

LEADER READER

A Message from our President:

Dear Friends:

Leadership Pinellas is made up of strong community leaders from many walks of life. As leaders, we are occasionally called upon to take a stand on an issue that has significant impact on our quality of life.



Bud Elias '01
President

The **Penny for Pinellas** is such an issue. The Penny is not a political issue, but it does have a significant impact on our community and in this case, a positive impact.

Every ten years, we are asked (via referendum) if we want to renew the existing one cent infrastructure sales tax. The revenue from the Penny is divided between the county and the cities. The Penny's sole purpose is for infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, parks, land and environmental preservation, drainage, public safety, hurricane sheltering and other capital improvement projects. It is only for brick and mortar and cannot be put toward salaries or maintenance, which is an important point.

Because we have a responsibility to strengthen our infrastructure, where would the funding come from if not for the **Penny for Pinellas**? The answer is simple: our **Property Taxes**. Homeowners are already overburdened due to their property taxes and this, in my view, is not a viable alternative.

It is interesting to note that tourists and other visitors to Pinellas County contribute about one third of the Penny funds. So a third is paid by tourists and other visitors but 100% of the benefits stay here. What a great deal!

The **Penny for Pinellas** referendum will be held on March 13, 2007. If we want more projects like the unique Weedon Island Preserve Education Center and be the recipients of improved public safety and disaster preparedness programs (specifically hurricane shelters), we need to take a stand. We need to talk with our friends, our neighborhood associations, our civic organizations and our places of worship. We need to support the **Penny for Pinellas**.

Finally, **Leadership Pinellas**, as an organization, has benefited a great deal from the fruits of the Penny for Pinellas. We travel the Bayside Bridge on our way to program day destinations. Weedon Island has been one such destination. We have visited the county jail. We have traveled over the many improved Pinellas County roadways and are the beneficiaries of upgraded countywide emergency and fire protection. We have all experienced the Penny results firsthand.

We are leaders and the needs of Pinellas County are calling.

I am Bud Elias and I approve this message.

Bud Elias

Class of 2007 Business & Technology Program Day November 8, 2006

by *Allyn Childress, Class Reporter*

Travel, toys, and games!!! The November 8th Business and Technology Program Day presented us with an array of impressive electronics, machinery, and gadgets, as well as a major entertainment venue and an international travel hub.

The day began at in Oldsmar at **Nielsen Media** where they provided us with breakfast and a tour of their facility. The amount of information collected by Nielsen, and the means by which it is gathered, astounded the group. The overall favorite piece of technology was the gigantic data screen which many of the group wished was available for game day.

We journeyed on to Raymond James Stadium, which was recently rated as the #1 stadium in the country by FoxSports.com. We were given a player's-eye-view of the field and facilities; a survey of players by the NFL Players Association in 2004 rated Raymond James Stadium as the best playing field in the nation. We toured the Club Suites (where we were spoiled by the amenities that allow for game watching in total comfort) and the \$3 million, 103-foot pirate ship in Buccaneer Cove (whose eight cannons celebrate Tampa touchdowns).

During lunch (sponsored by **Thirsty Marlin**) we heard from Mickey Farrell, Director of Operations for the Tampa Sports Authority. The Authority was created in 1965 for the purpose of planning, developing, and maintaining a comprehensive complex of sports and recreational facilities for the Tampa Bay area. In addition to the Raymond James Stadium, the Authority owns 134 acres known as the "Stadium Complex" (formerly Tampa Stadium) and operates three golf courses in Hillsborough County.

The next stop was at BiC where we toured one of their multiple facilities within Pinellas County. Jack Teague, President of BiC Group Graphic, discussed how this site was established specifically for production of promotional items. Approximately two million personalized pens are produced per day at this one building.

Our final stop was Tampa International Airport. The airport began operations in 1971 with three million passengers. Today, that number has grown to 20 million. The airport's long-term plan includes an additional runway and terminal to accommodate projected future use. We were given a tour of the security center, the new firehouse, and maintenance hangars. The technology utilized by the security center was extensive, making us all glance around for the cameras once back inside the terminal!

We would like to thank the organizers of the day's events: **Karen Blackburn '06, Joe Falanga '06, Jack Geller '05, Brian St. Arnold '05, and Jeff Joyner '05**, Chair for the program. We also thank the additional sponsors for the day: **PakMail** and **Rapid Financial Services**.

See you on December 13th for Government and Media Day!

P.S. **Stefanie Barsema** and **Tracey Birch** were chosen to lead our Class Project: Big for a Day. They are currently working on a write-up for the Board.

Ed Note: Check out the photos on www.lp2007.com courtesy of Tracey Birch '07.

2006-2007 Program Days

12/13/06	Government and Media	3/18 to 3/20/07	Tallahassee Trip
1/1/07	Education	4/11/07	Criminal Justice
2/14/07	Health	5/9/07	Environment & Infrastructure
		5/12/07	Graduation & Annual Meeting

Pre-Holiday Happening a fun time at the Seel-Williams home on November 18th.

The weather was chilly outside, but there was lots of warmth and friendship inside. It was good to see alums we had not seen for awhile and to share the bounty of a delicious buffet.

Cash donations and toys were collected for Community Pride Child Care, Inc.

Many thanks to Ron and Karen Seel for their most gracious hospitality.

Youth Leadership Pinellas

Stephanie Zaragoza '00

The 2007 year has begun for Youth Leadership Pinellas with orientation scheduled for Sunday, November 12 and will consist of the following students from their individual schools:

Joe Bonelli Dunedin
KC Chamberlain Palm Harbor
Kristin Dub Palm Harbor
Danielle Goyer East Lake
Amanda Grgurich Seminole
Madison Jewett Clearwater
Anna Leonard Dunedin
Andrew Nguyen St. Petersburg
Lukas Pleva St. Petersburg
Tom Rich Countryside
Jesse Sherman Calvary Christian
Jordan Sweetser Calvary Christian
Michael Sweetser Calvary Christian

With special thanks to LP interviewers:
Georgetta Doyle '05, Teresa Hibbard '06,
Amy Hudock '02, Carla Mattern '02 and
Judge Jack St. Arnold '91.

Pinellas County EMS/Sunstar

Receives Greater International Status in the EMS Industry

Chuck Kearns '04, Director EMS & Fire Administration of Pinellas County proudly informed us that Sunstar was awarded two three-year re-accreditations from the Commission on the Accreditation of Ambulance Services. They were also re-accredited as an Accredited Center of Excellence for their Medical Dispatching operation.

In addition, Sunstar also received Critical Care Transport Team accreditation for the first time from the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transportation Services.

Sunstar is one of only two EMS Agencies **IN THE WORLD** to hold all three of these international accreditations.

Pinellas County's citizens can rest assured that they have the finest EMS agency serving our community.



from the desk of
Harriet Coren,
Executive Director

More changes for our new directory:

Teresa Hibbard '06 VP Financial Development,
YMCA of the Suncoast, 2469 Enterprise Rd.,
Clearwater 33763; phone: 467-9622
email: thibbard@suncoastymca.org

Kay Newsom '07
email: kay@bellasouthern.com

Claude P. Morris '92
email: claudepmorris@comcast.net

Dewey Williams '01 email:
email: dewey.williams@myclearwater.com

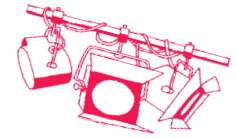
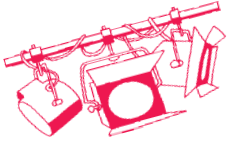
www.leadershippinellas.com

When was the last time you visited our website? Stay in touch because new items are added all the time. Just this month, Tracey Birch '07 has joined our staff and is our official class photographer.

Look for the additions in our Gallery and News Event Photos. Due to space limitations and transfer capability, small photos can be increased in size by clicking the right mouse key, then zoom in and increase percentage as desired.

Volunteer Organization Spotlight of the Month

Someone Is Waiting Just For You



Homeless Emergency Project is looking for volunteers to help man the *Adopt a Family* station at Westfield Mall in Countryside

Adopt a Family volunteers will be needed during mall hours to provide benevolent shoppers the opportunity to fill the holiday wish lists of children and families throughout Pinellas County.

Hours listed are suggested “peak hours” and will most likely be shortened depending upon foot traffic. Volunteers may work in shifts from 2 - 8 hours depending upon personal schedules.

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1/ 10a-7p	2/ 10a-7p
3/ 12p-7p	4/ 10a-7p	5/ 10a-7p	6/ 10a-7p	7/ 10a-7p	8/ 10a-7p	9/ 10a-7p
10/ 11a-8p	11/ 10a-7p	12/ 10a-7p	13/ 10a-7p	14/ 10a-7p	15/ 10a-7p	16/ 10a-7p
17/ 11a-8p	18/ 10a-7p	19/ 10a-7p	20/ 10a-7p	21/ 10a-7p	22/ 10a-7p	23/ 10a-7p
24/ 9a-5p						

For further information, please contact
Rebecca Lett at 727-442-9041 ext. 110
or rlett@ethep.org

Volunteer Organization Spotlight of the Month

We would like to make this a monthly feature of our *Leader Reader* as space permits, so if you have a suggestion for a future issue, please submit it to the Editorial Committee, Leadership Pinellas, P. O. Box 5986, Clearwater, FL 33758-5986. Deadline for the next issue is December 24, 2006.

