

Old Southeast Gazette

Celebrate Spring! Celebrate the Old Southeast!

Our tour of homes is just a few weeks away, and the closer it gets, the better it gets. A great team of hard-working, enthusiastic, and creative OSE residents has put in hours of work to make this home tour one of the best, if not *The* best tour ever. Wait 'til you see the vessels **Scott Durfee** has made to accompany signs marking the homes on tour!

The 2007 Tour of Homes will open homes from 24th Avenue South to 17th Avenue South and 3rd Street South to Beach Drive: homes built between 1900 and 1946 and ranging from a Grand Bungalow to a Queen Anne home on the National Registry of Historic Homes, to typical Florida homes of the 1920's and 1940's. Of course, each home has been individualized through the love and attention of its owner, so expect to see the diversity that makes the Old Southeast a special jewel. Additionally, the **Art Exhibit** will be staged at 1829 Beach Drive, and **Kevin Brady** will have a Concept to Completion exhibit related to his work on the Thrill Hill Bridge. Tour guests will have the opportunity to learn the history and stories behind the **Thrill Hill Bridge** sculptures through this year's tour.

We have earnestly been working behind the scenes since November to bring this tour to you; the fun really begins with our **kick-off dinner meeting at Studio 620 March 8, 7:00 P.M.** The studio is located at 620 First Avenue South. For head count purposes, it is urgent that you let our hostess, **Winnie Howell**, know to expect you ASAP (WHowellat620@aol.com or 515-6075). Members of the **St. Petersburg Men's Chorus** will be assisting at the kick-off and day of the tour. Thank you, gentlemen! At the kick-off, we'll be recruiting people to assist tour home owners as hosts and others to help with set up, take down, and manning tour headquarters at the park.

Other opportunities to celebrate the **OSE** will be **Saturdays, March 10 and 17**, when a booth at the **Saturday Market** will be manned by friendly Old Southeasters pre-selling tickets and distributing Tour of Homes flyers. **Diane Portelli**, who has done a masterful job of recruiting sponsors and companies to provide demonstrations and items for raffle the day of the tour, is coordinating staffing for the Market event. If you want to play, call her! (895-2272 or HammerUrHouse@aol.com)

Pray for sunshine and cool breezes for March 24, and come out and join the fun!

Sandee Irvin

OSNA

Board Meeting

April 5th

Friends
Meetinghouse

7pm

All welcome

Crime Watch Update



Hello all! Please bear with me as I adjust to my new role of Crime Watch coordinator. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated, and I do need a co-coordinator.

Thanks to all who attended the last Crime Watch meeting on the 20th. Our guests from the St. Petersburg Police Department were: Major Hope Crews, Detective Andrews (burglary), Detective Brown (Auto Theft) and Brandie Ball (Emergency Communications Supervisor).

Almost every neighbor in attendance had their own specific issue. Each issue was addressed separately by the officers. As regarding child safety, there was a question about known pedophiles or sex offenders in our neighborhood. Major Crews informed the group that this information is public record and can be found on the FDLE website: www.fdle.state.fl.us. I logged on and discovered that there are 27 registered sex offenders within 1 mile of my address. Of those, 4 are classified as "predators".

Detective Brown spoke to the problem of auto thefts and burglaries, and indicated that the average age of a car thief/burglar is between 13-16. He also stated that unfortunately, juveniles come and go out of the system so quickly that they can commit several crimes in a relatively short period of time, not to mention several in one night with multiple stolen vehicles! The most popular cars to burglarize and/or steal are Dodges and Chryslers. His best advice was to keep cars locked, use a "Club", and keep all valuables out of your vehicles.

A sore spot with several of our neighbors has been the lack of police response to our calls. Some neighbors have reported that when they call, they are told by the dispatcher that not only will an officer NOT be dispatched, but that the issue is not "serious enough" to even warrant a report. Brandie Ball from Communications addressed this issue, first by assuring us that this was NOT acceptable procedure. She stated that if a citizen asks for an officer to be dispatched, an officer WILL be dispatched. She urged us all to immediately ask for a supervisor if we feel that our call is not being handled to our satisfaction. Calls are handled on a priority basis (1-4. An example of 1 being a life and death situation, 4 being a barking dog). It was called to the officer's attention that there is a perceived lack of communication between the police department and code enforcement, specifically cars being parked on lawns and over sidewalks. Major Crews clarified that if a car is parked over a sidewalk, a ticket can be issued. However, if a car is parked on the lawn, it is strictly a codes violation and the police do not have any authority over that. However, in that situation, she again stated that if a citizen demands the presence of an officer, one will be sent.

The new community service number is **551-3181**. This number is to be used to report issues such as illegal parking, and other chronic issues. Calls to this number are returned within 24 hours. This number does NOT replace the non-emergency police number **893-7780**, which is to be used to report non-life threatening situations, such as suspicious persons or circumstances, auto burglaries or thefts, etc. The **911** emergency line is to be used for emergencies, such as fire, medical emergency, or any other life-threatening situation.

Several neighbors have volunteered to be "block captains". The responsibility of the captain is to get to know the folks on their block and establish a phone tree so that any criminal or suspicious activity that is happening can be quickly communicated through the neighborhood. (As coordinator, it is my responsibility to call block captains)

Please call me if you wish to volunteer **895-2053**. There is a map of the Old Southeast on the yahoo group under "Files". It is aptly named "Map of OSE". Let me know what area you would like to cover.

CALLING ALL SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES!!!

To end on a light note, a suggestion was made to have a "neighborhood walk", perhaps every six months during which neighbors could meet and greet each other. A similar activity known as a "Full Moon Party" used to take place in the neighborhood a few years ago. People would volunteer their porches during a full moon, and have neighbors over to visit. This is what crime watch is all about, really – getting to know your neighbors, being aware of the normal activities in your area, so that you notice things that are out of the ordinary. Please contact me (**Catherine Smith 895-2053**) if you are interested in starting (and coordinating) a "Neighborhood Walk" or re-starting the Full Moon Parties.

Remember the non-emergency police line **893-7780** to report any suspicious circumstances or other non-life threatening situations. CALL CALL CALL!!!!

Catherine Smith

Crime Watch Coordinator

Old Southeast Neighborhood Association Board Members

Jim Irvin, President

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Therenmen@yahoo.com 822-6045

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OSNA

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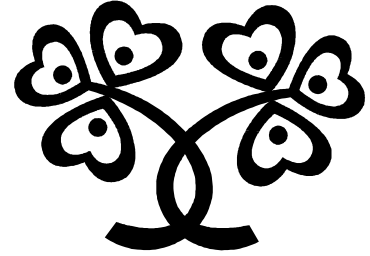
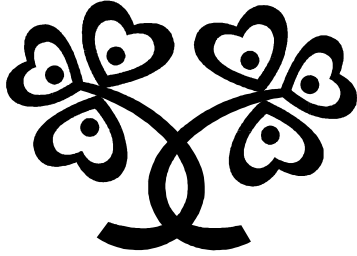
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THE OLD SOUTHEAST GAZETTE

is published monthly.
Submit items for the April
issue by March 18 to:

George Medeiros

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Properties

This month's Old Southeast Featured Homes:

144 24th Ave S

Beautifully landscaped newer home with free form pool, volume ceilings, split bedroom floor plan and upgraded kitchen with Thomasville cabinets.

This property has so much to offer with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large 2 car attached garage and a spectacularly landscaped & fenced back yard. This can be your own piece of paradise for only \$375,000.

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Music to Our Ears- The St. Petersburg Men's Chorus

Writing a few words on our, Doug's & my, latest venture. Last fall we joined the newly formed Men's Chorus. Ok stop laughing, we are non-singing members. but members of the "Fifth Section." that assists the singing members in all ways.

We decided that helping market and promote the chorus would be (and is) fun. Three friends of ours that are recent transplants from California formed the vision of **SPMC**. Mark, Daniel, & Clayton wanted to create a diverse and all-inclusive chorus to represent St.Pete's finest attributes, similar to the California chorus experience they dearly missed. The mission of this chorus is very similar to our Old Southeast philosophy. Celebrate and enhance the diversity and vast culture of our community of which no one is excluded. This is the reason why **OSNA** is a neighborhood association as opposed to homeowners association and **SPMC** is not St. Petersburg Gay Men's Chorus. Doug and I are both very proud to be associated with both groups.

Since its inception last summer, **SPMC** has grown to 20 members and still growing. The chorus has made many strides by volunteering holiday performances and non-performing acts to reach out to the community. The chorus also has developed a solid relationship with **The Studio@ 620**. We had a very successful fundraiser there. Our neighbors Bob Devin, Dave, and Winnie have been outstanding with support /guidance and generosity. You will notice **SPMC** members volunteering @ the studio from time to time.

Our first full performance will be on **May 5th @ MCC Community Church** entitled "Cornerstone" SPMC will perform for **The Studio@620 fundraiser on June 20th (6/20) @ the Vinoy Hotel Ballroom (tentative location) @ 6:20 pm (clever).**

The chorus will sing the national anthem @ **Tropicana Field on June 27th for "Pride Night @ the Trop"** and participate in various other Pride events.

So in a nutshell, we are very excited to be a part of this experience. It is fun being involved in the beginning of an organization that will, in a short time, be known/ respected and admired throughout the entire community.

Please check us out/meet our members at
www.stpetemenschorus.org

As with all non-profit organizations we are seeking donors, advertisers, new members and of course loyal supporters.

Kevin O'Farrell

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OLD SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP

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The Old Southeast Neighborhood Association

Let's Clean Up Our Neighborhood!

What: Opportunity to have the City's Sanitation Department pickup unwanted junk, trash and debris at no charge!

When: Monday, March 19, 2005
7:00am

Where: The Fabulous Old Southeast!
4th to Lassing Park, 25th to Salt Creek

The pick up includes:

old furniture, appliances, carpeting, yard waste, tree limbs (up to 4 feet long), and miscellaneous items.

Hazardous wastes will not

be picked up, including: paints, solvents, pesticides, as well as, cars, and building materials.

All material should be placed on the curb or alley at your normal pick up location starting Friday afternoon March 17.

Please no earlier and be courteous to your neighbors.

Pick up begins at 7:00am on Monday, March 19 .

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Chattaway is Growing

Any habitué of Chattaway's knows that Jillian Frers is always up to some magical new project in the garden. But now, the garden is undergoing a spectacular transformation in a five phase project that will entail an intricately designed paver patio, a built-in brick fireplace, and a modest bandstand to feature live acoustic music. Folks who have joined Chattaway's on a Friday evening for such performances in the garden know that we are lucky to have this legendary part of St. Pete history in our very own neighborhood.

Who are the artists at work on this project? Meet Elmer Brumenshenkel, 76, who has been a brick mason since he was seventeen. He learned the craft from his brothers and cousins and ran mason crews in Lexington, Ohio. He lived in Florida for a few years in the late 1980s, and then moved to St. Petersburg permanently in 1999, when he met Jill and became a regular at the restaurant. Jill was impressed with the pictures of Elmer's handiwork and numerous projects, many of them featuring ornate arrangements of brick cemented in a mosaic design. Not many subcontractors are doing the kind of artful brick work that Elmer designs and lays.

Another partner in the project is Gregg Johnson, 60, who lives his life between the land and sea. Gregg has been involved in construction for 30 years building and remodeling houses. Gregg arrived in St. Pete from Oregon in 2001, during that time he has sailed to Central America, Belize, Honduras, Mexico, and the Keys. Gregg- like many of us- has a deep fondness for Chatty's and is proud to put his labor into such an ambitious project.

Jill has the vision and a great team to continue to make Chattaway's the charming destination it is for many of us in the Old Southeast. She has also graciously offered her restaurant for three of our neighborhood meetings this year, including the June 9 Plant Swap. I encourage everyone to come by and see the progress of this patio in the making. Perhaps you will leave feeling inspired with what we can all do in our garden and patios with the simplest of materials. Enjoy a burger and a beer while you're at it.



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Chattaway Restaurant

The Studio@620

St. Petersburg Men's Chorus

Kevin Brady

All the volunteers of The OSE,
whose valuable contributions
are beyond measure!

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February 21, 2007 CONA Meeting

- ♦ Passed a motion to write a letter to the city council regarding construction projects. CONA is asking for there to be a two year time limit put on construction projects adjacent to neighborhoods from time of demolition to final inspection. Additionally, if project is done in stages there must be a one year break between phases. This is in response to a 13 year time limit placed on a project adjacent to a neighborhood.
- ♦ CONA committee on community policing is surveying the neighborhoods. Any opinions on the new community policing strategy should be emailed to David Shafer (drdave44@earthlink.net) to be passed on to the committee. So far the response has been positive.
- ♦ Tom Killian was recognized as citizen of the month for his long term service to CONA.
- ♦ The city and the county pitched "Penny for Pinellas." Early voting starts Monday Feb 26, polling day is March 13th. Both the city and county website have specific information on what projects have been done with "penny" money.
- ♦ City Council vice chair James Bennett presented information on the homeless leadership network and its 10 year plan. This discussion was very spirited. The ten year plan is required by HUD in order to receive HUD funds. However, the funding is not particularly robust (around \$100,000/year for St. Pete). Basically the plan calls for three service centers (south, mid-county, north) each with around 150-200 beds, rehabilitation centers, back to work centers, etc. all in one complex. Additionally, there is a outreach team manned by 1 police officer and 1 social worker driving around in search of homeless folks 7 day's a week. Their only duty is to reach out to the homeless. This strategy has worked well for both Ft. Lauderdale and Reno in getting the homeless off the streets. Of course we will always have homeless among us. Currently there are about 4700 homeless in the county, which 85% are receiving services. All beds are currently filled. Catholic Charities has volunteered \$500,000 to build the south county facility and to run it for the city at no charge.
- ♦ Current tent city was characterized by Mr. Bennett as civil disobedience in order to force the county to increase services. Lawsuits are expected to follow as what happened in Philadelphia. Arresting folks does no good as there are no beds to put them in and no room in the jail so the judge is obliged to send them back to the street.
- ♦ Several CONA members argued that the city must start enforcing the ordinances and arresting violators. Business owners are losing money and neighborhoods are under siege by the homeless. They felt that there was folks that came to St. Petersburg specifically because it is homeless friendly. Facts are that 61% of the homeless are long time (4 yrs or longer) county residents. They also felt that the county must do something now to help out or we will be besieged by the homeless. "Move em out" was their motto!!!
- ♦ For those interested in the 10 year plan it is on the city website.

Dave Shafer

OSNA REFLECTIONS

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself as your new Neighborhood Association President. I am **Jim Irvin** and together with Sandee and our two cats, Moxie and Fraidy, we reside at 101 19th Ave. S.E. We have owned this property for five years and have constantly toiled, as have many of you, to improve the appearance and value of our investment. Our neighborhood is truly an evolving, wonderful place to live. Each day brings change as new neighbors move into our midst. We have come to meet and know many of you over the past five years. Hopefully, we will come to meet and know more of you in the coming years. Past presidents have written for the news letter. All have delivered different messages with different delivery styles. My messages will focus on community success and needs. Hopefully, I can deliver the message in a simple and yet meaningful way.

Over the course of the past year, our neighborhood and many volunteers have worked with the city to enhance "Thrill Hill Bridge". The historical research was performed by Don Bartlett and Kevin Brady and the overall project led to completion by Robyn Conmy, wife of Drew Remsen. Kevin Brady, our own lifetime honorary OSNA member, developed a true artistic vision which he translated into a completed work of art. The dedication ceremony was held on February 15 and was well attended by OSNA members and City of St. Petersburg officials. Robyn faced the cameras with a wonderful presentation of the bridge project. Robyn, thank you for facing the public in such a professional manner. A special thank you also goes out to all the volunteers who primed, painted, cast and installed the sculpture panels. What a change to a great landmark. Additionally, words cannot express our thanks for all the effort of Kevin Brady. His enthusiasm and dedication have given us all a brighter spot in the city of St. Petersburg.

During the past year many of you have stepped forward and assisted with the formation of an active Crime Watch Program. It was my pleasure to attend a meeting on February 20. Again, I saw many of my neighbors and five St. Pete law enforcement officers focused on crime investigation and prevention. Since her new job requires extensive travel, Debi McDade has handed the reigns of the Crime Watch Program off to co-coordinator Catherine Smith. Thank you both for the work you have done. I believe the city is genuinely interested in helping us police and minimize crime. We must all support Catherine and take an active role in the Crime Prevention Program. I invite you all to monitor the **Neighborhood Times** for crime reports related to our district (15). Become aware of the problems and problem houses. Stay aware and report suspicious activity. Be prepared to actively participate in future Crime Watch activities.

Your board of directors and officers met early in the year and agreed to reinstate monthly association meetings. Our January meeting attendance was sparse however our February meeting was well attended. Association officers were elected and the year is now off to a running start. We want to see you at monthly meetings. Our association meetings are an excellent opportunity to meet and socialize with neighbors, discuss relevant concerns and affirm support of community initiatives. We need volunteers to head committee positions and support existing committees. Without your help, we will have to limit our neighborhood programs and activities. Could you spare one hour a month to assist in a community activity? If every household in our association would give one hour of service to the association, we would have 600 hours available to perform neighborhood watch activities, help our neighbors, work with the city on crime initiatives and generally improve our overall neighborhood and its quality of life. **WE NEED YOU! YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!** Please step forward. Contact me or any board member to explore the possibilities.

Lastly, we are about one month from our home tour. The tour is scheduled for March 24. Thus far, we have seven homes and two gardens on the tour. We have had cancellations but other neighbors have stepped forward and placed their property on the tour. Thank you for opening your homes. You are contributing to our fund raising program as well as sharing the personal side of our neighborhood. After all, we are real people living in real houses - all types of people and all styles of decorating. Individuals have come together as a neighborhood creating a lasting tribute to its roots through the "Thrill Hill Project". A community has come together in the spirit of partnership with the City Police Department to eliminate crime. All of us enjoy our neighborhood as a unique and beautiful place to live.

See you around the neighborhood.

Home Of The Month Bob Devin Jones

In the early autumn of 1921 the city of St. Petersburg was still in the middle of a building boom and not nearly mature enough to have any of it's neighborhoods referred to as "old", as in the Old Northeast or even the Old Southeast. Most, structures in the city that year survived without any major damage during the "great hurricane of '21", however some structures were not so lucky, such as the Million Dollar Pier. Nonetheless the boon continued and the house at 221 19th Ave. south was built, which was also one of one of Pinellas Counties, first grocery stores. Warren and Anna Scott were the proprietors of the store and the owners of the home. They presided over the Tip Top grocery for over twenty years. In the early sixties the store briefly became the Helen Dickey Art School and Gallery. Last year when married couple Alex Zesch and Megan Bainbridge decided they where going to leave their Tampa area home and move closer to their work, in downtown St. Petersburg; the first house they saw... the only house they saw, they absolutely, positively knew the house on 19th Ave. in the Old Southeast was the one. The house was completely renovated in 2004, the Zesch/Bainbridge family and their golden retriever Cody moved to our community in August of 2006, and are slowly adding their own refurbishments. The exterior was painted from green to blue/slate with white trim and burgundy shutters. Alex repaired all twenty-five sash and weight windows. The two- story home contains the original (refinished) heart pine floors; four bedrooms, (three upstairs) and two baths; one up, one down. A family photomontage warmly greets you in the entryway. The interior colors are friendly and inviting; sage, sand, in the living room, golden rod in the kitchen, vibrant, vivid merlot in the dinning room, framed by glossy white craftsman cabinets. The house sits nearly fifty feet from the sidewalk and the generous yard is a retainer of the detritus of a growing family, baby pram, portable basketball hoop with net, and a blue bicycle with tiny training wheels. A huge mature oak stands sentry and divides its shade between the Zesch/Bainbridge house and the Deggans home next door. Alex says there are many ongoing, and yet to begun projects to tackle; building of a side deck, replacing the white enamel hallway and kitchen tile with a more earthen material, and lots and lots more plants. Both Megan and Alex told me they love their new neighborhood, you can often see the entire family out walking to or from the park. So, everyone lets give lots and lots of welcomes, to one of our newest families. The Zesch/Bainbridge family is representative of the latest and greatest "boom" to our community. Another one of many splendid reasons we all are delighted to call the Old Southeast home!

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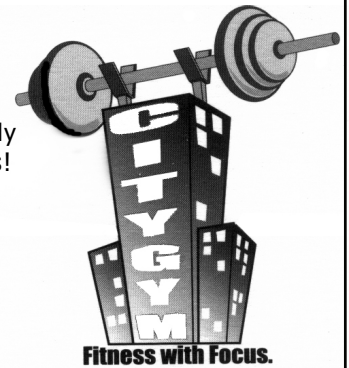
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Neighborhood Partnership

At our community meeting in February, we had the opportunity to meet our new Neighborhood Planner, **Philip C. Harris**. He is one of our liaisons as a direct connection towards getting our Governmental funding, such as street sweeping notifications and traffic calming, keeping our community budgeted dollars working in our neighborhood. Keep in mind that he does not create the funding or budgets; he is a navigator. As our guide, he will be able to assist us with governmental services that our community needs, and show how we might be able to, as a community, accomplish projects. We need to keep him apprised of our community needs, call, and ask. He can help steer us through the correct political channels in creating a resolution to our community concerns. One thing we all must keep in mind is how we utilize his services. Not to call him for a cat in tree, but maybe calling him on a street light out, or a corner in our neighborhood that does not have the proper water run off "poor drainage", or something that affects our neighborhood plan, see the neighborhood plan visit stpete.org.

Looking forward to working with him at the City Team meeting. If you would like to speak with him personally, you can contact him at Philip.harris@stpete.org or **727-893-4110**

Scott Durfee

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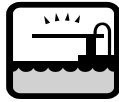
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New Community Project: Bridging Neighborhoods

A goal of this group is to begin creating communication between our neighboring communities on the Southside of Saint Petersburg. We are now in communications with the a few board members from Bartlett Park, Harbordale, and Campbell Park. We will be creating a yahoo group and hold monthly meeting in hopes to share information. We have started by offered our services in helping to create newsletters to these communities at our own expense. If you would to offer some suggestion please feel free to contact me

727-822-6045 or Therenmen@yahoo.com.

Come out and meet our Community Codes Investigator & Public Service Rep

Dennis Weber, codes investigator, and **Susan Fuchs**, Public Service Representative, will be at our March meeting, Studio@620

Dennis will introduce himself and offer codes compliance assistance for those of us who may not understand the violation procedures. Please make him feel welcome and comfortable; realize that he is doing what his job is requiring him to do!

Susan will introduce herself and explain what she is doing as our new PSR. She was a vital link between the Neighborhood Partnership and the OSNA in facilitating the beautification of Thrill Hill Bridge. Her main function is to respond to citizen's calls to the Action Hotline.

Come out to the meeting and get acquainted.

Scott Durfee



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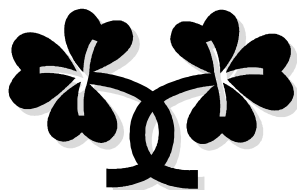
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Helpful Numbers

Emergencies	911
Community Police	551-3181
Police Tip Hot Line	892-5000
Police Non-Emergency	893-7780
Police Info. Desk	893-7521

Codes Compliance Assistance

Code Violations Reporting	893-7373
City Permits.....	893-7231
Mayor's Action Hotline	893-7111

www.stpete.org

Neighborhoods Partnership Office	892-5141
Animal Control	582-2600
Graffiti	893-7394
Power Outage Hotline (Street Lights)	800-228-8485
Sanitation(Special Pick Up).....	893-7398
TECO GAS (Emergency)	877-832-6747
Vegetation / Mosquito Control	464-7503
Water & Sewer Problems.....	893-7761

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