



SPRING 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Update from the CEO

Spring Highlights

Where Adventure Begins

Postcards from Panama City

ReTreePC

Public Art

Event Spotlight

Calendar of Events

2019 Caterwaul Regatta

From April 26-28, 2019, St. Andrews Bay will be filled with the sight of colorful catamarans and Nacra 17 olympic class sailboats. With its natural depth, St. Andrews Bay has been a long time sailors paradise. Ideal wind conditions and the protective barrier of Shell Island make it one of the most desirable sailing destinations.

Registration for participants is open on CaterwaulRegatta.com. Spectators can watch from just about anywhere along the shore line.

Nacra 17s are a performance class of catamarans. Which unlike traditional mono-hull sailing, they have multi-hulls. Con't page 3.



On October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael destroyed 75% of the tree canopy that used to cover our community. As a 27 year member of Tree City USA, our trees were part of our heritage, our culture, and our charm. As a community, we have the very bold goal of replanting 100,000 trees within the next five years. Read more on how you can help on page 4.



UPDATE FROM THE CEO

GREETINGS FROM
DESTINATION PANAMA CITY



Spring Greetings!

After Hurricane Michael made landfall almost six months ago we realized our landscape was forever changed. Slowly but surely, our homes are being repaired and our businesses are steadily opening back up. Just in the last couple of weeks, with the warmer breezes of spring we are all starting to notice the tiniest signs of green life sprouting from what remains of our cherished tree canopies. When people ask me what changed the most, I half-jokingly say, "my Facebook feed". Before the hurricane, like many of you - our feeds were full of friends, food, fur babies and family. Post hurricane, our feeds are full of roofs, drywall, new fences & cabinets, and overall progress.

We are truly living the greatest recovery story every told. To follow our journey register for Postcards from Panama City & check out the businesses that have reopened on our website.



Jennifer Vigil
President & CEO, Destination Panama City

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS



You'll find Peace, Love, Live Music & Tacos at Finn's located within the hippie enclave known as the Little Village. #PCProTip

Get "cray" at Barefoot on the Bay. They serve crawfish every Friday from 5PM - 7PM. #PCProTip

The area's only non-smoking pool hall also happens to be the city's epicenter for craft beer. Check out The Corner Pocket & Craft Beer Emporium on Harrison Avenue. #PCProTip

April fishing tip: Stick to the channel drop-offs, Flounder is within a mile of Shell Island. #PCProTip

For a weekly calendar of events, check out the Event Calendar at DestinationPanamaCity.com #PContheBay.

The Market at C.S.S. Yacht Basin in Historic St. Andrews offers fresh local fare, crafts, and keepsakes. #PCProTip

The U.S. Civil Rights Trail runs right through heart of downtown Panama City. The landmark Supreme Court case of Gideon v. Wainwright began at the Bay County Courthouse. #PCProTip

Where *Adventure* Begins



REGATTAS

The Caterwaul Regatta will be hosted by the St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club from April 26-28, 2019. These multi-hull sailboats will bring the bay to life with their colorful sails. Participants can still register at CaterwaulRegatta.com and spectators are welcome to watch the competition. Internationally known as the place "Where Life Sets Sail", Panama City is a sailor's paradise. Near perfect wind conditions, easy access from the protected waters of St. Andrews Bay to the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and a natural depth make Panama City the ideal place for recreational and sport sailing.



KAYAKING & PADDLE BOARDING

Panama City, FL boasts meandering creeks, bayous and the St. Andrews Bay to entice people to ditch the land and the motor boats and explore the area by kayak or paddle board. There are a variety of easy-to-find public launch sites. Two of our favorites in Panama City are Carl Grey Park (just north of the Hathway Bridge and the Panama City Downtown Launch (near 4th Street and Government Street). Explore the beauty of the bay at your own pace!



SHELL ISLAND

If you're looking for natural Florida, you'll find it on Shell Island. It's a 7-mile undeveloped barrier island that runs east to west between the Gulf of Mexico and St. Andrews Bay. With beautiful white sand beaches, graceful dunes, and scrub oaks many native species make this island their home. It's a perfect habitat for a variety of birds, deer, and sea turtles.

The primitive island is accessible by shuttle from St. Andrews State Park, by charter boat, or by renting a pontoon boat for the day. Learn more on DestinationPanamaCity.com

POSTCARDS FROM PC

Sign up for Postcards from Panama City through our [website](http://DestinationPanamaCity.com) (DestinationPanamaCity.com). Every month on the anniversary of Hurricane Michael a new postcard is released. The postcards give updates on



our progress, the rebuilding of the community, and help keep us connected with our old and new friends. On the east side of Hathaway Bridge, Tyndall Air Force Base and the cities of Panama City, Lynn Haven, Parker, Callaway, Springfield, and Mexico Beach bore the brunt of the storm. As we write the greatest recovery story ever told, we invite you to follow along as we introduce you to our local heroes, our restaurants and retailers that are rebuilding, and the undeniable spirit of the community that continues to find beauty in our area. Follow us on social media for a chance to make your own digital Postcard from Panama City!

RE TREE PC

We used to describe our beautiful city as one with venerable, majestic heritage oak trees that lined our streets, filled our neighborhoods, and provided oases of shade throughout our many public parks. Hurricane Michael devastated our greenspaces. While we can rebuild our businesses and homes, rebuilding our landscape will be a multi-generational effort and we need your help. The ReTreePC project has a goal of planting 100,000 trees within the next five years. Still just a fraction of what was lost, but it is a huge undertaking. National partners like OneTreePlanted.org and many others have stepped forward to lend a hand. If you're interested in donating or planting a tree, visit DestinationPanamaCity.com for more info.



BEFORE



AFTER

JOYFUL FINE ART

PUBLIC ART SPOTLIGHT



ARTIST:
JOYFUL ENRIQUEZ
JoyfulFineArt.com

Although a native of Michigan, Joyful Enriquez calls Panama City home. She is described as a marine wildlife artist and is a recognized member of the Oil Painters of America, National Oil & Acrylic Painters' Society, American Impressionist Society, Ocean Artist Society, and the Cultural Arts Alliance of Walton County. She has won numerous awards and has even been featured in *Southwest Art* and *Fine Art Connoisseur* magazine. In addition to public murals, Joyful has illustrated a children's book and painted the indoor murals for Sacred Heart Children's Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. Her first public mural in Panama City is located on Park Avenue in Historic Downtown Panama City.

The Writer's Gallery

This year, *The Writer's Gallery* has a bit of a speakeasy feel to it. Entrance even requires a secret password (or paying \$5)! Originally starting in 2010 as a poetry night, it is the longest running, consecutive open mic night for writers in Bay County. Writer, poets, spoken word artists are all welcome to sign up for an 8-minute slot on the day of the event by calling in (202-560-2773), emailing (dixie@bayarts.org), or coming in-person to the Center for Arts (19 East 4th Street). On the fourth Thursday of each month beginning in March, the doors will open at 6:30PM and the event starts at 7:00PM.

April Secret Password Hint: In Langston Hughes' first jazz poem, what was Sue wearing?



SECOND CHANCE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA PRESENTS

BLESSING OF THE FLEET & SOCK BURINING

Bless the fleet and free the feet! The long-standing maritime tradition, Blessing of the Fleet, Fish Fry and Sock Burning returns for its 22nd year! This family-friendly event will be held on April 20th in Historic St. Andrews at the St. Andrews Marina from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.. Join hundreds of people and pay tribute



to Panama City's seafaring heritage and sock burning to celebrate the start of spring.

Second Chance of Northwest Florida will once again be serving up a mouthwatering meal consisting of locally caught fried fish, chips and savory, deep-fried hushpuppies for a suggested donation of \$10.00. All proceeds will benefit traumatic brain injury survivors throughout the community. For more information on local events visit DestinationPanamaCity.com

JULY 4TH - SALUTE TO FREEDOM



JULY 4, 2019, 3:00PM - 9:00PM
PANAMA CITY MARINA

Independence Day this year will be one-of-a-kind! Local musicians will perform throughout the day and the official Dave Matthews Tribute Band will be taking the stage in the evening. The day will be filled with community events, food, fun, and fireworks!

And this year we are going old school, with a Hot Dog Eating Contest, WaterBalloon Toss, 3-Point Basketball Challenge, a Childrens' Floss Dance Contest, and a Celebrity Dunk Tank!

Bring your lawn chairs and come early to Panama City Marina, located at 1 Harrison Avenue for the first public event at the marina since Hurricane Michael! It will be spectacular!

Krewe of St. Andrews Mardi Gras

The St. Andrews Mardi Gras Parade and festival continued to Laissez Bon Temps Roules in Panama City on February 22nd and 23rd. Celebrating its 22nd anniversary, this annual two-day parade and festival in Historic St. Andrews was quite the celebration! Hosted by the Krewe of St. Andrews, the festivities kicked off on Friday with kids and pet parade followed by a maskers parade and live music making for a night full of family fun.

The main event on Saturday drew over 40,000 visitors from all around the world. Crowds gathered along Beck Avenue catching thousands of beads and doubloons thrown by over 30 brilliantly colored floats. After the last float passed the fun continued with live music by The Heat and Zydeco Gents, a New Orleans style band and The Panhandlers.

Local St. Andrews hotspots like the Little Village, Los Antijitos, and the House of Bourbon hosted music throughout the evening. More than 50 vendors lined Bay View Avenue including the largest ever kids zone which entertained more than 500 children each day! Mark you calendar for next year's Krewe of St. Andrews Mardi Gras on February 14 & 15, 2020!





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 13-14, 2019	The GREAT Create	Historic St. Andrews
April 20, 2019	Blessing of the Fleet & Sock Burning	St. Andrews Marina
April 20, 2019	8th Annual Easter Egg Hunt	Historic St. Andrews
April 26-28, 2019	2019 Caterwaul Regatta	St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club
May 4, 2019	15th Annual Glenwood BBQ Cookoff & Festival	A.D. Harris Learning Village
May 9, 2019	Tourism Appreciation Month- Thank you Panama City!	Gateway & McKenzie Park Downtown Panama City
May 18, 2019	Salty Dog Day	Historic St. Andrews
July 4, 2019	Salute to Freedom	Downtown Panama City