

The VOTER *JULY 2025*

Co-Presidents' Corner:

Dear League Members,

As we move into August, we have some significant dates ahead that speak directly to the heart of our LWV mission. On August 26th, we commemorate National Women's Equality Day, reflecting on the hard-won progress since the ratification of the 19th Amendment and recommitting ourselves to advancing equity for all. Then, on September 16th we celebrate National Voter Registration Day, an essential reminder of the responsibility we have to protect and expand access to the ballot.



I also want to draw your attention to a significant local civic event: the special municipal election for Tampa's District 5 City Council seat. Following the passing of Councilwoman Gwen Henderson in June, a special election has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 9th, with early voting from September 4-7. The voter registration deadline is August 11th, and we plan to have two tabling events before then -- on August 2nd, and August 9th. If no candidate achieves over 50%, a runoff is set for October -- we will have additional tabling events to support District 5 voters through that date as well.

We are committed to empowering an informed electorate, so as we approach these key dates, Teresa and I want to encourage all members to take action. Consider volunteering for tabling events throughout August and September to share nonpartisan candidate and ballot information. Reach out to District 5 voters to raise awareness of registration deadlines and early voting opportunities.

These moments offer a powerful opportunity to engage our communities. Let's uphold our mission by promoting inclusive and informed voting -- especially in communities historically underserved in civic processes. Please watch for sign-ups to support voter education and registration tabling events throughout August and September. Your help is vital. Whether it's handing out information, answering questions, or simply showing up in support, your presence makes a difference! I'm proud to serve with you.

Thank you for all you do to uphold our democracy!

In League,

Diana

Sign up to Register Voters!

Do you have a few hours to help man our League table at upcoming events? As mentioned, this fall we will be working to Get Out the Vote (GOTV) during National Voter Registration Day as well as for the Special Election in the City of Tampa. We have also been invited to participate in an upcoming event for AARP. See sign-ups below and help where you can. If you are interested in a training for tabling events, please reply to this email.

- City of Tampa Special Election
 - [Sign-up Library Locations - August 2 - October 18](#)
 - We just received the materials today so it is very last minute to try to do tomorrow. For any date where we cannot confirm at least two volunteers (either league or partners), we will cancel that day.
 - For the libraries, lead volunteer will need to bring table & chairs in addition to materials. We have 3 tables, but if you have folding chairs that you can loan us for the next few months, please reply to this email.
- AARP "Securing the Future: Social Security at 90" event - Tampa Bay Times Spotlight Community Resource Center Booth - Thursday, August 14th - 4pm - 7:30pm at Feeding Tampa Bay (3624 Causeway Blvd, Tampa)
 - [AARP Event Signup](#)
- National Voter Registration Day - Events scheduled Week of Sept 16
 - [Sign-up Universities & Colleges - Hillsborough](#)
 - Universities & College - Pasco - Stay tuned
 - [Sign-up Goodwill Industries](#) - If you can do a different day, please reply to this email - Goodwill is flexible on the date.

Tampa District 5 Special Election

Candidates for Tampa City Council District 5 must qualify for the race no later than Aug. 15, by collecting enough signatures or paying the fee. For an up-to-date list of candidates who have

officially announced their candidacy, click [here](#). District 5 voters must register or update information by Aug. 11 and request vote-by-mail ballots by Aug. 28. See [this link](#) for details.

Early voting will take place Sept. 4-7 at the following sites:

- C. Blythe Andrews Library
- Fred B. Karl County Center
- Robert L. Gilder Elections Service Center
- West Tampa Branch Library

Voters with disabilities have more ways to vote than ever before. Check out [all of them here!](#)

To see the candidates in person, attend one of the fora to which they have been invited. We will share them as we get details and plan to have a presence at as many as possible.

On Thursday, Aug. 14, Rep. Dianne Hart is hosting a candidate forum from 6-8 pm at the C. Blythe Andrews Library. No RSVP needed. For more information, contact Rep. Hart's office at 813-224-1956 or at Dianne.Hart@myfloridahouse.gov.

Tampa City Council Race, District 5

All qualified candidates invited to attend.

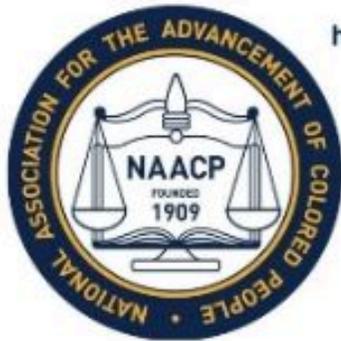
Friday, August 15 at 12:00 PM
Cuban Club, Ybor City



Details and registration [here](#).

Community Forum

Tampa City Council District 5 Special Election



hosted by the NAACP Hillsborough County Branch
and Community Partners

“ Your
Community.
Your Future.
” Be All In.



MONDAY

08.18.2025

6:00 PM

Doors Open 5:30PM

Middleton High School
4801 N 22nd St Tampa

NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?

NEED TO UPDATE YOUR VOTING RECORD?

COME TO THE FORUM TO OR

VISIT: VOTEHILLSBOROUGH.ORG

WHY ATTEND THIS FORUM?

- 01 **Hear from the
Candidates**
- 02 **Ask Questions &
Share Concerns**
- 03 **Be an Informed
Voter**

Free Open to Public Event

For more information, contact NAACP Office
813.234.8683 info@naacphillsborough.org

Get Ready to Dial In



The League of Women Voters of Florida is partnering with Common Cause Florida to call less engaged voters in a priority county to remind them to request their vote-by-mail ballots for elections in 2025 and 2026.

We are seeking volunteers to make calls on:

- Monday, Aug. 4, from 2:30 - 3:30 pm;
- Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 5:30 - 6:30 pm; and/or
- Tuesday, Aug. 12, from 5:30 - 6:30 pm

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER → [Click Here!](#) Select “League of Women Voters of Florida” as your organization.

The nitty-gritty:

- No phone banking experience is necessary.
- You will receive training, a script, and a chance to ask questions before you begin calling.
- Please plan to use your own calling device; we will not use an automatic dialer.

You may **call from the comfort of your home**, as we will gather virtually on Zoom. Please plan to use your home or cellphone. Otherwise, learn how to set up a [Google number](#). It might be helpful to have two devices: your phone and a computer or tablet.

Why is this effort important?

We are calling inactive voters to encourage them to sign up for vote-by-mail, which will do two things: (1) move them to active status and (2) ensure they receive vote-by-mail for elections in 2025-2026.

There’s more information in [this toolkit](#).

[SIGN UP HERE TO VOLUNTEER](#). If you have any questions, please contact flapierre@commoncause.org or 727-604-5816.



Democracy in Your Hands

If you missed the National LWV email, you might not know that there is an on-going Democracy in Your Hands training series. The schedule is below. Attend any or all sessions. More information is available [here](#).

- Aug. 20, 12:30pm ET | Understand the Three Branches of Government
- Sept. 17, 11am ET | Working With Local Election Officials to Anchor Change
- Oct. 22, 3:30pm ET | Building Coalitions to Amplify Action

Register [here](#).

Not Just One Woman's Story

Betsy Braden was interviewed on July 24 by [ABC News](#) about her home owners insurance company's CEO and his wife earning \$36 million a year while her insurance policy's premium increased almost 500%. Betsy reports that this story went viral and asks us all to keep pressure on politicians who would rather work for the rich than fix the problems they created for home owners. Watch the [video](#) and email the reporter, [Nadeen Yanes](#), to encourage her to keep up her good work exposing grift.



The ABC story left out a lot of details. HCLWV member (and past president) Pat Hall adds that Slide CEO Bruce Lucas's was brought to Florida by Rick Scott in 2012 because Citizens Insurance Company needed to be broken up into private insurance providers. Lucas started Heritage with the encouragement of Rick Scott, despite his lack of experience in the insurance business. Lucas took \$27.2 million in compensation from Heritage Insurance Company and \$19 million in stock when he retired in 2019.

His wife, Shannon, is the Chief Risk Officer at Slide, which they started in February of 2022. Pat also discovered that Jimmy Patronis, former Chief Financial Officer of Florida, had taken \$350,000 from Lucas for his "commitment and leadership" in changing the laws in favor of insurance companies. Lucas has contributed millions of dollars to politicians and candidates.

School Zone Speed Cameras

by Transportation Action Group Chair Emily Hinsdale



Tampa's School Zone Speed Cameras go into effect at ten additional schools at the beginning of the new school year on Aug. 11.

These cameras are located solely in marked school zones with lights flashing only during school arrival/dismissal hours. After a month of warnings and education, citations will start being issued on Sept. 10. Each camera citation is reviewed by an officer before being issued.

Speeding in school zones is illegal; that's not a new law. Florida's law permitting school zone speed cameras was enacted in 2023 with the support of the HCLWV and Hillsborough County's first school zone speed cameras launched in 2024. Law enforcement agencies note a decrease in neighborhood complaints about speeding around those schools.

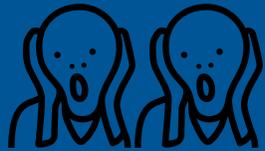
Speeding around schools is a big problem. These are areas where children too young to safely judge traffic are walking, biking, and exiting cars. In a state with among the highest fatal crash rates in the country, better protection in school zones is long overdue.

The Tampa Police Department selected the first schools to get speed cameras based on a school safety study conducted by the Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization in 2022. This study looked at crash data and speeding reports, but also at each school neighborhood's demographics: How many children were walking or biking to this school? Were they accompanied by an adult? Were there other safety measures in place?

The most vulnerable school zones are in the most vulnerable neighborhoods. This means the majority of initial speed camera tickets will go to vulnerable communities. It's important that this program expand quickly and evenly to more schools throughout Tampa. Making sure that the data-driven implementation is backed up by human-driven support will decide this law's success.

If you're worried about how our community can safely and effectively address our school transportation needs, listen in to HCLWV's Transportation Action Group Chair Emily

Hinsdale's overview on how to get started on transportation advocacy, [Rerouting the Future](#).



Sometimes It Takes 7 Years



Who remembers the passing of Amendment 4 in 2018? That constitutional amendment campaign, which was supported by LWVFL, restored voting rights for 1.4 million Floridians with felony convictions. Or so we thought. The Legislature put some insurmountable conditions on the returning citizens -- insurmountable because there was no system in place for surmounting them.

Finally, returning citizens who are unsure about their voting rights can now request a written decision from the state – and receive a clear yes or no within 90 days. It's a simple change, but it brings with it something that's been missing for too long: peace of mind.

This update didn't happen overnight. It's the result of years of advocacy, collaboration, and persistence, and already, this new process is bringing a sense of hope and clarity for returning citizens across the state.

If you know or meet returning citizens, please provide them with this url: <https://floridarrc.com/register/>. The link to the form for requesting a written decision can be found at floridarrc.com.

This is more than a legal update. It's a step toward a more just, more inclusive democracy – one where returning citizens can move forward with confidence, not fear.

Forbidden Florida Reads

Izzy Miletic is a junior Economics and Literature student at Florida State University. She is a board member of the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee, where she began publishing "Forbidden Florida Reads", her original, monthly



column that highlights a book banned in at least one Florida school district.

Izzy is passionate about books and educational policy making. She hopes to attend law school and also earn a Master's in Library and Information Science. Our intention is to run Izzy's reviews monthly.

Izzy's August pick for Forbidden Florida Reads is *Paradise Lost*, by John Milton, published in 1667 and **BANNED** in 2023 in Orange County public schools. Izzy writes:

John Milton's *Paradise Lost* was among the [673 books removed](#) from Orange County public school classrooms and libraries in 2023. This mass book ban came after the passing of [HB 1069](#). The 2023 law prohibits any material that "depicts or describes sexual conduct" from Florida public school library and classroom shelves. Anticipating a slew of parental objections resulting from the new law, Orange County schools preemptively banned 673 books.

The epic poem *Paradise Lost* is widely recognized for its literary merit. Its influence on theology, philosophy and political thought makes it a cornerstone of English literature. Milton has been studied in educational institutions for centuries, alongside Homer, Virgil and Dante Alighieri. A Christian poem, *Paradise Lost* tells the story of the Fall of Man. It features Adam, Eve, Satan, and God.

A [Religion News Service article](#) introduces the passages from *Paradise Lost* that may feature the "sexual conduct" that led to the poem's ban. Written in Milton's flowery verse, the passages spend more time describing the foliage surrounding Adam and Eve's bed than their actions. Their sexual activities are shrouded in euphemism: "There they their fill of love and love's disport/Took largely, of their mutual guilt the seal, The solace of their sin."

Orange County Public Schools followed in the footsteps of the 18th century Catholic Church, which also banned *Paradise Lost* for a period of time. In 1972, *Paradise Lost* was placed on the Church's [Index of Forbidden Books](#). The Church's ban was due to its "anti-Catholic sentiment" rather than its descriptions of sex.

"For so I created them free and free they must remain."

-- John Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Gun Safety Saves Lives

by Gun Violence Prevention Action Group Chair Betsy Braden



DOGE cancelled the WH Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which provided financial and emotional support after mass shootings. Only state and local officials showed up after the FSU shooting in April. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention also financially supported community organizers who mitigate gun violence in their communities. Now this financial support is gone.

Now, a Nationwide Concealed Carry law is being considered. This would override state laws concerning gun licensing and permits. Currently 21 states require a permit which includes background checks, firearm training, and safety education. (FYI Florida has permitless carry; we still require a background check, but no training or education is required). When states eliminate permits and licensing, gun homicide rates increase by 27% over three years ([Everytown Research](#)). The leading cause of death for children in this country is gun violence and lax gun laws are to blame.

Police are against concealed carry laws.

Please call your senators and representatives and tell them not to pass this dangerous law.

If you are interested in safe gun storage, please join Be Smart, a Moms Demand Action project that advocates for safe gun storage. The next training will be Sept. 16 at 7 pm. See [besmartforkids](#) for more information and to sign up.

Please contact Betsy Braden at gunsafety@hclwv.org if you would like to join Moms Demand Action or Be Smart or text "ready" to 64433.

Gentle Giants of Our Waters



Sign the Friends of the Hillsborough River [petition](#) to protect manatees.

Friends of the Hillsborough River are advocating for "Idle Speed, No Wake" restrictions on boaters for a two-mile stretch of the Hillsborough River from Lowry Park east to the Rowlett Park dam. This effort has the backing of Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park.

The petition is entitled, "[Help Protect the Heart of the Hillsborough River - Our Manatees and Our Community.](#)" It calls on the city of Tampa to collaborate with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission to designate a Manatee Habitat Zone "that would enhance boating safety, protect our riverbanks, and provide essential safeguards for manatees."

The threatened manatees, whose numbers have dwindled to an estimated 8,350 statewide, compete for space with a growing level of boat traffic along the river. "These gentle, threatened mammals raise their young in its calm waters, graze along its banks, and find warmth in its springs year-round," according to the petition. "For many of us who live, boat, or simply enjoy the beauty of the river, manatees are an irreplaceable part of our shared ecosystem."



**SIERRA
CLUB**



The next meeting of the Sierra Club's **Pasco Conservation Committee** is Weds., Aug. 6 at 8 pm. The Pasco Committee is dedicated to preserving, exploring, and enjoying nature in areas of Pasco County. Join virtually by contacting Sasha at (727) 326-2646 or at sashabuddha@gmail.com.

Pasco leader, Sasha, was recently featured in an ABC Action News piece about protecting Pasco's Tree Canopy. [Watch it here.](#)

Stop Florida's Black Bear Trophy Hunt

This August, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will hold a final vote on a proposal to authorize black bear hunting in Florida — a move Sierra Club Florida strongly opposes.

Read more [here](#) from Grant Gelhardt, Chair, Sierra Club Florida Conservation Committee



Here are nine incontrovertible facts about the proposed hunt:

1. Floridians oppose the bear hunt - but the FWC may bring it back anyway.
2. The FWC is quietly creating an exclusive, privatized trophy hunt system.
3. One staffer gets permanent authority to green-light bear hunts — with no vote, no input, and no guardrails.
4. In December, staff said black bear populations were still recovering, but in May, the Commission pushed a hunt anyway.
5. The FWC's own staff didn't recommend a hunt -- until they were pressured by a developer from the Villages to contradict themselves.
6. The FWC is using 10-year-old data to justify a hunt and won't have current numbers until at least 2029.
7. Bears are highly intelligent and this hunt will orphan cubs.
8. The FWC wants to allow cruel tactics like hounding and killing at bait stations.
9. Florida's smallest bear populations rely on the regions the FWC wants to hunt.

How to take action:

📍 [Join the Sierra Club at the FWC meeting in Havana](#), near Tallahassee, on Aug. 13. The Sierra Club is organizing round-trip charter buses (with restrooms and refreshments) from Tampa. Sign up [here](#) by Aug. 7.

👏 [Join the statewide protest on Aug. 9](#). The [Tampa](#) protest will be 10-12.

☎️ Call Governor DeSantis at (850) 488-7146.

✉️ [Message the FWC Commissioners](#)

📣 Share the [fact sheet](#) and [social media content](#)

It's the Life in Your Years



Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just in it for the fun, the [2025 Active Life Games](#) are your chance to get moving, make new friends, and show off your skills. Organized by the Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation Department, this annual event combines friendly competition with serious fun for adults ages 50 and older.

The Games are Sept. 29-Oct. 10. [Registration](#) closes Sept. 12.

Tampa Comprehensive Plan

The Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission, in coordination with the City Planning Department, is overseeing a multi-phased, multi-year plan update that will lead to in-depth revisions to the Tampa Comprehensive Plan through 2045.

Multiple sections of the Comprehensive Plan are being updated right now and the City Council will discuss it on Aug. 28.

If you are interested in the [Future Land Use Section](#) update as well as this summer's outreach meetings, find more information, including interactive maps and a survey where you can weigh in, [here](#).

While there are many people involved in this plan and many more concerned about it, one organization diligently tracking it and digging into the weeds is THAN, the Tampa Hillsborough Association of Neighborhoods. All of our neighborhoods belong to THAN and THAN serves as a clearinghouse for information. Find [THAN on Facebook](#).

In brief, THAN is concerned that the plan allows for more density everywhere in the city, including places that are already densely populated, in or near flood zones, and in or near evacuation routes. Take a look at the plan yourself and contact [city council members](#) and [the planning commission](#) with your thoughts before Aug. 28.

Pasco County Jobs

Check out pascocountyfl.gov for details about the Aug. 5 career fair at the Pasco County Cooperative Extension Office. It's 9-1:30; bring your resume and dress for interviews!

It's Hurricane Season and will be Again and Again

Get emergency alerts for local municipalities. Go to [Alert Pasco](#), [Alert Tampa](#), or [HCFL Alert](#).

On **Aug. 6 at 11 am**, join The **CLEO Institute** for a virtual discussion with **John Morales**, South Florida's longest-serving broadcast meteorologist and hurricane expert, and **Dr. Neha Pathak**, a medical doctor specializing in environmental health. The webinar will explore how reduced support for agencies like NOAA and FEMA is putting communities and public health at greater risk from extreme weather events and what actions we can take to protect our future. Click [here](#) to RSVP to this event.

All In

Get your tickets now for the NAACP's annual Freedom Fund dinner! It will be held Sept. 27 at the Tampa Convention Center. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Roslyn M. Brock, Chair Emerita of the NAACP's national board. More information [here](#).

Social Justice



The July 30 *Tampa Bay Times* [article](#) about the bridge in need of replacement in Sulphur Springs made clear the City's decades-old neglect of that neighborhood. At the very least, we can help get the bridge replaced. Sign the petition [here](#).

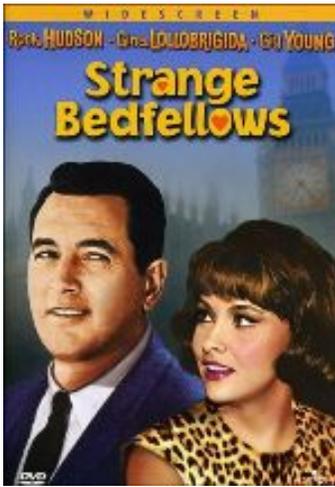
For Kids

New York Times best-selling author Sherri Winston will be at the Jimmie B. Keel library on Weds., Aug. 6 at 6:30 pm to discuss her children's novel, ***President of the Whole Fifth Grade***. This hilarious, heartfelt novel will appeal to any reader with big dreams and the determination to achieve them. Recommended for All Ages. [Registration](#) is recommended.

Before Ms. Winston was an author, she was a longtime newspaper writer and columnist in South Florida at the *Sun-Sentinel*. She is a three-time nominee for a Pulitzer Prize for her lifestyle column in South Florida.

The first 50 children in attendance will receive a free book by the author. *The child must be present to receive a free book*

Strange Bedfellows



In the past, we've recommended Your Local Epidemiologist as a nonpartisan source of valuable health news. Katelyn Jetelina's [latest column](#) deals with finding common ground and cooperating with people with opposing points of view.

Tiger Bay

Join the non-partisan Tiger Bay Club the third Friday of each month for discussions of current events. On Friday, Aug. 15, the topic is the **District 5 election** in Tampa. All qualified candidates have been invited to participate.

The Tampa Tiger Bay Club is aware that qualifying for this election is open until 5 pm this same day and hopes all candidates will be qualified before the program begins.

The doors at the Cuban Club in Ybor City open at 11:30 and the program begins at 12.

Click on the Tiger below for more information and to register.



How's the Weather Treating You?

Tampa hit a record 100 degrees last week. For people who take medications for common issues such as heart disease or high blood pressure, heat poses extra risk. If you are taking beta blockers, diuretics, antidepressants, or a number of other medications, please read or listen to this [NPR piece](#) before you head out the door.

Pump Up Those Tires!



The third annual World Car-Free Day Tampa will be Sept. 20, 9 am- 2 pm. Created and coordinated by the community advocacy group Walk Bike Tampa, this is an opportunity to explore and engage with our city from a different perspective: walking, biking, scooting, or using transit. Walk Bike Tampa and partner organizations are shifting Tampa's culture from old-fashioned car dependency to a forward-thinking, forward-looking connected modern city.

The day's celebration includes activities in the Westshore District, Downtown, Ybor City, TGH's Tampa Well Community Garden in East Tampa, Seminole Heights, and Hyde Park. Join bike rides for kids and adults, take part in farmers' markets, nosh at food trucks, win prizes, and enjoy art installations and live music.

Learn more at [Walk Bike Tampa](http://walkbiketampa.org).

The Performing Arts



[LAB Theater Project](#) presents its annual summer LAB Laughs, a comedic short festival. Each year LAB filters through submissions from around the world to find ninety minutes' worth of humor and fun. All original shorts, never before produced, giving mirth a new home bringing new laughter to life in Tampa. Because, well, who doesn't need a laugh? Through Aug. 14.

Enjoy Green Book Tampa Bay's Summer Concert Series in an intimate setting at The Studio@620. The next concert is August 15 when Jayrod the MCFeel takes the stage with his high-energy performance and powerful lyricism. His fusion of hip-hop, soul, and storytelling will make for a night to remember. [Details](#).

Catch *The Music Man* and/or the music of Teddy Pendergrass at the New Tampa Performing Arts Center this month. More details [here](#).

"[Her Story in Harmony](#)" celebrates soul, gospel, and R&B as vocalist Paula Watkins honors the legendary voices of Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, and Angie Stone, backed by a live band! This unforgettable performance weaves music with a moving testimony of healing, faith, and love. A heartfelt concert experience with purpose, passion, and soul. Aug 31, 6:00 pm, at Stageworks.

[Tampa Bay Theatre Festival](#) presents *Twelve Angry Men*. A jury deliberates the conviction or acquittal of a teenager charged with murder based on reasonable doubt; disagreement and conflict among the jurors force them to question their morals and values. At the Straz, Aug. 29. Check out the Festival's other offerings, including full-length plays, short works, staged readings, and workshops. Aug. 29-31, throughout Tampa.

[Tickets](#) are on sale for Elizabeth Gilbert's Sept. 23 appearance at the Tampa Theatre. Gilbert is the bestselling author of the novels *City of Girls*, *The Signature of All Things*, and *Stern Men*; the story collection *Pilgrims*; and the nonfiction books *Big Magic*, *Eat Pray Love*, *Committed*, and *The Last American Man*.



The Plastic Arts



"Here For Now," on view through October 5, 2025, at [FMoPA](#), explores themes of migration, impermanence, and community through photography and video.



Jennifer Steinkamp: Madame Curie celebrates two female trailblazers: scientist Marie Curie (Polish-French, 1876-1934) and artist Jennifer Steinkamp (American, b. 1958). Steinkamp is internationally recognized for her monumental installations that unite art with technology. [TMA](#), through August 10.

Visit the monumental Harriet Tubman sculpture in the Legacy Garden of the [Woodson African American Museum](#) in St. Pete. Admission is free. Indefinitely.

Artist Talk: Gee's Bend Quilters Featuring Loretta Bennett and Louisiana Bendolph

TICKETS GOING FAST!

WHEN Saturday, August 2, 1-2 pm

WHERE Sarasota High School Alumni Auditorium at SAM

Members: \$10

Not-Yet Members: \$20 (includes Museum admission)

Join celebrated Gee's Bend quiltmakers Loretta Bennett and Louisiana Bendolph for an enlightening conversation about generational art, cultural expression, and creative legacy.

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

While you are SAM, check out the other exhibits by women.

Check out [In a New Light: American Impressionism 1870-1940](#) at the Tampa Museum of Art beginning Aug. 7.

In the Out/Out the In includes draped, shirred, and pleated paintings by Nina Yankovitz. [St. Pete MFA](#), through Sept. 21.

Also at the [St. Pete MFA](#), but through Feb. 1, 2026, the exhibition, *Creative Freedom: Women as Decorative Arts Entrepreneurs and Connoisseurs, c. 1900-1940*, celebrates the dawn of

the modern woman through the stunning objects she created. As the call for suffrage led to the landmark Nineteenth Amendment, women began to break free from convention. They didn't just demand a vote; they claimed their place as cultural leaders.

[Wild Space Gallery](#) presents *Blazing the Trail: From Strand to Slough*, a behind the scenes view of the epic trek through the western edge of the Florida Wildlife Corridor in southwest Florida. Through photographs, ephemera, stories and videos, *Blazing the Trail* invites you to join vicariously in the exploration, discovery, and conservation of at-risk lands and waters in wild Florida. Through Aug. 30.



Revisit frontier Florida with vignettes about moonshining, fifth Sunday sings, and ghost stories/folklore. As early settlement came to Florida largely via the Armed Occupation Act and the Homestead Act, life was often rugged survival.

Learn about Civil War veterans recruited for a Union Colony by Captain Jeffries (Zephyrhills); a pristine, formal Southern center of government (Dade City); and cracker cowboy lifestyle (Wesley Chapel).

So many OLLI courses throughout Hillsborough County and at St. Leo University in Pasco County as well!

Don't forget to check out the great tech classes on offer.

Don't miss OLLI's Fall Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at the JCC on N. Howard Ave., Tampa, starting at 10:00 am. The Open House is open to the public and will offer complimentary snacks and coffee. The goal is to highlight the 130 liberal arts and technology classes and lectures that will be offered starting in mid-September.

The keynote speaker will be [Brian Ford](#), CEO of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He will speak on [Beyond the Field: Celebrating 50 Years of Buccaneers Football, Fandom, and Community Impact](#).

You will also hear short presentations from [new faculty members](#) and receive information about many of OLLI's other programs, including shared interest groups, educational travel, day trips,

social events and volunteer opportunities.

Register for you and friends by clicking [HERE](#).

Information on the St. Leo University Open House coming soon.



Going on at TBHC this month:

- Gallery Exhibit: Invisible Immigrants: Spaniards in the US (1868-1945)
- Tours of the Cigar City exhibit

Click on logo above for more information.

The Sun

In June, the Tampa Bay Suns won their League's national championship, adding to Tampa Bay's list of successes.

It's not too late to buy tickets for the Sun's 2025-2026 season! Let's get out and support the first and only women's professional sports team in the area and the national champions! Click on the logo.



2025/26 Home Opener Saturday, August 30

Group discounts available!



This Friday, Aug. 1, join the regulars at Café con Tampa for a discussion of "Digitizing And Preserving The Photographic History of Tampa Bay", led by Dr. Amanda Boczar and Marlena Carrillo, USF Libraries. USF Libraries is home to more than 125,000 photographic negatives of Tampa Bay from the 1950s-2000s, taken by Sandy and Skip Gandy. Digitizing, researching, and providing online access to this resource has revealed much about our city's history

Café con Tampa is a 501(c)(3) organization that holds community forums to discuss important issues facing Tampa Bay. The weekly gatherings of neighborhood and community leaders take place on Fridays at 8 am at The Portico at 1001 N. Florida Ave., Tampa.

To view the next events, visit [Upcoming Events](#). If you are interested in becoming a speaker, visit [Speaking at Café con Tampa](#).

Upcoming Member Meetings

Aug. 6, 6-7 pm, [HCLWV Board Meeting](#)

Aug. 19, 7-8 pm, [HCLWV Monthly Issues Meeting](#).

Check the League's website [calendar of events](#) throughout the month for new meetings and events.

Want to know what's coming up? You can now subscribe to our HCLWV Events Calendar so our events show up on your online calendar! Find the subscribe link just below the calendar heading [here](#).

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

League of Women Voters of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties
813-461-5365 | hclwv.org



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