

Neighbors in the Know

April 2026

NIK



letter.

WELCOME TO NEIGHBORS IN THE KNOW

Our purpose is to make it easier to be a knowledgeable voter & connect you to environmental news that affects your neighborhoods.

We believe that we all care about preserving our natural environment, clean air and clean water.

Inside you will find:

- Information about elections, contacting your elected officials, voting, referendums.
- Information about Publix Plastic Bag project.
- Contact information for local & state officials.
- Environmental events and volunteering opportunities around Pinellas County.
- Info on St. Pete and Pinellas County rebate and other Programs.
- Neighborhood Ambassador Program info.

Neighbors in the Know is a neighborhood focused environmental resource platform. Contact us at info@seaurise.org

**WANT MORE INFO?
THE QR CODES TAKE YOU
TO ALL OF THE LISTINGS &
DEEPER DIVES INTO THIS
NEWSLETTER'S LINKS.**



**WELCOME TO THE NIK
NEIGHBORHOOD**

**WE ARE BRINGING LOCAL
NONPROFITS TOGETHER
TO CREATE
MEANINGFUL CHANGE
FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.**

**WANT TO BE A
NEIGHBORHOOD
ENVIRONMENTAL
AMBASSADOR? SEE PAGE 4**

Florida Midterm Election Info

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

City of St. Petersburg

No. 1 Referendum Question:

Stormwater, Wastewater and/or Potable Water Improvements General Obligation Bond Referendum

Shall the City finance storm resilience improvements, including but not limited to, floodwater protection, stormwater pump stations, drainage infrastructure, as well as wastewater collection and treatment facilities, drinking water distribution and supply facilities, by issuing general obligation bonds in one or more series, not exceeding \$600,000,000, bearing interest not exceeding maximum legal rates, maturing not more than 30 years from each issuance date, pledging the City's full faith, credit, and unlimited ad valorem taxing power?

From the Suncoast Sierra Club (who does due diligence):

"If approved, the City could do more resilience and stormwater improvements in the next five years than were accomplished in the previous 35 years."

*Sea Us Rise recommends a **YES** vote.*

Statewide - Amendment 3

Increased Homestead Exemption; Lower Cap On Increases In Non-Homestead Property Assessments

This amendment increases the homestead exemption, for all non-school taxes, to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028, and adjusts for inflation thereafter. It requires the Legislature to prescribe a uniform procedure for counties and municipalities, for their respective levies, to increase the homestead exemption up to full assessed value, and allows special districts, subject to referendum approval, to do the same.

*Sea Us Rise recommends a **NO** vote on this amendment.*

It strips billions of dollars and control from local municipalities, putting funding of important civic life - firefighters, police, libraries, transportation, sidewalks and everything in uncertainty, and further municipal dependence on Tallahassee. It will pass the costs on to consumers and residents. The funding pushing this is from Florida Realtors. Instead, we need relief on property insurance.

All of the information in this newsletter is also available (with links) on our website through the QR code.

Voting Info

Early voting: October 19 - November 1

Early voting sites in Pinellas County

- 501 First Ave. N., St. Petersburg FL 33701
- 13001 Starkey Rd., Largo FL 33773
- 315 Court St., Clearwater FL 33756
- Centre of Palm Harbor: 1500 16th St., Palm Harbor, FL 34683
- Countryside Recreation Center: 2640 Sabal Springs Dr., Clearwater, FL 33761
- Gulfport Neighborhood Center: 1617 49th St. S., Gulfport, FL 33707
- J.W. Cate Recreation Center: 5801 22nd Ave. N., St., Petersburg, FL 33710

November 3 voting: 7am - 7pm

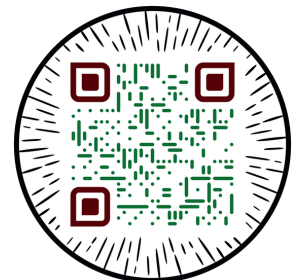
*If you are still in line at 7pm,
you have the right to vote.*



Voter Guides

As an environmental organization, we look at voter guides of planet aligned organizations. If there is a voter guide you really like, please share it with us (info@seausrise.org). Here are a few we use:

- Suncoast Sierra Club
- Vote Water
- League of Conservation Voters
- The Florida Phoenix
- League of Women Voters. (The League publishes answers to their candidate questionnaires, no endorsements.)



St. Pete News

City of St. Pete Rebates

St. Pete offers multiple rebates to homeowners, businesses, and developers. The City and Tampa Bay Water have the Water Wise program, plus rebates for sprinkler systems, shallow wells, high efficiency toilets, making multidwelling units efficient. You can find out more information through our QR code.

Opportunities

The City of St. Pete has several resilience initiatives through a citywide Vulnerability Assessment. Join their **community conversation** on *Tuesday 10/27, 6-8pm*, at the Obama Main Library (3745 9th Ave N, St. Pete, 33713).

The City's Office of Sustainability & Resilience and Office of Supplier Diversity are holding an **informational session for businesses** who want to work with the City. Position your business for upcoming opportunities that support the City of St. Petersburg's sustainability and resilience initiatives. It is *Thursday, 11/12, 5-7pm.*, at the Obama Main Library (3745 9th Ave N, St. Pete, 33713).

The St. Petersburg Water Resources Department provides indoor conservation kits to its customers. Each kit includes a low-flow showerhead, toilet leak-detection dye tabs, and faucet aerators for the kitchen and bathroom. To get one, bring a utility bill to the Water Resources Department at 1650 3rd Ave. N., Monday-Friday between 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rainwater Guardian offers free Virtual Workshops: Learn how to collect and use rainwater. Sign up for either *Tuesday, November 3, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.* or *Saturday, December 12, from 9:30 - 11 a.m.* through our QR code. You can sign up for a free rain barrel upon registration.

Micro-Irrigation - What is drip irrigation? Is it the same as micro irrigation? Learn the difference and start changing your existing sprinkler system to save up to 60% on your water use. *Friday, October 30 from noon to 1 p.m.*

Landscape Design Basics - This interactive class by St. Petersburg's water conservation coordinator is designed to inspire you to make positive changes in your yard. *Tuesday, November 17, from 6 to 8 p.m.*

All links in this newsletter available through the QR code.

CELEBRATING ST. PETE PARKS



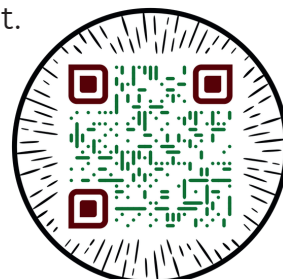
Pinellas County

One of the best resources for your yard, home, and life is the **Pinellas UF/IFAS** program. UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County is part of a national network of land-grant universities that share unbiased, research-based information with the public.

Want your kids in the 4-H program, interested in bee keeping or starting a garden? Curious about what nighttime critters visit your yard? Sign up for a variety of programs, including guided nature walks, master gardener programs and more - free or very low cost.

Boaters - do you know about the **Clean Marina & Clean Boater Programs**? You're out there enjoying the beauty of Florida's waterways. Learn how to be Florida's best guardian.

With El Niño bringing more rain, you might want to be up to date with **FLOOD information** in Pinellas. We have links to Pinellas County's flood information, as well as multiple resources to help you save money and the planet.



What is a Neighborhood Ambassador?

We are building a hyper-local program through **Neighbors in the Know (NiK)** with 2 goals: **Get information** to our neighbors about environmental events, issues, and matters which will affect all of our lives; **Share** what our elected officials in Florida are doing related to natural Florida, energy, and the environment.

After training, **neighborhood ambassadors** share this newsletter, and act as liaisons between NiK's many environmental nonprofits and the neighborhood. The **NiK ambassador** will spend about 4-8 hours a month chatting with neighbors, attending the neighborhood association meeting, and logging environmental issues. **Contact us: info@seaurise.org**



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Ask Publix to STOP Using Plastic Bags

Sea Us Rise supports the Sierra Club's initiative asking Publix to stop distributing plastic bags to customers. Publix is Florida's biggest grocer. They give customers an estimated 1,700,000,000 plastic bags each year. Yes, that is **1.7 billion plastic bags**, or an average of 4,657,534 each day.

If you would like to share these cards, please email info@seaurise.org and we will set it up.



Green Events

St Pete Eco Club Monthly Meeting

Meets every first Thursday of the month at Outcast Brewing Company, 1776 11th Ave N. St. Pete Eco Club meets monthly to connect locals in eco-action and community sustainability.

Business Electronics & Chemical Collection Event

Every 2nd Wednesday, 9 am - 4 pm
2855 109th Avenue N. St. Petersburg,



SOUL - Stewards of Our Urban Lakes Cleanups

SOUL hosts urban lake cleanups in St. Pete every Saturday. Events are usually 9am - NOON. All supplies provided. Wear closed toed shoes, and a hat and sunglasses. Links to their cleanups in the QR code.

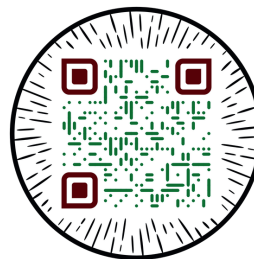
Mirror Lake - every Saturday. Please meet at 3rd Ave N and Mirror Lake Drive - NW corner.

Jungle Lake - 1st Saturday of the month. Please meet at the Walter Fuller Dog Park: 7901 30th Ave N. St. Pete

Meadowlawn Lake - 3rd Saturday of the month. Please meet at Meadowlawn Park near the playground area - 73rd Ave N & 14th St N, St. Pete

Crescent Lake - fourth Saturday of the month. Please meet up at our storage unit in the TASCOS Building parking lot at Crescent Lake Park - 1320 5th Street North St. Pete

You can find an up to date list of current Green Events on our website and in our socials.



All of the information in this newsletter is also available (with links) on our website through the QR code here.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. If there is information you think we should include or topics we should cover, please email us at info@seaurise.org.