

Scenic Watch



Photo: Sunrise on Coral Lake in Oakland Park
by Doreen Christensen of the Sun Sentinel

The first day of Spring was captured early this morning in Doreen Christensen's photo.

It is a timely reminder for us to continue to work together to keep Florida Scenic!



Photo: Tampa Bay Times file

March
2015



Fun Festivals and Events

Central and West

- Apr 3**
Jazz Friday at Foosaner Museum of Art, Melbourne
- Apr 3-4**
The Ultimate International Cheerleading Championship, Kissimmee
- Apr 3-5**
51st Annual Ron Jon Surf Shop Easter Surfing Festival, Cocoa Beach
- Apr 4**
First Saturday Jam, Barberville
- Apr 4**
Climb to the Moon, Ponce Inlet
- Apr 5**
Easter Sunrise Service, Lake Wales

Pasco County to break long standing digital billboard ban?

"Bowen: Put a fair count on any billboard swap"

"Pasco Commissioner Kathryn Starkey's office contains a few reminders of her activism on aesthetics...

'The wall of shame,' Starkey says of the visual blight depictions.

..Clear Channel Outdoor proposes a swap like those approved previously in the cities of St. Petersburg and Tampa. The company wants to put up digital billboards, now prohibited in Pasco, in exchange for taking down multiple signs around the county.

There certainly is plenty of inventory to come down. There are 493 billboard sites around the county, according to the Pasco Property Appraiser's Office. Some of those contain a single sign; others contain as many as four signs, two facing each direction. All told, the Property Appraiser's Office estimates 1,126 billboard faces staring down at motorists traveling state and local roads in the county.

Clear Channel Outdoors has a little less than a quarter of the market – 115 billboard structures around the county. Outfront Media, formerly known as CBS Outdoor, is one of eight companies with billboards in Pasco and the largest provider...

...there are so many billboards worthy of removal because of the companies' zealotry to flood Pasco with signs to beat the 1999 ban. Billboards were going up at a rate of two per week, with applications further accelerating to better than one a day in advance of the commission's vote. In one case, someone applied for 12 permits in a single day.

The residuals remain 16 years later. Drive east on State Road 54 from Seven Springs toward Duck Slough Boulevard, for instance, and count the clutter every 1,000 feet. It turns what should be a pleasing view of the open vista to the south into a visual advertising assault. (Disclaimer here: The Tampa Bay Times advertises on billboards and has done so in the past on locations in Pasco.)

It would be tempting to ask Clear Channel and other companies that participate in a proposed swap to discard their inventory erected in 1998-99. Then negotiations could begin in earnest. To do otherwise is simply rewarding the bad behavior of the past.

'This county worked really hard to clean itself up,' said Starkey. 'I don't like digital billboards. But if it seems like a really good trade, I would be willing to look at it.'

She cautioned, however, 'It would have to be a really good deal.'"

-- C.T. Bowen, Pasco Times Columnist

[Read full column here](#)



Photo: Daily Mail.com

Apr 9-12
Celebration Exotic Car Festival, Celebration, Orlando and Daytona Beach
Apr 10
Friday Fest, Melbourne
Apr 10-11
2015 APC National Pie Championships, Celebration
Apr 10-12
Megacon, Orlando
Apr 10-12
Tampa Bay Blues Festival, St Petersburg
Apr 10-19
Sarasota Film Festival, Sarasota
Apr 11-12
Florida Blueberry Festival, Brooksville
Apr 11-12
The 37th Annual Siesta Fiesta, Sarasota
Apr 11-12
Blues at the Winery, Clermont
Apr 12
Art of the Automobile, Daytona Beach
Apr 17-18
Blueberry Jerry Jamboree, Spring Hill
Apr 18
Cruisin' Downtown DeLand Classic Car Show
DeLand
Apr 18
Florida Lighthouse Day, Ponce Inlet
Through May 17
Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival, Lake Buena Vista

South West

Apr 1-2
Upcycle Art Fest, Sanibel
Apr 10-12
Sharks Tooth Festival, Venice
Apr 11
Sharks Tooth 10K run, Venice
Apr 11-12
The Seminole Casino Balloons Over Paradise, Immokalee
Apr 12
BBQ, Bands & Brew, Fort Myers
Apr 16
Downtown Gallery Walk, Punta Gorda
Apr 17-18
Cardboard Boat Regatta, Cape Coral
Apr 18-19
Island Earth Days, Honeymoon Island State Park
Apr 18-19
40th Annual Mainsail Arts Festival, St Petersburg

South East and Keys

Advertising using parasailing is not common, but it has now arrived in Tampa Bay area



First seen off beaches and now on the most congested roadways

"A new company is using a parasail boat to tow billboard banners.

Sitting in traffic is a daily routine for drivers crossing the Howard Frankland. Now someone is trying to make money off that.

'It's very memorable. It's very unique and it's in a unique area,' Barry White said.

For the first time a company is towing a 900-square-foot billboard behind a parasail.

'I think we are an uncluttered form of advertising in a very cluttered world,' White said.

White and a friend started Beach 2 Bay Aerial Billboard Advertising while working together on a parasail boat. They started around bay area beaches before branching out...

Some people have complained the advertising distracts drivers.

'We're no different than say an LED lit billboard on the side of the road flashing advertisements 24-hours a day, a free standing billboard or even your cell phone,' White said.

Either way, White says he's happy putting a new spin on an old way of advertising."

-- Jason Beisel, WFTS, ABC Action News

Editor's note: The parasailing donkey stunt in the photo above took place in Russia and horrified people around the world responded. The donkey spent it's remaining life at an animal shelter munching fruit and veggies.

[Read entire article here](#)

Apr 4

Sixth Annual Florida Keys Ocean Festival & Waterfront Craft Show, Key West

Apr 4

The 4th Annual Fort Pierce Oyster Festival, Fort Pierce

Apr 4

Suntrust Sunday Jazz Brunch, Fort Lauderdale

Apr 10-22

The 53rd Annual Delray Affair, Delray Beach

Apr 13

Taste of Key West, Key West

Apr 15-18

Miami Wine and Food Festival, Miami

Apr 16

Third Thursday Art Walk, Islamorada

Apr 17-26

Conch Republic Independence Celebration, Key West

Apr 18

Seven-Mile Bridge Run, Marathon

Apr 24-26

Pompano Beach Seafood Festival, Pompano Beach

Apr 25

Earth Day Celebration at Bahia Honda State Park, Big Pine Key

North

Apr 2-4

Antique Tractor and Engine Show, White Springs

Apr 2-11

Clay County Agricultural Fair, Green Cove Springs

Apr 3

First Friday Art Walk, St Augustine

Apr 3-5

Suwanee River Paddling Festival, Suwanee County

Apr 5

Old City's Easter Parade, St Augustine

Apr 10-12

20th Annual St Augustine Rhythm & Ribs Festival, St Augustine

Apr 10-12

Jacksonville International Boat Show, Jacksonville

Apr 11-12

32nd Annual Pensacola Jazz Fest, Pensacola

Apr 17-18

Down Home Days Festival & PCA Rodeo, Madison County

Apr 17-19

George's Music Springing the Blues, Jacksonville Beach

Apr 17-19

Southern Shakespeare Festival, Tallahassee

Apr 18-19

LeMoyne Chain of Parks Art Festival, Tallahassee

TBA

Apalachicola Antique and Classic



Photo: Tom Burton, Orlando Sentinel

"Complete streets, road diets in Metro Orlando's future"

"Central Florida road officials are embracing a concept called complete streets, in which the car no longer rules — as it has in Central Florida practically since Henry Ford started mass-producing the Model T in the early 20th century.

As far as transportation leaders for the state and Central Florida are concerned, any new or rebuilt road outside of interstates will have to serve walkers, bicyclists and the disabled, not just the internal-combustion engine.

Bottom line: Reducing traffic congestion will no longer rate as the No. 1 priority and, in fact, jams might actually be allowed to occur without remedy.

Billy Hattaway, a top official with the state Department of Transportation, is in charge of the so-called complete-streets policy his agency is about to follow.

'Certainly,' Hattaway said, 'there will be more delay.' Backups, he said, are acceptable, even desirable, if they are the result of a road that slows traffic to the point that people can safely cross or a cyclist does not fear for his life because the cars are buzzing too close or too fast.

The state and local agencies, such as MetroPlan Orlando — which sets transportation policy in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties — are looking for 'streets that work for everyone, whether they are walking, biking or driving a car,' said planning consultant Eliza Harris.

Though there are health and environmental benefits to such a policy (encouraging exercise and less pollution from cars), Hattaway and Harris say there also is an acknowledgment roads cannot be widened or built into new areas indefinitely.

They point, as an example, to the \$2.3 billion Interstate 4 Ultimate rebuild that is getting underway and will last at least six years. FDOT officials say the 21-mile project will be the last of its kind for I-4 through downtown Orlando because there simply is no more room to expand.

Instead of nonstop road widening, Hattaway said, Metro Orlando residents are likely to start seeing what traffic engineers call 'road diets,' or the elimination of lanes in an attempt to make the street more people-friendly...

Amanda Day, who runs Bike/Walk Central Florida, calls the move toward complete streets 'a big step' but concedes years will pass before the full effects are felt in the region. 'It's a long road, so to speak,' she said."

-- Dan Tracy, Orlando Sentinel

[Read entire article here](#)

Boat Show, Apalachicola
TBA
Carrabelle Riverfront Festival,
Carrabelle

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





Artist's rendering: Sun-Sentinel

Additional complete-streets projects around Florida

"...North Lauderdale has joined a growing list of cities that have realized that a right of way should be designed for more than just vehicular traffic.

At a recent workshop, city officials, staff and representatives of the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) discussed the feasibility of incorporating various elements of 'complete streets' in some of the city's roadways.

A complete street is one that is designed and built for all modes of transportation; the goal is to make car drivers share the road with pedestrians and bikers.

The meeting follows a walking audit that was conducted by the city in October last year when residents and staff walked the road from Southgate Boulevard to McNab Road to assess how good the streets are for pedestrians and bikers.

'We had a panel that educated the public on what complete streets mean,' said Andrew Disbury, city planner. 'We also wanted to gather input from our residents on what they would like our streets to look like...'

Many cities have embraced the complete-streets concept after the MPO endorsed it in 2012.

Cities such as Pompano Beach, Sunrise, Hollywood, Tamarac, Deerfield Beach, Parkland, Fort Lauderdale, Coconut Creek, Lauderhill and Coral Springs have already expressed interest in having complete streets.

The MPO is currently in the design phase of two model complete streets, said Gutierrez. 'One will be in Hollywood on Hollywood Boulevard between City Hall and Dixie Highway, while the other will be in Sunrise on Sunset Strip between Northwest 19th Street and Northwest 77th Avenue...'

Complete-street projects are funded by the MPO with federal funds..."

-- Arun Sivasankaran, Sun Sentinel

[Read complete article here](#)