adventure. We've received an overwhelming positive response," says Kristen.

For anyone worried about encountering bees during a museum visit, Julie points out that the hives are inaccessible to anyone except the professional beekeepers. Besides, much of the colony is out every day searching for nectar and pollen, often flying for up to five miles from the hive as they forage. "One bee may visit about 5,000 flowers in a day," says Matt.

Matt and Allison also inform us that European honeybees are actually very docile. "A lot of people are frightened about bees, but it's a lack of understanding," says Allison. "The bees are just doing their business and aren't going to go out of their way to hurt you." On the other hand, the bees' safety is something the museum now has to consider as part of its emergency preparedness plan, especially related to the approach of a hurricane, says Julie. To keep the apiaries safe even in heavy wind, the

boxes are strapped in place on the rooftop.

The Museum of Fine Arts isn't the only well-known St. Pete landmark hosting a rooftop apiary. Green Bench Brewing Company has had two apiaries on its roof for the past four years. The popular microbrewery is known for its craft beer and cider, as well as mead, which is made with fermented honey. And yes, some of the local honey from the rooftop has been infused in small-batch special estate meads. Green Bench produced a few batches last year in the spring and fall, and this year in the spring.

Brian Wing has the fun title of Green Bench's head mead maker. "Our bees don't produce enough

to meet the demand for our whole line of mead, but we love the idea of using locally sourced ingredients when we can," says Brian. "Our Estate Mead is as local as it gets: St. Pete water, St. Pete honey and



Honeybees can fly up to five miles foraging for pollen



Kristen Shepherd, Museum of Fine Arts executive director

on someone's property, or from inside the walls of buildings, and then transporting them to a new safe place. Removal rather than extermination is their motto. They also sell the honey their bees produce, and even have a honey delivery service that Matt says harkens back to the days when the milkman made home deliveries.

At some point in the future, the MFA hopes to sell its own honey in the museum gift shop, and to use it as an ingredient in some of the dishes on the restaurant menu. For now, the bees are just settling into their new home, after arriving at the museum this past spring. Julie Wilson, director of marketing and



Matt Davis collects feral bees during a "rescue" mission.

Allison Lynn Photography

yeast. We label it so when you drink it, you can get the taste of flavor of St. Pete based on the date and season it's made."

Luke Galloway is the Green Bench beekeeper. Beekeeping is a hobby; his fulltime job is with CSX Railroad. He's also a mentor for a year-long beekeeping class at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens. He says that local honey is darker in color with a more robust flavor. That's due to the honey bee's typical diet of wildflowers, mangrove, palmetto, and even the invasive Brazilian Pepper tree.

Luke told us that bees are organized within the colony according to their job. The queen bee is the

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Green Bench co-founder Steve Duffy with the brewery's rooftop bees



Who knew Green Bench Brewing Company had two rooftop apiaries?

largest female. Her sole purpose is to lay eggs to produce more bees. The worker bees are also female, and they rule the roost making all the decisions for the hive. But, they also do all of the work. They take care of the queen, nurse the young, keep the hive cool, forage for nectar and pollen, and guard the colony. Male bees are called drones. Their job is to go out and mate with queens from other hives, but their lifespan is short; they die soon after mating.

Like Matt and Allison, Luke says honey bees are misunderstood and the decline in their population is a big concern. "Other than when they swarm, there is never an issue with safety," says Luke. "And if you do see a swarm, call a professional to take



Matt Davis gently removes a bee from his shirt



Worker bees drop the nectar into the honeycomb

care of it." Swarming occurs when the hive gets overcrowded and the colony leaves to find a new home.

To make sure that doesn't happen, Luke inspects the rooftop hives at Green Bench about twice a month. He harvests, or 'extracts' the honey about twice a year and can usually get about eight pounds of honey from one pound of bee wax. On average, hives produce about 40 pounds of honey annually.

I love the idea that both Green Bench Brewing Company and the Museum of Fine Arts have rooftop bee apiaries. That's what makes St. Pete so special – one of the very cool things about living here in the Sunshine City. ●

Thank you Allison Davis for allowing us to feature the very cool photos of your bees.

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Joan Escardo-Boomsma

8th Avenue North

How long have you lived in St. Pete, and where are you from originally?

I have lived in St. Pete 27 years, but was born in the Netherlands and grew up in the Dutch Antilles.

Best hidden gem in St. Pete?

We are a peninsula on a peninsula; I enjoy the historical and cultural and natural richness here.

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

New Zealand/Australia and the Grand Canyon

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

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a female Muslim refugee from Africa, who against great odds survived traumatic abuse, cultural strangulation, and assassination attempts. She rebuilt herself into a foremost voice of reason.

Favorite sport, recreational activity or hobby?

Walking and talking pictures of nature

A great movie you'd recommend?

Green Book, inspired by the true story of African American classical and jazz pianist Don Shirley and his Italian American driver and bodyguard.

If you could have a super power, what would it be?

To 'discern' things more clearly

What are you watching/binge watching on Netflix?

I don't watch TV... not willingly anyway. My TV/PC screen and I have a love/hate relationship.

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

Ceviche

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

A mutt – a little bit of everything

Tell us about a situation or a person who has inspired you.

Dr. Betty Green Suddreth of Betty Green Ministries. She grew up dirt poor, but was a Jesus disciple at 10 years old. Betty lost her husband and six children, and almost her life. She fought back and has now been an inspiring minister for 44 years now. She just turned 82 this month.

Current book you've read and would recommend?

Yesterday – My Story by Hadassah Rosensaft with an introduction by Elie Wiesel

What St. Pete venues are on the must-see list for out-of-town guests?

I love to show off our beautiful neighborhood homes, yards, trees, waterfront, and amenities.

Tell us about an accomplishment, current or past, of which you are proud.

I wrote a book that is due to be published this year. It's been 10 years in the making.

Something people might not know about you?

I'm in my third year of Bible school.

What do you do for a living – what do you enjoy about it?

I'm a writer. Writing helps me unclutter my mind and bring the big picture into focus.



Heather Leon

40th Avenue NE

How long have you lived in St. Pete, and where are you from originally?

I have lived here since 2008, and grew up in Pinellas County with many family members originally from St. Pete, including my father and grandparents.

Best hidden gem in St. Pete?

While most folks wouldn't consider them hidden, I want to give a shout-out to our St. Pete Library System. They have amazing children's programs, especially through the summer. You can even 'borrow' museum passes for up to two adults and three children for five area museums.

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

The Maldives and walking on a glacier in the Arctic

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

Michelle Obama. I would love to listen to her stories about her time as First Lady and chat with her about motherhood and careers. I always find her so knowledgeable and down-to-earth at the same time. The youngest Obama daughter, Sasha, is the same age as our youngest daughter.

Favorite sport, recreational activity, or hobby?

USF football games and tailgating with my husband and our kids

A great movie you'd recommend?

This is tough. As much as I'd like to pick something that's entertaining-only, as far as one I'd truly recommend, I'd have to go with *The Big Short*.

If you could have a super power, what would it be?

Mind control

What are you watching/binge watching on Netflix?

We just finished the second season of *Mindhunter*. It's so interesting to see how the Behavioral Analysis Unit of the FBI got its start.

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

Rococo Steak

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

A Chihuahua. Small in stature, but big in heart, and never backs down.

Tell us about a situation or a person who has inspired you.

My husband, Jean-Marie Leon. When we first met, even before we were dating, he told me I was too smart to get stuck in the career track I was in, and encouraged me to get my Master's Degree. Four years later we had blended our families, and he cheered the loudest for me while caring for our two-month-old son in the audience as I walked across the stage to accept my MBA from USF.

Current book you've read and would recommend?

Dare to Lead by Brené Brown

What St. Pete venues are on the must-see list for out-of-town guests?

Wow. So many! Maybe see a movie at Sundial, then catch dinner along Beach Drive, perhaps at Bella Brava or 400 Beach. We'd check out one of the museums. It's hard to choose between the Dali, James, and Imagine, but any would be great. Then we'd finish off the visit with a BBQ at Ft DeSoto.



Pamela Arbisi

Hawaii Avenue NE,
Venetian Isles

How long have you lived in St. Pete, and where are you from originally?

My family moved here from Minnesota in 1972 and lived on the west part of St. Pete. Twenty years ago, my husband and I fell in love with and moved to the northeast part, and now live in Venetian Isles.

Best hidden gem(s) in St. Pete?

MFA Café at the Museum of Fine Arts. I may be biased since I work for the museum, but I especially love their weekend brunch. Everything is made from scratch, and you can dine inside the beautiful conservatory or on the patio with a waterfront view.

Top two places in the world on your bucket list?

Croatia and the Amalfi Coast in Italy

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

I would love to have the opportunity to meet Tony Dungy. I was very impressed with how he brought integrity, discipline, and leadership into a very public sport. Additionally, he served as a great example of a male role model for the future of our young men. I loved his book *Quiet Strength*. A must read!

Favorite sport, recreational activity or hobby?

Gardening, reading, dining, entertaining, traveling, boating, and shopping all rank high on my list.

A great movie you'd recommend?

I would highly recommend *Yesterday*. It's a refreshing storyline paired with memorable music.

If you could have a super power, what would it be?

One-hour insight. Just imagine all the good that you could do!

What are you watching/binge watching on Netflix?

I am currently in a TV drought until the next season of *This is Us* and *The Crown*.

Favorite restaurant in St. Pete?

My husband and I are foodies, so it is hard to narrow it down to one, but some of our favorites would be: Il Ritorno, Rococo Steak, Bodega, Munch's, and Parkshore Grill.

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

I would be a beagle as they are incredible, curious creatures.

Tell us about a situation or a person who has inspired you.

My mother, who is 90, has been a source of inspiration and strength all my life. She is my mentor and anchor with incredible insight and wisdom.

Current book you've read and would recommend?

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. Beautifully written with many poetic lines showcasing strength and perseverance of a young woman.

What St. Pete venues are on the must-see list for out-of-town guests?

The Hideaway Café for an intimate live music experience; 3 Daughters Brewery for a place that offers something for everyone; The Canopy at the Birchwood for the best view while enjoying a cocktail; the Vinoy for the amazing history; St. Pete Store & Visitor Center for a souvenir and local knowledge; the St. Petersburg Saturday Morning Market; and of course, the Museum of Fine Arts for the excellent and expansive collection of art.

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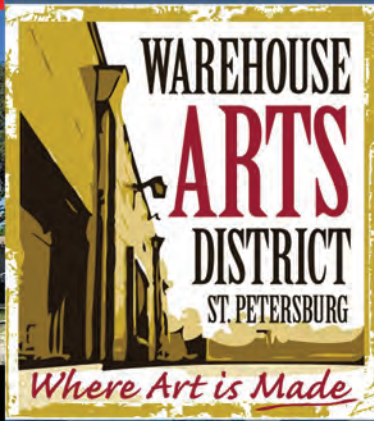
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY... 1911-2011

ST. PETE'S JEWEL ON TAMPA BAY

Rick Carson, editor • nsnaeditor@aol.com



One of the hallmarks of neighborliness in The Historic Old Northeast is how well we are working together to make sure The ONE is "looking good" and that the infrastructure is up to speed. One of the ways this can be achieved is through the most effective use of SeeClickFix (SCF), the City's computer/smart-phone/notebook app that's part of the Mayor's Action Center, which allows residents to alert City departments to problems that need fixing.

We decided to ask David Finton (director of the Mayor's Action Center) to share some insights on how residents might maximize their use of the SCF app in order to employ it most effectively. He has noted that residents in the ONE have really embraced the use of SCF, and that this has affected "positive change for the whole neighborhood." Here are a few of his thoughts on better understanding SCF and how we can use it most wisely.

SEEClickFix: TIPS & SHORTCUTS

David Finton, Director, Mayor's Action Ctr.

Five years ago, the City rolled out a new citizen engagement website and mobile app called SeeClickFix St. Pete (SCF), which put the ability to request assistance with non-emergency city services in the palms of the hands of citizen users in the Historic Old Northeast and throughout neighborhoods around the Sunshine City. This application has modernized the way requests are submitted, processed, and resolved, and it's been quite successfully received by residents, with just over 100,000 issue reports submitted to-date.



Successfully implementing SCF hasn't been without challenges. It is a wonderful tool for change; however, just like any tool, it's only as effective as the people using it. As City staff has learned how best to manage the requests that are sent to us by SCF

users, we've learned some 'Tips and Shortcuts' that will help optimize your use of the app.

- Law enforcement issues are usually timely and sometimes require sensitive information, so for those reasons we ask that users don't use SCF to report issues that require law enforcement attention. Instead, please call the SPPD at 727-893-7780 (non-emergencies) or 911 (emergencies.)
- For safety reasons, City staff are not able to touch any utility company equipment (lines, poles, boxes, streetlights, etc.) including vegetation touching those items, so any request related to a utility should be reported directly to that utility company, like Duke Energy, Frontier, Spectrum, etc.
- Not everything that happens in the city limits falls under the jurisdiction of the City. For example, some roadways are maintained by Pinellas County and some by the State (FDOT), while other issues might be the responsibility of private property owners to resolve. When in doubt, submit a report to SCF and we can help direct the request to the responsible entity.

- SCF is a process, and depending on the situation it can sometimes add time to the resolution of simple issues that might also be addressed in other, quicker ways (like calling a department directly.)
- In order to help us locate issues, always try to provide either the address of the reported location, or an address that is as close as possible to the issue, or at least a description of how best to find the issue (i.e., "The pothole is at the intersection of 1st St N and 9th Ave N, by the southwest corner."). There is a "Description" section in the posting, and answering the questions can be helpful. And photos are very helpful, so always try to provide them with issue reports. Finally, before clicking "Submit," remember to review your entire post for accuracy and completeness – this will help us respond as efficiently as possible.
- To use SCF, you'll simply need to set up a user account with an email address (which no other user can see), a password, and a "Display Name" (which other users can see, which is why we recommend that you do not use your real, full name!). Any user can post issues anonymously; however, when commenting on or closing reports, your Display Name will be visible. You can always change your Display Name in the account preferences section.
- Above all, be neighborly. Take the opportunity to talk to your neighbors about issues and try to help them by spreading good information, contacts, resources, etc. Perhaps the issue you wish to report can be resolved in this way before resorting to SCF. SCF should never be used as a tool to attack or harass – please be respectful of both your neighbors and the staff who respond to requests for assistance.

If you are not already a registered user of SCF, here is the link to get started: www.stpete.org/action.

Helpful phone numbers and websites

- Utility Accounts727-893-7341
- Sanitation Special Collections . . .727-893-7398
- Mayor's Action Center727-893-7111
- Police Non-Emergency727-893-7780
- Duke Energy Customer Service. . .727-443-2641
- Report streetlight outage:
www.duke-energy.com/customer-service/request-light-repair
- Pinellas County government727-464-3000
- Pinellas County Clerk of the Court.727-464-7000
- Pinellas County Tax Collector. . . .727-464-7777
- Pinellas County SeeClickFix
www.pinellascounty.org/reportanissue



Sofa dumping, missed pickups, gaping potholes, plugged drains, and neglected lawns – oh, my!

We want to share our neighbors' thoughts about what it means to be a neighbor and neighborly in The Historic Old Northeast. Send your thoughts (200 words or so) to NSNAeditor@aol.com.



HONNA invites and encourages you to stay connected and on top of programs, events, and other happenings in our neighborhood. Want to learn more about the neighborhood, become involved, share ideas, learn about events and dates of Porch Parties, and provide feedback? Share/Like us at www.facebook.com/honnaorg.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED:

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

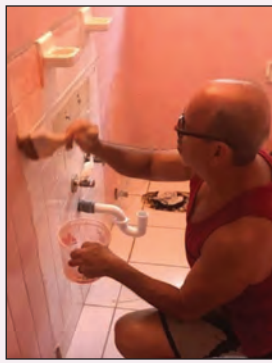
- Parties, Crime Watch). Contact John Johnson at jtj1sp@gmail.com.
- Follow Historic Old Northeast Forever at www.historicoldnortheast-forever.org. HONF works "to preserve and protect our special neighborhood" (HONF is not affiliated with HONNA).

PRETTY IN PINK

In the last issue of the *Journal*, I wrote about an Old Northeast couple who repurposed an old attic fan into a one-of-a-kind light fixture for their home. In this issue is the story of another couple who restored their original bathroom tile to its 1940s-era vintage look.

Frank Hay and Steve Deal moved to the Old Northeast from Tampa 26 years ago, eventually settling into a beautiful 1920s home on 8th Avenue NE. They fully renovated it, and after 17 years they downsized into their 1948 ranch-style on 18th Avenue NE about three years ago.

Steve says, "What started as an experiment turned into a fun – albeit labor-intensive – project that had a great outcome." Frank and Steve had been contemplating tearing out their guest bathroom to start over. Curious what was underneath the white painted tiles, they knew they were original to the 1948 home, but beyond that they had no idea what shape or color they were. Steve did a test strip using Citristrip stripper on a section in the master bathroom because he knew they'd be replacing those tiles anyway. All the tile in both baths was painted with a white paint.



To Steve's surprise and delight, the stripper worked really well. With a plastic trowel and lots of elbow grease, he was able to strip all the paint off to reveal beautiful pink-and-green tiles in the guest bathroom. With some online research on pink bathrooms, they found a movement to save and preserve pink bathrooms! Steve also found out that First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, wife of President Dwight Eisenhower, is credited with starting the pink trend during their tenure in the White House. To give it an extra pop, Steve and Frank added a tropical print wallpaper – giving the bathroom a fun, tropical experience for their guests to enjoy. And to finish it off – and in honor of Mamie Eisenhower – they added a framed print of her in the famous pink gown she wore to Ike's inauguration.

It took a lot of elbow grease and was a true labor of love, but Steve and Frank felt this house deserved a second chance on such a wonderful 1948 bathroom. Have a neat story about renovating? Let us know and maybe we'll share your experience with your Old Northeast neighbors.

~ Sharon Kantner

HONNA'S SHINING STARS: "BEFORE" AND "AFTER"

In an effort to honor Old Northeast 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 August: 405 13th Avenue NE, Martha Cochran; and September: 119 26th Avenue N, August West Management.

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



AUGUST: 405 13th Avenue NE "Before"

FIELD DAY

The 2nd annual HONNA Field Day Competition returns this year on October 6 at 1pm in Elva Rouse Park (11th and North Shore Drive NE). Tried-and-true event favorites will return such as the potato sack race, marshmallow eating, and panty-hose bowling with many new events added including an obstacle course, pool noodle javelin, and discus toss.

Field Day is a team competition (teams consist of 3-5 members each) with events appropriate for family members of all ages. We welcome past participants and new teams alike. Jock-jams-style tunes will motivate and energize the crowd, and a snow cone vendor will be on site to cool off competitors after an Olympic effort all around. Prizes will be awarded for placement, team spirit, and sportsmanship. For more information and to register, visit www.honna.org/events.



AUGUST: 405 13th Avenue NE "After"



4TH OF JULY PARADE

The annual 4th of July Children's Parade at Coffee Pot Park attracted a festive crowd of families, proudly decked out in red-white-and-blue as they were led up and down Coffee Pot Blvd. by the Righteously Outrageous Twirling Corps. Our friends from the Old Northeast Fire Station were there with Engine 4 for the kids to explore. Our thanks to all who came together to celebrate Independence Day.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Come join us for Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 27, from 5-7pm in the parking lot of Westminster Presbyterian Church (126 11th Avenue NE). Decorate your car trunk for the contest – scariest trunk and most creative trunk! Trick or Treat delights for children! There will be ghostly games and face painting along with candy and treats to be collected.



ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, December 8, 2019. That is when the upcoming 22nd Annual HONNA Candlelight Tour will be held. Join chairperson Cathy Weisberg and 100+ volunteers who will join forces to stage this year's tour. To volunteer, please contact John Johnson at jtj1sp@gmail.com. To offer your home for consideration to be featured this year, contact Sharon Kantner by emailing sharonkantner@gmail.com.



SEPTEMBER: 119 26th Avenue N "Before"



SEPTEMBER: 119 26th Avenue N "After"

On the Calendar

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

Monday, September 16 Quarterly Neighborhood Assoc. meeting, Westminster Church, 6:45pm social, 7pm mtg

Friday, September 20 Porch Party; 7:30-10pm

Sunday, October 6, 1-4pm Second Annual Old Northeast Field Day, Elva Rouse Park, 11th & North Shore Dr NE

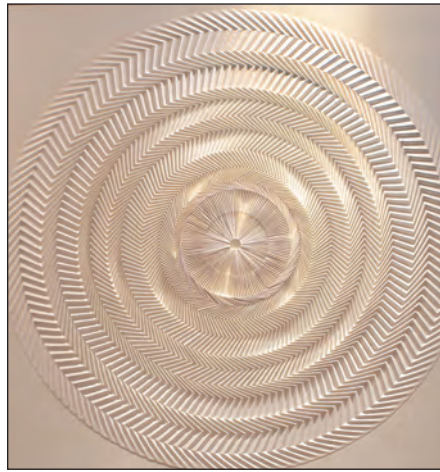
Friday, October 25, 7:30-10pm Halloween Porch Party

Sunday, October 27, 5-7pm Trunk or Treat, Westminster Church parking lot

ARTS IN THE 'BURG

Paper Reimagined at the Museum of Fine Arts

Gay Wasik-Zegel



Can you imagine a world without paper? In my small home office, I am surrounded by jotted notes, framed certificates, calendars, business cards, posters, stamps, greeting cards, and books... all indications of how closely paper is interwoven into the fabric of daily life. The Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg's touring exhibit, *Above the Fold: New Expressions in Origami* takes the familiar medium of paper and transforms it in ways that help the viewer see a realm of new possibilities. "This is one of the MFA's most ambitious installations, and our guests will be able to experience origami as never before," says the museum's executive director, Kristen A. Shepherd.

The art of paper folding reaches a new level of complexity in this exhibit comprised of twenty origami masterpieces by ten artists of diverse backgrounds and nationalities. Within the galleries, large framed works embody a sense of order and precision, then subtly change with light and shadow. Flying creatures, made from crumpled brown wrapping papers, drift from the ceiling. Glass-blown pieces encapsulate their paper creations. The largest piece in the collection stands at 8 1/2 feet tall and is 20 feet long. Its installation alone required the help of ten staff members and took one entire day to complete.

PARTICIPANTS IN HISTORY

A thousand years ago, the art form of origami, literally "folding paper," was born out of Shinto, the traditional religion of Japan. First appearing in the courts of the ruling class, the practice eventually emerged as a form of folk art. Cranes, considered sacred birds in Japan, were the central figures in the legendary belief that if a person folded 1,000 paper cranes, his/her wish would be granted. In 1797, the first book of paper folding instructions, *How to Fold 1000 Cranes*, was published in Japan. By the early 1800s, children in Japanese kindergartens were learning how to fold cranes and other simple shapes.

Paper folding soon became an integral part of Japanese life. So did the legend of the 1,000 paper cranes. When the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1943, many of the surviving children were unknowingly exposed to radiation. Sadako Sasaki was one of these children. One of the fastest runners in her elementary school, she had dreams of making the junior high running team. However, in 1954, before she was able to realize this goal, she became ill. At first, she tried to shake it off, but the sickness only grew worse. Doctors discovered that she had leukemia, a side effect of radiation exposure. Sadako, remembering the legend, began to fold paper cranes. The 644th crane was the last crane she would ever fold. In 1955, at the age of twelve, she died in her bed at home. Sadako's classmates joined together to fold an additional 356 cranes so that 1,000 cranes could be buried with her.

Many people began to raise money for a memorial to Sadako and the other children who had died as a result of the bombing. In 1958, a statue of Sadako holding a paper crane was erected in the Hiroshima Peace Park. On the base of the statue is engraved: "This is our cry, this is our prayer; peace in the world."

Visitors to *Beyond the Fold* were invited to participate in history by folding a crane at the gallery's interactive space, thus joining with others around the world who continue to send paper cranes to the memorial as a symbol of peace. Through this hands-on activity, the MFA hopes to collect 1,000 cranes to send to the Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima.

The exhibit runs through Sunday, September 29, so there are just a few more days to catch it. For more information go to www.mfastpete.org. ●

"Even DNA is folded – you and I are born from folding."

Paul Jackson, Exhibit Artist



Photos of artwork on display were provided by the artists. Top row (left): Creatures made from crumpled paper by Vincent Floderer hang in the background of the largest work in the collection, "Ruga Swan" by Jiangmei Wu. Top row right: "Shine" by Yuko Nishimura. Second row (left): Shore Acres resident, Meg Gimmi, stands by paper cranes made by visitors to the interactive folding space. Second row (right): "You See" by father and son artist team Erik Demaine and Martin Demaine. Bottom row (left): "Together" by father and son artist team Erik Demaine and Martin Demaine. Also, the public, pictured above, was invited to fold paper origami cranes to be sent to Japan.

ONE Inspires

Jeannie Carlson



SUNKEN GARDENS FLAMINGO CONFERENCE

Clustered together in glorious weather
 Getting their feet wet and well met
 Preening feathers in the pink of a blink
 Ready, set – go get
 Dithered druthers –
 Hors d'oeuvres of cat food shrimp and salmon pate
 More to be noticed than noticing
 Jockeying for position
 Each in the way of the other –
 Mother, brother
 Bother father
 Farther garner
 Fake intent
 Honking intermittent
 Bursts of belated admonishment –
 Astonishment



MOON OVER NORTH SHORE PARK

Misty autumn moon
 Blurred by billow
 Checking its reflection in the bay –
 Anyway, let's say to see who is the
 Fairest
 Fullest
 Favored
 Jousting with the waves
 Clamoring against the
 Dodgy dowdy cloudy night
 Brushing against swaying silver cylinders
 If the angle is just right for accord –
 In fractious diva
 Dimensions of deciduousness
 Scores the flawless high note –
 Solidarity of a solo soprano

AROUND THE BLOCK

KIDS & KUBS TURNS 90; NEW PLAYERS WELCOME

The Kids & Kubs Softball League – aka The Three-Quarter Century Softball Club – is now recruiting new players for their 90th season which begins on November 1. Men and women age 74 and up are eligible to play. Pick-up games are held at the North Shore Sports Complex every Tuesday and Thursday at 10am. For more information, call Will Michaels at 727-867-7249 or visit the website at www.kidsandkubs.webs.com.



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Burning Daylight in the Old Northeast



Photos courtesy of TECO Energy



Scott Brown

Like a lot of our neighbors, we began wondering if it would make sense to install solar panels on our home in Old Northeast. We reasoned that Florida is the Sunshine State and St. Petersburg is Florida's Sunshine City. These aren't empty slogans: There are 43 more sunny days per year in St. Pete than the national average.

Solar power is gaining in popularity. The new St. Pete police station is powered by 1,450 solar panels. Tampa Electric's new solar panels on canopies covering part of the parking lot at Legoland produce enough clean electricity to power 200 homes. The Legoland installation is similar to one that Tampa Electric put on top of the parking garage at Tampa International Airport in 2015.

Our house has excellent exposure to the sun. Because most Old Northeast streets are laid out in a north-south east-west grid, most roofs will have a lot of



Top: Solar panels at LEGOLAND (left) and Tampa International Airport. Bottom: A drone photo of the Brown's solar panels

surface area directly facing the sun during the day. Like many Old Northeast houses, we have an apartment over our garage, which provides even more roof area for panels.

Our house needed a new roof. There is no better time to think about solar than when you are getting a new roof. Solar panels can have an effective life of 30 years. In the Florida sun, even the best asphalt roof shingles won't last that long on their own. However, putting solar panels over your new roof increases the likelihood that both the roof and new solar panels will be good for 30 years.

Another reason that going solar made sense is that the solar investment

tax credit is going away. Today, you can reduce your federal tax bill by 30 percent of the cost of your solar installation. In 2020, the credit amount starts dropping. After December 31, 2021, the credit goes away entirely. If you are thinking about going solar, 2019 is the year to pull the trigger.

Vermont Home for Sale

Fabulous Location, Fabulous Views Three bedroom/3.5 bath Quechee Lakes Resort (quecheeclub.com) community home with wonderfully flexible floor plan. Three levels for a variety of uses including a walk-out lower level in-law apartment. Each level with decks/balconies and fantastic views. Newly renovated den/mudroom with half bath. Cathedral ceilings, open floor plan and single level living on main level.



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This is your view!

OUR SOLAR JOURNEY

We reached out to solar power consultant Eric Weather, and he prepared an analysis of our house's existing power consumption. Then he sized a system to meet all of our energy needs. We told Eric that we wanted a 220-volt, 50-amp outlet in the garage for our Tesla. Eric's analysis showed that, based on the cost of the system, after taking advantage of the tax credits, we would get about a 12 percent tax-free return on investment from our system. That return is inflation-protected since our cost of power – free – can never go up.

Buying a solar power system is a major investment. In 2019, the national average cost of a system after tax credits was \$12,810. We decided to spend down some of our retirement savings in exchange for thirty years' of clean energy and a really tiny carbon footprint.

At Eric's suggestion, we had an arborist remove any tree branches that shaded the roof. Then in November of last year, we contracted with Solar Source, a Largo-based company Eric had recommended. Over the next two months or so, the company completed the design of our system, obtained permits, and ordered the solar panels. Finally, by February of this year, the panels were ready to install, a process that took just a few days.

Once our new solar array was installed and tested, everything ground to a halt while we waited for Duke Energy to approve the system and install a special electric meter. It took Duke about two months to do this. But it pays to be patient. If you run your solar power through a conventional electric meter, Duke will bill you for all of the power you pull off the grid, as well as the power you get from the solar array. Any energy you use, regardless of source, goes on your bill. With the new special solar meter, you get credit for the power your system produces beyond what you use and Duke debits you for the power you take from the grid.

This process is called net metering. Here's how it works. Typically, during sunlight hours your solar panels produce way more power than you consume, so you build up a credit balance with Duke while you are powering your house and some of the neighborhood. Then, at night, when your solar array is dormant, you take power from the grid and Duke draws down your balance.

I have an app on my phone and iPad that shows me the system's production. On sunny days, we get about 80 kWh of power. If it's overcast, we'll be lucky to get 40 kWh. June, our first full month of experience, resulted in over two megawatt hours of production.

Our August 1 electric bill was \$11.58. That includes a \$9.66 charge for the meter and \$1.92 in various taxes. Our bill showed our average daily use of Duke power as being 0 kilowatt hours. The bill showed that we actually had a positive balance of 618 kilowatt hours on our account. If we have a positive balance at the end of the year, then Duke will settle up with us by cutting you a check for our overproduction at a rate similar to Duke's cost of power or about 6.3 cents per kilowatt hour.

LESSON LEARNED

May was the first month that we got the bulk of our power from the system. I was a little surprised that my bill wasn't all that different from when the solar panels weren't up and running. Then the next month's bill came and it was also very similar to April. That was when I noticed that next to the meter reading in the upper left hand corner of my bill was the word "Estimate." As it turns out, we had installed a new fence around the backyard with locked gates. The meter is in the backyard so the meter reader from Duke couldn't get to it. Our monthly bill was based on our prior experience without solar power. Needless to say, we couldn't get credit for our solar power so long as the meter reader couldn't get in to read the meter. My bad.

Once I mailed Duke a key to the back gate we began to get credit for our homemade power. Since our only car now is our venerable 2013 Tesla Model S, we also have successfully weaned ourselves from gasoline.

It was seven months from our first call to Eric to getting the system up and running, but we have succeeded in turning our home into a tiny power utility that burns daylight. The whole process took longer than expected, was expensive, and involved a bit of a learning curve. But with solar power, our electricity cost is now practically nothing and we're doing our part to make Historic Old Northeast greener.

SOLAR RESOURCES

If you would like to explore solar power for your home, Solar United Neighbors ("SUN") of Florida (www.solarunitedneighbors.org/florida) is a nonprofit that provides solar education and facilitates the creation of solar co-ops so neighbors can get together to negotiate the best possible terms on their solar installations. ●



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Our Neighborhood School Is Back in Session

Heather Leon, Vicki Koenig and Molly Auld, parent leaders of North Shore Elementary Community & Family Programs

North Shore Elementary PTA and Friends of North Shore Elementary (FNSE) worked tirelessly over this summer with the faculty and staff of our historic school to ensure a flawless start to the 2019-2020 school year for our students. Leading up to the beginning of the school year, both of these groups supported several important teacher, family, and student programs.

The Squire Session is an opportunity for incoming kindergarteners to meet teachers and each other and have a pre-school assessment. The PTA provided breakfast and coffee for parents, held a uniform swap shop, offered a selection of spirit gear, and gave parents an opportunity to join PTA. We had an opportunity to answer nervous new parents' questions.

It was the Friends of North Shore's second year offering Popcorn & Popsicles in the Park, a community building social event under the covered pavilion for families with children entering kindergarten.

The PTA supported the James Park Back-to-School Event, where uniforms are handed out and families are invited to sign up for the PTA. There is also the NSE Teacher Meet & Greet, an on-campus opportunity for all North Shore families to meet the teachers and see new and old friends along the way.

North Shore Elementary has seen a significant increase this year with the student body now totaling 410 students. The North Shore PTA is prepared to build on the tremendous successes from last year to ensure continued success in the 2019-2020 school year for North Shore families. Last year, we saw unprecedented growth in PTA memberships, fundraising, participation in family community-building events, sustainability committee initiatives, and the 7th Hour afterschool programs. In July, outgoing NSE PTA president Laura Hine accepted two excellence awards from the Florida PTA for the sustainability and after-school programs. This year's PTA leadership team – led

by president Heather Leon, longtime parent at North Shore elementary – consists of 12 board members and eight committee chairs.

One of the greatest aspects of NSE is its diverse populations. There are students from many different racial and socioeconomic groups, as well as national origin backgrounds, and four dedicated classrooms for autistic students (ASD). This year's PTA is working to ensure representation and inclusion of all of the diverse students in order to live out the PTA motto: "Every child, one voice." Overall, this year's initiatives include



A "Squire Session" with incoming kindergarteners

programming and volunteer opportunities for North Shore families. The board was excited to announce that memberships for this year have already exceeded membership totals from the year before, bringing the PTA closer to Principal Dawson's vision of every child having at least one parent representing them within the PTA.

As North Shore continues to gain momentum as an amazing neighborhood school, the NSE PTA still needs the help of our community. The most important community fundraiser, the Coffee Pot Turkey Trot, will be celebrating its third year on Thanksgiving morning this year. This race, chaired by Monica Kile, is the only City of St. Petersburg-sanctioned Turkey Trot. More info at www.runsignup.com/Race/FL/SaintPetersburg/NorthShoreElementarySchoolCoffeePotTurkeyTrot.

Friends of North Shore Elementary (FNSE) continues to work closely with the NSE PTA to provide additional support focusing on preschool and family outreach. The organization, currently led by president Vicki Koenig, has several events planned for

supporting the 7th Hour after-school program, and the garden and sustainability programs, teacher classroom support, professional development for teachers, literacy initiatives, family socials, and field trips. Additionally, the PTA is focused on building long-lasting relationships within the community to ensure these great programs will be sustained for years to come.

On Thursday, August 20th, NSE PTA held its first open meeting of the year. Dozens of families came to the first pizza-and-PTA event to learn more about



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Outgoing PTA president Laura Hine receiving her award

incoming and prospective families throughout the year. The first event of the school year will be an Open House in October for prospective families to visit and tour this wonderful elementary school before the choice school lottery begins. Additionally, FNSE will finish their boost program this year providing additional funds to the specialist teachers at North


Shore as well as continue to act as a resource for the administration, teachers, and families when needed. To find out more and see how you can help this organization, please visit the FNSE website at www.fnse.org.

For additional information on ways to support our community public school, reach out to NorthShoreKnightsPTA@gmail.com or info@fnse.org. ●

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HISTORY Continued from page 1



The museum is famous for its replica of the Benoist XIV

where Schrader's Little Cooperstown renowned Signed Baseball Exhibit and Collection is displayed, and the administrative offices were moved from the front of the museum to a new wing on the back of the museum. The Hops and Props Dart Room is where my office used to be. The main gallery was renovated and a new signature exhibit on the History of St. Petersburg was put in place, new storage space and a conference room were created, and the museum's treasured archive of photos and other ephemera was given a new second-story home, better protecting it from possible flooding.

The museum dates back to the 1920s, and as such it is the oldest museum in both St. Petersburg and Pinellas County, and the third-oldest history museum in Florida. In 1920, Mary Wheeler Eaton and a few other community leaders founded the St. Petersburg Historical Society. A year later, St. Petersburg weathered its last direct-hit hurricane which flooded a privately operated aquarium on the downtown waterfront. The Historical Society bought the damaged aquarium and this became the home of what is now called the St. Petersburg Museum of History. The land upon which the museum operates is owned by the City and leased to the museum.

Museum executive director Rui Farias recalls that the museum was contemplating an expansion that would happen a few years from now, but about a year-and-a-half ago, after talking with Skanska the Pier construction company, and the City of St. Petersburg, it was decided now was the time to begin! The area around the museum was being torn up anyway because of the new St. Pete Pier construction. By starting an expansion now, tearing up the newly built Pier facilities could be avoided later on. Additionally, by substantially completing construction by the time the new Pier opened, the museum would be in a position to capture the estimated 1.7 million visitors projected to visit the Pier in its first year.

The renovation and expansion will be in three phases. The first phase has already been accomplished. This involved the installation of fire sprinklers in the

museum for the first time. Also, the prior St. Petersburg Signature Exhibit gallery has been renovated. The carpeting that was put down in the 2004 renovation was removed and the original 1950s-era terrazzo flooring uncovered and brought back to life. Wooden stairways have been replaced with cement so they no longer vibrate as you step on them. This gallery will now be used primarily for temporary exhibits. Recent such exhibits have included *Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experience in WWII*, *La Florida – The Spanish Exploration*, and *Odyssey Treasures of the Deep*.

The second phase is scheduled for this October and calls for a new 8,000-square-foot two-story wing to be attached to the east side of the museum. The first floor will serve as a new visitor's center providing information regarding not just St. Petersburg, but all of Pinellas County. This will include an information desk, gift shop, and a 'live gift area.' The live gifts or art will feature such attractions as artists at-work painting wall murals, and other artists and storytellers such as a sponge diver from Tarpon Springs explaining the skill of diving and demonstrating vintage diving equipment. There will be kiosks for other cultural venues such as the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum and the Florida Holocaust Museum, as well as historic Tarpon Springs, Dunedin, and Heritage Village.



Rooftop Terrace Perspective

The Visitor Center will also serve as the ticket location and starting point for walking, bicycle, Segway, and trolley tours. And there will be a state-of-the-art conference room available to community groups. The entrance to the addition will be off the south sidewalk alongside the Pier Market Place. The second floor will house a completely new Signature Exhibit focusing on St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, and Florida, displaying artifacts and interactive features, one of which is a huge Florida map. As you put your hand over the map, information and visuals about that part of Florida will suddenly come to life. And yes, for those of you who grew up in St. Pete and took school field trips to the museum, the mummy and two-headed calf will continue to be on display.



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A final touch on the addition will be a roof-top terrace looking out over the entirety of the Pier District and adjacent yacht basins. This will be dedicated to rentals for weddings, anniversaries, and other special occasions. A metal skirt – popularly known as a ‘cheese grater’ – will decorate the exterior of the addition. The current images are conceptual only and the exact form is yet to be determined. One idea is for this to take on the appearance of the city’s 1920s skyline.



Architect renderings of the East Perspective

My wife, Kathy, and I celebrated our 50th anniversary a few years back in the gallery dedicated to the story of the World’s First Airline. Maybe we can celebrate our 55th on the rooftop. The Flight Gallery will also be upgraded to include a new aviation history timeline and flight simulator. It will complement the new monument to the World’s First Airline to be located just to the south of the museum. Importantly, the Museum will continue as a Florida History Teaching Facility for teachers and students through partnerships with the University of South Florida, the Florida Studies Program, Florida Humanities Council, Eckerd College, St. Pete College, and Pinellas County Schools.

ARC 3 Architecture is the design team selected to head up the expansion/renovation



Courtesy of St. Petersburg Museum of History

The original museum building was an aquarium. The History Museum has been at its present site on the approach to the Pier since 1922.

project, while Hennessey Construction was chosen as the general contractor. Like the History Museum, Hennessey Construction will be celebrating 100 years in business in St. Pete next year.

Overall cost of the renovations and addition will be approximately \$7.2 million. The City of St. Petersburg has committed to \$1 million, half of which has already been allocated. Various grant requests are pending. Private donations are also being sought. Interested parties should contact Rui Farias at the museum (727-823-7276).

“We have the opportunity to create a premier museum that not only shares the history of the Sunshine City, but also the unique history of the entire state right here in St. Petersburg,” says Farias. “Our goal is to create a visitor experience that will educate, entertain, and leave our guests wanting to come back for more.” Upon the cusp of the museum’s centennial, it’s wonderful to see the museum grow and evolve, continuing to reinvent itself in so many ways. ●

Will Michaels is the author of *The Making of St. Petersburg* and *The Hidden History of St. Petersburg*. He may be reached at wmichaels2222@gmail.com or 727-420-9195.



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Northeast Resident to Run in NYC Marathon for Team Narcolepsy

Gay Wasik-Zegel

My Northeast Park neighbor, Nicole Sondermann, knows the importance of a good night's sleep, even though she rarely gets one! Nicole is a board-certified polysomnographic technologist and clinical sleep educator who spends nights performing sleep studies on pediatric patients to determine whether they are affected by any of the 80-known sleep disorders.

Because sleep disorders can lead to other health problems such as obesity, heart disease, and cancer, Nicole has spent the past 10 years working to educate the public about the importance of sleep health. "I love my job," Nicole says, and her actions prove it.

When her colleague, Dr. Luis Ortiz, challenged her to take her enthusiasm to the next level, Nicole responded by joining the Narcolepsy Network's Team Narcolepsy. On November 3rd, Nicole and other members of Team Narcolepsy will be running in the New York City Marathon, a 26.219 mile-course through the five New York City boroughs.

As one of the NYC Marathon's official charities, Team Narcolepsy hopes to not only raise funds for the Narcolepsy Network, but to increase public awareness about this chronic neurological disorder that causes excessive daytime sleepiness and sudden attacks of sleep, even during activities like driving, eating, or talking.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, narcolepsy affects the brain's ability to control sleep-wake cycles. It's estimated to affect from 135,000-to-200,000 people in the US. While there is no cure, medication and lifestyle modification can manage symptoms.

Dr. Ortiz, a St. Petersburg sleep physician and pediatric pulmonologist,



Dr. Luis Ortiz and Nicole Sondermann display the 2019 Sleepy Saturday proclamation.



Humans are not the only ones diagnosed with narcolepsy. Dobermans are especially vulnerable.

understands narcolepsy on both a professional and personal level. He serves on the Advisory Board for the Narcolepsy Network, a national patient-support organization founded in 1986. He also has narcolepsy himself. "I've been sleepy for as long as I can remember," he told me, explaining that he was diagnosed with narcolepsy during medical school at the University of Rochester.

During his second year of medical school, Dr. Ortiz said he felt an overwhelming need for sleep during the day. His GPA began to fall. "It felt like I just didn't have enough time in the day. I had to do a lot of damage control," said Dr. Ortiz. Finally, results of an overnight sleep study revealed that he had sleep patterns associated with narcolepsy. He admits that at the time, he didn't know anything about this chronic disorder that can significantly effect quality of life. "The first time I saw the word narcolepsy was on a billing sheet," he said.

After his diagnosis, it was apparent that a career shift would be a must. "I initially wanted to be a plastic surgeon, but that could be a challenge with narcolepsy," said Dr. Ortiz. Instead, he shifted his focus to pediatric pulmonology, sleep disorders, and general internal medicine. By his residency, he became known as The Sleep Guy. Today he remains committed to helping those with narcolepsy and other sleep disorders lead full and productive lives.

In addition to participating in Team Narcolepsy for the NYC Marathon, Nicole helps organize a local Sudden Sleep Saturday, a national Narcolepsy Awareness Day sponsored by the Narcolepsy Network. It's held annually on the Saturday before Daylight Savings Time.

For more information on narcolepsy, visit www.narcolepsynetwork.org.

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Janan Talafer

GLASS IN THE GARDEN

When I visited Sarasota's Marie Selby Botanical Gardens to see the recent show curated by renowned St. Pete glass artist Duncan McClellan, it was mesmerizing to see such exquisite glass pieces of art blend so beautifully with Selby's amazing collection of plants. For *Dialogue with Nature: Glass in the Gardens*, McClellan and other well-known DMG glass artists were invited to showcase their amazing botanical-inspired pieces by placing them in the garden, the tropical conservatory, and the Selby museum. The team also presented a live glassblowing demonstration through their new mobile hot shop, which is part of the DMG School Project, a unique project to bring glass art to students in underserved schools in Tampa Bay. More information about the DMG School Project can be found at www.dmglass.com/about-dmg-school-project.



Kimberlyn Martin, MFA manager of education and family programs with two pre-K visitors

MFA INTRODUCES PROGRAMS FOR THE LITTLEST VISITORS

It's never too early to introduce children to art, say educators at the Museum of Fine Arts. Two programs for the MFA's 'littlest visitors' ages 2-5 will begin this fall, while a single-day fall camp for kids in grades 1-4 will take place in November during Thanksgiving break. Here's an overview:

- Museum Minis: Children ages 2-5 and their favorite grown-ups can explore the MFA galleries and exhibitions through fun stories, games, songs and hands-on activities. It's the first Wednesday of every month from 10-11am. RSVP required.
- Explore More! Family Days: Debuting in October, this program will offer themed arts-and-crafts for the whole family, along with tours and other cool activities on the third Saturday of every month, 11am-2pm.
- Fall Camps at the MFA: Complementing the special fall and winter exhibitions, little ones will spend the day being *Grateful for Grasshoppers* and *Thankful for Theater*.

For more information go to www.mfastpete.org/programs/family-programs.



Glass sculptures by St. Pete glass artists on display



The new Catherine Woods sculpture, *Community DNA*, lit up at night at the St. Pete Police Headquarters

PUBLIC ART BEAUTIFIES THE NEW ST. PETE POLICE HEADQUARTERS

St. Pete's new police station has quite a few unique features – from 1,450 solar panels to great public art – in keeping with St. Pete's reputation as the arts city. But instead of murals, the police station has three outstanding statues created by local artists.

Two statues by local sculptor Mark Aeling of MGA Studios stand guard just outside the front door and inside the lobby. A third sculpture, *Community DNA* by artist Catherine Woods of C Glass Studio, is at 1301 1st Avenue North. Made of blue and white architectural glass and pierced metal, the piece resembles a DNA double helix and represents an abstract guardian figure meant as a tribute to the St. Pete Police Department. "The artwork honors the community's relationship with the St. Pete police," says Woods. The sculpture incorporates thousands of photographs Woods took of St. Pete's buildings and history, which she then incorporated into abstract collages painted onto the glass and metal. Lit up at night, the sculpture is especially stunning.

SHINE MURAL FESTIVAL: OCTOBER 18-26

St. Pete's more than 500 colorful urban murals on banks, retail stores, office buildings, parking garages, and even water towers have put the city on the national radar as a city of the arts. And more are coming. During this year's SHINE Mural Festival, to be held October 18-26, eight local, four national, and five international mural artists will be coming to St. Pete to add to the city's amazing outdoor gallery of public art.

For the first time, SHINE is partnering with the Hawaii-based nonprofit, PangeaSeed Foundation to create two murals related to ocean conservation – one on the surface of the pier at North Shore Park, and one on BAMA Sea Products, a seafood-processing facility in the Warehouse Arts District not far from the Pinellas Trail.

Sea Walls: Artists for Oceans, PangeaSeed's public art program, brings the "ocean to the streets" with murals around the world raising public awareness about the challenges our oceans are facing from overfishing, warming seas, and plastic pollution. St. Pete's two new murals will be part of PangeaSeed's global network of more than 350 murals in 15 countries. Another very cool feature of St. Pete's murals – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is providing funding for St. Pete's murals – the nonprofit marine organization's first public art project in the nation.

This is the fifth year for SHINE, and Jenee Priebe, the festival's director, says to expect more opportunities for the public to engage with the artists through special events, block parties, and creative opportunities. Also new this year are community projects involving local teens.

St. Pete mural artists Chad Mize and Jay Hoff are working with youth from the city's LGBTQ Welcome Center to create a mural titled *Come Out*. In addition, teens from the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School will be creating a mural with youth from the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast at the historic Royal Theater, located at 22nd Street South.

Brian McAllister, a visual arts instructor at Gibbs High School, and professional illustrator and muralist, founded the school's mural club three years ago. He'll be spearheading the Royal Theater project, working with students from the mural club and youth at the Boys & Girls Club. "It's a great opportunity to create something that ties in the history of the building and the area with the mission of the Boys & Girls Club,"



says McAllister. "We'll be pairing up small groups of students and having them work side-by-side on the mural. I'll be mentoring my students, and they in turn will mentor youth at the Boys & Girls Club."

Although this will be the first time that the Gibbs mural club has participated in the SHINE festival, it's not the first mural for the student artists. Among the club's many achievements: a mural on Anchor Skate Supply, a skateboard store in St. Pete; a mural on the Flag Building in Clearwater as part of a

citywide beautification project; and a mural on the Alden Suites Beachfront Resort celebrating the resort's 50th anniversary with a vintage postcard design. The mural projects are fun and a great opportunity for the kids to learn outside the classroom, says McAllister. "Kids learn so much more socially and artistically when they can get out of the classroom and take on a project like this. And, it's always great to have the community walking by and cheering us on when we work." ●



Top: Concentrating on Clearwater's mural. Middle: Students from the Gibbs Mural Club work on the Alden Suites' mural. Bottom: Celebrating completion of Anchor Skate Supply's mural

PEOPLE AND PETS

To submit photos or to be photographed, contact *The Northeast Journal*.

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



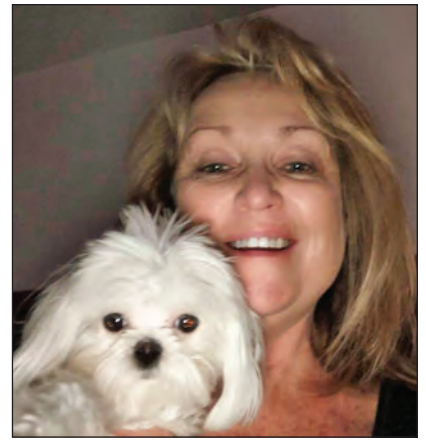
Tiffany Tessier with Schnitzel
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Reta Casterline with Littles
30th Avenue NE



Chris Lenz with Timone
14th Avenue NE



Connie Kobisk with SugarBaby
12th Street NE



Paul and Marlene Daverede with Gizmo
Beach Drive NE



Jake and Rachel Meisner with Milo and Oliver
8th Avenue NE



Danni LeTendre with Theo
11th Avenue NE



Alison Boh with Beau and Bentley
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Debbie Vena with Riley
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WEEDON ISLAND *Cont'd from pg. 1*

hotels, nightclubs, and housing lots, and wanted it to become the 'Riviera of Florida,' which is where Riviera Bay got its name. Dr. Weedon's house was remodeled to become the Narvaez Dance Club, a speakeasy. The club burned down, but Elliott rebuilt the club and renamed it the San Remo Club. When the housing market dropped in 1926, the club was foreclosed on, and Elliott's dreams were dashed.

If you walk on the trails of Weedon Island you can see evidence of the airport that was once located here. Construction on the airport began in 1929, and the Grand Central Airport – also called Ludwig Sky Harbor – was up and running within a year. Eastern Air Transport – later to become Eastern Airlines – moved its national headquarters to Weedon Island in 1931, providing commercial air transport between Tampa and St. Pete.

In 1933, T.C. Parker built a movie studio on Weedon Island, Sun Haven Studio. The first movie produced was called *Chloe, Love is Calling You*. My daughter's name is Chloe, so you can bet that one caught my eye. The second film, *Playthings of Desire*, was the biggest movie made at Weedon Island, and opened at the Capital Theater in St. Petersburg on September 2, 1933. The third and last movie filmed by Sun Haven Studio on Weedon Island was *Hired Wife*, which never got released because the studio was shut down for financial reasons.

In 1970, one of the first big oil spills occurred in the area of Weedon Island and got national news coverage. It happened when a Greek oil tanker ran aground in Tampa Bay during a dense fog, after attempting to maneuver into the Florida Power Corporation oil port, located on Weedon Island. There was much controversy as to why this happened and how it was dealt with after the fact.

As an adult, and then a parent, I've visited Weedon Island many times over the years, always enjoying the feeling that little has changed within this hidden gem. The environment throughout the more-than-3,000-acre preserve is a mix of mangrove islands, uplands, and marshlands. It is owned by the state and managed by Pinellas County. Walking on the trails and the boardwalk, you can pretend that an urban area is not just a few miles away. If you know where to look, you can still see remnants of the Grand Central Airport.

On a recent Saturday, I decided to pay a visit to Weedon Island, to attend *Why Snakes Are Cool*, one of the many educational events presented by the Weedon



Above: Children crowd around as George Heinrich shows an Indigo snake. Below: Entrance to Weedon Island Cultural Center. Chloe's snake, Forcible, as a bracelet.

Photos courtesy Sylvia Raymond

Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. I've always thought snakes are fascinating and grew up with snakes and other unusual critters as pets. My daughter also had a couple of pet snakes; her most recent was a corn snake named Forcible. He died a few years ago and is missed by all who knew him.

George Heinrich gave an interesting lecture on the ecological importance of snakes, as both predators and prey. I was surprised to learn that there are 46 species of native snakes in Florida, and only six are venomous (although in Tampa Bay there are only four). Heinrich went on to describe many of the Florida-native

snake species living in our area. The most common is the Southern Black Racer – a thin, fast snake with giant eyes. We probably see them in our yards. He said they will bite, and they periscope their heads up to look around for prey.

Of course, we all have heard about the infamous non-native snake species that has taken up residence in Florida, the Burmese Python. They can grow to 20 feet long and are well established in the Everglades where they eat alligators, birds, and even full-grown deer. Heinrich explained that we probably can't get rid of them, only control them.

There are many environmental threats challenging our Florida native species and their numbers are dropping, Heinrich said. Education is critical to saving them. The challenges range from habitat loss and fragmentation to being run over on the road, as well as ignorance about the importance of snakes to our environment, and therefore people kill them without considering the consequences. There is also the release of non-native species into the area, which threatens the native species.

The talk ended with Heinrich bringing out snakes for the audience to see, including the beautiful non-venomous Eastern Indigo Snake, which is thick, shiny black in color and can be seven-to-eight feet in length, with red or white on the chin. This species is a federally threatened species in Florida and Georgia, but through a 10-year collaborative restoration program is being repatriated throughout northern Florida. The children in the audience were thrilled and couldn't wait to touch the snake's smooth skin. Their enthusiasm gave me hope, maybe our Florida natives still have a fighting chance.

Learn more about Weedon Island at www.weedonislandpreserve.org. The website for the Florida Museum at UF has an excellent visual identification guide for Florida snakes: www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/herpetology/fl-snakes/visual-id. ●



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Above: The Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center reflects the area's American Indian heritage. Below: The Hughes family enjoys the Weedon Island snake show.



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WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE NEJ ?

In our July-August issue, we invited our readers, advertisers and writers to take the *Northeast Journal* along with them on vacation, reminiscent of the popular *Flat Stanley* school project from the mid-'90s. If you had children back then, you'll remember that a paper cut-out of "Flat Stanley" even went on the Space Shuttle.

The *NEJ* didn't achieve quite that much fame, but the paper did quite a bit of traveling this summer. Thank you to everyone who sent us a photo. And, if you're just reading this and still want to participate, we welcome your entry at any time. Send them to janantalafer@gmail.com. ●



NEJ writer Scott Brown brought along the *NEJ* on a visit to a former Nike missile site in Marin County, CA. Scott says it's the only U.S. defensive missile site remaining from the Cold War. The others were dismantled as part of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties in the early '70s.

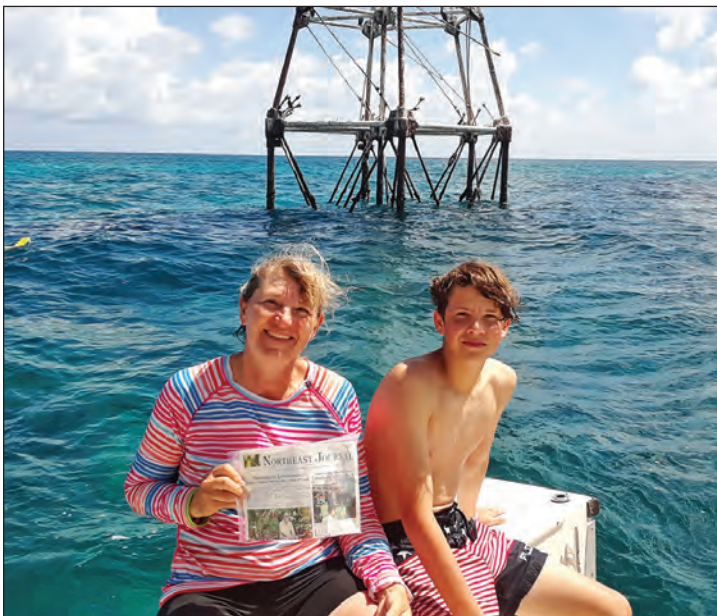


The *NEJ* even made it to the New York City's harbor with the Statue of Liberty thanks to Lynn Lotkowitz.



NEJ advertiser Tami Simms of Simms Real Estate on a visit to rural Lakeville in northwest Connecticut, not far from the Berkshire Mountains in New York.

Where did YOU go this summer? Or how about this fall? It's not too late to send us your photos!



NEJ reader Joan Escardo-Boomsma and her son Rodrigo on a family vacation in the Florida Keys, where the kids were learning to scuba dive and appreciate the marine environment.



Gary Smith, one of the *NEJ* writers, at the Hemingway House in Key West. Gary says he was lucky to crew a boat delivery back to St. Pete and enjoyed a stop in Key West.



The *NEJ* was proud to pose with Yoda of Star Wars fame at the Lucasfilm campus in Presidio Park, San Francisco. Captured by Scott Brown, *NEJ* writer.



Yikes! The *NEJ* in the infamous Alcatraz prison, fortunately just a sightseeing visit with Scott Brown's family and friends: (from left) Tessa Haynes, Sam Brown, Ellen Mowbray, Henry Dooley and Nate Brown.



Lynn Lotkowitz, *NEJ* writer and Facebook videographer, on vacation in beautiful Vermont, one of her favorite summer getaways.



NEJ editor Janan Talafer in Montalbino, a small agriturismo in Tuscany, on a family trip to Italy.

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.

AIDAN, AGE 17

Aidan is a lover of model cars. If it has wheels, he is there for it. For fun, Aidan likes building model cars and drawing, which are also two things he does very well. He also enjoys swimming, bicycling, and watching the Tampa Bay Rays at Tropicana Field. Aidan loves country music, especially the song *Move*, by his favorite country singer, Luke Brian.

Aidan would love to be like his favorite super hero, Robin, the faithful sidekick to Batman. Aidan would love to have a cat someday, so he can name it Griff. In school, Aidan's favorite subject is math. But at home, he enjoys watching the History Channel.

Aidan's favorite food is pepperoni pizza, but he'll pass on carrots. Aidan has a good heart, and is known to be kind and helpful, but he also thrives in structured environments with a regular routine. Aidan will need a family who can accept his limits and support him in his routine.

ID: YFA-105228995 Photo courtesy of Liara Studios Photographic Art and Design



Aidan YFA-105228995
Heart Gallery
Liara Studios Photographic Art and Design

JOSEPH, AGE 10

Joseph is a happy and outgoing kid who loves to play video games and go outside. His favorite game by far is Fortnite. In his free time, Joseph likes to go fishing or watch football. He also enjoys going to the pool or beach, and he loves watching superhero movies on weekends.

When Joseph grows up, he wants to be a police officer! In school, Joseph said his favorite subjects are math, science, and art. Some of his hobbies include drawing and cooking. For food, Joseph likes to eat ice cream and pizza, but no sushi please.

Joseph describes his ideal forever family as nice, loving, and have a dog! He says cats are cool but dogs are preferred!

ID: DFL-106496132
Photos by Olivia Guinn



Joseph DFL-106496132
Heart Gallery
Photography by Olivia Guinn

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AROUND THE BLOCK



SPIFFS CELEBRATES 45TH YEAR SHOWCASING ST. PETE'S DIVERSITY
Nowhere is St. Pete's diverse cultural heritage more evident than at the annual St. Petersburg International Folk Fair, now celebrating its 45th year. This year's event will be held October 24-27 at Vinoy Park and will showcase 36 different ethnic organizations, from Bulgarian, Polish and Russian to Ethiopian, Mongolian, and the Hmong people of Southeast Asia. The highlight of the festival is a grand parade of nations, culminating in a swearing-in ceremony of new American citizens.

Better known as SPIFFS, the festival recognizes the food, traditions, language, music and art of the city's many ethnic groups. "SPIFFS is a trip around the world without leaving town," says executive director Lotta Baumann. It's also the longest consecutively run festival in St. Petersburg.

Folk dancing and music are a big part of the four-day festival, which will feature entertainment by the Urban Gypsies, Brazilian Samba by O Som Do Jazz, New Horizon Band of Gulfport, and Conundrum Celtic Band. New this year is a Friday evening concert with the popular local Betty Fox Band.

The public can attend the festival on Saturday and Sunday, but Thursday and Friday are reserved for schools from the greater Tampa Bay area. Each year, some 10 thousand students have a chance to visit. Students receive a SPIFFS "passport" to be stamped at each of the "villages" hosted by various ethnic groups. To encourage conversation, SPIFFS prepares a list of questions students can ask, from how to say hello in the native language, to what is the favorite dessert or sport from that country.

"You can learn about a culture or a country by going to the Internet or studying lessons in the classroom, but talking face to face with someone from a different country is a different experience," says Baumann. "It's a cultural exchange that encourages understanding."



Ethnic music, dance, and costumes are part of the fun of celebrating diverse cultures at the St. Petersburg International Folk Fair.

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