

Scenic Watch

Citizens for a Scenic Florida



News 2014



Photo: "Flamboyant" by Nancy Reyna

Scenic Miami and the Miami Watercolor Society Award --

Art Show Included 26 Tropical Flower Paintings

Winner "Flamboyant" by Nancy Reyna

Florida is so very beautiful that sometimes it's easy to get accustomed to our lovely surroundings.

Southern Florida's famous tropical climate results in many fantastic yards and gardens that contain a wide range of tropical flower varieties.

Unlike many of us, our artists do remember to notice what our state really does look like.

The joint Scenic Miami and the Miami Watercolor Society art show started in December and this online show included 27 fine art paintings by the society members. The Miami Watercolor Society selected a theme,

Tropical Floral Paintings, for the show.

We think the results speak for themselves on the online photo gallery which is part of a facebook page! The show will linger a bit longer to allow everyone to fully appreciate all of the the 26 works of art found there.

[See all of the artwork from the show here.](#)

"Thanks to Scenic Miami for involving the Miami Watercolor Society in their quest to find the Best Tropical Floral Painting. We are very happy to present the beautiful flowers that are always in bloom through our tropical watercolor paintings" -- Diane Lary, Miami Watercolor Society President

About Winning Artist : "Nancy Reyna is a watercolor artist originally from Venezuela, living and working in Miami. Through lively brush work and intricately patterned shadows, her watercolors take on a life of their own. An active member of the Florida Watercolor Society, and the Portrait Society of America, Nancy Reyna originally focused on portraits but now brings her style to landscapes and still life as well."

.Congratulations to everyone who participated in this fun show and have a wonderful 2014!

-- Scenic Miami

[Visit the Miami Watercolor Society Website Here>](#)

[Visit the Scenic Miami Website Here>](#)

February Events



Fun Festivals and Events

Central Florida

Feb 1

First Saturday Jam, Barberville

Feb 1-2

The Mount Dora Arts Festival, Mount Dora

Feb 1

Plant City Bike Fest, Plant City

Feb 1

20th Annual Highland Games & Celtic Festival, Sarasota

Feb 1-2

9th Annual Art in the Park and Music Festival, Lady Lake

Through Feb 2

25th Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities,

"Surgeon Battles St. Pete Over Scrolling Sign"



Photo: The St. Petersburg Tribune

"David Mckalip Is Claiming The City Of St. Petersburg Is Violating His Rights By Allowing The Tampa Bay Rays To Change The Messages On Its Massive Electronic Billboard On Interstate 275 More Quickly Than He Can On The Much Smaller Sign Outside His Spine-Care Business. "

"In a battle against government, David Mckalip is claiming the city of St. Petersburg is violating his rights by allowing the Tampa Bay Rays to change the messages on its massive electronic billboard on Interstate 275 more quickly than he can on the much smaller sign outside his spine-care business.

On Thursday, the neurological surgeon got his day in court.

Technically, Mckalip, who was defeated in a race for the city council, wants County Judge Patrick Caddell to dismiss the \$143 fine he received Aug. 23 for changing the messages on his electronic billboard outside his business, Start to Finish Spine Care, 431 Southwest Blvd. N., too quickly.

Orlando/Eatonville

Feb 6-17

Florida State Fair, Tampa Bay

Feb 7

Jazz Friday at Fossaner Museum of Art, Melbourne

Feb 8-9

Orlando Folk Festival, Orlando

Feb 7-8

Celtic Family Jamboree, Brooksville

Feb 8-9

Fort Foster Rendezvous, Hillsborough River State Park, Thonotosassa

Feb 8-9

Annual Art and Craft Festival, Holmes Beach

Feb 14-16

Wine Fest XXIV, Clermont

Feb 14

Friday Family Fest, Melbourne

Feb 14-26

Olustee Festival & Re-enactment, Olustee/Lake City

Feb 15

Ozello Chili Cook-Off & Craft Show, Crystal River

Feb 15-16

22nd Annual Downtown Dunedin Craft Festival, Tampa Bay

Feb 17-23

67th Annual Pasco County Fair, Dade City

Feb 21-23

The 132nd Silver Spurs Rodeo of Champions, Kissimmee

Feb 22

Cruisin' Downtown DeLand Classic Car Show, DeLand

Feb 22-23

Art and Craft Festival, Flagler Beach

Feb 28

Art Walk on Flagler, New Smyrna Beach

[Read more >](#)

South Florida

Feb 1-2

ArtFest Fort Myers, Fort Myers

Feb 1-2

Florida Keys Art Guild Art Festival, Islamorada

According to the city's electronic messaging center ordinance, McKalip must keep the same electronic message on his billboard for at least 60 seconds before a new one appears. The Rays, in contrast, may change their messages as quickly as every 10 seconds.

By having different time restrictions, called dwell times, the city is violating McKalip's First Amendment rights, his attorney, George Rahdert, said.

'There are two standards,' Rahdert said. 'We're saying the city has different regulations depending on who the speaker is...'

Assistant City Attorney Lynn Gordon, who represented the city at a hearing Thursday, said the issue has nothing to do with what is said on the signs. Rather, she said, the issues is motorist safety, or the extent to which a driver will be distracted when looking at electronic billboards...

With the 60-second restriction, McKalip said, he can't scroll any messages, which he was doing in August.

He has a problem in that the city allows people to hold signs on the side of the road, while he can't have a scrolling message board.

When he got the fine, McKalip was scrolling the freedom of speech provision of the Florida constitution.

'If I hired a human to hold a sign they could jump up and down and dance, but I can't have a scrolling message board,' McKalip said. 'It's not right to exempt a human sign spinner.'

Caddell gave the attorneys 10 days to file supplemental information, after which he will make a decision."

-- Stephen Thompson, St. Petersburg Tribune

[Read entire article here>](#)

Environmental Groups, Elected Officials and Citizens Express Concern About Clear-cutting Oaks Along Scenic Highway in Panhandle

"Local officials have promised to help replant an area along Scenic Highway where a stand of mature live oaks was clear-cut last week by a Florida Department of Transportation contractor after area residents voiced concern.

Highway officials have said the removal of the trees, located along Scenic Highway at the Interstate 10 on-ramp in northeast Pensacola, was necessary to accommodate ongoing construction and avoid additional impacts to private property and costs to taxpayers. But environmental advocates and area residents are not happy... "

-- T.S. Strickland, Pensacola News Journal

[MUST SEE PHOTOS From Pensacola News Journal article here>](#)

Escambia Commissioner Urges Tree

Feb 1-2

17th Annual Downtown Delray
Beach Craft Festival, Delray Beach

Feb 2

Suntrust Sunday Jazz Brunch, Fort
Lauderdale

Through Feb 2

South Florida Fair, West Palm Beach

Feb 7-9

Everglades Seafood Festival,
Everglades City

Feb 7-9

15th Annual Garlic Fest, Delray
Beach

Feb 7-9

Florida's Creative Coast Weekend,
Pine Island

Feb 8-March 9

Carnaval Miami, Miami area

Feb 8-9

20th Annual Pigeon Key Art Festival,
Marathon

Feb 8-9, March 8-9

Bonita Springs National Art Festival,
Bonita Springs

Through Feb 9

Edison Festival of Light Junior
Events, Fort Myers

Feb 12-14

Sweetheart Express on Seminole
Gulf Railway, Fort Myers

Feb 14-15

Annual Historic House Tours, Key
West

Feb 14-16

Edison Festival of Lights Crafts on
the River, Fort Myers

Feb 15

Edison Festival of Light Grand
Parade, Fort Myers

Feb 15-16

Rotary Club Arts and Crafts Fair,
Sanibel Island

Feb 20

Downtown Gallery Walk, Punta
Gorda

Feb 20

Third Thursday Art Walk, Islamorada

Feb 21-23

Everglades Bluegrass Festival, Miami
Beach

Feb 22

Burrowing Owl Festival, Cape Coral

Feb 22

Lovers To Act

"Escambia County Commissioner Grover Robinson issued a public plea to residents incensed by the clear-cutting of a stand of live oak trees along Interstate 10 late last year.

In an email statement, Robinson says he hopes that citizens turn the anger they feel into support for a resolution he plans to bring at the Jan. 16 commission meeting asking that state crews install 'comparable landscaping' at the site when the road-widening project ends.

A DOT spokesman told the Pensacola News Journal in mid-December that the trees had been removed as part of \$43.1 million project to widen the interstate between Davis Highway and the Escambia Bay Bridge, and widen a stretch of Scenic Highway. The entire is expected to be complete in the fall of 2016.

In his statement, Robinson called upon residents upset by the clear-cutting to 'turn tragedy into triumph' and drew upon an example his family used in the wake of their own tragedy.

The oak tree in front of Pensacola High School, Robinson writes, was planted in 1990 and was sponsored by his parents in the memory of his sister, who died in the summer of 1989 in a car accident.

'Their belief was that that tree was a civic symbol of their daughter and that they would not be beaten by tragedy,' he writes.

He urges residents to join him in insisting the landscape be repaired, writing, 'the pillars of tomorrow have to be planted today and why not with us?'

'Why shouldn't we take this ugly action and show future generations what can be done in Escambia County?' ...

'... in mid-December, I [Robinson] wrote (the only public official to do so) the Secretary of District 3 Florida Department of Transportation expressing my disappointment with the action but belief in future landscaping and even offering assistance. Secretary Barfield then addressed the two-county TPO on December 11 and committed to the landscaping renewal. However, after last evening's events, I realize perhaps we need to bring a more concerted effort to assure that this scenic gateway is maintained for future generations the way we previously experienced it.

Full recovery certainly may not happen overnight. However, the pillars of tomorrow have to be planted today and why not with us. Why shouldn't we take this ugly action and show future generations what can be done in Escambia County?... "

-- Shannan Nickinson, Progress and Promise

[Read article here>](#)

Peter Ehrlich on Grant Stern Radio Program

Ninth Annual Punta Gorda Wine & Jazz Festival, Punta Gorda

Feb 22-23

49th Annual Old Island Days Art Festival, Key West

Feb 22-23

Annual Upper Keys Gigantic Nautical Flea Market, Islamorada

Feb 22-23

20th Annual Street Painting Festival, Lake Worth

Feb 23-March 2

Winter Star Party, Florida Keys

Feb 27-March 9

Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair, North Fort Myers

Feb 28

Ft. Myers Greek Fest , Ft. Myers

Feb 28-March 2

Nautical Flea Market and Seafood Fest, Palm Beach

[Read more >](#)

North Florida

Feb 1

Double Bridge Race, Pensacola

Through Feb 2

Hoggetowne Medieval Faire, Gainesville

Feb 8

The Ichetucknee Time Machine, Fort White

Feb 8

Flight To Freedom, St. Augustine

Feb 15-16

St. Augustine Arts & Crafts Show, St. Augustine Beach

Feb 21-22

Mardi Gras At The Beach, Panama City Beach

Feb 22-23

Art and Craft Festival, Flagler Beach

[Read more >](#)



Photo: 880 The Biz WZAB Radio

Peter Ehrlich of Scenic Dade is interviewed about the continuing problems Miami is having with illegal LED Billboards.

-- Grant Stern, Only in Miami Radio Show

[Listen to interview here>](#)



Photo: Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

"Bushnell:

Sumter County Scenic Byway Celebrated"

"Dozens of Sumter County, Chamber of Commerce and tourism officials gathered at one of the county's biggest historic landmarks on Saturday to celebrate some 62 miles of connected roads recently designated as a Florida Scenic Byway.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Dade Battlefield State Park in Bushnell, which stands near the center of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway.

Officials said the designation will not only help to inform visitors and draw them to the area, but also will pave the way for more funding to keep the attractions and roads maintained.

'This will help put us on the map even more,' said Kristin Wood, an official with the Dade Battlefield State Park.

The Florida Scenic Byway program is a grass-roots effort to heighten awareness of the state's historical and intrinsic resources — cultural, recreational, natural, archeological and scenic — which, collectively, enhance the overall traveling experience.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Management Entity, a partnership among various officials, helped the byway to achieve its designation.

The byway begins on State Road 50 at the Van Fleet Trail, then proceeds



Note from the Editor

Suggestions for improvement are always welcome.

through Webster, then westward to Veterans Memorial Highway as it passes by the Florida National Cemetery. From Bushnell, it heads north to Sumterville, then west to Lake Panasoffkee, and finally to State Road 44 and the Withlacoochee River.

Some of the other county's 'most treasured intrinsic resources' along the byway include the Historic Courthouse and Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell; Farmers Market and Florida Bass Conservation Center in Webster; Rutland Park, Marsh Bend Outlet Park, Shady Brook Greenway Park and the Pana Vista Lodge in Lake Panasoffkee; and the Richloam Wildlife Management Area and General James Van Fleet Trail State Park.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Management Entity spent the last two week putting up 89 designation signs throughout the byway. The exact route can be found on the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Facebook page.

'This will allow anyone to become aware of some of our most treasured attractions,' said Dawn Cary, an official with the group and the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce..."

-- Millard K. Ives, Daily Commercial

[Read entire article here>](#)