

# Scenic Watch



Covering  
News From  
October  
2018

"St. Pete eyes digital kiosks. Some think they'll be an eyesore."



Photo: City of St Petersburg

"Mayor Rick Kriseman wants to bring digital information kiosks to downtown. But some business owners and council members aren't sure those digital displays fit the city's vibe..."



Fun Festivals  
and Events

Central

Nov 2-4  
Sebastian Clambake,  
Sebastian  
Nov 2-4, 10-11  
Lady of the Lakes

The touch-screen kiosks are a hybrid of a mall directory and a giant smartphone. Depending on the brand, the rectangular devices can stand up to 8 feet tall. They display a mix of information, including events, restaurants, transit maps, public safety alerts – and, yes, advertising.

Some business owners wonder if the kiosks will add another layer of signage to downtown that would distract patrons with flashy advertising – or perhaps even change their minds about perusing local businesses.

'The small businesses have long expressed concern that there could be an advertisement outside their store promoting a competing business,' said Tami Simms, former president of the St. Petersburg Downtown Business Association...

City staff briefed council members on the idea during Thursday's meeting of the council's budget, finance and taxation committee. Council member Gina Driscoll said she's already heard concerns from constituents who believe the extra signage will be more of a distraction than an asset.

'There are so many other ways people can get information about the city,' Driscoll said. '(Business owners) would rather be directly engaged than having something else that prevents someone from walking into a store.'

The kiosks would mix local information with paid-advertising, which would cover their cost and spare taxpayers the expense. Deputy mayor Kanika Tomlin said it's still unclear how much advertising would be displayed. The amount of ads shown varies between the different companies offering kiosks...

Former City Council member Jeff Danner criticized the proposal on social media prior to Thursday's meeting. He said the positive aspects of the kiosks – informing locals and visitors about events in the city – could be overshadowed by digital advertising. And

Renaissance Faire,  
Tavares  
Nov 3  
DeLand Original Music  
Festival, DeLand  
Nov 3  
Safety Harbor Wine  
Festival, Safety Harbor  
Nov 3  
Stone Crab Jam, Crystal  
River  
Nov 3-December 30  
Light Up Mount Dora,  
Mount Dora  
Nov 3-4  
31st Annual Downtown  
Venice Art Festival,  
Venice  
Nov 3-4  
30th Annual Ruskin  
Seafood Festival, Ruskin  
Nov 3-4  
42nd Annual Fall County  
Jamboree, Barberville  
Nov 3-4, 10-11, 17-18  
Medieval Fair, Sarasota  
Nov 3-4  
The Fall Fiesta in the  
Park, Orlando  
Nov 3-4  
Halifax Art Festival,  
Daytona Beach  
Nov 4  
Orlando Japan Festival,  
Orlando  
Nov 4  
15th Annual Conga  
Caliente Festival, Tampa  
Nov 8-11  
40th Annual Greek  
Festival, Daytona Beach  
Nov 9-11  
Sponge Docks Seafood  
Festival, Tarpon Springs  
Nov 9-11  
RibFest, St  
Petersburg  
Nov 9-12  
Siesta Key Crystal Classic  
Masters' Sandsculpting  
Competition, Siesta Key  
Beach  
Nov 10  
Symphony on the Sand,  
Anna Maria Island  
Nov 9-11

what if that advertising was being driven by corporate franchises instead of locally-owned St. Petersburg businesses?

'We do not want or need to open our beautiful pedestrian corridors to corporate advertising,' Danner wrote. 'Keep St Pete the special unique place it is.'

Kriseman, who has used the kiosks in Denver and Kansas City, insisted that the kiosks' digital information would still be focused sending people to local businesses.

'If anything, I think it will be great for local businesses,' Kriseman said. 'The purpose of this is to communicate ... the advertising is almost an afterthought.'

-- Caitlin Johnston, Times staff writer

[Read entire article](#)

## Happy Birthday Marion Hilliard!



Photo: Bill Jonson, Marion Hilliard and John Crescimbeni

Marion Hilliard celebrated her 90th birthday this October at the Orange Park Women's Club amid family, friends and Scenic Florida members.

A tireless activist and leader, Marion has held many local, state and national level leadership positions

Native Rhythms Festival,  
Melbourne

Nov 9-11

Holiday Open House,  
Clermont

Nov 9-18

32nd Annual Festival of  
Trees at Orlando Museum  
of Art, Orlando

Nov 10-11

27th Annual Flamingo  
Follies Holiday Art Show,  
New Smyrna Beach

Nov 10-11

Homosassa Arts, Crafts  
and Seafood Festival, Old  
Homosassa

Nov 10-11

St

Armands Circle Art  
Festival, Sarasota

Nov 14-18

Annual Sanding Ovations  
Master's Cup, Treasure  
Island

Nov 17

Downtown Melbourne  
Food and Wine Festival

Nov 17-18

DeLand Fall Festival of  
the Arts, DeLand

Nov 17-18

Maitland Rotary Art  
Festival, Maitland

Nov 18

Florida Surf Film Festival,  
New Smyrna Beach

Nov 22-25

Annual Daytona Turkey  
Run, Daytona

Nov 23-25

Cocoa Beach Art Show  
and Music Fest, Cocoa  
Beach

Nov 24-25

Sponge Docks Arts and  
Crafts Festival, Tarpon  
Springs

## South

Nov 1-4

Beach Road Trip

Weekend, Key Largo

Nov 2-3

that all contributed to preserve protect and enhance Florida and our entire nation! Happy Birthday Marion from all of us here at CSF.

-- Scenic Florida

## Legislative Update: National Scenic Byways Foundation



Photo: Florida Scenic Byways via National Scenic Byway Foundation

"The U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee September 27 unanimously approved H.R.5158 - which directs the Secretary of Transportation to reopen the nomination process for National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads.

The bill - introduced by U.S. Representatives David Cicilline (D-RI) and Ted Poe (R-TX) - was revised through an amendment offered by U.S. Representative Sam Graves (R-MO), who chairs the

American Indian Arts Celebration, Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation  
Nov 2-4  
Feast of Little Italy, Jupiter  
Nov 3  
Florida Panther Festival, Naples  
Nov 4  
Taste of the Town, Fort Myers  
Nov 1-3  
Paint the Beach Festival, Fort Myers Beach  
Nov 7-18  
Estero Fine Art Show, Estero  
Nov 8-11  
Sanibel Island Writers Conference, Sanibel Island  
Nov 8-11  
Cape Coral Coconut Festival, Cape Coral  
Nov 9-11  
The Annual Ramble, A Garden Festival, Coral Gables  
Nov 9-11  
Anime Iwai Soar, Deerfield Beach  
Nov 10  
Small Press Fair, Fort Lauderdale  
Nov 11-18  
Miami Book Fair International, Miami  
Nov 14-18  
Key West Film Festival, Key West  
Nov 14-18  
Sunny Isles Beach Jazz Fest, Sunny Isles Beach  
Nov 16-25  
American Sandsculpting Championship, Fort Myers Beach  
Nov 17-18  
Harvest Festival, Miami  
Nov 19  
Christmas on Third Tree Lighting and Celebration, Naples  
Nov 24

powerful Highways and Transit Subcommittee.

Scenic America and the National Scenic Byway Foundation have been working hard to advocate for this bill. By contacting your Representative today you will help bring this goal one step closer to reality...

A recent survey found that 44 state scenic byways across the country are prepared to seek designation as National Scenic Byways. It's critical that we get this important program restarted so these local communities can benefit from this special federal designation.

[View Bill Tracker](#)

[View a pdf showing language in the bill](#)

[View a pdf of our Legislative Alert and Call To Action](#)

[View a video showing debate on the measure](#)

-- National Scenic Byway Foundation

[Read entire article](#)

Placemaking:  
"Pensacola Foo Foo Festival celebrates five years of success; still working on unique name"

Big Pine and The Lower Keys Island Art Festival, Big Pine and The Lower Keys  
Nov 24-25  
Downtown Delray Beach Thanksgiving Weekend Art Fest, Delray Beach

## North

Nov 1-12  
Foo Foo Fest, Pensacola  
Nov 2-3  
55th Annual Florida Seafood Festival, Apalachicola  
Nov 2-3  
Blue Angels Homecoming Show, Pensacola  
Nov 2-4  
Gulfcoast Arts Festival, Pensacola  
Nov 7-10  
Emerald Coast Cruzin', Panama City Beach  
Nov 8-18  
Frank Brown Songwriters Festival, Perdido Key  
Nov 9-10  
Public Eye Soar Projection Festival, Panama City  
Nov 10  
29th Annual Arts and Crafts Festival, Pensacola  
Nov 11  
Veterans Day Free Admission at Castillo de San Marcos, St Augustine  
Nov 17  
Super Scenic 72-Mile Garage Sale, St Augustine  
Nov 24-25  
53rd Annual Arts and Craft Festival, St Augustine  
Nov 8-10  
Fall Palatka Bluegrass Festival, Palatka  
Nov 17  
Rainbow Springs Art Festival, Dunnellon  
Nov 17-18  
Yankeetown Seafood and Arts Festival, Yankeetown

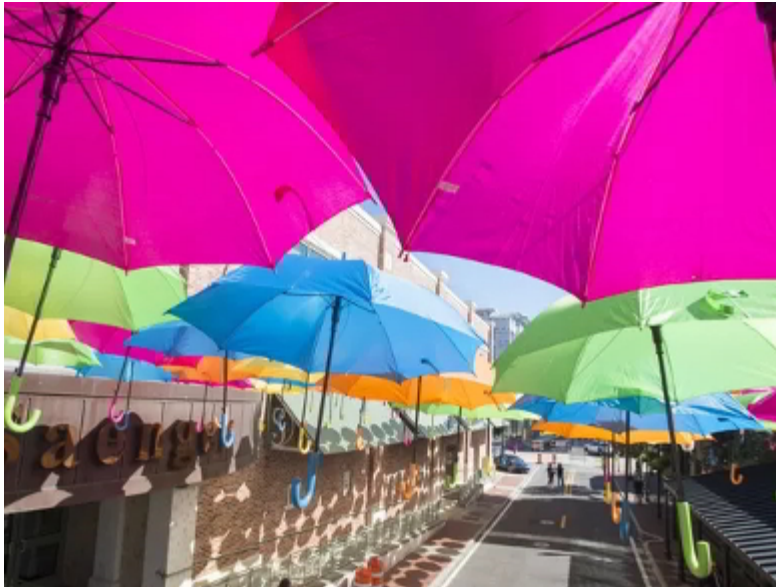


Photo: Pensacola News Journal



Photo: ACE

"From umbrellas floating in the sky to colorful murals covering what once was a drab parking garage to art installations to interactive displays, the 12-day compendium of events known as the Foo Foo Festival has made its mark upon Pensacola, and will again soon with the latest edition of the entertainment catch-all, Nov. 1-12.

Perhaps what has not made its mark upon Pensacola? The name 'Foo Foo Festival.'

Nov 23  
Historic Apalachicola  
Annual Christmas  
Celebration, Apalachicola

[For many more events and details please visit the Orlando Times Travel Calendar here](#)



Even five years into the event, the name still does not come tripping from the tongues of most Pensacolians...

For the record, here's what Foo Foo Festival is all about: It's a 12-day compilation of a whole lot of separate entertainment events, art installations, culinary experiences and even other festivals. The idea is to pack as much entertainment and fun into the 12 days that folks visiting Pensacola during the two weekends of Foo Foo will have no problem finding something to do..."

-- Mike Suchcicki, Special to Pensacola News Journal

[Read entire article](#)

## Florida's National Scenic Trails Celebrating 50 years of the National Trails System Act



Photo: Florida Trail Association Website

"In February 1965, President Lyndon Johnson's speech to Congress on 'Conservation and Preservation of Natural Beauty' was more than about clean water and parks. He also spoke about trails.

'The forgotten outdoorsmen of today are those who like to walk, hike, ride horseback, or bicycle. For them we must have trails as well as highways...Old

and young alike can participate. Our doctors recommend and encourage such activity for fitness and fun...'

The National Scenic Trail has 11 designated trails within the National Trails System and one of those is the Florida National Scenic Trail, with over a thousand miles- one stretch of which takes hikers through Hernando County.

Those that love a little outdoor adventure can experience over 20 miles of some of the best scenic hiking in Hernando County. Hikers can enjoy the diversity of habitats from swamp domes to sandhill scrub within the Withlacoochee Forest and may even see some of Florida's amazing wildlife and wildflowers.

Not enough time to experience the full 20 miles? Here are three sections of the FNST in Hernando County for starting a simple outdoor adventure.

Cypress Lake Preserve: the trail enters/exits on Ridge Manor Blvd with 1.62 miles of scrub and sandhill habitats as well as dome swamps and enters/exits on Paul R. Steckle Lane

Perry Oldenburg: enters/exits at Willow Street with 1.54 miles of mostly sandhill habitat and follows Deer Run Road for 1.02 miles to connect to Colonel Robins Tract Trail a .74 mile section of the Withlacoochee State Forest that enters/exits US 41 (across the street of the Chinsegut Conservation Trail)

Chinsegut Conservation Trail: enters/exits at US 41 and Snow Memorial HWY is 2.04 miles of upland pine and the trail leads you to the Cypress Boardwalk overlooking Mays Prairie. The trail exits/enters at CR 481 (Snow Memorial HWY near Lake Lindsey Road)..."

Check out <https://www.floridatrail.org/florida-national-scenic-trail/fnst/> for more helpful information.



Learn more about the National Trails System  
<https://www.trails50.org/>"

-- Alice Mary Herden, Hernando Sun

[Read entire article](#)

