

# CityScape

Volume 35 | Issue 1  
January/February 2025

photo by: Kelley Pearson

[www.CityofSafetyHarbor.com](http://www.CityofSafetyHarbor.com)

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## PROTECTING OUR OWLS & WILDLIFE IN SAFETY HARBOR



Happy New Year!

Many ingredients contribute to what makes Safety Harbor a special place. It happens through our sense of community, the events and activities we host, the contributions of our local businesses, and the day-to-day kindness we show each other as neighbors. We share a natural environment that is unique, known as Old Tampa Bay. Its wildlife and beauty contribute to what makes our city special.

We have a core value to protect our natural environment and its wildlife. We are a community that cares. I'd like to use this opportunity to remind everyone to be aware of what kind of pest control you use. Many of you will recall that a family of Great Horned Owls from Phillippe Park was killed from confirmed cases of rat poisoning a few years ago.



Photo by: Mark Schocken

We are lucky to have a new pair of Great Horned Owls living in Phillippe Bay again and owlets will be hatching soon. Please, help to protect them by not using the poisons that caused the owl deaths two years ago. Blood-thinning chemicals, aka First- and Second-Generation Anticoagulants (FGARs and SGARs), will kill non-targeted wildlife that eat rats as their main food source.

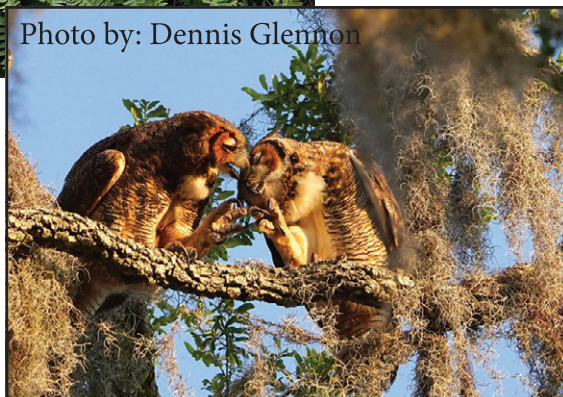
Photo by: Linda Schocken



There are other ways to control unwanted pests and other chemicals that are just as effective. Carefully select your pest control chemicals. Talk to your pest control company before you hire them. For more information, go to our website at [cityofsafetyharbor.com/1948/Protecting-Our-Wildlife](http://cityofsafetyharbor.com/1948/Protecting-Our-Wildlife) or [safetyharborowls.com](http://safetyharborowls.com).

We are a community that cares. Thank you for what you personally do to make the City of Safety Harbor a special place.

Photo by: Dennis Glemon



*Joseph Ayoub*

WHAT'S  
INSIDE

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# AROUND SAFETY HARBOR

## BILL CROPSEY CITIZENS ACADEMY IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

*by: Rachael Telesca, Interim Human Resources Director*

The City of Safety Harbor is now accepting applications for the 2025 - Bill Cropsey Citizens Academy. Sessions take place on Tuesday evenings from 6:00PM to 8:00PM beginning on April 15, 2025. The Academy takes place over a seven-week period and will be limited to 24 participants. Academy applicants will be chosen on a first come, first served basis with preference given to Safety Harbor residents.

The Bill Cropsey Citizens Academy will tour key facilities, interact with City leaders, discover ways to get involved with local government, and learn about the essential functions of a municipal government agency.



Application deadline is Monday, March 31, 2025. Applications are available online at: [cityofsafetyharbor.com/citizensacademy](http://cityofsafetyharbor.com/citizensacademy). Call Human Resources at (727)724-1555 ext. 1401 with any questions.

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## WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THOSE LEAVES?

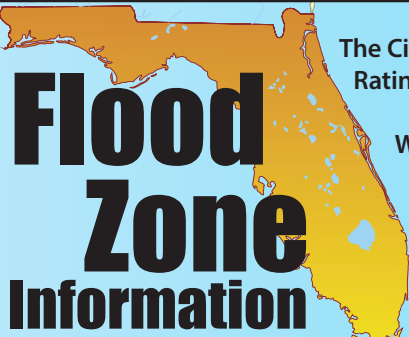
*by: Renee Cooper, Public Works Director*

As we continue through the winter months, here in Florida, the leaves begin to heavily fall from the trees. During the months of February, March, and April, the City's street sweeping contractor moves from a once per month sweeping schedule to twice per month sweeping of City streets. The contractor does not perform sweeping on private roadways, FDOT roadways, or County roadways. Roads that do not have curbs are also not swept as the sweeper would cause damage to the roadway shoulder and is unable to vacuum up debris on uncurbed roadways.

Prepare for street sweeping by moving cars parked along the curb into driveways. The leaves fall so quickly, that it sometimes may seem that the sweeper did not pass through. The goal of the street sweeping program is to remove dirt and debris (leaves) from the City's roadways to improve functionality of the City's stormwater systems and improve stormwater quality. To assist, please do not blow leaves or grass clippings into the roadway. This can cause blockages in the City's stormwater system as well as adding pollutants, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, to creeks, ponds, and Old Tampa Bay.

Due to the stormwater impacts, blowing leaves or clippings into a roadway is also considered an illicit discharge and is enforceable by Code Enforcement. Place leaves in bags or cans, as per the City's Sanitation Guidelines for preparation, for disposal on your regular garbage day.

We thank you for helping to keep our streets clean, improving our stormwater quality, and preventing blockages in the stormwater pipes and structures. Contact Public Works, 727-724-1550, with any questions.



# Flood Zone Information

The City of Safety Harbor is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System (NFIP/CRS).

We offer FEMA flood map determinations and information regarding wetlands and other natural systems on property located in the city. Elevation certificates, if available, may be obtained through the Building Department.

For more information regarding this program, please contact the City of Safety Harbor at 727-724-1555.

# HARBOR HAPPENINGS

Check [cityofsafetyharbor.com](http://cityofsafetyharbor.com) for meeting locations

## JANUARY

### CITY MEETINGS

- 1 *New Year's Day - All City Facilities Closed;  
No Trash Collection*
- 8 Planning & Zoning Board/Board of Appeals, 6:30PM
- 9 Finance Advisory Committee, 6:30PM
- 14 Library Advisory Committee, 7PM
- 15 Code Enforcement Board, 6:30PM
- 20 *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - All City Facilities Closed;  
Trash Collection Occurs as Usual*
- 21 City Commission, 7PM

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- 11 Folly Faire (Folly Farm), 9AM-12PM
- 17 3<sup>RD</sup> Friday Street Celebration (Main Street), 6-10PM

## FEBRUARY

### CITY MEETINGS

- 3 City Commission, 7PM
- 11 Library Advisory Committee, 7PM
- 12 Planning & Zoning Board/Board of Appeals, 6:30PM
- 13 Finance Advisory Committee, 6:30PM
- 17 City Commission, 7PM
- 19 Code Enforcement Board, 6:30PM

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1 Best Damn Race (Marina), 6AM
- 8 Folly Faire (Folly Farm), 9AM-12PM
- 8 Golf Cart Cruise In (Main Street), 2-6PM
- 21 3<sup>RD</sup> Friday Street Celebration (Main Street), 6-10PM
- 22 Art & Seafood on the Water (Waterfront Park), 12-9PM
- 23 Art & Seafood on the Water (Waterfront Park), 12-6PM



**Market on Main**  
Sundays 10am - 3pm Gazebo on Main St.



## Creative Conversations



Safety Harbor  
Diversity Advisory Board

Join the **Safety Harbor Diversity Advisory Board** for  
**Creative Conversations at the Museum & Cultural Center** celebrating:

### Black History Month

February 19<sup>TH</sup> • 6:30–7:30PM • Free

Hear from a distinguished panel of local guests who broke barriers, cycles, and misconceptions. Listen to their stories, engage in dialogue, and share in a Black History Month experience through the lens of our community.

### Women's History Month

Date to Be Announced • 6:30–7:30PM • Free

Join us as we honor, learn, and reflect on the role of women in our community, from military service, entrepreneurial success to leadership and philanthropy. We have an impressive panel of women lined up to share how they broke the glass ceiling in their field and are still soaring.

# START THE YEAR RIGHT: MAKE YOUR LIBRARY PART OF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

by: **Lisa Kothe, Library Director**

Many of us have resolutions or goals to better ourselves, save money, or learn something new. Here are a few reasons to make the library part of your 2025 resolutions.

## 1. *Make a Habit of Reading*

If your goal is to read more, your library is the perfect partner. In addition to physical books, we have e-books and audiobooks through **Libby** and **hoopla**. Whether you're into fiction, self-help, biographies, or cookbooks, you'll find a vast selection for any genre. Don't know what you want to read? Join a library book club to keep you motivated or ask a librarian for recommendations. Commit to reading 12 books this year.

## 2. *Save Money*

Planning to cut back on spending this year? Check out a museum pass, one of hundreds of tools for your DIY project, learn a language online with Pronunicator, try Pickleball by checking out a paddle, bake a cake using one of our unique pans, or start your spring garden with seeds from our Seed Library. Use **Kanopy** to stream films and documentaries. All free with your library card!

*Tip:* Visit **SafetyHarborLibrary.com** for other online resources, such as **Legal Forms** or **Ancestry** (available in-house only) or visit the Friends of the Library Book Store for a best-seller at bargain prices.

## 3. *Get Involved in Your Community*

We have Story Times, art classes and sign language classes, discussions, music programs, and more. Libraries are more than just a place to borrow books. They are community hubs, filled with resources, culture, and engaging programs for all ages. The Friends of the Library are always looking for new members with ideas for fundraising and to support the library. It's a meaningful way to give back while meeting new people.

*Idea:* Resolve to attend an event each month to discover new interests and connect with neighbors. Follow us on social media, check our website for our calendar or sign up for our monthly newsletter, by visiting the **How Do I**, page on our website.


Making your local library part of your New Year's resolutions is a simple way to enrich your life. It's a gateway to knowledge, culture, and community, offering countless opportunities to grow, save, and connect. Stop by and see us. We are excited to open our new second story space to you soon, allowing us to provide more exciting opportunities.



**WE L A M M O**  
**Folk Tunes From Finland**  
**Thurs, Jan 23, 6:30pm**  
**at John Wilson Park Gazebo, 401 Main St**  
**Finnish acoustic duo Pia Leinonen and Joni Tiala will take you on an enchanting and unforgettable musical journey.**  
**Bring your lawn chairs and blankets!**




**SAFETY HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
101 2nd St N, Safety Harbor, FL 34695  
727-724-1525 • [SafetyHarborLibrary.com](http://SafetyHarborLibrary.com)



Free event sponsored by the Friends of the Safety Harbor Library.  
Bring your lawn chair!

*Songs & Stories*  
**WITH FORREST MCCURREN**

 **Thursday, February 20 - 6:30 PM**  
**Safety Harbor Gazebo - John Wilson Park**  
**401 Main Street**  
**Safety Harbor, FL 34695**  
**[SafetyHarborLibrary.com](http://SafetyHarborLibrary.com)**



# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- Baby & Me Story Time: (Ages 0-18 months)  
Fridays, 10:30am
- Story Tots: (Ages 19 months - 5 years old)  
Wednesdays, 10:30am
- ★ Wild About Art to Go-Paint a Penguin: (Ages 4-7)  
Pick up week of Jan. 6
- ★ Toddler Yoga: (Ages 2-4)  
Tuesdays, Jan. 7 & Feb. 4, 10:30am
- ★ ICRE8 - Art Class: (Ages 5-95)  
Mondays, Jan. 13 & Feb. 10, 5:30pm
- Toy Swap in the Art Park: (Ages 11 & under)  
Saturday, Jan. 18, 10:00am
- Ukulele Sing-Along in the Art Park: (Ages 0-7)  
Saturdays, Jan. 18 & Feb. 15, 10:30am
- Pawsome Readers: (Ages 11 and under)  
Saturdays, Jan. 25 & Feb. 22, 10:30am
- ★ Zumbini: (Ages 6 months - 5 years old)  
Tuesdays, Jan. 28 & Feb. 25, 10:30am
- ★ Children's Book Bag: (Ages 4-7)  
Pick up weeks of Jan. 27 & Feb. 24



★ REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT: [EVENTS.SAFETYHARBORLIBRARY.ORG](https://events.safetyharborlibrary.org)

# Tween Library Programs Ages 8-12

Homework Help: (Grades K-8) Mondays,  
3:00-6:00 pm

\*Tween Craft: 1/7 & 2/4, 5:30-6:30 pm

\*Tween Graphic Novel Book Club:

1/14 & 2/11, 5:30-6:30 pm

\*Tween Creative Writers Group: 1/22 &  
2/19, 6:00-7:00 pm

\*Tween Taste Test: 1/28 & 2/25, 5:30-6:30 pm



\*REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register at [events.safetyharborlibrary.org](https://events.safetyharborlibrary.org)



# Teen Library Programs Ages 12-18

Teen Anime & Manga Club - 1/8, 2/5,  
5:00 pm



\*Teen Pringles Taste Test - 1/15,  
5:00 pm



\*Teen Book Bags - 1/21-1/25,  
2/18-2/22



\*Teen Creative Writers Group - 1/22,  
2/19, 5:00 pm

Teen Rainbow Room - 1/29, 2/26,  
5:00 pm

\*Teen Craft - 2/12, 5:00 pm



\*Registration required at [events.safetyharborlibrary.org](https://events.safetyharborlibrary.org)

# LIBRARY EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Vellamo - In Concert  
*Folk Tunes from Finland*  
@ John Wilson Park Gazebo  
1/23 | 6:30 pm

Songs & Stories  
with Forrest McCurren  
@ John Wilson Park Gazebo  
2/20 | 6:30 pm

Winter Plant Swap  
1/25 | 10:00 - 11:30 am

Wholistic Wellness  
Lifestyle

1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 2/25  
1:00 - 2:30 pm

ESOL Conversation Club  
Weds | 10:00 am  
Weds | 6:00 pm

Citizenship Prep  
Weds | 11:30 am

Tech Tutoring  
Available by Appointment  
Fri & Sat Mornings

## Book Clubs

Words & Wine  
1/20 & 2/17 | 6:00 pm

Books & Bagels  
1/21 & 2/18 | 10:30 am

Visit us at [SafetyHarborLibrary.com](https://SafetyHarborLibrary.com) for a complete  
listing of upcoming events and meeting locations.

# SAFETY HARBOR RECREATION

MEET OUR TEAM & TRY SOMETHING NEW IN 2025! *by: Rebekah Mason, Communications Manager*



Meet Ryan London! Ryan is the newest member of the REAL Fun team. You can find him at the Community Center leading our athletics programs. Ryan comes to us from Chicago with an impressive background in athletic programming. Stop by the Community Center and say, “Hi!” when you sign up for your next class or grab your Fitness Room pass for the year.

While you’re at the Community Center, this is a great time to check out the spin and row room! With your Fitness Room pass, you can use the spin and row room on your own, but we all know that fitness is more fun with friends. That’s why REAL Fun team member Isaiah leads our Spin/Row Classes. Check out Teen Spin on Wednesdays, Spin Class on Mondays and

Wednesdays, or Ride, Row, & Strength two Saturdays each month. You can find class details and register for any of these classes at [SafetyHarborRecreation.com](https://SafetyHarborRecreation.com).

It’s not all athletics and exercise with Safety Harbor Recreation... we have a full schedule of art classes, history programs, senior trips, homeschool classes, nature programs – we even have goats and chickens at Folly Farm! Be sure to check out your REAL Magazine or go online to [SafetyHarborRecreation.com](https://SafetyHarborRecreation.com) to get the new year off to a great start!



**Save the  
Date!**



## Summer Camp Expo

Sat., March 8 • 9-11 AM  Safety Harbor Community Center



**TO  
REAL  
FUN!**

# Safety Harbor

# Senior EXPO

## February 11<sup>TH</sup>

**10am–12:30pm**

**FREE at the Community Center**

**[SafetyHarborRecreation.com](https://SafetyHarborRecreation.com)**





# FOLLY FARM NATURE PRESERVE

## *Come Visit Us!*

### *visit the park*

1562 Dr. Martin Luther King JR St N  
Park Hours: Daily, dawn to dusk  
Phone Number: 727-724-1552



### *visit the animals*

Animal Visiting Hours:  
Thu-Sun 11am-4pm  
Donations accepted



## *Become a Friend of the Farm*

The Leisure Services Department is dedicated to educating the next generation about sustainable living, the origins of our food, and Florida agriculture. Support the care of our farm animals by becoming a Friend of the Farm.



Make check payable to:  
City of Safety Harbor  
Attn. Friend of the Farm, Shannon Schafer  
750 Main St., Safety Harbor, FL 34695  
SSchafer@CityOfSafetyHarbor.com

Donation Levels		
<b>Tort Support</b>	\$50	Assist with feed, bedding and plants for Tortoise.
<b>Pig Pal</b>	\$75	Assists with feed, bedding and care for Guinea pigs.
<b>Bunny Backer</b>	\$100	Assists with feed, bedding and care for the Rabbits.
<b>Chicken Champion</b>	\$300	Provides feed, bedding and care for chickens
<b>Goat Giver</b>	\$600	Provides feed, hay, treats, toys, pen maintenance and veterinary care.
<b>Farm Friend</b>	Custom Amount	Assists with capital improvements and general care of all animals.

*All donors will be recognized in one issue of REAL Magazine and on Friends board at the Farm.*

## CITYSCAPE

CityScape is a publication of the City of Safety Harbor. For the latest updates on these and other stories visit us online at [cityofsafetyharbor.com](http://cityofsafetyharbor.com).

## CITY OFFICIALS

Joe Ayoub, Mayor  
Andy Steingold, Vice Mayor  
Nancy Besore, Commissioner  
Jacob Burnett, Commissioner  
Carlos Diaz, Commissioner  
Josh M. Stefancic, City Manager

## CITY DIRECTORY

City Hall: 727-724-1555  
Community Center: 727-724-1560  
Fire Department: 727-724-1520  
Library: 727-724-1525  
Museum & Cultural Ctr.: 727-724-1562  
Public Works: 727-724-1550  
Rigsby Recreation Center: 727-724-1545



750 Main Street  
Safety Harbor Florida  
34695  
(727) 724-1555  
[www.cityofsafetyharbor.com](http://www.cityofsafetyharbor.com)

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U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #6907  
TAMPA FL



# 2025 Quarterly Clean Up Schedule\*

**Spring Clean Up: March 10 – 12**

**Hurricane Prep Clean Up: June 9 – 11**

**End-of-Summer Clean Up: September 8 – 10**

**Holiday Clean Up: December 8 – 10**

**For more details  
& what will & won't  
be collected:**



\* Collection occurs only once during the clean-up cycle.  
Be sure to place items at the curb by 6:30AM on your regular collection day.