

DISTRICT 3 WEEKLY UPDATE

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Did You Know?

Beach Signage Update:

We are in a 60 day window where the following will occur:

- Community Workshop on June 3rd at City Hall. Topics discussed will include:
 - Beach Signage and appropriate locations
 - Why do we need signs on the beach?
 - Public vs Private Beaches
 - Public Access Points
 - Historic Common Use areas
- Additional community meetings will focus on:
 - Alcohol policies
 - Wildlife / lighting
 - Fireworks

Law Enforcement for Beach Front Properties:

Beach property owners, send me a copy of your most current survey and I'll coordinate with the city to create a "field" file in the Sheriff's system. All deputies will use the same "field" file to determine legally enforceable property boundaries.

Recipe for Success!

Community Action Groups will be comprised of technically competent teams driving resolution plans to the most important challenges within our district. More details on page 2

1. Storm water / Drainage / Flooding
2. Traffic Safety
3. Wastewater / Sewer
4. Finance / Budget / How to pay for repairs
5. Tourism activities
6. Raising Homes / permitting
7. Business Signage for Gulf Blvd / Permitting
8. Historic Preservation
9. Code and Law Enforcement
10. Economic Development
11. Dunes/Beaches/Wildlife preservation
12. Planning / Zoning / Municipal Codes (next: Beach Use)

Board Position Available. This position will represent District 3 among appointees from other SPB districts. Get Involved!

Historic Preservation - Be a part of preserving the unique character of historic St Pete Beach!

SPB Commission Meeting (5/26) Agenda

- Approval of the Suncoast Beach Trolley for \$308K
- Approval of Fleet Purchases
- Action on Seawall Standards
- City Clerk Evaluation

Community Action Group Details

Waste Water

POC: Action Group will monitor city planning and activity and community waste water needs and participate in weekly discussions.

Street Flooding / Drainage Improvements

POC: Al Causey acausey@stpetebeach.org

The Storm Water Action Group will meet weekly to discuss and monitor city flooding at neighborhood meetings.

Finance / Budget - How to pay for repairs

POC: Kathy Garchow kgarchow@stpetebeach.org

The Finance / Budget Action Group will meet weekly with the District Commissioner and the Finance Appointee to formulate community funding solutions to annual budget needs, suggest funding priorities, and present at Finance Workshops and weekly neighborhood meetings.

Traffic Safety

POC: Christina Schaengold christina.schaengold@gmail.com

Traffic Safety will meet to determine recommendations for motor vehicle, bike/scooter and pedestrian safety

Raising Homes/Permitting

POC: Al Causey acausey@stpetebeach.org

Policies for permits associated with raising homes needs recommendations

Business signage / permitting

POC: LeeAnn Moore, Top Shape Fitness, topshapespb@gmail.com

Recommendations for policies associated with business signage permits.

Historic Preservation

POC: Bill Loughery spbhpbill@gmail.com

Team will make recommendations on preserving the cultural and architectural legacy of our district and the value of historical designation to protect property values

Code and Law Enforcement

Team will make recommendations for neighborhood safety, code compliance, and law enforcement briefings.

Dunes / Beaches / Wildlife preservation

POC: Nancy Stevens nancy@stevensfamily.net (Dunes) and Natalie Looney natnewlooney@gmail.com (Beach Stewardship and Wildlife)

Community action group focused on protecting our natural coastline and ecosystems; reviewing rules for beach usage

Planning / Zoning / Municipal Codes

POC: Dave Hubbard stpetebeach@dinopower.com

Updates on land use planning, new zoning regulations, and local municipal city codes, including community redevelopment initiatives

Beach use and Enforcement

POC: Randy Brown, aerocat82@yahoo.com

Community action group to review existing beach use codes/enforcement policies and ordinances, make recommendations for updates, coordinate city policies for enforcement with the Sherriff and the City.

Week of 5/25:

Neighborhood Discussions:

- Monday: Memorial Day
- Tuesday: Commission
- Thursday: Belle Vista 6:15
- Friday: Sandbar Bill's 6:15
- Saturday: Lazarillo Park 1pm

Business Meetings for the Commissioner:

- Monday: Memorial Day
- Tuesday: City Manager 10am, Commission Meeting 6pm
- Wednesday: Big C at the Community Center 9am
- Thursday: FDOT Storm Water Teams Meeting 3pm
- Friday: Finance Committee 2:30pm

Our city is still in a declared State of Emergency, damage permitting is approximately 50% complete, and the 2027 budgeting is in process. Critical infrastructure needs are unfunded.

Update to Constituents: First 2027 Budget Workshop and Revenue Strategies

At the first 2027 Budget Workshop, the Finance Director presented an overview of the city's budget planning process to city directors, department heads, the mayor, and commissioners. The workshop focused on identifying priorities for the coming fiscal year and establishing a framework for evaluating the city's needs in a transparent and strategic way.

One major topic of discussion was a list of approximately 90 potential projects under consideration. To help guide decision-making, the city developed a scoring matrix that evaluates each project based on factors such as criticality, cost, health and safety, asset condition, recovery and resiliency, economic and smart growth as well as potential impact, and whether grant funding has been offered, secured, or applied for. This approach is intended to help ensure that limited resources are directed toward the projects that are most necessary and beneficial to the community.

The workshop also addressed the importance of keeping enterprise funds self-sustaining. Enterprise funds are supported primarily through user fees rather than general tax revenue. Wastewater infrastructure is one example where current repair and maintenance costs are far beyond our revenue capabilities within the enterprise fund. Therefore we don't have the funding within the rate model to do the upgrades and repairs necessary. City leaders discussed the need to address this growing imbalance so that essential systems can remain reliable and properly maintained.

One proposal discussed would be to add a service fee based upon water usage to provide funding for wastewater repairs. Under this concept, customers who place the greatest demand on the system would contribute a larger share toward the infrastructure improvements and repairs that are needed. As infrastructure costs continue to rise, that arrangement has contributed to a growing mismatch between the city's responsibilities and the revenue available to support them.

Another important part of the discussion centered on the city's long-term capital needs. Current estimates show approximately \$218 million in infrastructure needs over the next five years. At the same time, the city is facing difficult decisions about how to fund those needs, including the possibility of future ad valorem considerations. Excluding FEMA reimbursements that we expect to receive for funds already spent on hurricane repairs, our city revenues are expected to be \$52M and our operating expenses are expected to be \$41M. However, the problem is that identified infrastructure needs for 2027 are \$62M.

This underscores the importance of developing a more sustainable financial model, particularly for enterprise funds that are not currently operating in a fully self-supporting manner and prioritizing expenditures. Unless we identify new sources of revenue, the identified infrastructure repairs cannot be committed to without these new sources of revenue.

Revenue Budget Committee Recommendations

- Fire assessment fee: up to \$3 million per year
- Parking fee: up to \$2 million per year
- Resiliency fee: up to \$1 million per year
- Utility-related enterprise fund fee: up to \$1 million per year
- Grant funding: up to \$1 million per year
- Other considerations include a parking-based street repair assessment.

Stay informed as the budget process moves forward! These early workshops are an important step in identifying priorities, evaluating long-term infrastructure needs, and making sure city resources are used responsibly and effectively. The second Budget Workshop will be June 9th at 3pm in the Commission Chambers.

**Grand opening and Congratulations!
Welcome to our city's newest business
The Museum of the Unknown**

**4105 Gulf Blvd, St Pete Beach, FL 33706
See mysterious ancient artifacts and UFO footage
Open between 10am-8pm (not open Memorial Day)**

**City Wide Planning for July 4th, Celebrating 250 Years
If you would like to volunteer to plan the fun and decor in your neighborhood, contact:
kgarchow@stpetebeach.org**

THANK YOU HCA!

This week I toured our closest hospital / ER provider. HCA is the largest hospital company in the US, Florida, and Pinellas County. Due to hurricane damage and to mitigate future risks, the South Pasadena facility has focused upon specialized treatments requiring longer recovery times, and some treatments such as cardiology and critical care have relocated to the 66th street campus. Special thanks to CEO Brent Burish, who is also a board member with our Chamber of Commerce.

Wastewater - Sewer Gas Backflow Prevention

The city contractor continues to clean sewer lines and another homeowner reported backflow into the home. The notification process is that the contractor goes door-to-door to alert residents to close toilets in case of back pressure.

Consider a backflow preventer or pressure relief valve installed outside to replace your current cleanout cap. Here's a link from Amazon (\$24). Show your plumber (one of many such products) or DIY:

The Original 3" or 4" Home-Saver Combination Flip Top Sewer Cleanout Relief Cap - Made in the USA
<https://a.co/d/08dfMHIQ>



See Click Fix - use of tool (for park repairs)

This tool is used by residents to create tickets for the city staff to address any park related issues. From there, information is fed into other system tools used by the city and sub-contractors. Essentially, it is taken offline from the original report.

As a result, updates are not made to See Click Fix. It is essentially a notification tool, but it stops there...from an update perspective.

Transparency moving forward

Visit the new DASHBOARD on the city website under Public Services to see the status of various Capital Improvements such as the rebuild of wastewater pump station 1.