



# NORTHEAST JOURNAL

MAR/APR 2020  
St. Petersburg, FL  
EST. SEPTEMBER 2004

Good People ∞ Good Places ∞ Good Things Happening

## Northeast Little League A St. Pete Tradition

Jon Kile

There's a smell that comes with the cloud of red dust that rises when a runner slides into home plate. It's the smell of childhood in spring. For 62 years, the baseball stadium at 45th Avenue North and First Street has been home to the Northeast Little League.

This year's Opening Day on February 22nd marked the official unveiling of Northeast

*Continued on page 9*



Northeast Little League 2019 AA spring champions

## St. Anthony's Triathlon: International Acclaim, Local Favorite



Runners with the St. Anthony's Triathlon sprint down city streets

Samantha Bond Richman

What triathlon athletes know – and many locals may not – is just how popular the St. Anthony's Triathlon is among professional and novice competitors alike. People from all over the world love to come here for this USA Triathlon-sanctioned race, held the last weekend of April. Now in its 37th year, the St. Anthony's Triathlon is considered one of the largest and longest-running events of its kind in the country.

Accolades listed on the website include: "one of the top-10 Great Destination Triathlons in the US," and one of the "5 Bucket-List Olympic Distance Triathlons in North America." In 2018, more than 3,000 athletes from 41 states and eight countries came to St. Pete to participate.

There are actually three distinct race events for different ages and abilities. There is the Olympic Triathlon (which includes a 1.5K open-water swim in Tampa Bay, a 40K bike, and 10K run in and around downtown St. Pete). The Sprint Triathlon is half the distance of the Olympic Triathlon, and the Meek and Mighty Triathlon is shorter still, and open to athletes as young as seven. Athletes can compete in the swim, bike, and run themselves, or they can be part of a team of people competing.

Venetian Isles resident Donna Miller started as a casual participant in the Meek and Mighty in 2012, and then began increasing her competitive level each year, going from the Sprint distance in 2013, to Olympic distance in 2014. As her interest in races grew, she began training harder and improving

*Continued on page 34*

## Vision 2050 Planning Our City's Future

Will Michaels

StPete2050 is a city-government-initiated visioning process to explore and create a picture of what our city should look like thirty years from now. It is an update of the 2020 visioning process that took place 20 years ago. The 2050 Vision process will result in a new City Comprehensive Plan along with updated portions of the Land Development Regulations (LDRs). After the City Charter, the Comprehensive Plan and related Land Development Regulations are the city's two most important ordinances.

*Continued on page 22*



Today's aerial view of St. Petersburg looking south. What will it look like in 2050?

SAINT PETE'S PREMIER  
REAL ESTATE GROUP

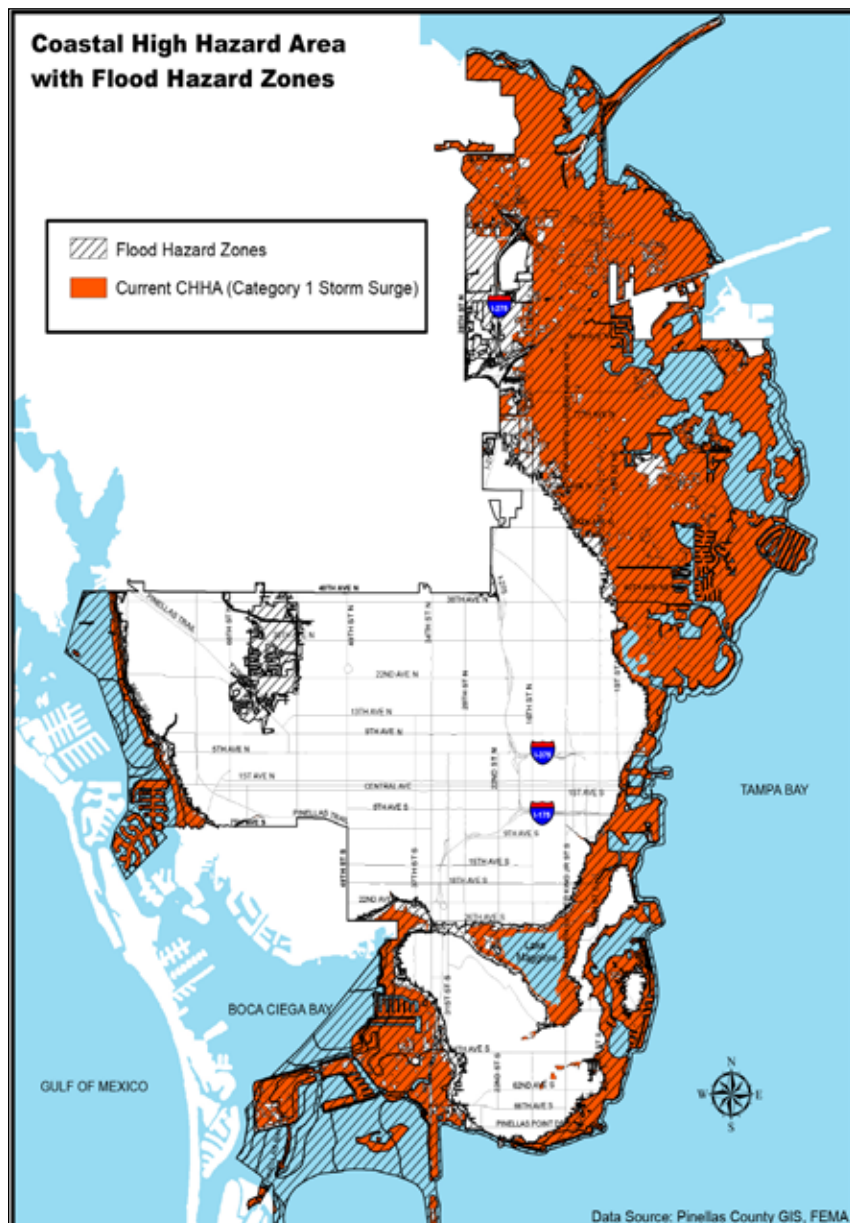
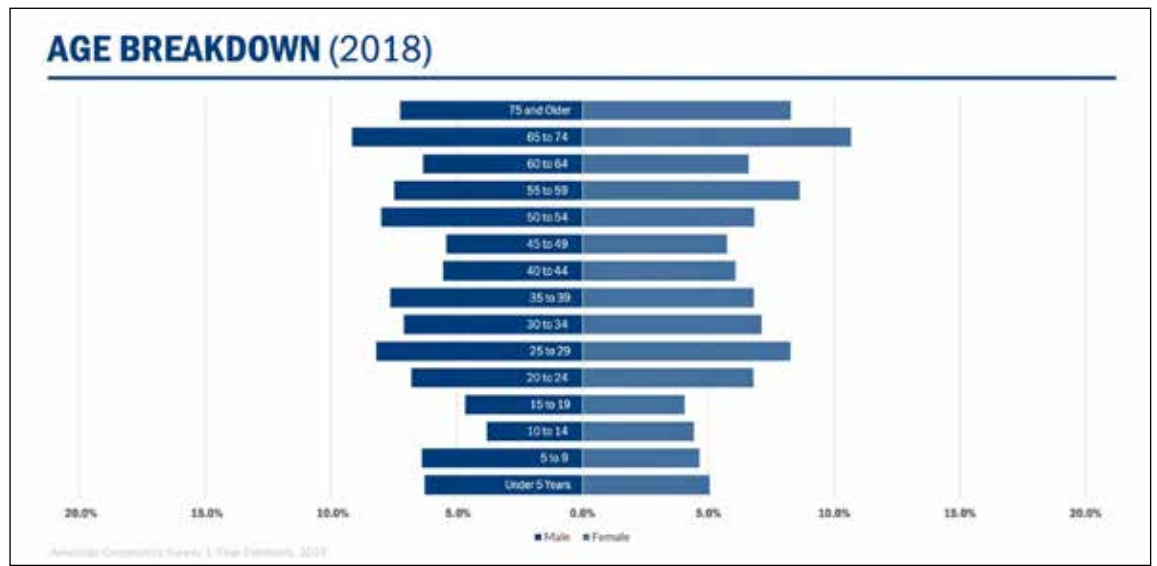
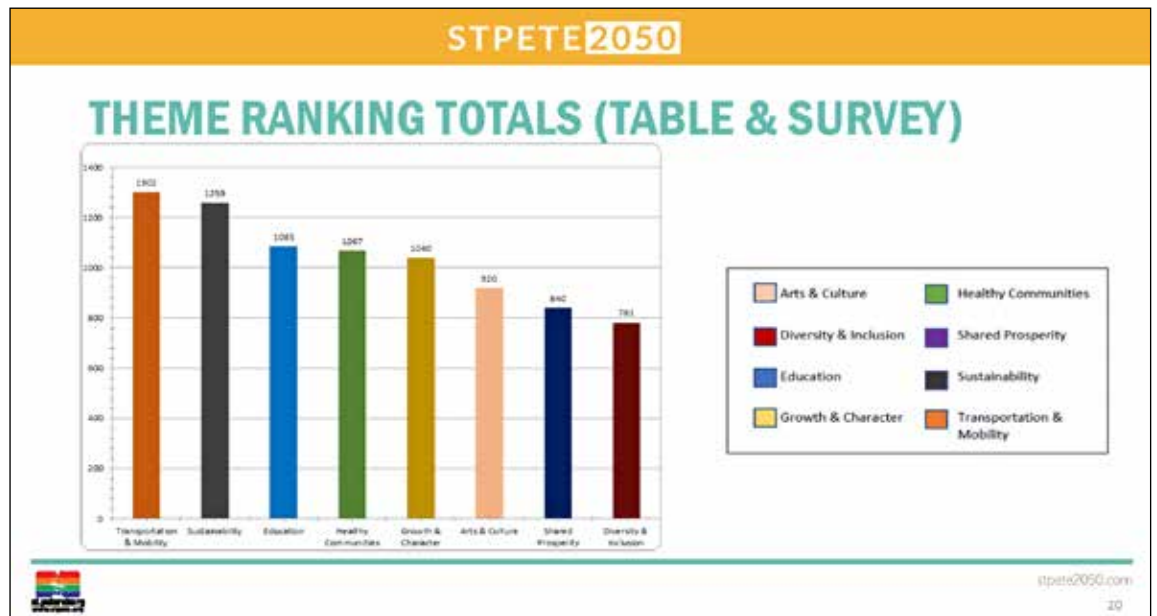
THE GLOVER GROUP  
TELL US ABOUT YOUR REAL ESTATE VISION TODAY!

RE/MAX  
METRO

**VISION 2050** *Continued from page 1*

The Comprehensive Plan establishes policies related to growth management and preservation of the city’s character. Specific sections of the plan address future land use, conservation, coastal management, transportation, housing, recreation and open space, infrastructure, historic preservation, and public school facilities. The Land Development Regulations address zoning, building mass and height, and other development features. Changes to designated land uses, building variances, and other city initiatives or permitted private construction must comply with these documents. While the new visioning process is aimed at assuring quality of life for our city in the year 2050, a new Comprehensive Plan and updated LDRs will be put into effect in the near future.

The 2050 Visioning process is already well underway. The project began last August and has three phases. The first phase, “Project Initiation,” addressed the question of “Where Have We Been?” as a community. This included several community workshops where accomplishments of the 2020 Vision Plan were reviewed, and ‘mapping exercises’ were undertaken by approximately 300 people identifying existing conditions and challenges. The workshops were complemented by 30 outreach events involving 1,700 people and an online citizen’s survey. The online survey was live over a period of 75 days and had approximately 2,600 responses. The second phase is now underway and asks participants “Where Are We Going?” Workshops have already been held in which surveys were completed identifying community priorities and soliciting solutions to areas of concern. A third phase will get underway in April, addressing the question “How Do We Get



There?” in which a plan will be formulated for addressing identified priorities.

Eleven current city ‘Strengths & Opportunities’ were identified in Phase 1. The top three strengths identified were Arts & Culture, Parks & Recreation, and Local Businesses. The top three opportunities or priorities for improvement included Housing Affordability, Transportation Options, and Job Opportunities.

City Administration postulated eight possible priority themes for Vision 2050. These included Growth & Character, Shared Prosperity, Arts & Culture, Diversity & Inclusion, Education, Healthy Communities, Sustainability, and Transportation & Mobility. The themes were assumed to be self-explanatory and offered without definition. Participants were also invited to suggest their own different themes.

In the Phase 1 workshops, seven theme areas were prioritized. In order of priority they included Transportation & Mobility; Growth & Character; Shared Prosperity; Healthy Communities; Sustainability; Diversity & Inclusion; and Education. The online survey generated a different order of priorities: Sustainability; Transportation & Mobility; Education; Healthy Communities; Growth & Character; Arts & Culture; Shared Prosperity; and Diversity & Inclusion. Combining the workshops and surveys (without giving weight to the number of participants respectively) results in order of magnitude were: Transportation and Mobility; Sustainability; Education; Healthy Communities; Growth and Character; Arts and Culture; Shared Prosperity; and Diversity and Inclusion.

City Administration offered background information pertinent to some of the theme areas. Some notable changes since the 2020 Vision Plan was adopted in 2007 include:

- Median Age has decreased from 48.1 to 41.2.
- Persons renting in the city have increased from 36.4% to 40.3% while the percent of homeowners has declined from 63.6% to 59.7%.
- The Coastal High Hazard Area (area potentially affected by flooding resulting from a Category 1 hurricane) has increased approximately 8,000 acres to 16,000 acres, or about 41% of the city’s land mass.
- Sea Level Rise is now an issue whereas it was not in 2000. Projections used by the City anticipate an increase of 1.35 to 4.56 feet by 2070, with an intermediate projection of 2.33 feet.

With respect to the area of Growth and Character, City Administration noted that in the last five years (2014-2019) our population has increased by an average of 1.3% annually to its current level of approximately 270,000. Between 2014 and 2018, the median household income has increased by a phenomenal 26.1%, exceeded

only by Miami in the state. African American household income has increased by 72%, the highest in the state. Between 2015 and 2019 nearly 7,000 new jobs were added to the city's economy (a 6% increase). The unemployment rate is now 3.1%. The poverty rate is 12.3%. The number of downtown dwelling units has increased from 5,429 in 2015 to 10,886 in 2019 (including under-construction and permitted).

The city's top job sectors include Accommodations and Food Service (14%), Government (13%), Professional, Scientific, and Technical (12%), Administrative Support, Waste Management, and Remediation Services (11%), Manufacturing (10%), and Construction (9%).

Based on the assumption that the population will continue to increase at its recent range of 0.555 to 1.5% per year, City Administration projected that by 2050, there will be an additional need for between 2.3 and 4 million square feet of office space; 31,000 and 47,000 residential dwelling units; 1.1 and 1.9 million square feet of retail space; and 3,300 and 5,600 hotel rooms. A particular challenge for Vision 2050 will be to achieve job growth while managing new development.

In the surveys, participants were asked to visualize what St. Pete could be like in 2050. Excerpts from just a few of the hundreds of responses include:

- Eclectic, renowned, seaside community embracing diversity and sustainability to improve environmental resilience and grow a local industry and talent base in addition to big tourism draw.
- I'd like to say less traffic and a light rail.
- Ideally, there will be affordable housing options across all economic classes. Also, future invest-

*Continued on page 24*

## Vision 2050 Here's What They Say...

*"I think the city is well positioned for the year 2050. In particular I think our downtown waterfront parks remain a singular feature which should not be changed. We are one of the leading cities of our size in the world with such a waterfront amenity."*

~David Fischer, Former St. Petersburg Mayor

*"I think Vision 2050 is in keeping with the great planning exercises that have been done throughout St. Petersburg's history. When we did Vision 2020 St. Petersburg was just starting to wake up from decades of limited growth. Now that we have truly become a destination City we have many new people and a younger demographic. Vision 2050 is an opportunity to learn about the unique features of the City and to allow our younger demographic to engage in the future. I think the most important issue to address in Vision 2050 is how to manage growth and protect the character of the city."*

~Bob Jeffrey, Former Assistant Director of Development Services, City of St. Petersburg

*"Twenty years ago when hundreds of people gathered for the 2020 planning, the largest issues were allowing traditional neighborhoods to rebuild without requiring a series of variances and bringing mixed use redevelopment to downtown. Today as we begin 2050, with the added help of the internet, the biggest issues revolve around creating zoning that provides a broad mixture of housing, makes transit use more practical and recognizes the rising sea levels will increase flood risks in significant parts of our town."*

~ Karl Nurse, Former City Council Member

*"Our rapid growth in the urban area of our community has given birth to multi-story structures which are altering its grand character without regard to the long term consequences of creating great canyons of brick and mortar which block our glorious sunshine. My vision for 2050 is that we quickly and presently put in place a growth management policy which would halt further erosion of our urban character."*

~Bob Ulrich, Former St. Petersburg Mayor

**SUMMER**  
*at* Shorecrest

**June 1-July 31**

**Camps for students of all ages, from preschool to 12th grade.**

- Purposeful Preschool Play**
- Drones & Robotics**
- Video Game Creation**
- Fine Arts and Fiber Arts**
- Musical Theatre Training**
- Specialty Sports Clinics**
- Academic Enrichment/College Prep...and so much more!**

**Summer at Shorecrest**  
5101 First Street, NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703  
727-522-2111 [www.shorecrest.org/summer](http://www.shorecrest.org/summer)

**Register Now at [www.shorecrest.org/summer](http://www.shorecrest.org/summer)**

**Shorecrest | Be More**

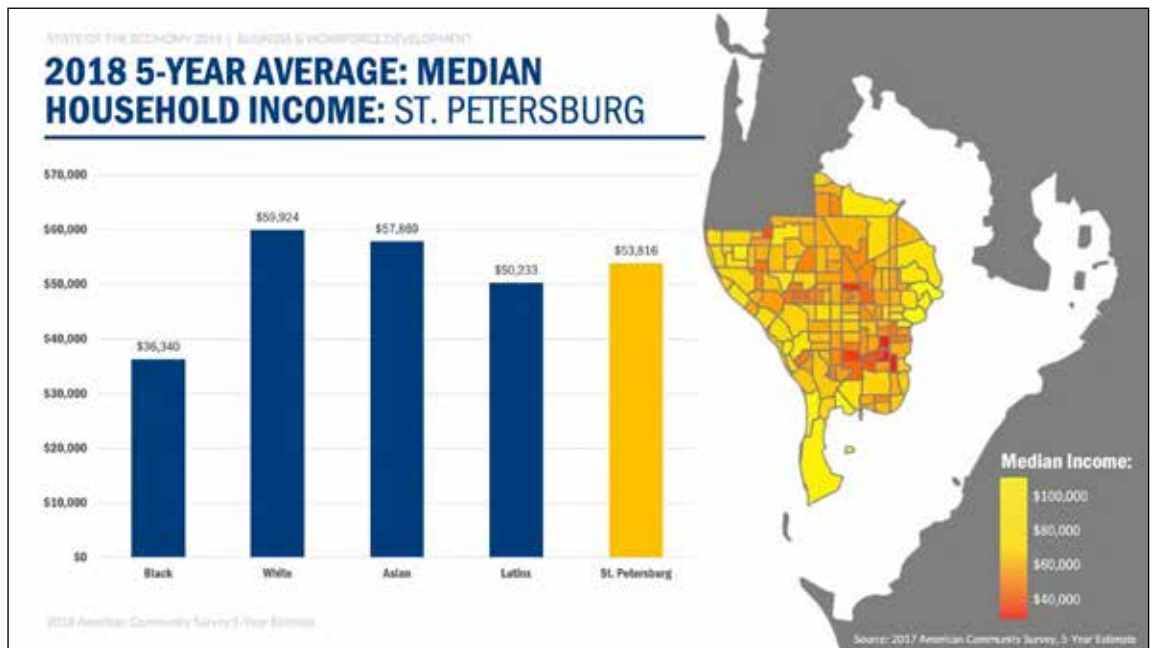
VISION 2050 Continued from page 23

ments will occur throughout the city, not just in a few focused areas.

- I am seeing rampant development and loss of neighborhood character, loss of history, and loss of uniqueness. This is not what I want, but it may be too late to do anything about it. The developers have taken over.
- Building an electrical grid that is solar+offshore wind+energy storage will be integral in St. Pete's ability to not only survive in the turning tide of how we consume energy, but necessary to attract people to the city.
- Hopefully it maintains its quirky personality. I think we're getting out over our skis so to speak.
- Properly designed, St. Pete will become a series of town centers driven by effective urban planning that capitalizes on close-knit neighborhoods and effective public transportation.
- Less segregated than right now.
- Jobs. Culture is nice, but it won't be an economic driver the way jobs will.
- The focus appears to be on newer developments vs. education. The school my home is zoned for is an F-grade school, a school with little diversity, and other areas of concern... I literally have friends who love St. Pete, but have either chosen to move away or refuse to move here due to the school system.
- Not really a visionary, but I love the way St. Pete is now. Things will change, but I hope it can maintain the homey and welcoming feel it has now.

The 2050 Vision Process is fundamentally important in shaping our city's future. This project will result in the revision of key city ordinances that will govern future development and quality of life. All residents are urged to contribute concerns and ideas. You can register for information regarding how to participate in the third and final phase of the process, which will begin in April, at StPete2050.com. ●

Will Michaels is a member of the City's Planning and Preservation Commission which determines compliance of planning and development initiatives with the City's Comprehensive Plan and approves the designation of historic landmarks and districts. He may be reached at 727-420-9195 or wmichaels2222@gmail.com.



St. Pete 2050 Community Workshop image courtesy of the CityofStPete Flickr website

Tile Roof Repair Specialists  
Over 69,000 Customers  
35 Years in Pinellas  
24 Hour Service  
Senior Discount

Tile • Shingles • Asphalt  
Replace Rotted Wood  
Roof Vents • Fascia  
Soffits • Gutters  
Flat • Built-up

**\$250 OFF Full New Roof\***

**\$100 OFF ROOF REPAIR\*** with this ad

**727-577-2468**  
HandymanRoofing.com

State Certified Roofing Contractors #CC-C057454  
Fully Insured and Compensation • Financing Available

**HANDYMAN ROOFING**  
HOME REPAIR SERVICE  
OF PINELLAS, INC

**Sandals that Stimulate... Kenkoh®**

- Proper Body Alignment
- Pain Relief in Your Feet, Legs and Back
- Stress Relief
- Better Blood Circulation

**HAPPY FEET plus®**  
Footwear for a Healthier You Est. 1985

**RSS** Revitalize, Support & Strengthen

LOCATED IN SUNDIAL (727) 894-9633 & THE TYRONE AREA (727) 345-7587. ALL LOCATIONS AT HAPPYFEET.COM