

The Heights

SEPTEMBER 2017



Disston Heights Civic Association celebrates 62 years

Since May 31, 1955 Disston Heights Civic Association has been there for you and your neighbors. You are invited to join us at our regular monthly meeting.

Disston Heights Civic Association

P.O. Box 41592, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-1592



Newsletter ad prices

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Ad: \$20

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All rates are for 12 months in the newsletter. Contact pehuff@yahoo.com for more information.

Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month 6:30 p.m. social hour, meeting starts at 7 p.m. sharp. St. Petersburg Community Church, 4501 30th Ave. N

September meeting was canceled due to Hurricane Irma



Message
from the President

Welcome back from Summer Break!

During the summer break, DHCA-ers attended Saturday Morning Breakfast Socials, participated in Community Lake Clean Up events and had a “swimming-ly” fun time at the Presidential Porch Party.

There are so many exciting things happening in Disston Heights – as well as the city of St. Pete – these upcoming months. On Sept. 30, we will be helping a neighbor in need for Carefest 2017. In October, DHCA will be hosting a City Candidate Forum for the mayoral and City Council candidates running in the November election. I encourage you to invite your neighbors and friends as the candidates will be in the “home stretch” of their campaigns. October also brings the SHINE St. Petersburg Mural Festival (Oct. 5-14) to our Sunshine City. Did you know? DHCA’s Beautification Committee is working with local artists and the city to bring a mural to Disston Heights. Stay tuned for more information.



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Visit www.disstonheights.org for more information, including meeting minutes

St. Petersburg voters asked to approve Vinoy improvement project in November referendum

Voters will be asked to sign off on adding a privately funded one-story parking garage behind the hotel

By Kyle Parks, B2 Communications

The historic Vinoy Renaissance Resort and Golf Club is seeking St. Petersburg voters' approval in November for a privately funded one-story parking garage, part of a larger multi-year \$50-million-plus redevelopment project at the hotel. The improvements do not involve taxpayer funding, will not alter the hotel's footprint or St. Petersburg's waterfront parks system, and will add approximately 270 new parking spaces.

The parking garage is needed to better accommodate people who stay at the Vinoy and attend the many events there, in turn minimizing the need for people to park in surrounding areas like Beach Drive and the Historic Old Northeast neighborhood.

The proposed garage will be one-story and located immediately behind the hotel. Eight existing tennis courts will be replaced on top of the new parking garage.

Voters are asked to vote yes on the referendum question in the Nov. 7 election. As a historic part of downtown St. Petersburg, approximately 2.4 acres of The Vinoy property are subject to deed restrictions and re-



Aerial view; The new parking proposal does not involve any taxpayer money and will not impact St. Petersburg's waterfront park system, or alter the footprint or historic architecture of The Vinoy.

quire approval from the City's residents for construction.

The voter approval process was put in place during a 1984 agreement when The Vinoy helped complete the city's waterfront park system by trading its waterfront property for some of the area immediately behind the hotel. Voters approved similar improvements to The Vinoy in referendums in 1997 and 2007.

"We think voters will be pleased to support the idea of additional parking at The Vinoy, because it does not involve taxpayer dollars, does not alter the footprint of the hotel, and does not impact our waterfront parks system," said Barbara Readey, General Manager at The Vinoy Renaissance Resort and Golf Club.

The entire redevelopment project is privately funded by the hotel owner,

FelCor Lodging Trust. The project includes updates and expansions to the spa, fitness center, golf course clubhouse, tennis courts, public restaurant facilities and parking garage. Paul's Landing, the new 200-seat marina-front restaurant, will be open to the public and includes indoor and outdoor seating as well as a large grass event space.

The Vinoy referendum has received positive reception across the city from residents and businesses. As an example, WFLA News Channel 8 spoke to Chuck Prather, owner of The Birchwood on Beach Drive.

"There is so much volume of traffic that happens here, not just on the weekends anymore, but all week long," Prather said. "To have an extra almost 300 parking spaces right in

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I have one word for November: VOTE!

DHCA will continue hosting the Saturday Morning Breakfast Socials as well as our Community Lake Clean Up events through the end of the year. And, of course, there will be the Holiday Pot-Luck Presidential Porch Party in December.

Whether you decide to attend an upcoming Monthly Meeting, a Breakfast Social, participate in Carefest or a Lake Clean Up event, I hope to see you soon.

Please remember to tell your friends and neighbors about the good things DHCA is doing in our community ... and bring them with you!

– Jennifer

Welcome new Disston Heights neighbors

- Jeffrey and Susan Phillips, 4907 14th Ave. N
- Deacon Robert DePugh and Christ Lutheran Church, 3451 30th Ave. N



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NOVEMBER 7, 2017



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4501 30th Avenue North



Pastor Ken Rico

www.gracerograce.org

Worship Service at 10:00 AM Sundays



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the heart of downtown is fabulous.”

The referendum has also earned the support and endorsement of Mayor Rick Kriseman, City Council, mayoral candidate Rick Baker, and a number of community and business groups such as St. Petersburg Preservation, Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association, the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, the St. Petersburg Downtown Neighborhood Association and the board of directors of the St. Petersburg Downtown Business Association.

“Hotel ownership is committed to the long-term health of The Vinoy



View from 7th Ave NE and Bay Shore Dr NE; The proposed parking garage and courts are planned to be the same height as the current garage and raised courts. The streetscaping ensures that the courts are nicely shielded from the street.

and ensuring it continues to be an iconic part of downtown St. Petersburg,” said Debra Feldman, Vice President Capital Transactions at FelCor Lodging Trust, owner of The Vinoy. “We look forward to answer-

ing residents’ questions about the project and continuing to ensure that The Vinoy is a good neighbor.”

To learn more or to submit questions visit: www.VinoyImprovements.com

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