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Tampa Bay Times Family Night at PHILLIES SPRING TRAINING

FRIDAY, March 25, 2016

Games open at 4:05 p.m.
Games starts at 4:35 p.m.

PHILLIES VS. Toronto Blue Jays

Bright House Field
601 Old Coachman Rd.
Clearwater 33765
(US 19 and Drew Street)

FAMILY DAY OFFER

\$20 field box seats (Regular \$28)

Most present coupons at box office to get special offer. Limit 8 seats maximum per coupon. Based on availability. Advance purchase non-transferable. Valid for the 2016 season only. Valid for new purchases only. Tickets are not available by phone or online. Tickets available at Bright House Field Box Office or by phone at (727) 467-4457. www.phillies.com

Do you have COPD*?
(*Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease – also known as Chronic Bronchitis or Emphysema)

A research study is currently underway to investigate the effectiveness of an investigational product in the reduction of the annual rate of COPD Exacerbations.

Qualified participants must:

- Be at least forty (40) years of age
- Have a history of cigarette smoking (> 1 pack/day for ≥ 10 years)
- Be on a daily COPD treatment for at least three (3) months
- Have had a COPD Exacerbation (or Worsening) that required antibiotics, corticosteroids or hospitalization within the past 12 months

Study participants will receive study medications and other study related medical care at no cost; and may receive compensation for time and travel.

If you are interested, please contact:

Pinellas Medical Research
at Coastal Pulmonary and Critical care
(727) 515-5124
mycopdresearch.com



From Your Pantry to Their Plates

Donate non-perishable food during the spring cleaning food drive March 14 – April 3 at Goodwill locations.

700,000 people locally go hungry every day and 250,000 of them are children. To change that, Goodwill-Suncoast and Feeding Tampa Bay are partnering for a spring cleaning food drive. You can help by cleaning out your pantry and cupboards or picking up a few extra cans at the store and dropping them off at Goodwill locations.

Please donate today, because no one should go hungry.

FEEDING Tampa Bay **Goodwill** **Tampa Bay Times**

For donation locations, visit www.goodwill-suncoast.org

Neighborhood news

Dr. Delay | Navigating Pinellas

Gandy Boulevard work is ahead of schedule

We are snowbirds and wondering what workers are doing on Fourth Street N in St. Petersburg between the Howard Frankland Bridge and Gandy Boulevard and when the repairs will be completed?

This is the Gandy Boulevard Project, which runs along Gandy from Fourth Street to 16th Street. The good news is that the project is currently running ahead of schedule, according to the latest from the Pinellas Planning Council/Pinellas County Metropolitan Transportation Organization. The project is planned to be completed a year from now, which means that in the spring of 2017, drivers will pass over 16th Street, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Fourth Street N without having to stop for a traffic signal. In addition to the new overpasses for motorists, the \$83.7 million Department of Transportation project includes new sidewalks, bicycle lanes and accommodations for a future trail facility.

Public meetings planned

Due Delay readers have lots of ideas and opinions about transportation needs, here's your chance to get them heard: The Pinellas Planning Council and Pinellas County Metropolitan Transportation Organization will host sessions in April and May to gather comments from the public regarding plans for transportation and development in three key areas: the US 19 corridor and mid-county Gateway area and golf beach access. If you have concerns or comments about these specific areas as they relate to land use, transportation issues, and needs for the future, plan to attend. RSVPs are requested, and property owners or those who have business interests in these areas who wish to participate in the sessions are asked to contact Tina Jablon of the MPO at tjablon@pinellascountympo.org prior to the meeting. The topics and locations of the public sessions are:

- **US 19:** 8 to 10 a.m. April 11 at the St. Petersburg College Clearwater Campus, Room E.S. 105-2466 Drew St.
- **US 19:** 4 to 6 p.m. April 11 at the St. Petersburg College Alliance Campus, DeSoto Room (200 344) St. S.
- **GOLF BEACH ACCESS:** 9 to 11 a.m. May 3 at Madison Street City Hall 200 Municipal Drive.
- **MASTER PLAN FOR GATEWAY/MID-COUNTY:** 8 to 10 a.m. May 16 at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center 4603 26th Ave.

Barricade watch

- Closure of westbound lanes of State Road 880 from Landmark Drive to McMullen-Booth Avenue are expected to last until next week for repair work on the leaking water main at Charles Avenue. In the meantime, follow established detours.
- In Largo, the ongoing 14-mile city sewer improvement project will close westbound Bunde Leon Boulevard next to the Pinellas Trail to Clearwater/Largo Road. The closure is scheduled to be in effect until April 4. Alternate routes are Rosary Road NW, Indian Rocks Road, and Bellevue Boulevard.
- Other road closures related to the project:
 - Full closure of Seacrest Drive at Keene Park Drive through April 15; use Falton Drive NE as a detour route.
 - 150th Avenue N from US 19 to 49th Street, lane closures now through April 30; detour via Roosevelt Boulevard or Ulmerton Road.
 - Newport Road from 150th Avenue and Hidden Oaks Drive, lane closures now through April 30; to land use, transportation issues, and needs for the future, plan to attend. RSVPs are requested, and property owners or those who have business interests in these areas who wish to participate in the sessions are asked to contact Tina Jablon of the MPO at tjablon@pinellascountympo.org prior to the meeting.

Email Dr. Delay at drdelay@gmail.com or email mail to 2121 Bay 69th, St. Petersburg FL 33720 to share your traffic concerns, comments and questions. Follow @AskDrDelay.

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required to be present during the events.

"I don't believe there is any reason to think it will be a 'big and stinky,'" Nurse said. "I think it will be First Friday."

First Friday has become a popular, and sometimes unruly, monthly promotional downtown event where patrons can walk on Central Avenue with drinks.

Nurse also thought the higher traffic speeds through the district was a recipe for tragedy. Police said main thoroughfares, especially First Avenue North and South don't have as many stoplights as the heart of downtown and traffic frequently reaches higher speeds.

"If you've got intoxicated people on First Avenue North and South with these speeds," Nurse said, "that's a recipe for angst and likely death."

Email Pavone, president emeritus of the St. Petersburg Downtown Residents Civic Association, called for an emergency meeting among downtown residents.

"It's bad news. Very bad news," Pavone wrote in an email to downtown groups. "We will have to act immediately to remind the responsible members of the City Council of the risks that will surely occur if this irresponsible plan is allowed to go forward."

Several council members are asking that police presence be maintained during the events in the ordinance.

They unanimously approved to consider an ordinance at a future unspecified meeting. If the committee approves the proposal, it would proceed to a vote by the entire council.

Contact Charlie Frigo at cfrigo@tampabay.com or (727) 893-6488. Follow @CharlieFrigo

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About half of the units are already occupied with tenants who signed leases with the previous owner — D&D Missionary Homes, a faith-based nonprofit organization that offers housing for missionaries and single mothers. The county will honor the leases, and no residents will be displaced by the project, Diver said.

That factor was one of the reasons D&D sold to the county, said David Gibbs, chairman of the organization's board of directors. The group was planning to sell a portion of its properties to prepare for a potential relocation to Clermont, a city about 25 miles west of Orlando, but the county's plans for the land led the board to sell it.

"It was truly, in our opinion, a win-win," Gibbs said. "The county has an exciting vision for the homes."

The sale also includes three commercial buildings, including a former fire station that D&D leased to a church, that will be used to administer community services, such as veterans assistance or medical help, said Rena Vincent, the county's community development and planning manager.

"We're considering a broad range of needs," Vincent said.

Along with the rehabilitation going on now, Vincent said the properties may be torn down and redeveloped as part of a long-term plan. County officials will work with the CRA committee to ensure the plan fits in with the group's goals.

Neri said the housing purchase is a big step in a long process of upgrades over the years that he hopes will continue with support from county officials and area residents. Moving forward, the CRA committee will be looking at several ways to improve Leola, including alternative drainage to the deep ditches on the side of the road, more education opportunities and developing a small downtown to attract businesses.

"There's no magic wand that's going to run over this place," Neri said. "I've had to learn that there's a pace ... and you've got to stay with it."

Contact Kathryn Vera at (727) 893-6932 or kvera@tampabay.com. Follow @KathrynVera.

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the Senate.

At first blush it would seem the redrawn District 13 seat is Crist's for the taking. Some recent polls put him far ahead of his Democratic Party primary opponent, Eric Linn. Crist has raised about \$800,000 so far. And you have to suspect Crist has virtually universal name recognition.

Still there are nuances. Lynn has drawn the support of St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman, HSN CEO Minky Grossman and developer Craig Sher. And there is still the possibility former Republican St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker might enter the race.

When asked about the opposition to his candidacy, Crist seemed to enter a nonplussed moment of Zen. "Everybody has a right to do what they want to do." And one thing Crist did that has turned out to be fortuitous was become a Democrat, especially now that the Republican Party appears to be on the verge of being hijacked by the political equivalent of "Blazing Saddles" Mirages.

"I'm extremely comfortable as a Florida Democrat," Crist said with a broad grin, suggesting not only was it a political move that suited his ambitions but that it spared him the indignity of trying to campaign in November 2016 as a down-ballot Republican with Donald Trump possibly leading the GOP ticket.

"I could not agree with you more," Crist said, cringing at the prospect of a Trump presidential nomination. "If he becomes the nominee what can you (as a Republican candidate) do without offending his voters?"

Winning a congressional seat would revitalize a political career once filled with so much promise. But that was a Senate and a gubernatorial election ago. It is always difficult to measure ambition, especially for a man who thrives on the political dynamics of the public arena.

St. Petersburg Times

A community news section published weekly for the neighborhoods and towns of south Pinellas County

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